

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Selected Contents

Music Notes.....	8
MYF Corner!.....	8
SeAM Helps With Utility Assistance.....	8
Lakeview Retreat.....	8
Men's Friendship Banquet Recap.....	8
UMW Meeting Summaries.....	8



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead this Saturday night March 8 so you do not come to church late on Sunday morning.



Join Our Prayer Walk March 15

You are invited to join a Neighborhood Prayer Walk on Saturday, March 15 beginning at 2:00 p.m. We need at least 32 people to walk through the neighborhoods surrounding the church, praying for the persons who live in each household we pass.

In addition, we will be hanging Easter door hangers on every front door. The door hangers will advertise our Easter services. This is our way of inviting our neighbors to join us in celebrating Resurrection Day on Sunday, March 23.

The group will be divided into pairs, and there will be a brief training session before we head out. There are 1,000 door hangers, so we'll need lots of help! Kids are welcome, too. Our rain date will be Sunday, March 16. Sign up for the walk in the narthex this Sunday.

Cokesbury Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 16

Sunday morning worship-8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m.
6 p.m.-Soup/Cornbread Supper
7 p.m.-Choir Cantata-"Lamb of God"

Holy Thursday Service, March 20-7 p.m.

Good Friday Service, March 21-7 p.m.

Easter Morning Services-March 23-8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m.

Eggstravaganza!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 15

10:00 a.m.

An art contest and refreshments will follow the hunt.
Please leave your Easter baskets at home and join in on the fun!

Easter Donations Needed

There is still time to donate your empty 12 count egg cartons for our Easter egg hunt. Start cooking up those omelets, quiches and tiramisu.

We could also use donations of Easter candy, or if it is easier to just give money, we will not complain.

As always, thanks for your support of the Children's Ministry.

-Alison Myers, Children's Ministry

Prayer Corner

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

James Warner, Brenda Ortega (6 year old granddaughter of Dean Hebel's friend-who is suffering from cancer), **Lois Carter** (mother of Mark Carter) who is recovering from cancer surgery, **Maymie DuBard** (scheduled for surgery this week), **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.

FROM THE PASTOR

During this Lenten season, I have been attempting, as a spiritual discipline, to get my office at the church somewhat under control. "Control" is the right word. I don't need to straighten things out, or tidy things up. I need a whip and a chair to tame the beast loosely called my desk.

You can't imagine how bad things have gotten. I'm afraid that, somewhere at the bottom of a drawer or filing cabinet, a new life form is emerging.

My latest trick is to put things in boxes, thinking that at the end of each week I would empty it. Now, I have a stack of boxes.

I have a friend who, when the district superintendent was scheduled for a visit, would put everything in his office in paper grocery sacks and hide them in the bathroom. The trouble was, they never left the bathroom. Not a pretty sight.

Why am I so constantly shuffling papers and miscellaneous stuff? It's not my desk that's out of control. It's my life.

For me, the only way to keep things under control is to give over control of my life to the Lord. I have to remember that I'm not ultimately in charge. Furthermore, no matter how much paper surrounds me, how many appointments are on my calendar or how many meetings I attend, I can't bring in the Kingdom of God all by myself. That happens to be God's job, not mine.

As Easter approaches, my office may or may not be in good shape. But I hope I will have become a little more obedient, a little more joyful and a little more relaxed. I want to be ready for the Resurrection! I know you do, too. So how's your Lent going?

Now, speaking of out of control -- about my car. . .

I hope to see you Sunday as we read the story of yet another person who encountered Jesus.

Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith

SPRING FORWARD!!!



Staff Changes

The Staff Parish Relations Committee announces with regret the leaving of two members of the Cokesbury staff.

Tom Gilman, who has served as Director of Praise and Worship for nearly 5 years, will be leaving that position effective Sunday, March 16. Tom has led our praise band, 7DaysHoly, and has worked closely with our pastors to create a worship experience filled with joy and enthusiasm. His talented singing and guitar playing have blessed the contemporary service. We will miss Tom and his work with us very much.

Also, Peter Bonanno, our Director of Youth Ministries, will be leaving Cokesbury effective February 24 to pursue other interests. Pete has worked with our youth for the past two years. He has led them in mission and service projects, been instrumental in UM ARMY and JUMMP, and taught youth Sunday school. One of his strengths has been teaching the Bible. Our youth have learned a lot from Peter and we will all miss him. Peter will be moving to the Dallas area to pursue new vocational goals.

On another note, Mrs. Selena Dunn has accepted the role of Nursery Supervisor beginning March 2. Selena is one of our day school teachers and has worked in our nursery for quite a while. She will be responsible for welcoming parents and nursery children and helping them sign in and out, providing resources to the nursery staff and communicating needs of the nursery to the church staff. We are happy to have Selena on board and look forward to working with her.

Welcome Our New Members



We are delighted to welcome Waylon and Ryane Sheffield as the newest members of our church family! Waylon is already a baptized Christian and joins by profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Ryane will soon be baptized and added to our roll. We bless them as they begin their journey of faith with us. And we join them in anticipating the birth of their first baby in July!

MYF Corner!

On Friday March 7 we will be having a game night from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

On Saturday March 8 the youth will be going to Brazos Bend State Park for an great day full of outdoors fun, grilling, and alligators! We will be meeting at church at around 9 a.m. and leaving shortly after that. Call Linda Hite or Laura Bradley if you did not sign up or to get the list of what to bring.

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 UArmy two years ago. They also will be worship leaders for this year's Breakthru camps again! Cost is \$5.

Members Enjoy Lakeview Retreat



The semi-annual retreat to Lakeview Methodist Assembly was held on February 8 – 10. The event was populated by an array of 43 men, women, and children from Cokesbury UMC and Pearland First Methodist Church. The weather was perfect and the fellowship was even better. There was good food, lots of games to be played, and the most beautiful night sky ever. The fishing was not as good as usual. However Anniel Lawrence, Jack Yeane (grandson to Jerry and Carol Yeane) and Danna Whorton caught three large mouth bass. If you've never attended one of our retreats, plan to attend September 26 – 28.

SeAM Helps With Utility Assistance

Again this year, Southeast Area Ministries will be assisting area residents with getting access to federal funds to help with future utility bills. The program is called Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program or CEAP and is administered by Sheltering Arms Senior Services. SeAM will serve as an outreach enrollment site for 21 zip codes in southeast Harris County.

The program can provide financial assistance with electric and/or gas bills for the highest bills during the March-December 2008 period. It does not help with past bills. To be considered for assistance, the household must be:

1. Low income (below \$1083/person monthly income)
2. In Harris County
3. Include a senior age 60 or older or an adult with a medically verifiable disability

Sign-up is done by appointment only. To make an appointment, call SeAM at 713-944-9379 on Tuesday or Wednesday between 10 a.m. and noon. Interviews will be conducted at the SeAM office. Funds are limited, so if you know someone who might be interested, have them call immediately.

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

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.



Music Notes



Calling ALL Youth Choir:

We DO meet on March 9 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. We're working on music to sing both in Sunday morning worship and with Youth Praise Band for UMYF (Soon!). Please be present, because Spring Break will be our Spring Break, too. (NO choir practice March 16 or 23). Thanks!

Handbell Choir is working hard on "Easter Joy" (for March 23 - Easter!), and "Valley of Peace" after Easter. And we now have half a dozen practicing on our **Choir Chimes**, Too! (Yeah!!) - Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir will be presenting "Lamb of God", our Easter Cantata, on Palm Sunday evening (March 16) at 7 p.m., with instrumental ensemble. Please come, and invite neighbors, friends, relatives and business pals.

A BIG "Thank You" to all who helped with our Choir Room Workday on March 1! We have begun a "cross collection", with several already on the wall!

In Him, Marsh

Men's Friendship Banquet Recap

The annual Friendship Banquet was held on February 16 in the Fellowship Hall. The attendance reached 90 plus in spite of the bad weather. The gospel trio "Just For Him", consisting of three women, performed for the attendees. Mat Pena Catering served a barbecue dinner, followed by an array of tasty desserts. There were 18 door prizes including four dinning gift cards, two Houston Rodeo tickets and an assortment of candy hearts and home made candy gifts. A good time was had by all. I would like to thank the following people who helped present the banquet in such a fine manner: **Setup:** Rob Bradley, Carroll Kuhlman, Donna and Jim Bane, Sue and Don Smith, Sandy and Anniel Lawrence **Door prizes:** Peggy Smith (home made candy), Doug Warren (two dinning gift cards), Lady Gersteman (two rodeo tickets); Johnny Lemaster held the drawing for door prizes. Thanks again. See you next year.

-Ed Whorton

UMW Meeting Summaries

The **Dulin Circle** met on Tuesday, February 26 at Marna Seaman's home. There were 11 members present. The business meeting was conducted by Charline Knox. Linda Garies gave an inspirational program about Jesus and his love and sacrifice for us. We should all reflect on and try to follow his example during this Lent season. A delicious desert was served by Marna. Thank you, Marna, for your hospitality.

- Norma Barton

The **Sara Owen-Gemoets Circle** met at the lovely home of Erma Coskey on a cool winter morning, Tuesday, February 26. Thirteen members attended.

Nancy Owens, circle chairperson, opened the meeting with a prayer and devotional. Mary Short presented the program based on the novel *The Prayer Chest*, a novel about receiving all of life's riches, by August Gold and Joel Fotinas.

After the program the members discussed some business. Carolyn Breathed will be the circle Treasurer and Mary Short will be the circle reporter. Linda Heinrich will present the devotional at our next circle meeting on March 25.

Everyone then enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by Erma while we visited.

-Mary Short

Eleven ladies of the **Brenaman Circle** met at Barbara Strong's on February 26 and enjoyed fellowship along with Barbara's yummy brunch. Our leader, Donna Northrup, brought the devotional: a reading from Don Piper's writings on joy and rejoicing.

The program was given by Betty Sutton. It was taken from *Good Grief - the Story of Charles Schultz and the Peanuts Books: The Bible According to Peanuts* and *Short Meditations on The Bible and Peanuts* written by Robert L. Short. All ladies attending Cokesbury are encouraged to come to monthly circle meetings.

-Betty Sutton

Playground Dedicated February 24

Our new playground was dedicated following the late service on Sunday, February 24. Pastor Sandy gave a brief dedication service and then the children were turned loose on the new equipment. Thanks to all of the many people who have their time and money to the completion of this project.

By The Numbers

March 2

8:30 a.m. Service.....	95
9:45 a.m. Service.....	47
11:00 a.m. Service.....	140
Total.....	282

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.