

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:

The family and friends of Dot Margheim who passed away April 13, **Ryane** Sheffield who is recovering from a serious infection, the family of Belle Walty who just passed away after a long illness, **Erica** Chapman (on the death of her mother), **Sherrion** Kissiar, **Charlotte** Davis, **Dollie** Philpott, **Katy** Kuhlman, parents of Theresa Mauney, **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.

FROM THE PASTOR

The Southern Baptist Church meets every year to make denomination-wide decisions. The Presbyterians and the Lutherans meet every two years for the same purpose. United Methodists, however, meet on a quadrennial frequency -- every four years. This proves that we are smarter than the Baptists, the Presbyterians and the Lutherans!

The reason I'm joking about that is, it's time for United Methodists from all around the world to gather for General Conference, the one and only body authorized to speak for our church. This year, the gathering will take place in Ft. Worth, TX, beginning April 23 and ending on May 2.

The first week will be filled with committee meetings, which will take place day and night, as thousands of individual petitions are read, sorted and acted on. During the 2nd week, the body will meet together to debate and to vote, and then to debate and vote some more.

One thousand people from different cultures, races and nations will be there, representing annual conferences (such as our own Texas Annual Conference) from the United States and nations around the world. There will be glorious worship with dozens of different choirs, gorgeous banners, dance and various instruments. Every meeting will be saturated with prayer. People with very different ideas will treat each other with respect and love as they struggle to reach consensus. It will be a time of deep Bible study, inspiring sermons and stirring speeches.

Absolutely none of this will be reported by the media. What will be reported, however, is anything that is at all controversial. From reading the news reports, it will appear that the United Methodist Church is going to heck in a hand-basket.

After General Conference is over, everything will get sorted out and made clear. No doubt some decisions will be to our liking and some will not. But our trust is in God, and we will not be dismayed.

If you are interested, General Conference sessions will be available by streaming video. You can find the address on the Texas Annual Conference web site -- txcumc.org.

In the meantime, I hope you will be praying for all the delegates who will be working so hard for us in the days ahead.

See you Sunday!

Love from your pastor,
Sandra Smith



Mother/Daughter Banquet Benefiting The Bridge



Saturday, April 26

6:30 p.m.

Silent Auction

Live Entertainment

Games

One more chance to buy tickets Sunday, April 20 in the Commons
Adults \$10 Children \$5

Remembering Dot

Cokesbury United Methodist Church expresses our sympathy to the family of Dot Margheim. Dot passed away on Sunday, April 13. There will be a celebration of Dot's life Monday, April 21 at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and
humankind in Jesus' name.



Flowers

April 20-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Josh on his 11th Birthday and in memory of Robert and Brad Patterson by Rob and Laura Bradley.

April 27-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 24th wedding anniversary of Larry and Amanda Lohec by Mildred Lohec.

Catch the Wave



Cokesbury's Vacation Bible School will be held June 23 - 27 and you are just in time to catch the wave! There is still time to sign up to help with this fun program at our information table in the Commons. This year's program will have a beach theme and is entitled Beach Party! *Surfing Through the Scriptures*. For more information, please contact Alison Myers at 281-648-9808.

-Alison Myers

Preschool Registration Opens

Cokesbury's Early Childhood Development Program (ECDC) will soon be accepting early registrations for the fall. 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.

By The Numbers

April 13	
8:30 a.m. Service.....	89
9:45 a.m. Service.....	52
11:00 a.m. Service.....	216
Total.....	357

Get Your Shrimp This Saturday, April 19

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Boiled, Peeled, Ready-to-eat

Come by and pick up some even if you did not pre-order



SeAM 2008 News

In the first three months of 2008, Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) gave almost 30,000 pounds of food and toiletries to the needy. In these months, they also provided over \$14,000 of emergency financial help for medicine, rental and utility assistance or transportation to doctor's appointments or job interviews. In addition, the SeAM Thrift Store gave over \$3,000 (at the store low prices) in clothing and other items from the store to clients.



Cokesbury is a significant contributor to SeAM through volunteers, food donations, donations for the Thrift Store and monetary contributions. Two recent activities were started at Cokesbury to aid SeAM. The First Sunday food drive for the food pantry yielded 206 pounds on the first Sunday of April. At the Mission table just outside the Narthex, there is a large water bottle labeled "Your Change Can Make A Change" with the proceeds to go to SeAM.

Cokesbury has a large number of volunteers at SeAM. Talk to one of us about what this volunteer mission opportunity can do for you. Current volunteers are Ed Whorton, Carolyn Lofland, Anniel Lawrence, Carol and Jim Krafka, Jo Ann Gray, Claudia Gentry, Chuck Dyrud and Laura and Rob Bradley.

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee



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

The Youth Beach Retreat in Galveston is May 16-17. We will leave on Friday night and return Sunday morning near noon. We will be staying both nights at Moody Memorial Methodist Church just a few

blocks from the seawall. Sign-up is on the bulletin board.

-Laura Bradley

Mowing Crew Members Needed

Want to help the church look better and enjoy the great outdoors? Volunteer to be part of the Cokesbury mowing crew. It is estimated this volunteer activity saves the church over \$15,000 per year.

We typically have four mowing crews so that each group is responsible every four weeks. However, so far this year, we only have three teams and need additional people.

-Rob Bradley, 281-992-2604

Rainbows Along The Way

Songs from the Shadows: Wanderer from the Mount

"What were you singing just now? It sounded so familiar," the stranger asked his fellow stagecoach passenger.

The young woman usually didn't speak to strangers since 18th century etiquette forbade it, but this man seemed genuinely harmless and curious. "Actually, it's a hymn I heard in church," she answered. "It's called 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.'" Then she quoted the lyrics:

"Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Calls for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love."

"Do you know it?" the young woman said. Her fellow passenger shook his head slowly. "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then."

Thus, in an often told but unverifiable story, did Robert Robinson reveal the anguish and longings of his troubled life.

The "unhappy man" who wrote this beloved hymn was born into a poor family in Norfolk, England, in 1735. His father's death several years later left his mother destitute and dashed her career hopes for Robert to become a Church of England pastor. So instead, at age 15 Robert was indentured to a London barber where he acquired some questionable companions. Then, in 1752 at age 17 he joined them on a drinking spree and when they encountered an old fortuneteller they decided to have some fun by getting her drunk and then ridiculing her. The woman performed as requested, but when it was Robert's turn she made a portentous announcement for him. "You will live to see your children and grandchildren!"

He remembered her prediction even after he sobered up. "If that's true, then I'll have to change my life so I'll be alive to see them," he told himself. So when he decided to attend a meeting to hear Methodist evangelist George Whitefield with his cronies, he covered his purpose by suggesting they have fun heckling the audience.

That particular day Whitefield, a dynamic speaker who attracted large audiences, used the text of Matthew 3:7 ("O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"). Robert left the meeting permanently affected with a grieving sense of conviction that did not fade. Several years later, he confided to Whitefield how he had been haunted for three years before he finally attained "peace in believing." Then in 1757, Robert penned the verses that described his joy in his new faith. He became a minister and in 1759 he became the pastor of a Cambridge Baptist church.

Over the next few years Robert Robinson published several well-accepted books and though urged by some to join the Church of England, he remained a "non Conformist" (non-Anglican). He died in 1790.

Robert Robinson was a complex and controversial individual because of his connection with Unitarianism and some scholars doubted the validity of his orthodox faith. Yet at one time, Robert expressed his conviction that not only was Jesus God Incarnate, but "Christ in Himself is a person infinitely lovely as both God and man."

The final verse in his classic hymn goes this way:

"Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love
Take my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above."

And he did wander – from a devout Christian mother's highest desires, and then into a challenge with liquor until he was confronted with a life-changing message. Yet through it all, the God he loved had secured and healed the heart that created the words that have inspired believers for over 200 years.

-Anne Adams



Music Notes



We would like to extend a warm welcome to David Hamm as a new addition to our Chancel Choir and Men's Chorale.

And congratulations to Paula Hill for her choir successes and a great Orlando trip!

Welcome to Frances and Will Carter (Youth Choir) and welcome back to Jordon Lenamon and Lexi Perez.

Thank you Judy and Mike for singing on Sunday! What a great song with a great message!

Our ladies ensemble, "Women of Praise", will sing April 27: "Bless the Lord O My Soul" by Kevin Jensen.

In Him,
Marsh

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)



Thank You

Words cannot express our thanks to all of you both during Kevin's illness and afterwards. I shall always treasure the beautiful prayer shawl and all the prayers from everywhere. Thanks so much to each and everyone who prepared and delivered the delicious food. It was wonderful to say the least. Last but not least, thanks to all the special stewards during the memorial service, you know who you are.

-Jackie Leftwich and family

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

HAVE FAITH

How Well Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away
The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes That I Might See
The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
The Shopper's Hymn.....Sweet Bye and Bye
The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
The Massage Therapists Hymn. He Touched Me
The Doctor's Hymn.....The Great Physician

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

45 mph.....God Will Take Care of You
65 mph.....Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph.....This World Is Not My Home
95 mph.....Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph.....Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

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:

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.

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 Yeany.