

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:

Charlotte Davis, Dollie Philpott, Katy Kuhlman, Shirley Smith, Danna Whorton, Denise Agema (Katy's daughter), parents of Theresa Mauney, the family of **Tom Adams**, Kayren Mingus' mother, **Bob Dixon, Jim Parsons** who is very ill, 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.

In Memoriam

Tom Adams went to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 2 after a brief battle with cancer. Services were held here at the church on Wednesday, August 6.

Tom was a faithful member of our congregation. He will be remembered for his love of bible study which he shared with us by teaching the Adult Bible Study Sunday School Class, and Disciple Bible Study. Tom was always helping our church in ways too numerous to mention. He copied our Sunday bulletins each week for the Holy Folders, brought up the Pastor's chair during the Children's Message at the 8:30 service, bought office supplies for the church office, and maintained the eternal flame in the church sanctuary. Yes, the eternal flame was really not so eternal without Tom.

We will all miss his wry wit, his thirst for knowledge, and his lovable grouchiness. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Anne and daughter, Noelle.

Women To Meet on August 12

Cokesbury United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday night, August 12, at 7 pm. The program will be on Nigerian customs, life style and religious life and will be presented by Funme Uzona. Ms. Uzona is a local seamstress and the wife of the Pastor of her Church. This will be a most interesting program and we invite all women of Cokesbury to attend. It is always interesting and educational to hear about other cultures. Come join us for this fellowship and reflection on others. Hope to see you there.

Bargain Shoppers Needed

The Children's Ministry needs your help in collecting supplies for the upcoming year. Children's Sunday School and Vacation Bible School are always in need of glue, glue sticks, construction paper, scissors, crayons, markers, pencils, erasers, rulers, and others crafty things. And, back to school time is the best time to buy. Area retailers are already advertising crayons for a penny, glue for a nickel, scissors for a quarter. These are great buys, but they will only let each customer get a small amount, like three or five. If you see these items advertised at great prices and can spare the pocket change and the time to go get them we would greatly appreciate it. There will be a donation collection box set up in the Commons.



Donate Your Unused Flowers

August 10-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Gary and Kris Wallis' 17th. wedding anniversary and in memory of Charley and Kay Murphy from Gary and Kris Wallis.

August 17-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Morgan Lenamon's 11th. birthday from Martin, Johnna and Jordon Lenamon.

All flowers dedicated in our church during services may be picked up and taken home by those who have dedicated them. However, if you do not want your flowers, please inform Linda Garies or the church office at 281-484-9243. Linda can use the flowers in our Pastoral Care ministry to brighten the day of our members who are sick or hospitalized.

FROM THE PASTOR

From time to time, I eavesdrop on the prayers of others. No, I don't try to listen in on peoples' personal prayers. I just read the ones people have written down and published. I love this prayer, written by Francois Fenelon:

"My God, I wish to give myself to thee. Give me the courage to do so."

This prayer sums up what I say to God all the time, only not so concisely. I would love to give every single part of my life to God. I know that God has plans for me, plans that include adventures, mysteries, wonders, joys and sorrows, failures and successes, life and death.

I want to live the life God has in mind for me. And yet, I waver.

Part of me wants to give myself to God, and part of me wants to run the other way, on the path of my own choosing. I want to love my neighbor, but I also want to love only my family and friends.

I try to be obedient to God's Word, but – well, not TOO obedient. I want to have a life, after all!

I want to care for the poor, the oppressed and the needy, but at the same time I want to buy fun stuff for myself.

Yes, I want to give myself to God – and I don't want to give myself to God. Yet I can't have it both ways. I wonder if you have ever felt like that.

So I will continue to pray the prayer of Francois Fenelon. Lord God, give me courage to make the right choices. I can't do it without you.

I hope to see you Sunday – we have two more weeks with the Psalms!

Love from your pastor,

Sandra Smith



Have You Met FRAN?

Just about everybody has FRAN's -- friends, relatives, associates and neighbors -- who are not active in a church. Have you ever invited them to Cokesbury?

Statistics tell us that the #1 reason unchurched people come to church is, somebody invited them.

Sunday, August 24, is the Sunday before school starts, which is customarily a "big" Sunday for us. We'll have some special things happening that day -- the Blessing of the Backpacks, extra music in worship and the beginning of a new sermon series. It's a great time to invite folks to come to church!

On Sunday, July 27, we'll be starting our FRAN program, asking everyone to think of a friend, relative, associate or neighbor to invite. We'll covenant to pray for them during the next month, asking God to prepare their hearts to receive our invitation, and then we'll all invite our FRAN's to church on August 24.

Wouldn't it be awesome if you invited some people to church and they became committed Christians?!

Be here Sunday to pick up your FRAN card. You'll be glad you did!

Celebrating New Life



Wayland and Ryan Sheffield are proud new parents of a baby girl born on Friday, July 25. She was a healthy 6 lbs 10 oz. This little bundle of joy is named **Savannah**

Delores Aldine. Her two middle names honor an Aunt and Grandmother. She is at home and doing fine and even sleeping a little at night.

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

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)





As you heard, we are going to be painting the youth rooms on the August 10th and 17th. Please bring any paint brushes you may have. On August 17th, we will also start making our large cross to hang on the wall. So please mark your calendar and plan to be there as I would like EVERYONE to be a part of our large

cross. Both Sundays start at 3pm! We will break for snack supper and then continue working.

September we will be starting a series called "Welcome to the Planet!" We are truly just visitors here on earth and together we will learn just what on earth we are here for! Bring a friend!

Also, be looking for Youth Sunday school updates for the fall.

I would like to thank Laura Bradley for participating in ALL of the summer trips/ events that were planned this year before I started! I appreciate her commitment while I was going through this transition period. I hope and pray she rested well on her vacation!

Have an amazing week! See you on Sunday!

In His Grip,
Christie

Honoring Roger Northrup



On Sunday, July 27 the Board of Trustee presented a special certificate of appreciation to Roger Northrup for his many years of service to our church. For almost 20 years Roger has been the one who locks up the church after the 11:00 service each Sunday.



I would like to thank everyone for the cards and food that you sent during my recent surgery. And, most of all I thank you for your prayers.

-Nancy Owens

Teachers Needed

Children's Sunday School will begin an exciting new year in September. There is a place for YOU as a child's teacher. This is a fun and rewarding way to serve the church. Please see Laurel Johnson (281-481-8125) or Alison Myers (281-648-9808) if you are interested in this fun opportunity. You can also reach us by e-mail at ljo26@sbcglobal.net.

Flood Buckets Still Needed

Since the initial call by the Texas Annual Conference office for Flood Buckets due to all of the flooding in some northern states and also along the Mississippi River, Hurricane Dolly resulted in a need for flood buckets in the South Texas area. An initial delivery of 14 flood buckets was made to Christian Alliance on July 25 and these were taken by Christian Alliance to the flood area along with 2 Mobile Medical Clinics. Cokesbury is still working on providing as many additional flood buckets as possible. Currently there are 7 completed buckets and items are on hand to partially fill several additional buckets. It is hoped that, overall, we will be able to complete 30 buckets total.

Grace and Peace, CUMC Missions Committee

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!



Music Notes



Thanks to our "Women of Praise" for our special music on August 3! Next Sunday, Karen Akkerman (cello) and Alice Steele (violin), both Clear Lake Symphony members, will bring special music. And on August 17, Savannah Rose Lohec will play harp for our special music.

Chancel Choir will be meeting for a time of both rehearsal and fellowship on Wednesday, August 13 at 7:30 p.m. Bring your voices and FRIENDS, and RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES and NEIGHBORS! We are beginning to "Each One, Reach One" for Music Ministry here at Cokesbury, starting with our Chancel Choir. We want to "pass it on!" about all the Great Things here, with Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, Choir Chimes, Handbell Choir, Men's Chorale, Chancel Choir and additional Vocal Ensembles, as well as our Contemporary Praise Team and Youth Praise Band! Wow.

Calling all Youth Choir Parents! We need to meet (with youth is A-okay). Regular Youth Choir rehearsal is 4:30 to 5:30 on Sundays beginning September 7. I hope we can get together on Sunday, August 24, at 4:30 p.m. in the choir room upstairs. Phone calls will be made before, so please plan on it!

In Him,
Marsh

Rainbows Along the Way

The Wrong Words

Hilda mentally rehearsed what she would say to her granddaughter and that revived the memory of why she'd come to this point. It was a complex situation, since she wondered how she could be honest but kind.

It was hard to give up her small house to move in with her daughter and her family, but health problems made it necessary and everyone had agreed. Thankfully, she'd brought some valued possessions with her, and one of those was the personal value of speaking correctly. For Hilda was a retired English teacher and that was the basis of the problem since she was so irritated by the word choice of her fifteen-year-old granddaughter Amanda.

Oh, it wasn't profanity but her slang, and to be honest that was Hilda's only criticism of the youngster. While some teens would have resented Grandma's arrival, Amanda had been particularly gracious and accommodating. Also, she was a good student, active in school activities and had many friends. Yet despite all that Hilda became so annoyed about the slang she felt she had to mention it, and one evening she got her chance.

"Amanda, you're a smart girl but I'm worried that the way you speak might make people not realize that," She said, "Some of the words you use sound so ... so ignorant. In fact, there are two words I wish you wouldn't use. One word is 'cool' and the other is 'awesome.'"

"Okay, Grandma, what are they?"

Though we use them all the time, how would you define a "word"? You might say it's a "sound," a "statement", or a "declaration," but no matter how you define it, as we've seen with Hilda and Amanda, words have different meanings to different people. That's because the words we use create ideas and those ideas are what cause others to respond.

We use words everyday in our spiritual journey and since they form the ideas and concepts that help us as we follow and serve God, it's important to choose the right ones. This is because occasionally our words create ideas that can offend even though we do not intend them to do so.

And with the right choice of words, we can reflect Christ and serve God, reaching others as we do so.

-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, Carisa Goodman, 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, Maymie Dubard, Jo Farris, Joyce Garner, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Jim Roller, Martha Von Krigenbergh, Danna Whorton, Patsy and Allen Womack and Fran Wright.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

By The Numbers

August 3

8:30 a.m. Service.....	81
9:45 a.m. Service.....	45
11:00 a.m. Service.....	127
Total.....	253