

THE COKESBURY COURIER

an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

Vol. 154 No. 40

Friday, February 8, 2008

076453

Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Just For Him to Sing at Friendship Dinner

Just For Him, a gospel trio from the Old Town Spring area will be our featured entertainment for the UMM Friendship Dinner to be held on February 16 in the Fellowship Hall. **This Sunday is the last Sunday for purchase.** We first heard them on KJIC radio, 90.5 FM and were excited to find out that they were a local group and could come to our event to perform for us. Vicki, the leader of the group, promises us a great performance of contemporary, gospel, southern gospel and traditional songs. She even promised a few Andrews Sisters arrangements. They will be selling their CD's in the Commons after the show.

It should be a wonderful evening of food and great entertainment. Don't miss it!! Get your \$10.00 ticket this Sunday from any UMM member.

-Jim Bane

The Bees are Busy Again



The crafty ladies of Cokesbury are once again meeting every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Commons. If you love making crafts, please join us.

Confirmation Classes Start

Young persons in the 6th grade and above are welcome to attend Confirmation Classes taught by our pastor. The first class will be Wednesday, March 26 (the Wednesday after Easter) beginning at 6:30 p.m. Parents are asked to come to the first meeting. If you have any questions, called Pastor Sandy at 281-484-9243.

New Day Service February 9



At 6:00 p.m. this Saturday, we hold our second New Day worship service beginning at 6:00 p.m. The theme will be "The Wonderful Cross." As we did at our first New Day service last month, there will be contemporary music, a brief message and time to explore different "stations," where you can design your own response to worship.

New Day is designed for people interested in a new approach to worship, people who cannot worship on Sunday mornings, and people who want to support Cokesbury's reaching-out to new people in the community. Hope to see you there -- and bring a friend!



2008 Flower Calendar

February 10-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 17th birthday of Dakota Loftin by Melissa, Markus and Sarah Loftin.

February 17-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Anya Parker's 1st Birthday by Grandma, Grandpa, Mommy and Andrew.

The 2008 Flower Calendar is now available. Contact the office or Danna Whorton.

The remaining available dates are: June 29, September 28, October 5, October 12, November 9, November 16, and November 30.

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers for health and healing:

Sherion Kissiar, **Mildred** Lohec, **Charlotte** Davis, Marlette Reed's daughter **Cheryl**, **Dollie** Philpott, **Jo** Calaway, **Dot** Margheim, **Katy** Kuhlman, and for all our servicemen and women who are serving overseas.

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



FROM THE PASTOR

One of the things I love to do is watch the House and Garden channel on TV. Shows such as *Color Splash*, *Design on a Dime*, *Curb Appeal* and *Designed to Sell* are so much fun to watch. First of all, it's fun to watch people painting entire houses, demolishing walls, busting out old counter tops and otherwise working like dogs, all while I'm lying on the couch. Nothing is more delightful than watching somebody else work harder than you!

But the most fun is seeing the "before" and "after" pictures. The house or yard those poor folks have been slaving over has been completely transformed from something old, worn and grimy into something fresh, new and beautiful. And all in one hour or less!

It occurs to me Lent is -- or could be -- a bit like a major remodel. Lent (40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays) is a time to take a good look at ourselves, take stock of where we are, and get to work.

All of us could use a good spring cleaning, spiritually speaking. Old sins need to be trashed. Prejudices should be torn out like non-load-bearing walls. Windows need washing so God's light can pour into our souls.

When the old is disposed of, we need to transform ourselves with the new -- new attitudes, new resolutions, new dedication to our Christian life.

Traditionally, the way to do that is to give something up for Lent -- a small sacrifice in honor of Christ's great and ultimate sacrifice for us. We quickly discover what discipline it requires to give up coffee, gossip, chocolate, meat or (gasp!) TV.

Another way to remodel is to take on something new -- daily Scripture reading, more prayer time, doing some charitable work. These things, too, lead us to a new way of life.

However you observe Lent, it should lead to a transformation of ourselves. That's what Lent is all about.

I hope you make your Lenten path a meaningful one. And I hope to see you in church Sunday!

Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith



UMW Valentine Banquet

The United Methodist Women would like to invite all ladies of the church to the annual UMW Valentine Banquet. This year's banquet will be held at Texas Land and Cattle, 11900 Dickenson Rd., right in front of the AMC Gulfpointe movie theatre. We will be gathering at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12. There will be surprise entertainment! Please contact Linda Heinrich (281-481-3953) or Barbara Strong (281-481-4375) to make a reservation.



\$1 For Missions

Beginning Sunday, February 10, we'll be taking up a special offering for missions every Sunday -- and it won't hurt a bit! Each Sunday from now on, every \$1 bill in the offering plate will be given directly to our Missions Team for their use in promoting outreach to people in need.

This plan comes from the Church Council, with two goals in mind. First, understanding that giving to God is an act of worship, the \$1 bills provide us a chance to give even on those Sundays when we're not dropping our regular check into the plate. Second, it will give the Missions Team some funds to work with. They have some big goals, including building a mobile medical clinic. So get those \$1 bills ready -- they're going to make a difference!

Playground Almost Ready



It's been a long time coming -- and now it's almost ready for use! Our new playground should be ready for our kids in the next week or so.

It looks like it's ready, but timbers still must be secured and the fence installed. So -- please don't play on the playground until the yellow "caution" tape has been removed. We will have a special service of consecration when it's all finished. In the meantime, thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen!

Looking for Third Graders

If your child is currently in the third grade, please call Linda Garies in the church office, 281-484-9243. Every year Cokesbury presents our Third Graders with a Bible and we want to make sure we do not overlook anyone. Also, if you have an older child who never received their bible when they were in the third grade, please let Linda know this as well.

Thanks From Charlotte

Dear Cokesbury Family,

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the overwhelming outpouring of love and prayers during my recent illness. A very special thank you goes out to the New Beginnings Sunday School Class, the Chancel Choir and Pastor Sandy. In the midst of fear and uncertainty, I have felt God move in my life through each and every one of you, and I could not continue my quest for recovery without the prayers and support of my loving church family. I am truly blessed and eternally grateful. May God bless all of you!

-Charlotte Davis

Change for a Change

Are you tired of hauling around a pocket full of change? Is your dresser covered with pennies? Does the weight of change in your purse drag your shoulder down?

We have the answer! Each Sunday, there will be a container to drop off your spare change. All proceeds will go to Southeast Area Ministries, so in addition to helping all of us get rid of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, it will help provide needed services for our neighbors. Look for the "change" container on the missions table just outside the church lobby.

Songs from the Shadows: The Man Who Had a Friend

His neighbors possibly considered Joseph Scriven eccentric because he didn't have his own home but instead lived with friends as a guest or as a teacher. However, many knew him as compassionate and caring, helping needy neighbors rebuild their homes and even giving away his own clothing. All the same, Scriven had a Friend, and it was his description of that Friend that has touched so many lives and hearts.

Scriven was born in Ireland in 1820, attended Trinity College in Dublin, but when he became engaged, what should have been a bright future turned darkly tragic. His fiancé drowned the evening before their wedding day. Seeking new meaning in his Christian faith, Scriven adopted the ideals of the Plymouth Brethren group and because he did so, he may have encountered family opposition. He moved to Canada in 1845 to begin a new life. There he worked as a teacher and again became engaged. However, almost unbelievably the young woman became ill and died before their marriage and he was again pitched into depression and deep grief.

Again, finding new purpose and solace in the Plymouth Brethren faith, he joined a local congregation. As time passed, he found he had become more sensitive to the sufferings of others, and this realization inspired him to base his life on the principles in the Sermon on the Mount. As a part of this, he dedicated his life to helping those around him and growing closer to his Friend.

The rest of the world might never have heard of Scriven had it not been for a tragic event. In 1855 when he learned his mother was seriously ill back in Ireland, he realized that he could not afford to return. So he wrote a comforting letter. And with the letter he enclosed a poem that described the Friend who had sustained him through his many misfortunes. However, his poem remained undetected until several years later when he became ill, when a visiting friend found the verses and heard the story of its creation.

Still, the words did not remain unknown for long and after a while the verses were published in 1870 in a book of Sunday school songs in Richmond, Virginia. Five years later Ira D. Sankey and Philip P. Bliss, two of the major figures in gospel music of the period, discovered the verses as they were preparing a new hymn book. They inserted Scriven's words, at the last minute, set to a melody already in place.

Though Scriven's words were to become classics, he himself continued to experience misfortune, depression, and financial difficulties until one day in August, 1886. One that day a friend dropped by and found Scriven deeply depressed. The friend later described what happened next: "We left him about midnight. I withdrew to an adjoining room, not to sleep but to watch and wait. You may imagine my surprise and dismay when on visiting the room I found it empty. All search failed to find a trace of the missing man, until a little after noon the body was discovered in the water nearby, lifeless and cold in death."

Was it an accident or suicide? No one knew, but Scriven had left behind all his sorrow as he came face to face with the Friend he described in the comforting words that have inspired and encouraged so many:

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

-Anne Adams

Class Studying The Miracles of Christ

The New Disciples class is hosting a Bible study focusing on the Miracles of Christ. This is a Bible based, discussion oriented class open to anyone who would like to attend. This week's lesson is on the miracle of turning water into wine.

We meet in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (Sunday at 9:45 am) and we will have 15 minutes of social time before kicking off our discussion at 10 am. We are expecting participation from several members of our youth group as well as from our regular Sunday School class, so know that there will be a range of age groups represented.

We will spend at least four weeks with this, but could go longer depending on the level of response and how well the class is received. Gary Wallis will facilitate these discussions.

Safety First

The staff has noticed that a number of children are "loose" around the church, especially on Sunday mornings and during chancel choir rehearsals. We want all of our children to be safe.

To that end, we ask that parents supervise their children at all times, whether they are inside or outside. Also, parents need to sign their children in and out of the nursery. If there is a special need for child care, you can make arrangements by calling Linda Garies at the church office, 281-484-9243. Thanks for your help in keeping our children safe and secure.

Nursery Workers Needed

We are in need of some loving caregivers for our youngest Cokesburians. If you, or someone you know, would like to work in our Nursery, please call Linda Garies at the church office, 281-484-9243. We need individuals that are willing to work on Sunday mornings and possibly some during the week. The pay is \$10 per hour on Sundays and \$8 per hour during the week.

Reach Out with the Becomers Class

The Becomers Sunday School class will be extending their mission project of collecting OTCs (over-the-counter medicines) for The Bridge throughout the month of February. If you would like to join our effort, you may drop off any over the counter medications, (they are currently in need of cold medications for adults and children), in the marked box that you will find on the bench next to the mission table in the hall outside the Narthex.

They were VERY grateful for what we have brought them so far. These donations will be taken to them on a weekly basis.

Thanks for your help.

-Donna Bane

Egg Cartons Needed

The Children's ministry needs your help collecting egg cartons for our community Easter egg hunt coming up in March. We would like to collect about 400 egg cartons (the 12 count size). There is a collection bin located in the Commons for you to drop them off any time you like. Thanks for your help.

-Alison Myers

Coke Machine Volunteer Needed

For about two years, I have been taking care of the coke machine by collecting the proceeds and keeping it well stocked. I have recently moved out of the immediate area, which makes it harder for me to keep up with product purchase and sales. This is a "behind the scene" service provided to the youth who receive the net proceeds. If you would like to take on this project, please contact me at 281-468-3576. I usually fill the machine on Wednesday night or Friday during the day.

-Ed Whorton

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:

Second Sunday: Patti & Dennis Akkola, Linda Garies, Theresa Graham, Margo Green, Laurel Johnson, Billie Kestler, Carolyn Lofland, Herb Parker, Cathy Pleasants, Charlene Provence and Lois Seeley.

Third Sunday: Anna & Raymond Aquilar, Lynda Detwiler, Jo Farris, Joyce Garner, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Jim Roller, Martha Von Krigenbergh, Danna Whorton, Patsy and Allen Womack, Laura Williams and Fran Wright.

By The Numbers

February 3

8:30 a.m. Service.....	77
9:45 a.m. Service.....	48
11:00 a.m. Service.....	121
Total.....	246

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind
in Jesus' name.