

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: **Katy** Kuhlman, **Dot** Margheim, **Gloria** Markovich, **Silver** Richardson (grandson of Pat Richardson who is serving in Afghanistan), **Garth** Sloan, who is stationed in Iraq, the family and friends of **Austin** Jones who was killed recently in a car accident and for **Matthew** Milligan who was injured. If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 281-484-9243.

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Financial Seminar Planned for Cokesbury

Have you ever wondered what life might be like if you were living debt free? Imagine what kind of impact we could have at Cokesbury if we had no financial worries. Seem far fetched? Well, it may not be as unobtainable as one might suspect.

As part of our outreach program for our church family and community, I am pleased to announce that starting June 5 at 7:00 pm, Donna and I will be facilitating Dave Ramsey's highly acclaimed Financial Peace University. FPU is a thirteen week program that helps people dump their debt, get control of their money, and adopt new behaviors concerning money that are founded on commitment and accountability. More than 350,000 families have attended Financial Peace University. During and after taking the course, the average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 91 days after beginning FPU. They also are completely out of debt, except for their mortgage, in 18 to 24 months.

Orientation to this exciting program will be May 22 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to register or if you would like to learn more about FPU, please go to their website at financialpeaceuniversity.com. You will be hearing more about FPU in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about these classes, please feel free to call Donna or myself at 281 326-0881.

We look forward to bringing this wonderful ministry to Cokesbury.

-Jim Bane

Celebrating Our Families at Cokesbury

It's that time again when our thoughts turn to our families--Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June. Our families mold us. Our mothers and fathers are the chief sculptures in the molding of our families. Grandparents are very important too, and children take our families into the future--and I will not leave out our pets. They add fun and excitement to family living.

We are very blessed when our parents have taught us and showed us in deeds the love of God and Jesus. We are going to celebrate our families in several ways at Cokesbury:

1. Cokesbury will have a Family Covered Dish Dinner at noon on Sunday, May 6. Come and bring covered dishes to share. Enjoy visiting with your Cokesbury family.
2. Cokesbury will recognize mothers on Mother's Day, May 13, fathers on Father's Day, June 17, and grandparents on Grandparent's Day, September 9,
3. We at Cokesbury will have the opportunity to write and share stories about members of our families on our Cokesbury website from now until Father's Day on June 17. (I discussed this with Darrel Raines and he said there is unlimited space on Cokesbury's website to share family stories. Now that will be great reading.)

Write a story about people or even pets in your family. Send the story through e-mail to me at klscats@msn.com and then everyone can read the story at cumchouston.org.

Cokesbury has always been a church centered around our families with Christian love and Support. Let's celebrate this wonderful tradition,

Mary Short
Family Ministries



April 22- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding anniversary of Larry and Amanda Lohec, from Doug, Suzanne, and Kyle Warren.

April 29- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of George E. Ellington, by Lou H. Ellington.

Come Visit Kids' Bake Sale

Our own 4th and 5th grade Sunday school class will host a bake sale on Sunday, April 29 at Cokesbury. The proceeds from their sale will go towards a special mission project they are working on. Stop by the kitchen and support our kids. Remember, calories don't count on Sundays!

From The Pastor

Remember the "Nothing but Nets" campaign we talked about in church a couple of times last fall?

This is a campaign which originated with *Sports Illustrated* magazine and the National Basketball Association. It's all about the effort to eradicate malaria.

In many African nations, malaria is a major killer. Mosquitoes carrying the malaria virus swarm at night, entering peoples' homes and biting them. When mosquito nets treated with insecticide are hung over peoples' beds, the incidence of malaria drops dramatically. When a *Sports Illustrated* reporter found out about this, he developed the campaign to wipe out malaria.

As it happens, the United Methodist Church was already involved in the nets program in several African nations. Now, a magazine and a major sports franchise are working with us to make a difference.

Our bishop, Rev. Janice Riggle Huie, has declared Wednesday, April 25 as "Skip a Lunch, Send a Net, Save a Life" day. She has challenged us to skip a meal that day, and use the money to send a mosquito net to Africa. The nets are only \$10 – a mighty cheap way to save a life!

So, on Sunday, April 29, you are invited to bring an extra \$10 bill to church with you.

It's not right that poor people should suffer this terrible disease when we have the ability to help them. Please plan now to send a net! Besides, you will make a basketball players happy.

Love from Your Pastor,
Sandra Smith



Reception Slated For Lotus

As you may know, our dear choir director, Lotus Ricketts, will be retiring from her position as Chancel Choir Director here at Cokesbury. Her last Sunday in that capacity will be April 29 Lotus has directed the choir and handbells for us for more than 12 years. She has led our music faithfully Sunday by Sunday, and she has made special holy days, such as Christmas Eve, Holy Thursday and Good Friday, both beautiful and meaningful.

Lotus and Jay hope to do some traveling before settling back down here at their home church.

We want to honor Lotus for her years of service to us. Please plan now to attend her reception on the last Sunday of this month, following the 11:00 service.

Change To Make A Change

At Cokesbury, we want to continue to make a difference in the lives of the people in our community and around the world.

Last Sunday, we handed out small glass jars, for you to fill with your change. You are invited to bring them back full of coins on the last Sunday in May – Pentecost Sunday.

The proceeds from our coin jars will support two kinds of missions in our own community: evangelism and missions. Through our evangelism efforts, we invite people to experience the life-giving power of Jesus Christ here at Cokesbury. Through our mission giving, we offer help to those in need in the name of Jesus.

So, your change can make a change in somebody's life. Please fill your jars generously. Skip the pennies – and we'll be happy to take the green stuff!



Vacation Bible School Date Is Set



Before you plan those summer vacations, be sure to keep the week for Vacation Bible School open. Vacation Bible School has been set for:

August 6 through 10
6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

This will be a fun time for everyone in our church. The classes are for all children ages 3 to fifth grade. If you are too old to attend, that means you are old enough to help! We do need everyone to help out, even in some small way, to make this ministry a success.

Our program this year is called Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights With God. It centers around a hot air balloon theme and teaches children how to reach new heights with God through Bible stories, science activities, songs, crafts and games.

For more information or to be a part of this fun event, please call Laurel Johnson (281/481-8125) or Alison Myers (281/648-9808), your 2007 VBS Directors.

The MYF Corner



Here's what's coming up:
 April 27-29 - Senior High Breakthru Retreat weekend
 May 4-6 - Beach Retreat weekend
 May 25 - Drive-In Movie Nite
 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
 August 1-3 - Schlitterbahn!!

Peter Bonnano, Youth Director

Thank You

Dear Peter and Youth at Cokesbury,
 All of your help at Crossroads the past Tuesday was wonderful. Everyone worked so hard. With your assistance we were able to get many things accomplished for the clients who really loved having you here. Thank you, Peter and young people, for giving us some of your break for those needy but appreciative clients. Sincerely,
-Margo Montgomery
 Site Director for Crossroads



Treasurer's Report

Giving for April 1

Budgeted.....	\$14,269
Bond Fund.....	\$585
CDO Income	\$2585
Youth Minister.....	\$75
Designated Giving.....	\$3172
Easter Offering.....	\$460
Total Giving for 3/18.....	\$21,146

Giving for April 8

Budgeted.....	\$10,747
Bond Fund.....	\$195
Designated Giving.....	\$1404
Easter Offering.....	\$3,065
Total Giving for 3/25.....	\$15,411

Bank Balances As Of April 14

Operating Fund Balance.....	\$1,475
Bond Fund.....	\$2,391
Designated Savings.....	\$45,721
Total Cash.....	\$49,587

Apportionments have been paid through March.

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

Thanks to All Our Methodist Men

I would like to thank all of the Methodist Men who helped on our spring shrimp boil. We all worked hard to make it another great success. We sold out for the second time in a row.

I would also like to thank all of the Cokesbury's congregation who support us each time we have these events. These fund raisers allow the UMM to have great fellowship and also do our part in supporting different programs for our church. I hope everyone enjoyed the shrimp.

Jim Bane

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

Cokesbury Has A Group For You United Methodist Women

UMW meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church are invited. Day circles meet on the fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., except that there are no day circles in the summer or in December. The night circle meets on the third Thursday of the month at the church.

Busy Bees

The Busy Bees are the "crafty" ladies of the church who meet every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. They "vacation" in December and do not meet the fourth Tuesday of every month, because that is the date of the Methodist Women's day circle meetings.

United Methodist Men

Cokesbury's Men's group meets each second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p. m. The men always enjoy a delicious meal followed by a short business meeting. President Ed Whorton invites all men of the church to come and enjoy the food and fellowship. Our next meeting will be May 8.

Friendly Folks

The Friendly Folks are seniors from the church and nearby area who meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 10 a.m. for table games and fellowship. Bring a covered-dish to share and stay for lunch.

Holy Comforters

This Quilting group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. The quilts they make are called "Holy Comforters" and are taken to those who are ill, or have suffered any of the life-changing tragedies that come in life.

Travel Troubles

I was traveling on business last week. It reminded me of how much I enjoy being at home! It was great to see another part of the country, but I did miss the simple things. Simple things like: my family, my bed, my friends, home-cooked meals, my house, and a few other items. Most of us like to be around the people we know. Our friends and family make us feel comfortable. We like to be home, surrounded by our own furniture and our own things. When we travel, we do so with a longing to get back to the familiar.

This week, as I reflected on the aftermath of that first Easter, I thought about the lives of the first Christians. The disciples had been asked to leave everything behind and follow Jesus. As the Good News spread throughout the land, it was told by Christians who gave up the comforts of the familiar to share this vital information with communities far from their homes.

There was an urgency about this task. The early Christians were sure that they had to let as many people know as they could before Jesus came again. They were quite certain that Jesus would return at any moment.

Through their efforts, and the efforts of bold Christians since then, the story of Jesus Christ has been heard by almost every person on the globe.

This achievement was not obtained by men and women who valued their own comfort over the commitment to spread the Good News. They made great sacrifices to tell the world about Jesus.

Most of us are not called to be missionaries. God can use us in our own communities. But we still tend to complain when we are asked to do something outside our comfort zone.

Let us take to heart the example of the early Christians. Let us complain a little less and do a little more. It is nice to be back home!

Let me now go out into the world and be a disciple of Christ.

Darrel Raines

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:

Fourth Sunday: Jo Felts, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Peggy Smith, Faye Stafford, Kris Wallis and Carol Yeaney.

Fifth Sunday: New Beginnings Class

Save Time!

E-Mail Your Article To The Paper or to one of the Editors

newsletter@cumchouston.org
 Brad9@flash.net
 Klscats@msn.com
 Ljo26@sbcglobal.net



Adult Class News

Becomers (Room 252)

We are starting Andy Stanley's DVD series titled, "Go Fish - Because of What's on the Line".

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 are focusing on contemporary topics including discussions of how to be a Christian in the modern world.

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 are studying the book "Who is God in Three Persons?" by John Dyson.

Adult Bible Study (Room 210)

Our class is studying the Book of Numbers, chapters 3, 4, and 5.

Good News Class (Room 153)

We are studying the book "Fruit of the Spirit" by Hazel Offner. This class is being led by Jack Kestler. We will not be having class on Easter Sunday.

Affinity Class (Room 209)

We are studying Christian Living Principles in 1 Corinthians. Come visit and discuss them with us.