

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:

Sherion Kissiar, **Charlotte** Davis, **Dollie** Philpott, **Jo** Calaway, **Dot** Margheim, **Katy** Kuhlman, **Winnie** Smith and family on the death of her father, **Theresa** Mauney who is recovering from an automobile accident 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.



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Easter Fun at Cokesbury



The Children's Ministry is egg-citedly planning Cokesbury's annual community Easter egg hunt, the Eggstravaganza. This egg-cellent event is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, at 10:00 a.m. but, please arrive a few minutes early to give you egg-stra time to register.

In addition to the usual egg hunt there will be an art contest and refreshments. The Marketing Committee has provided some egg-citing prizes for the art contest including a small computer!

To help defray some of the eggs-penses we are in need of your donations of empty egg cartons (12 count), Easter candy (individually wrapped), or small Easter trinkets (toys, stickers, tattoos, etc.). You can drop these donations off anytime in the Commons. Monetary donations are also helpful and can be dropped off in the church office.

So, round up your children, grandchildren, neighborhood children, or anyone else you can find and plan your eggs-cursion to the Cokesbury Eggstravaganza. It will be an egg-hilarating eggs-perience!

I apologize for the egg-cessive use of the word "egg".

-Alison Myers, Children's Ministry Eggs-ecutive



Vacation Bible School Date Set



Mark your calendars! You do not want to be out of town during the week of **June 23 through 27**. That is the week of Cokesbury's Vacation Bible School 2008. Our theme this year is: **Beach Party - Surfin' Through the Scriptures**. This program is a celebration of God's love and a chance for children to learn new Beach Be-Attitudes. Each lesson will be supported with Bible stories, science activities, songs, crafts, games, and snacks.

Our VBS program is free and offered to children from potty trained 3 year olds to those entering 5th grade during the next school year.

We know the children in your lives will want to attend and we know you will want to volunteer your time, so please bless us with your presence during the week of June 23 through the 27.

-Alison Myers & Laurel Johnson

Playground Dedication Sunday



On Sunday, February 24, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we will hold a special dedication service for our new playground. Rain or shine, muddy or dry, we're going to bless it and officially open it for the children of our church.

The playground, which is designed for children ages 5 through 12, has been a long-time dream of the church. For nearly two years, we've been raising money and discussing plans. It's wonderful to see our dream finally come true!

In the next few weeks, a fence will be installed around the playground, and that will complete the project.

FROM THE PASTOR

My husband Randy and I share an office at home.

No, let me amend that statement. Randy has an office at home, and I sometimes make my way to the computer to do a little work. At times, a machete is required to hack my way into the room, which is filled with books, papers, and piles of stuff everywhere. I couldn't begin to find a single thing in those piles, but Randy can find anything.

Sitting at the computer this morning, I looked around the room and marvelled at how "stuff" has accumulated. On a shelf full of books, a large M&M cookie jar (empty) sits next to a tape dispenser, which sits next to a cherub, which sits next to a Craig Biggio bobble-head, which sits next to a Russian icon of an angel playing a drum.

On the shelf below, there is a large ceramic frog next to a container of floppy disks (valuable antiques), which is next to a University of Houston mug. All of these things, of course, stand in front of rows of all kinds of books.

On the desk, two translations of the Bible stand next to the phone, and an emergency lantern (with dead batteries) bumps up against two crosses and a speaker for something (not sure what).

Of course, there's no telling what color the desk top is, because it's covered with books and papers.

I hope you don't have a room like this one (although I'll bet you have at least one drawer or closet that's a bit chaotic). But what caught my attention this morning is the way crosses, icons, angels and Bibles are all mixed up with the books, frogs, cookie jars and tape dispensers.

Maybe that's the way our lives should be -- the things of our faith are not kept in a box we take off the shelf on Sundays or during an emergency. The things of our faith are intertwined with the rest of our lives. Our "faith life" is simply our life.

I hope your week is a wonderful mixture of things secular and sacred. Keep close to the Lord, and your life will have a beautiful balance about it.

God bless you, and I hope to see you in church Sunday!

Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith



February 24-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jerry Yeane's 70th birthday, by Carol Yeane.

March 2-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Philip Owens by Nancy Owens and family.

2008 Flower Calendar

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.

Busy With The Bees



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.

Welcome Our New Members

Please welcome our newest members. Walter and Jeanette Tofte joined Cokesbury during the 11:00 am service on February 10.

Walter and Jeanette are long time Pearland residents and have been married for 64 years! They were very active members of their former church in Friendswood and we are delighted to have them join our Cokesbury Family.



HAVE FAITH

MYF Corner!

On Saturday March 8 the youth will be going to Brazos Bend State Park for an awesome day full of outdoors fun, grilling, and alligators! We will be meeting at church at around 9 a.m. and leaving shortly after that. More details to follow!

On March 15 the youth will be helping the Children's Ministry with their annual Easter Egg Hunt called the "Cokesbury Eggstravaganza" at 10 a.m. (check it out on the first page!). We are expecting more than 300 kiddos to come and find all those colorful eggs! So tell everybody to bring their kids and friends!

Their will be no MYF on Easter Sunday, March 23. But the first Confirmation Class begins on Wednesday March 26 for youth in grades 6 and up. Contact Pastor Sandra to join!

On Sunday March 30 MYF will be held at Friendswood UMC to see and hear familiar musicians Wayne Kerr and Zach Hendricks perform! We saw Wayne at last year's Mud Fest and Zach was the worship leader at UMArmy two years ago. They also will be worship leaders for this year's Breakthru camps again! Cost is \$5.

-Peter Bonanno

Worship Service for Children Begins

The first Traditional 11 a.m. Worship Service for Children was held on February 3. It went very well by the grace of God. It was a blessing to all of us involved in it.

There were 14 children who attended the service and a parent who accompanied the child through out the service. The children enjoyed the service.

I take this opportunity to thank the parent Ms. Sharleta Dunn-Vochoska who was around and participated actively in the service.

I am so proud of our children. They were well disciplined and eager to learn more about Jesus. I thank God for his blessings and one of them being this opportunity to nurture our precious children in "His Word".

I also want to thank Ms. Alison Myers and my wife Sandy who were there to help me and made things work smoothly.

I would like to inform that I will be conducting the service on the first and thrid Sundays. Ms. Donna Bane will be conducting the service on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays. I request you all to uplift us in your prayers along with the volunteers.

As it is written in Mathew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these".

Therefore, as parents, it is our prime duty to nurture the children by bringing them close to the "word of God" whether at home or church. Therefore, parents, grandparents and others who bring the children near to God are surely a blessing to HIM!

The snacks were provided by the Lawrences for the first service and it would be nice if the parents could sign-up to provide snacks each Sunday, as suggested by Ms. Charlene Provence, who is providing snacks for the service on February 10.

God Bless You all,
Anniel Lawrence

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.

Keep Those Dollar Bills Coming!

For the past two weeks, we have set aside all of the \$1 in Sunday's offering plate for missions. Our own Missions Team, chaired by Jim and Carole Krafka, will determine how the funds are to be spent.

There are several reasons for this project, besides the obvious reason of raising money for life-changing projects. One is, we regard giving as an act of worship. Most of us give the Sunday following our payday. Putting \$1 in the offering plate allows us to worship God with our money every week. Plus, we want our children and youth to see us giving every week. They need to learn from us how important giving is.

The good news is, since we started giving \$1 each week, the number of dollar bills in the offering plate has gone from \$20-\$30 dollars to \$150-\$200! Thank you, everyone, for your extra dollar bills!

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: Barbara Craft, Jo Felts, Nancy Hensley, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Peggy Smith, Faye Stafford, Linda Trevathan, Kris Wallis, Laura Williams and Carol & Jerry Yeaney

First Sunday: Karen Akkerman, Jean Bonds, Charlotte Davis, Gloria Hurley, Sandy Lawrence, Laura Morgan, Lotus Ricketts, Winnie Smith, Sandra Smith, Sharleta Vochoska and Carmen Wilhite.

SeAM Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On Valentines Day here at Cokesbury, Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) celebrated the 20th Anniversary of its opening. About 100 volunteers and staff spanning the twenty years recognized the history of the ministry with a dinner and presentation. Two speakers discussed the history of SeAM and the challenges of the future. A slide show displayed some of the history with volunteer and facility pictures.

The idea for SeAM began with an initial meeting on March 11, 1987 at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. Although churches from five zip codes were invited, only five attended. The meeting's purpose was to begin exploration of formation of a centralized ministry to help supply the emergency food for the needy. Following almost a year of planning, a combination Ministry Office/Thrift store opened in South Houston on College Street in March 1988.

SeAM relocated and expanded to its present location on Highway 3 in May 1989. These facilities have been expanded and remodeled to better serve the clients. Today, SeAM serves people in eight zip codes and has almost twenty supporting churches.

SeAM is possible due to financial support of our churches and grants and through the many hours of dedicated service from our volunteers. Through its history, nearly 1,000 volunteers have given their time to the needy through SeAM.

Want to be a part of the mission of SeAM? Contact one of Cokesbury's volunteers to learn of the joys they feel: Laura and Rob Bradley, Chuck Dyrud, Claudia Gentry, Jo Ann Gray, Carole and Jim Krafka, Anniel Lawrence, Carolyn Lofland and Ed Whorton.

"Ministering to our neighbors in need in appreciation of God's many blessings to all of us"

-Rob Bradley-Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

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.

Thanks from UMM

Thank you from all the Methodist Men for supporting the Friendship Dinner last Saturday. We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did putting it on.

Thanks to Jim and Donna Bane who helped arrange the entertainment *Just for Him*.

Thanks to the Youth who helped serve the dinner and to the Scout parents who worked in the kitchen before and after serving. Thank you also to those who supplied door prizes.

Pictorial Directory Error

There was an error in our recently printed church wide pictorial directory. The picture listed for George and Betty Biggins was the wrong photo. You can correct your directory by clipping this photo shown below of George and Betty and pasting it over the photo shown in your directory. It's a perfect low tech solution to this high tech problem. Our apologies to George and Betty.



Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

Visit A Sunday School Class

All classes meet at 9:45 a.m. 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)

By The Numbers

February 17

8:30 a.m. Service.....	82
9:45 a.m. Service.....	40
11:00 a.m. Service.....	150
Total.....	272