

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
10030 Scarsdale Boulevard
Houston, TX 77089
(281) 484-9243
www.cumchouston.org
www.mycokesburyspace.com



Easter Services

8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.



Prayer Corner

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

James Warner, Lois Carter (mother of Mark Carter who is recovering from cancer surgery), **Sherion Kissiar, Charlotte Davis, Dollie Philpott, Dot Margheim, Katy Kuhlman, Kevin Leftwich** (son of Jackie Leftwich), parents of Theresa Mauney, **Mike Boessling, Louise Singleton** (mother of Carolyn Breathed) 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.

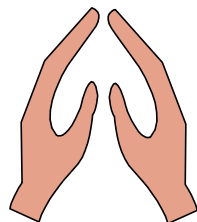
Other Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday Service
March 20, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
March 21, 7:00 p.m.

Selected Contents

Music Notes.....	8
SeAM Needs Books.....	8
2008 Easter Flowers.....	8
Missions and Outreach Report	8
Rainbows Along The Way.....	8



Mother Daughter Banquet Announced

The Stafford/Wyatt UMW Circle would like to invite all ladies of the church to a Mother/Daughter Banquet to be held **Saturday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.** This annual event is a benefit banquet that supports The Bridge, a Pasadena shelter for women and children who are escaping domestic violence.

This year's theme is *Memories*. Come out and enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and fun as we all share memories of our moms and daughters. There will be games, door prizes, and lots of shopping opportunities at our silent auction. In addition, Savannah Lohec and Heather Pues will provide live musical entertainment. Tickets prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets will be on sale in The Commons on the following Sunday's: April 6, 13 and 20.

So, grab your mom, daughter, or an honorary mom or daughter and join us for an evening of fun that also supports the women and children of The Bridge.

Easter Egg Hunt Was Egg-citing

We had a great turnout to our Easter Eggstravaganza this past Saturday. I want to say thank you to all that were involved. I want to thank everyone for their donations from cookies, candy and money. I want to give a special thanks to the UMW, the Becomers, the Marketing Committee, and Jackie Glass for their donations. The kids enjoyed their morning by decorating egg cartons, hunting for eggs, receiving goody bags and refreshments, and participating in an art contest. Our winners received prizes that ranged from a BIG stuffed bunny to art supplies to a mini laptop computer. Thank you judges, I know it wasn't an easy choice. But everyone went home with an honorable mention ribbon. Have a Happy Easter!
-Alison Myers

UMM Shrimp Boil is Heating Up

The semi-annual Methodist Men's shrimp boil will be held on **Saturday, April 19**. We will begin pre-selling the shrimp on Sundays between March 30 and April 13 in the Commons. If you wish to help with the shrimp boil, please join us at 8:00 a.m. on April 19. The shrimp will be ready for pick up between the hours of 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on April 19.

-Ed Whorton



March 23-Easter Lilies

March 30-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Gloria Allen Briley and her 40+ years as a Methodist Church musician by Richard and Janette Allen.

FROM THE PASTOR

When I was a child living on the farm, I once received two baby chicks, dyed pink, for Easter. They were adorable. I think I named them something like Fluffy and Muffy, which didn't fit too well after they both turned out to be roosters.

As they grew up, they lost their pink down and turned into perfectly normal chickens. Since they came into the world together, they stuck together. They shunned the other chickens and kept to themselves.

They were smart little suckers, and it gave them great pleasure to find new and better ways to sneak inside the fence and peck at the vegetables in the garden. They loved to sample the tomatoes -- all the tomatoes, one or two pecks out of each one.

Which was why, when I came back from summer camp, Fluffy and Muffy were gone. They had become the guests of honor at the supper table in my absence.

I learned some valuable lessons from Fluffy and Muffy. First, never ever name something somebody may be eating later. Second, don't lose sight of the real meaning of Easter.

In case you have succumbed to Bunny Mania, or have become absorbed in the rites of spring or some other such nonsense -- step back! You've gotten dangerously close to complete and utter nonsense.

Easter is about one thing and one thing only -- Jesus Christ, dying on the cross on Friday and rising from the dead on Sunday. New life. New hope. New beginning.

I hope you will be in worship with us on Easter Day. We're keeping our regular schedule, with traditional services at 8:30 and 11:00 and contemporary worship at 9:45. Bring a friend or family member, and celebrate the Risen Lord with us!

Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith

P.S. On the Sunday following Easter (March 30) we will still be celebrating. Wear your brightest colored clothes, put a big smile on your face, bring a salad to share at the noon salad lunch and come prepared to have a good time. After all, we serve a Risen Savior.



Come to Salad Luncheon March 30

Bring a salad or dessert to share, and enjoy fellowship with your church family on the Sunday following Easter! Immediately following the last service, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall to eat and talk and have fun together.

And since we'll still be celebrating Easter -- wear your brightest colored clothes and come with a big smile on your face! It's so much fun to be a Christian!

Confirmation Classes Begin March 26

Young people in the 6th grade and above are invited to attend Confirmation Classes beginning Wednesday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Parents are asked to come to the first meeting. If you plan to attend, please contact Pastor Sandy at the church office at 281-484-9243 or email sandrasmith@cumchouston.org.

Preschool Registration Opens Soon

Cokesbury's Early Childhood Development Program (ECDC) will soon be accepting early registrations for the fall semester. If you are the parent of a preschooler, be on the alert! We have a super program, and our children love to come to school at Cokesbury.



There will be **no MYF on Easter** Sunday, March 23. The Confirmation Class begins Wednesday March 26 for youth grades 6 and up. Contact Pastor Sandra. 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. Cost is \$5. Meet at the church at 5:30.

Deadlines for registration for UMARMY, JUMMP, and Lakeview are April 6. If you have not already received your registration form, please contact Laura Bradley.

UMARMY is for all youth who have finished the 9th grade and older. It is scheduled for the week of June 15-21. We will be going to Bay City this year.

JUMMP is for youth who have finished 6th grade through those entering the 9th grade. It will be held the week of July 14-18.

Lakeview camp is for children who have finished 4th grade through those entering the 9th grade. It will be the week of June 9-13.

An overnight girls' camping trip to Brazos Bend has been planned for May 9 and 10.

The Beach Retreat in Galveston is May 16-17. Sign-up is on the bulletin board.

Youth Sunday is May 4. For five Sundays starting March 30, we will have skit practice at noon.

-Laura Bradley

Help Others at our Blood Drive March 30

Cokesbury will be having a blood drive on Sunday, March 30 from 8:30-1:00 p.m. Look for our sign-up sheet or contact Bob Newlin. A member of Mt. Olive Lutheran church down the street is in need of blood. If you would care to, when you donate, you can credit his account. Or if you can not give here on that day, you can give at any of the Houston Blood Center locations in his name. If you do, you will need his name and address for him to get credit: Craig Allen and 10414 Shell Rock Road, LaPorte, TX 77571.

Music Notes

YOUTH CHOIR is preparing to sing very soon! Please be on time for Sunday 4:30 practices (ALL singers)! Youth Sunday is coming, too! Let's do our **BEST!**

A BIG "Thank You" to Chancel Choir for the cantata, *Lamb of God* Sunday! This Easter Sunday we are presenting Handbell Choir playing "Easter Joy" and Chancel Choir (plus trumpet, for "The Trumpet Shall Sound") and any who want to sing with the choir on "Hallelujah", at the close of 8:30 and 11:00 worship.

Choir Chimes are preparing a selection to play with Handbell Choir this Spring.

Thanks for the joy you bring us, Children's Choirs (and directors!).

In Him, Marsh

Missions and Outreach Report

The Missions "Spotlight" table has been used since May 5, 2007 to display different Missions ministries. Currently being spotlighted is the Heifer International program. Carol and Jerry Yeane volunteered to set the table display up and also collect the contributions that have been received.

The Helping Hands (HH) ministry has recently added new people to the Sunday lists that contribute to this ministry. A total of 45 people now contribute once a month to this ministry and about 5 people contribute periodically.

The Missions drinking water sale project has been going very well since its inception on April 21, 2007. Bottles of chilled spring water are available to CUMC members at a cost of \$0.50 per bottle. The following information pertains to all of 2007: total number of bottles sold (1014), revenue (\$517), proceeds to Helping Hands (\$216), proceeds to Nothing But Nets (\$64), proceeds to CUMC budget (\$45).

Beginning in February nonperishable food collection was initiated on the first Sunday of each month. The items collected are delivered to SeAM. In February 105 pounds of food was collected and in March 103 pounds was collected.

Also started on February 10, all \$1 bills in the day's offering will go directly to a Mission project. This money is expected to go towards the Mobile Medical Clinic project.

-Jim Krafska, Report to Church Council Edited for Length

Pick Up Your Tools from Work Day

Thanks to people who helped install mulch in the new playground. A gray plastic wheelbarrow plus various shovels and other tools were left at the end of the day. They are in our storage building. Contact Rob Bradley or Carroll Kuhlman for assistance.

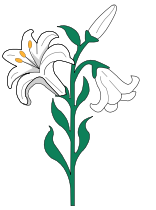
It's Your Time to Help with Helping Hands

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 and Jerry Yeane

Fifth Sunday: New Beginnings Class

2008 Easter Flowers



In Honor Of

Our son Robert from Larry and Cathy Pleasants
Nils Brochwitz from Larry, Cathy and Robert Pleasants
Becomers Class from Cathy Pleasants
Ellie Melanson from Lori and Wayne Baker
The Choir from the Lawrence family
Our children and grand children from Jerry and Carol Yeaney
Walter and Jeannette Tofte
from Cary, Jan, Josh, Walter, Dylan, Matthew, Richard and Diane

In Memory Of

Damon Williams from Laura Williams
The Warner-Iacocca families from Peg and Joe Iacocca
Ron and Paul Richey from Pat Richey
Marie and Payson from Jack and Billie Kestler
Our parents, Kenneth & Thelma Richmond and Walter & Mary Williams
and sister Delores Steinborn from the Bob Richmond family.
Ralph and Helen Karraker from Richard and Dollie Philpott
John Garner from Joyce Garner, Leslie and Nik
Lillie Hopson from Kay, Jay and Kris
My husband, George Ellington from Lou H. Ellington
Miriam Peters from Jim and Donna Bane
Juanita Roder from Charles Roder Jr & Sr and Dianne Bale
Bob Melanson from Lori and Wayne Baker
My loving mother Wilhelmina Muller from Martha Von Kriegenbergh

Rainbows Along The Way

Gloom into Glory

The lights in the sanctuary slowly dimmed and in the utter silence the altar was stripped. First the Bible, then the paraments and finally the candles, and soon the altar was bathed in just one pinpoint light focused on the bare surface. From my seat in the choir at the Maundy Thursday service, I sensed the hush that spread over the congregation as they realized what it all meant. The church was going into mourning because tomorrow was Good Friday – the traditional day of the Savior's death.

In silence, I joined the other choir members as we filed out the side door and into the room off the sanctuary. There we hung up our robes and began to quietly depart.

However, as I left the choir room I noticed a closed door across the hall. It bore a placard: "Please do not enter. Lilies are blooming for Easter."

And on Sunday morning they had, lining the altar rail, their white bell blossoms flaring open. Yet why the sign on the door? Why were the lilies kept solitary and in darkness? It was simple- they needed to be shut up in the dark room so their closed blossoms would open and the symbolism was unmistakable. For just a few days before on Maundy Thursday in one room, the church was enacting a ritual of mourning, and just a few feet away unseen lilies that prepared to open up and symbolize new life.

How like the first Easter! Jesus' disciples were deep in melancholy depression and fear at his death. Yet while they brooded, behind the scenes, God worked out his plans for the blessed brightness of the resurrection, and in his perfect time they would see it. For just as without Christ's death there would be no resurrection, so without the darkness of Good Friday there would be no light of Easter.

There had to be gloom before there could be glory.

-Anne Adams

SeAM Needs Books

The SeAM Thrift Store's book supply is low at this time. Particularly low are paperback fiction. Romance novels and westerns are always needed. If you would like to recycle some of your old books, bring them to SeAM, leave them by the SeAM barrel or call Laura Bradley.

UMM Monthly Meeting

The Methodist Men will meet on Thursday April 10 at 6:00 p.m. for our monthly dinner meeting. All men are invited to join us for food and fellowship as we seek to serve our local congregation.

By The Numbers

March 16

8:30 a.m. Service.....	76
9:45 a.m. Service.....	62
11:00 a.m. Service.....	179
Total.....	317

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.