

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 for health and healing: baby **Steven** Myers who is now gaining weight, **Beverly** Crouch, **David** Wright (Fran's son), **Jo** McDonald, **Nancy** Owens, **Ronald** Philpott, **Linda** Detwiler, **Katy** Kuhlman, **Dot** Margheim, **Gloria** Markovich and for all our servicemen and women who are serving overseas. Also, remember **Darrel Raines** and family on the death of his mother and **Suzanne** Warren and family on the death of her sister. Special prayers are also needed for college students, teachers and everyone going back to school.

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

FROM THE PASTOR

I don't know that I have ever experienced a real, bona fide, personal miracle. But I have witnessed plenty of them. I've seen people on their deathbeds restored to health. I've seen people change their lives when I had thought them beyond hope of ever being a decent human being. I've seen peace miraculously restored in the midst of terrible, hateful family warfare. I've seen churches about to close their doors suddenly start to grow and reach out to their neighbors in Christian love.

The thing about miracles is, it's hard to witness one without wanting one of your own. And yet, I've noticed that miracles can't be conjured up by people. There is no magic formula -- two parts faith, four parts prayer, one part trust -- that we can use to make a miracle happen. Miracles happen, or they don't.

I don't think one has to understand miracles to appreciate them, but there is one thing I have come to understand. Miracles are seldom of benefit only to those who experience them. God seems to work miracles for the welfare of those who observe them.

I am reminded of the era when my grandmother was a young woman. It was not "the thing" for a young woman to talk to a young man she didn't know very well unless there was a chaperon on guard. But if that young lady happened to drop her handkerchief when a young man she favored was passing by, it was perfectly all right for him to pick it up and return it to her. And while he was returning it, they could talk and even flirt.

Perhaps we could say that miracles are God's way of dropping a handkerchief. It gives him a chance to talk to us, to let us know that he loves us and would do anything in the world for us.

If we ask him to, God will open our eyes and let us see the miracles he has placed all around us. When we observe them, our faith will grow.

I hope to see you Sunday. It is such a joy to be together in the house of the Lord!

Grace and peace,
Sandra Smith



P.S. I was so proud of our wonderful youth last Sunday. They did a fabulous job planning for and leading worship. I know you're proud, too!

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Blessing of the Backpacks Is Sunday, August 26

Children are invited to bring their school backpacks to church with them Sunday for a special blessing. As we bless the backpacks, we will really be blessing the boys and girls who will be carrying those backpacks to school beginning next week. In addition, during the 11:00 o'clock worship time, children are invited to go from the Children's Message to the children's wing to create their own Cokesbury Kid backpack tag.



Music Notes



Please note times for the choirs as there have been some changes:

Handbell Choir on Wednesday's will begin at 6:15. **Men's Chorale** is unchanged on Wednesday nights at 7 to 7:30 p. m.

Youth Choir will begin on Sunday, September 9 from 4:30 to 5:30 just before MYF!

The orientation for Youth Choir (both parents and youth) will be Thursday, August 30 from 7 to 8 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

Singers and Ringers: All voice parts are needed for the Chancel Choir. We are now "in the loft" on Sunday mornings and resume special music on September 2. **Please** share your voice with us! Handbell Choir is "reorganizing" and we need adults and youth who can read music and can practice from 6:15 to 7:15/7:30 on Wednesdays. We will be working in drills and reading music, in order to become an "advanced" choir. We will also be forming a bell ensemble to play regularly in worship.

Finally, we are in need of **your** input for ChoirChimes group (s). We want to have a Children's ChoirChimers group and a group for youth and adults who want to **learn how to play** chimes (and late-handbells). Please sign up in the narthex. Thanks.

In Him, *Marsh*

Children's Choir Starts Wednesday, September 12

Orientation at 6:15, Choir Starts at 6:30
Cokesbury Kids: First Grade through Fifth Grade
The Young Singing Angels: Ages 4 through Kindergarten

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name



August 26-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jim Bane's birthday from Donna Bane.

September 2-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Larry Lohec from Mildred Lohec.

Talents Program Is Extended

By popular demand, our Talents program has been extended until Sunday, September 16. Of you have not yet invested the \$2 we handed out in church in May, you have more time to do so.

Be sure to stop by the Talents Table in the Commons on Sundays or during the week to take advantage of the beautifully made arts, crafts and services available. Remember, all of our profits will go to help pay our apportionments.

Special Class on Islam August 26 "A Question of Surrender"

Why do Muslims oppose Israel? Why do they riot when cartoons of Muhammad are published? As followers of Islam, Muslims compose not just a major religion with millions of followers, but also one that is growing in numbers and appeal both here in the U.S. and around the world. And of course they and their religion are very much in the news. We all know about Muslims who plan and carry out violent attacks such as 9/11, yet we also know them as our neighbors who live productive lives as Americans.

No matter the person, the one factor that unites them is their adherence to Islam but many of us don't know much about this religion. What do they believe? Who's Muhammad? What does the Koran say?

To learn more about Islam and also to understand our own Christian faith better, you are invited to attend a special learning experience on Sunday, August 26. Adult Bible Study teacher and Disciple instructor, Tom Adams will present "A Question of Surrender: A Comparison of Islam and Christianity" on Sunday, August 26 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tom will be discussing the Koran, Muhammad, the Five Pillars of Islam and the status of women. The program will include a half hour question and answer period. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the church narthex, call the church office and indicate if you desire childcare.

Congratulations to Betty and Bill

Congratulations to Betty and Bill Sutton celebrated their 60th. wedding anniversary last week. They were married on August 16, 1947 in Gainesville, Texas. They returned to Texas and the South Belt in 1992 after having lived in various locations such as Newfoundland, Germany and six states. They have three children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In addition to being active at Cokesbury, they are both tutors at the library in the ESL program (English as a second language) and active in the local AARP chapter.

Help Needed With Apportionments

As we begin planning for the end of the year, it is essential that we consider the payment in full of our annual apportionments. Apportionments are the ministries we support beyond the doors of our own church.

Alone, Cokesbury could not provide young adult ministries on the campuses of major universities, pay well-earned pensions to retired United Methodist pastors, establish a first-class college in Zimbabwe, or send missionaries to places within our own borders and around the world. But when we add our resources to those of all the other churches around us -- we can all that and much more!

Currently, we are behind on our monthly apportionment payments, and we need to catch up so we can pay them in full before the end of the year. If you can help us catch up by making a gift above and beyond your regular giving to the church, that would help us a lot! Just make your check out to Cokesbury UMC and write "apportionments" on the memo line.

We will be sure it gets to the right place. Thank you!

Rainbows Along the Way The Ice Will Hold

Hank paused at the riverbank and considered his next step. Literally – his next step.

There before him was the vast expanse of ice that covered the wide river. He shaded his eyes from the weak illumination of the winter sun and gazed across to where the plumes of thin smoke streaming up into the blue sky marked the chimneys of the village that was his destination.

However, before he could do that he had to get across. But how? There was no bridge or ferry so the only way to do it was to walk across. Yet could he do it? The ice looked firm near the bank but was it so solid further out? He could cross – if the ice would hold.

He stepped onto the ice. Good – no cracking. Then the other foot. He took another step, then another and he hesitantly began to cross. Then when he was half across, he heard a distant rumbling coming from behind him and a glance over his shoulder showed him what it was.

A hefty freight wagon rumbled toward the river bank. The driver was perched high on the front seat, gripping a web of lines stretched out from his gloved hands to the harness of the plunging and surging pair of lathered horses that pulled the wagon. As they came to the edge of the river, the driver flapped the reins, yelled an encouraging order and the horses lunged out onto the ice.

Hank watched as the horses set off at a trot across the surface, and as the wagon rumbled past him, the driver waved a greeting. Then he flapped the reins, the vehicle lumbered on to where it climbed the opposite bank of the river and then disappeared from view on the other side.

Hank was thoughtful at what he had seen as he realized that the same ice he had feared would not hold him was far stronger than he thought. Now striding confidently, he resumed his crossing.

Sometimes we worry like Hank did when we start a new task for God. Perhaps, we feel inadequate to the challenge. Or maybe though we know God has promised his guidance, we just don't trust him to provide it. It's as if we don't believe he will support us.

So how do we meet the challenge? Often what happens is that God provides an example of a person exhibiting the faith he wants us to have, so we can see how we should respond. It inspires us to ask ourselves a question: On my Christian journey am I erect in confidence or creeping in fearful futility?

-Anne Adams

By The Numbers

August 19

8:30 a.m. Service.....	87
9:45 a.m. Service.....	52
11:00 a.m. Service.....	117
Total Attendance.....	256

FAITH GIVES THE RIGHT ANSWERS

It's Your Time to Help with Helping Hands

The following folks 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 Yeane.

First Sunday: Jean Bonds, Charlotte Davis, Gloria Hurley, Sandy Lawrence, Laura Morgan, Lotus Ricketts, Winnie Smith, Jeff and Char Vochoska and Carmen Wilhite.

Vacation Bible School Soars

A total of 76 children hopped aboard our hot air balloon themed VBS and spent the week soaring to new heights with God. It was fun welcoming so many visitors into our church.

Sixty-three percent of the children who attended were not members of Cokesbury. Hopefully, the children and their families had a great time and will come back soon.

We had almost as many volunteers as children. A total of 71 volunteers helped out each night to bring this adventure to life. And many others from our congregation helped by donating supplies, decorations and food. Thanks so much to all of you! It is amazing each year how the entire Cokesbury congregation pulls together to make this really huge task seem so easy. Thanks for helping and we hope you had so much fun that you'll be back for more next year!

-Laurel Johnson and Alison Myers



Our Infant Nursery Needs Items

We are upgrading our nursery. We want to have the best nursery in this area. We need at least two swings, two exer-saucers, two bouncers, two floor mats for infants to play on and any other age appropriate equipment or toys that can be sterilized. We can also use wall hangings.

Our Founding Pastor Famous!

The Houston Chronicle ran an article in the Saturday, August 18 Religion Section about Sam Duree, founding pastor of Cokesbury. Sam was commended for his birdhouse business. Sam builds beautiful birdhouses and sells them. All the funds go directly to support a United Methodist seminary in Russia. The seminary is badly needed, as the church is growing steadily there. Hooray for Sam! His work will make a difference for generations to come.

Visit An Adult Sunday School Class

All classes meet at 9:45 unless otherwise shown

Adult Bible Study (Room 210)
Affinity Class (Room 209)
Becomers (Room 252)
Good News Class (Room 153)
New Disciples (Room 208)
New Beginnings (Room 156)
Omega (Room 153-11 a.m.)
Wesley Class (Conference Room)

SeAM Helps With Back to School

Southeast Area Ministries is helping again with back-to-school items for needy children in our nearby areas. If you would like to help with the cost of this program, you can send your check directly to SeAM (P. O. Box 267, South Houston 77587) or put it in the collection plate. In both cases, put BTS in the memo part of the check.

Two years ago, SeAM absorbed the ZIP codes formerly served by Hobby Area Ministries. This fall, we are incorporating that area into our Back-to-School program for the first time. We will also give vouchers to the families for the supplies to be obtained from a vendor rather than burdening school nurses. We do not know how much these changes will increase our costs, but expect a significant increase.

-Rob Bradley

Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

Save Time!

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



Treasurer's Report

Giving for August 5

General.....	\$12,608
Designated Giving.....	\$1,267
Youth Minister Giving.....	\$15
Coke Machine Income.....	\$153
Total Giving.....	\$14,028

Giving for August 12

General.....	\$6,024
Bond Fund.....	\$15
Youth Minister Giving.....	\$15
Designated Giving.....	\$1,664
Total Giving.....	\$7,718

Bank Balances

Operating.....	\$5,358
Bond Fund.....	\$654
Designated Savings.....	\$48,417
Total.....	\$54,429

Apportionments are paid through May.

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer