

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

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### Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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#### Selected Contents

Help Midwest Victims .....	8
Rainbows Along the Way.....	8
Youth Complete Trip.....	8
VBS Makes a Big Splash.....	8
SeAM Helps Others.....	8

## Tie A String Around Your Finger

As you are traveling or just enjoying the summer break, don't forget Cokesbury! Summer is the most expensive time of year, especially when you consider our utility bills. Please help us get through our summer without stress. Thank you!



13 at 9:45am upstairs in the youth room. Come hear what Drew has to share with us for the rest of the summer.

Throughout the rest of the summer we will be having fun, fellowship Sunday nights, as I continue getting to know all the youth, parents and volunteers. I have youth surveys on the youth bulletin board for you to fill out and return when we have our "Home Meeting" with Sandra on July 27. I want to know what your thoughts and dreams are for the youth ministry here at Cokesbury.

We had a very productive workday last week in the youth rooms and "water night" was filled with a lot of teamwork. The Red Cloud Hikers are back with fun and amazing stories (check out the pictures on the board) and the JUMMP kids and the Bradley's are headed out on July 14. Please keep them in your prayers! I will be at Lakeview finishing my commitment with the Southwest district that same week and then back ready for Schlitterbahn.

Have an amazing week and I'll see you on Sunday.

In His Grip, *Christie*



## Music Notes

Wow! Thanks to everyone: Praise Team, Men's Chorale, Chancel Choir, Teresa Mauney, Brass Players, Judy and Mike, and David Blystone for special music and worship on Sunday! We look forward to more special music in the future. Thanks for your comments.

Reminder - There will be no choirs until August and September. Watch newsletter for dates.

Youth Choir - Watch for information regarding Youth Praise Band and Youth Choir for our Schlitterbahn trip.

Have a great summer!

In Him, *Marsh*



**July 13**-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Marilyn Brugman by Marcus, Karla, Andrew, Allison and Anya Parker.

**July 20**-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Amanda Lohec's birthday by Mildred Lohec.

## Prayer Corner

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

**Charlotte** Davis, **Dollie** Philpott, **Katy** Kuhlman, **Denise** Agema (Katy's daughter), parents of Theresa Mauney, **Tamara** Becker (daughter of Danna and Ed Whorton, for a safe and happy pregnancy), **Tom** Adams, **Nancy** Owens (recovering from back surgery), Kayren Mingus' mother, the people of the midwest suffering from floods 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.

## Save A Life



Please donate blood at the Cokesbury Blood Drive on Sunday, July 20, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

First, I must make a correction! The dates for Schlitterbahn are **July 23-25**. You have until July 20 to sign up and pay. Info is on the youth board. Sorry for the confusion, I must have been doing one too many things that day or living in the past...

Youth Sunday school will resume on July

## FROM THE PASTOR

Guess what? For the second year in a row, Cokesbury has earned the Welcoming Church Award!

Never heard of it? Well, the Welcoming Church Award is given to churches who have taken extraordinary steps to welcome guests. Each year, a Welcoming Church must show the ways in which we invite our neighbors to attend worship, how we make them welcome, and how we "market" our church to the community.

This includes our Greeters' Ministry, first-time guest gifts, signage inside and out, follow-up letters and calls, newspaper ads and articles, neighborhood door hangers, giveaways such as the special "fireworks glasses" we handed out on July 4, and all the other ways we get our name out there.

Why do we do these things? Because Jesus told us to take the gospel everywhere. We have such a wonderful Savior, whose life is such a beautiful example and whose sacrifice for us is so loving, that we would be the most selfish people on earth if we didn't invite other people to learn about him, right here at Cokesbury.

We have some great things to offer people here at our church -- warm fellowship, great music, meaningful worship, life-changing mission projects, programs for people of all ages and stages. All we need is to remember to invite people to come. Polls show that the biggest reason people visit a church is, someone they know invited them.

At the end of this month, we will all be taking part in a learning-to-invite-people-to-church-without-feeling-silly opportunity. We need to get our inviting act together, because a big day is coming soon.

Sunday, August 24th is the Sunday before school starts. Traditionally, this is a big back-to-church Sunday. We have a lot of special things planned for worship that day, and we want everyone to invite their friends. It's going to be a great day!

In the meantime, I hope to see you in church unless you are sick or on vacation. And remember, every church, including ours, needs money in the summer time. Don't forget your gifts when you are away.

Love from your pastor,

*Sandra Smith*

## Last Chance! For A Home Meeting With Sandra

Have you been wondering what's up next at Cokesbury? Curious about our financial situation? Been thinking about Pumpkin Patch, teaching Sunday school, taking Disciple Bible Study or volunteering with our youth? Dying to know about possible plans for our sanctuary, or what those dollar bills we put in the plate each week are going toward?

Sign up for a home meeting with the pastor! A number of meetings have been held, but only one is left. The remaining meeting is:

Wednesday, July 16-Sue and Don Smith, hosting

You can sign up by calling the church office at 281-484-9243. Please call ASAP.

## Stay Spiritually Fit This Summer

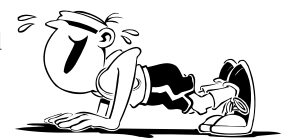
Imagine -- meeting with a small group of your friends for a couple of hours each week to enjoy a challenging discussion of selected religious topics. There are 10 to 12 members of your group and a moderator to start the discussion and call "time" when the next topic is due.

There is no designated teacher, because every member will be the discussion leader from time to time. There is no study plan, because each discussion is taken from a list of topics the members of the group develop.

If you find it both challenging and fun to be in a group where ideas are explored and the Bible is consulted, this is for you!

Tom Roper will be convening this great experiment, which will meet at a mutually convenient time. You can check that out with Tom after each of the 3 worship services on Sunday, July 13. If you happen to miss him, call the church office at 281-484-9243 for information.

Everyone is invited, and all viewpoints will be treated with respect, even if everyone else disagrees!



## Youth Complete Challenging Trip



Seven Cokesbury youth and two adults returned Saturday from a week-long trip to Camp Red Cloud located near Lake City, Colorado. The two day trip each way included an overnight bedding stop at St. Stephens UMC in Amarillo.

At Camp Red Cloud, we went backpacking in the beautiful mountains for four days and three nights. With us were three young adults from Red Cloud who were the guides of both the physical and spiritual aspects of the adventure. We carried all our gear including tents, bedding, food and water on our backs as we hiked a total of about 15 miles at elevations ranging from 9,000-12,000 feet. We hiked up to above the tree line with snow along the trail in many places. Night time temperatures were about 40 degrees under beautiful star-filled skies.

Each day included quiet solo time near breakfast for studying the Bible and discussion time around the fire at night to review our morning's readings. The adventure was challenging, both physically and spiritually. Our last full day in the mountains included a five hour solo time away from others for Bible study and reflection, during which we had a brief hail storm.

In addition to the backpacking, the group participated in team building games in which we learned to build confidence and trust others. Attending were youth: Johnny Hite, Alex Johnson, Dakota Loftin, Daniel Sawyer, Michael Schwartz, Melanie Thompson and Kyle Warren and adults: Laura and Rob Bradley.

-Rob Bradley

## Help Midwest Victims With Flood Buckets

The Texas Annual Conference office has put a call out for Flood Buckets. There is a need for these buckets due to all of the flooding in some northern states and also along the Mississippi River.

Efforts have already begun to organize an effort so that CUMC can provide as many of the flood buckets as possible. Donna and Jim Bane have already offered to donate twenty (20) of the empty 5-Gallon plastic buckets with lids. They will be available at CUMC this week for any one wishing to do a completed Flood Bucket

The Texas Annual Conference web site shown below gives the information for what is included in a Flood Bucket plus what should be done with them when we complete the buckets. The web site is: <http://www.txcumc.org/news>. There are lists of what is required to do a flood bucket on the "Missions Table" display and also on the "Missions" bulletin board in the hallway just outside of the Conference Room, plus there will be copies available for people to take with them.

Grace and Peace, CUMC Missions Committee

## SeAM Helps Others

April and May were busy months at Southeast Area Ministries as they continue to serve the needy of our community. Over 13,000 pounds of food were given to clients in April with almost 11,000 pounds in May. In the two months combined, over 1,200 clients were helped. In addition to the food assistance, in April-May, over \$8,000 in rental and utility assistance was provided.

Cokesbury continues to provide the volunteers that are vital to the ministry. Four new volunteers have joined us in the past months: Dennis and Patti Akkola, Kathy Lemaster, Tom Roper and Janis Shields. In addition, Cokesbury's First Sunday collection has helped with pantry stocking. Thanks for helping SeAM reach out to others.

-Rob Bradley-Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

## VBS Makes a Big Splash

Cokesbury had around 60 children catching a wave during VBS the week of June 23. Everyone from volunteers to children enjoyed our beach party while surfing through the scriptures. Sixty-two percent of the children who attended were non-members of Cokesbury. We even had around 20 children return on Sunday to sing during the 11 am service. Surf's Up to our great volunteers during the week that did a marvelous job teaching our children the Be-Attitudes: Be Obedient, Be Kind, Be Forgiving, Be Bold, & Believe. If you visited during the week you would have done a 360 as it looked like we were really at the beach. Thank you to the volunteers and congregation for donating supplies, decorations, and food as well for your prayers and support. One last note, our mission this year was to Hang Ten! (ten nets) for Nothing But Nets. We not only met this goal but tripled it by the end of the evening on Friday. We were able to donate over 30 nets for Nothing But Nets. Thank you again for helping and we hope you had as much fun as we did. See you again next year!

-Alison Myers and Laurel Johnson

## Rainbows Along the Way

*Gone and Forgotten*

Hank was about to open his car trunk when he saw the pickup truck pull in behind him on the riverbank. As he realized the new arrival was the state game warden, Hank felt a catch in his throat and realized two things. First, he didn't have a fishing license and second, he was about to unload into his trunk a cooler of just caught, still flipping fish.

Hank had to think fast. This cove was known for heavy catches so he had some explaining to do.

The warden nodded to him. "Good afternoon. Do you a license to catch all those fish?"

There was no denying that Hank had fish because the cover of the cooler was askew and the fish were still flipping inside. Then Hank had an idea. "No, sir, I don't have a license, but I don't need one."

"But you need a license to catch fish – and you can't deny you have fish there." The warden jabbed a finger at the cooler.

"Oh, but these are my pet fish." Hank watched to see if the man reacted, but he didn't smile and in fact lowered his brows in puzzlement. The man seemed to be a tad dim, so Hank became more confident.

"Pet fish?"

"Oh, yeah – everyday I bring them down to the river in this fish carrier, and let them out to swim around. Then I blow a whistle, and they come back and jump back into the cooler. Then we go home. Here, let me show you how it works." Before the warden could say anything Hank tripped the cooler over the edge of the bank and spilled all the fish into the water. Within a few seconds they'd disappeared.

The warden watched for a minute then when nothing happened he scowled at Hank. "Well, aren't you going to blow the whistle to bring them back?"

"Call them back? Call who back?"

"The fish!" The warden snapped.

Hank spread out his hands and shrugged. "What fish?"

Obviously few game wardens are that gullible but Hank certainly found an answer to his problem. After all, how could he be guilty of an offense if there was no evidence?

Ever think that could actually happen? If it were fish it couldn't, but when it comes to our spiritual offenses – call it sin – then it's standard procedure. Indeed, God has promised to take our confessed sins and not only forgives but forgets them - it's as if they never existed. The Psalmist put it this way: "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." (Ps. 103:12) – and if God can do that then they're gone! We might ask, "what sins?" and God would agree.

-Anne Adams

## 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

July 6

10:30 a.m. Service.....287

Save Time!

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

## Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and  
humankind in Jesus' name.