

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: **Garth** Sloan, who is stationed in Iraq; **Hilda** Smith on the death of her son; prayers of joy for **Allison** Parker's new baby girl **Anya Danae** and for **Carl** and **Martha** Heinrich's new baby girl **Easton Faith**; **John** Short, **Karen** Akkerman's Father, **Ruth** and **Tom** Gilman's father, **Amanda** Lohec, and all of our service men and women stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 281-484-9243.

From The Pastor

Lent is *hard*.

And it seems to me that Lent is harder than usual this year, because we're working on the theme of forgiveness. The hard part about preaching these sermons is, they are particularly painful to me. (Preachers nearly always have this struggle. You think preachers are preaching to you? We're preaching to ourselves!)

Forgiveness is a spiritual struggle. Over and over again, we find ourselves rebelling against forgiving those who have damaged us and caused us harm. And as for asking forgiveness from those we ourselves have harmed -- couldn't we just ignore the whole situation? We would so much prefer to leave the whole subject alone! Yet clearly Jesus calls us in unmistakable ways to engage in the forgiveness business. He gives us no other option.

But here's the good part -- when we struggle with this whole forgiveness thing, we find ourselves drawing closer to Jesus. We imagine his sacrificing himself for us. We imagine his struggle to forgive those who would deny, betray, and abandon him. He worked so hard on those disciples -- spent time with them, taught them, preached to them, shared meals with them, gave them everything he had. And this was the best they could do? The best we can do?

And yet, Jesus won the battle. He turned away from bitterness, from anger. He chose the path of mercy and love. By his power, so can we.

There are still 3 Sundays to go before Palm Sunday. This coming Sunday, March 11, I will preach on "Forgiving Ourselves." On the following Sunday, it will be "When Not to Forgive, and on March 25, I'll preach on "What Forgiveness Brings."

I hope you will be here each Sunday. This Lent is hard! It's so much better when we can share the journey with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith

P.S. Don't forget our Big Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 1. We're going to need lots and lots of plastic Easter eggs and non-melting candy. We want to invite our neighbors!

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Easter Egg Hunt Coming



The Children's Ministry is planning a HUGE Easter egg hunt to take place on Palm Sunday, April 1. We're calling it...EGGSTRAVAGANZA! We are expecting between 100 and 200 children to be here hunting eggs, enjoying crafts, games and the fellowship of others while learning about the true meaning of Easter.

After the hunt, young and old alike are invited to be a part of our Easter Parade where you will don your Easter Bonnet with all the frills upon it.

You can make your hat or buy it. It can be silly, serious, or something in between. You can cast your vote for the best hat by placing coins in the wearer's basket. All the money collected will be donated to the Children's Playground Fund.

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to help. Any donations of plastic eggs, individually wrapped candy, and Easter baskets will be greatly appreciated. We have boxes set up to collect these donations in the Commons area right outside the Fellowship Hall. But, most of all, we need your help. We are looking for people to help stuff the eggs on Sunday, March 25th at 5:30 p.m. and we are looking for people who would be able to assist with the hunt on Palm Sunday at 2:00 p.m. If you would like to be a part of this exciting event, contact Jackie Glass at 281/484-6659 or jkcgumc@prodigy.net, or just flag me down at church.

-Jackie Glass

Benefit Banquet Planning Underway

The UMW is hard at work on the yearly Mother/Daughter Banquet to benefit The Bridge. The Bridge is a women's shelter in Pasadena that provides a safe harbor for women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse. Last year's banquet was a huge success with over 120 people in attendance and over \$2000 raised to benefit The Bridge.

This year's banquet promises not to disappoint. Our theme is Sugar & Spice, since that's what little girls are made of. We'd love for all the women of the church to come, adopt a mother or a daughter if you need to, and share with us your fondest memories of baking with your mom or daughter. There will also be games and prizes and lots of opportunities to shop at both our live and silent auctions.

We could use your help to make this event a success. We are looking for new items for our silent auction. Please check your closet for those wonderful gifts you received, but went unopened because you just didn't need them. To donate an item for the auction or for more information, please contact Charlene Provence or Margie Remely. And, make sure you clear your calendars on Saturday, March 31st at 6:00 p.m. Hope we see you there.



March 11- The flowers this week are given in memory of Birdie Davis by her granddaughter, Charlotte Davis.

March 18- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Roger Northrup's 80th birthday by his family.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

Mother/Daughter Sugar 'n Spice Banquet

Saturday, March 31

4th Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet

Proceeds Benefit *The Bridge*

\$10 for Adults and \$6 for Children

Tickets available in the Commons area

Collecting for Ronald McDonald House

Remember 7 year old David Pogue? He is very serious when it comes to helping others.



He has been collecting pull tabs and recently brought the tabs he has amassed to CUMC and added them to the others that will be taken to The Ronald McDonald House sometime soon. Please continue to save all of your tabs and bring them to Church. Place them in one of the containers located near the Coke machine or on top of the refrigerator in the kitchen. This message from your Committee on Missions and Outreach.

-Jim Kraflka

Calling All Volunteers!

We need to find out about the members of CUMC that volunteer their time to help others. Even if you think what you are doing is minor, please let us hear from you. This information goes into a monthly report the Texas Annual Conference has requested. We submit the number of members only. Please call the Church office (281-484-9243) or Missions and Outreach co-chairs, Carole and Jim Kraflka at 281-481-3102.

MYF Upcoming Events

Here's what's coming up:

March 9 - 10 - Brazos Bend Camping Trip-see Peter or Linda Hite
 April 20-22 - Junior High Breakthru Retreat weekend
 April 27-29 - Senior High Breakthru Retreat weekend
 May 4-6 - Beach Retreat weekend
 June 3-9 - UMArmy
 June 15-24 - Camp Redcloud in Colorado for Senior High
 June 25-29 - Lakeview camp for Junior High
 July 9 -13 - JUMMP

-Peter Bonanno

Thank You From The Kuhlman's

To our dear Cokesbury friends and others,

What a blessing you all have been to both Carroll and me during these last 5 months. You have kept us supplied with your great food, flowers, phone calls, cards, and visits. One of the roughest effects that pain, chemo treatments, and hand fulls of medicine gives you is depression. Even though I took my turn with all of these, friends and loved ones make it possible to bear. Don't ever think that praying with me and for me didn't give me the peace and joy that I required. It's times like these that remind us of not only where we came from, but also where we are going.

I also want to thank Pastor Smith for being there whenever we needed her. However, I can't start naming names because I would never finish.

The latest regarding my treatments is: I should receive 12 chemo treatments and thus far, I have received 7. So, I'm over half way finished. Even though I've missed all of the festive activities during the holidays, most of all I've missed seeing all of your friendly smiles and greetings. I certainly will be grateful when things get back to normal, but I hope they are not so normal that we will ever take any of our friends and family for granted. Right now Carroll and I send a great big Thank You!

-Katy Kuhlman

Were You Wondering...

If you've been in the sanctuary lately, you may have noticed that the contemporary service has joined the traditional services. A number of people have wondered if that change is permanent. The answer is, no one knows yet! The space-sharing will continue until after the children's play on May 20. At that time, the decision will be made whether to remain in the sanctuary or return to the Fellowship Hall. In the meantime, it's good to worship in the same place.

Save Time!

E-Mail Your Article To The Paper
newsletter@cumchouston.org

SeAM To Aid Low-Income Seniors

Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) will again be an Outreach Enrollment Site for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). CEAP is administered by Sheltering Arms Senior Services and provides federal funds to assist with future electric or gas bills during March-December 2007. The main eligibility requirements are that the household be low income, reside in Harris County, have one senior (60 or older) or have one adult with a verifiable disability.

SeAM will handle applications for 21 zip codes including most of the nearby Harris County zip codes including 77089, 77017, 77034, 77059 and 77061. To make an appointment, call SeAM at 713-944-9379.

-Rob Bradley, CUMC SeAM Trustee

It's Your Time to Help with Helping Hands

The following people have signed up to help with Helping Hands for the next two weeks:

Second Sunday: Linda Garies, Laurel Johnson, Billie Kestler, Carolyn Lofland, Herb Parker, Cathy Pleasants, Charlene Provence and Lois Seeley.

Third Sunday: Anna Aguilar, Lynda & Carl Detwiler, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Carol Trotter and Edna Faye Campbell, Martha Van Krigenbergh, Danna Whorton and Fran Wright.

Brenaman Circle Meets

Fifteen ladies met February 27th for the UMW circle meeting. Our hostess was Carol Yeane. Mary Hackward gave an inspiring devotional. The program was given by Donna Northrup. She spoke on getting acquainted with the evening circle. She told us of several worthy projects these busy ladies undertake. The main one is their ongoing work with The Bridge, the local sanctuary for abused women and children. The Stafford/Wyatt Circle devotes many hours yearly in this endeavor. After Donna's program we enjoyed a tasty light brunch prepared by Carol. Our Brenaman Circle invites any lady interested in great programs and fellowship to join us the fourth Tuesday of each month.

-Betty Sutton

Dulin Circle Meets

The UMW Dulin Circle met on February 27 at the home of Donnie Moore with 12 members present. The program was given by Betty Griffiths who has traveled to 53 countries. She told about the different ways tribes live in Africa and had books showing beautiful animals and scenery. After the interesting program, a lovely luncheon was served and enjoyed by all. Donnie was a wonderful hostess. Our next circle meeting will be March 27.

The UMW General Meeting will be on March 13 at 7 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Amy Ernest from The Bridge women's shelter. Ladies are asked to bring a can of fruit or fruit juice to be donated to The Bridge. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

-Jean Bonds

Communion During Lent

During the season of Lent, Holy Communion will be celebrated each week at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday services. Bread and cup will be offered by intinction, or dipping the bread into the cup of juice. Special prayer stations will be set up for worshipers at all services to use as they should choose. At the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services, Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month as is our custom.

E-mail Newsletter Is Back

We are starting the Cokesbury E-mail newsletter back up again. If you would like to receive this newsletter that provides information about upcoming events, please send your email address to Jennifer Pogue at jcpogue@hotmail.com.

-Jennifer Pogue

Please Record Your Keys

The Trustees are updating the church records on who has what church keys. Please drop by the office during the week or on Sunday morning and update our list.

-Bob Crouch, Trustees

By The Numbers

March 4

Worship Attendance 8:30.....86
 Worship Attendance 9:45.....49
 Worship Attendance 11:00.....142
 Total Worship Attendance.....277

Sunday School Attendance.....181

Adult Class News

Becomers (Room 252)

We'll be having a large group discussion in the Fellowship Hall about Methodist's beliefs on redemption and salvation. The discussion will be lead by Jim Bane. Everyone is welcome.

New Disciples (New Location-Room 208)

We have started a new study focusing in the book of Mark. Who was Mark? What is different about his Gospel from the other three? Why does he spend half the book on the death and resurrection of Jesus? How does his message speak to us today? These and other questions are examined in this study.

New Beginnings (Room 156)

We have begun a new lesson series on Challenging Traditional Christian Beliefs, led by Darrel Raines.

Omega-(Room 153-11 a.m.)

We have started a study of current events and possible Biblical interpretations. Join us at 11 a. m.

Wesley Class (Conference Room)

We doing a Lenten Study thru Easter using *Bound for Golgotha* by Randy Cross.

Adult Bible Study (Room 210)

We have started a study of the book of Leviticus based on the book by John Hartly, other commentaries and the Bible. We will be covering Chapters 24.

Good News Class (Room 153)

We are studying the book "Who Is Jesus?" and it is being led by Jack Kestler.

Affinity Class (Room 209)

We are studying the Book of I Corinthians from the Bible. The leader this week is Bill Sutton. We are also working on putting together sewing kits for a mission project.