

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

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### Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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

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### In Memoriam

Jim Parsons has gone to be with the Lord. He passed away on August 7. He was 92 years old. Jim has been a faithful member of our congregation for over 20 years. He was a member of Methodist Men and Friendly Folks where he was still helping to set up those card and domino tables in his 90's. Jim was also a member of the Good News Sunday School Class. After retirement, he volunteered at Memorial Southeast Hospital and at SeAM. He will be greatly missed.

### Get Your FRANies Into Church

Next Sunday, August 24, is our "big" Sunday when you should bring all of your FRANs (Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors).

We have many special events planned: the Blessing of the Backpacks, special music during worship, and the beginning of a new sermon series called "What Jesus Meant".

Wouldn't it be awesome if you invited some people to church and they became committed Christians?! We will see you and your FRANs on Sunday!

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study to Begin

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible? Would you like to study God's Word with some friends, old or new? Linda Garies will be leading a new Bible study beginning September 2nd, the day after Labor Day. It will meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00. The initial subject of the study will be decided in the initial meeting. Everyone is welcome.

### Friendly Folks Need a Helping Hand

Our Friendly Folks senior group is in need of someone to be at our get togethers on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. We need someone to set up our food for lunch and clean up afterwards, this takes approximately 2 hours. This is a paid position and the person doing this would be welcome to join us in playing games. If you know of someone who would be interested in doing this, please call Jean Bonds at 281-485-1542.



**August 24-** Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Johnny Lemaster's birthday by Kathy Lemaster.

**August 31-** Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mildred "Gran" Lohec's birthday, by her Granddaughter, Savannah Rose Lohec.

### 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, Kayren Mingus' mother, **Bob Dixon**, 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.



### Promotion Sunday

Hey Kids! You all passed! Effective September, 7 (the first Sunday in September) you will move up to your next grade in Sunday School. Be sure and join us on this day as we will have some extra fun things planned. We never pass up an opportunity for cake. See you there...and bring a friend!

**-Laurel Johnson**

### FROM THE PASTOR

At last week's Publicity Team meeting, I heard a wonderful story. Better yet, it's true!

Bob Newlin told us that a few Sundays ago, when we hosted the Bloodmobile, a car pulled into the Cokesbury parking lot and two young women got out. Here's how Bob Newlin tells the story:

"While taking advantage of the snacks after donating blood, I thanked this young lady for stopping by and donating blood. I asked, 'You don't go to church here, do you?' She responded, 'No, but I wanted to stop and help because this church does so much for the community.' I said, 'Yes it does, but what things are you aware of?' She said, 'Well, this church is always giving to the community and never asks for anything back. It has the Pumpkin Patch, Street Dance, Shrimp Sale, Mother's Day Out, Nativity Scene, Car Washes and I am sure a lot more than I know about. And, of course the Blood Drives, so I wanted to help the church.' I then told her, 'Well, if you are ever looking for a church home, we'd love to have you. We have three services on Sunday as well as a Youth Group and other activities.' I mentioned that we have two traditional services and one Contemporary."

The Publicity Team was so excited! We've been working hard and focusing on one thing -- getting our name out in the community. Why is that our goal? Because people in our community need the saving and healing power of Jesus Christ. And that's what we claim and proclaim.

But until people in our community know about Cokesbury -- and feel comfortable coming here -- we won't have the opportunity to spread that Word. People who don't go to church rarely just drop in for Sunday morning worship unless they have a sense of familiarity with the church, or with the people who attend.

This is the kind of thing that grows slowly. First, a few people know about us. Then more do, and then more. Then we do a Neighborhood Walk and hand out door hangers. Then we send out a mass mailing to the whole community. Each time they hear or see our name, we feel more familiar to them.

Our vision (also our job description) is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. It's what Jesus told us to do. We can't let Jesus down!

So, continue to get the word out about our church. Invite someone to worship with you next Sunday. The choir will be back in the choir loft, a new sermon series is starting ("What Jesus Meant", which is about our favorite parables), and summer will be for all intents and purposes over. People are looking for a new beginning. Now's the time to give somebody a call. And take them out to lunch afterwards -- you'll have a great time!

I'll be praying for you this week as you make that call to invite someone to church. And I hope to see YOU there, too!

Blessings from your pastor,

*Sandra Smith*

P.S. Thank you, Publicity Team, for all your hard work! And thank you, Bob, for this great story.

### SeAM Serves The Needy

July was another busy month at Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM). Over 10,000 pounds of food were given to over 600 clients. This was in addition to over \$6,000 in financial assistance for rent or utilities.

SeAM is in the middle of its annual Back-to-School program. SeAM expects to give out over \$10,000 in vouchers for needy children for shoes, clothing and school supplies. If you would like to help with this outreach, you may send a check directly to SeAM or to Cokesbury. Be sure to mark BTS in the memo section.

Thanks to Kathy Lemaster, Janis Shields and Tom Roper who have volunteered in the Food Pantry during the summer. It helped us cover gaps due to other volunteers' absences. Come out and join us in this rewarding ministry!

Remember, you can also help SeAM through donation of your used clothing, books, housewares or furniture to the Thrift Store. Profit from the Thrift Store helps run the Ministry. In addition, some of the items from our store are given to clients. You can drop off items at the store between 10-3 Monday through Saturday. Small items can be left in our large drop-off barrel in the Cokesbury kitchen.

**-Rob Bradley**  
Cokesbury SeAM Trustee



WOW! Summer is winding down fast! Everyone is getting ready for school. We will miss our college-bound youth. We'll be praying for your exciting new adventures and we can't wait to hear all about them when you return to visit.

**Upcoming Events:**

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!**

Sunday, August 24 (5:30 pm snack supper – bring \$2)

Let's close out the summer with some crazy clean fun! We will have a FOAM MACHINE, Volleyball, Frisbee, water balloons, etc...And our friends from La Porte are coming with a fire hose! Wear a swimsuit or clothes you don't mind getting wet and bring towels!

Starting in September, we will have a new Sunday school class for the Junior High.

During MYF time – We will be starting a series - "Welcome to the Planet" and discussing "What on earth on earth am I here for?" Don't miss it!!

Also, **starting in September**, NEW YOUTH TIMES!

5 pm – Hangout time

5:30 – Snack Supper

6-7 pm – games, lessons, etc...

7 pm – more hangout time

7:30 pm – pickup/go home and rest for school!

Look for more youth info in the youth newsletter!

In His Grip,  
*Christie*

**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.

**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!

**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

**Thanks, Shoppers**

The Children's Ministry would like to thank everyone who has responded so well to our plea for art supplies. Our donation bucket runneth over! Thank you so much for your generosity. If you still have the urge to bargain shop construction paper is still a big need.

**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, Denice Grays, Nancy Hensley, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Peggy Smith, Faye Stafford, Linda Trevathan, Kris Wallis, Laura Williams and Carol & Jerry Yeaney

**Fifth Sunday:** New Beginnings Class

**Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose**

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

**By The Numbers**

August 17

8:30 a.m. Service.....	88
9:45 a.m. Service.....	49
11:00 a.m. Service.....	117
Total.....	254

**Rainbows Along the Way**

"Songs from the Shadows: The Parting"

With a deep and profound sense of grief, but with a dogged determination to proceed with his plan, Pastor John Fawcett boosted the last bundle into the wagon and nodded to his wife. It was time to leave that long ago day in 1782 and enter a new life where he would serve the Lord in a new pulpit in London. Still, despite the many advantages of the new church, his was a heart-rending choice. For he was leaving a devoted congregation he deeply loved.

"We don't want you to leave, Pastor!" One man wiped away a tear with a catch in his voice. "We love you and your family so much!"

Was he wrong to want to improve his position? After all, as a "dissenting" pastor in 18th century England, without the advantageous benefits of the Established (Anglican) Church, he would easily remain poor and obscure. However, this "call" was from a church of his denomination, and so it was not only an unusual opportunity but also a welcome chance. Yet, because of the move, and because of what happened next, he did not remain obscure, but even today his name is known and his words treasured.

Born into poverty in 1739, and orphaned at age 12, Fawcett was "bound out" or apprenticed to a tailor. It was a system that guaranteed a youngster a trade, but it meant hard work and long hours. Still, he learned to read and devoured Pilgrim's Progress, reading by candlelight under the covers in his attic room. As a result Bunyan's book convicted him deeply.

At age 15, he joined 20,000 others who heard prominent contemporary evangelist George Whitefield preach in an open field, and he responded. When he confided to the speaker that he wished to be a pastor, Whitefield encouraged him.

Joining a small local Baptist congregation that met in homes, Fawcett became more comfortable with public speaking, and other pastors advised him to preach where and when he could. At age 18, he married and subsequently responded to the call to the community of Wainsgate, which was actually a collection of homes on a hill. The local people were poor shepherds, and farmers, rough in manner and speech, generally illiterate and completely ignored by the Established Church. Only the Baptists had sent a temporary preacher, but now they were ready for a residential pastor. A local farmer donated some land and the local congregation erected a meetinghouse that seated about a hundred.

As their first pastor at a minimal salary, Fawcett and his wife settled at Wainsgate in 1765 but because there was no parsonage, they "boarded round", living briefly with different church members. As the years passed, his flock returned his loving devotion and their numbers grew.

However, even after several children were born and when the congregation was not able to increase his salary, Fawcett could not resist a new call to a prestigious London church. The urban location meant more ministry opportunities, a chance for growth and of course a better salary. So he accepted, made his announcement to the Wainsgate church, preached a final sermon, and then began to load the wagon and prepare for departure.

Yet as they did so the distraught and weeping Wainsgate parishioners gathered around for their final farewells. Then perhaps Fawcett began to have second thoughts when he heard their parting appeals and pleas.

"What are we going to do without you?", a man pleaded. "We don't want you to go!"

Then Mrs. Fawcett spoke up. "John, I don't think I can stand it!"

Still, Fawcett climbed up to take the reins, as the congregation continued to weep and plead.

"Good bye!" Fawcett flapped the reins and the horses started to move, and the cries became fainter.

Now even Mrs. Fawcett was openly weeping. "I don't know how we can leave these people!"

Fawcett bent his head in thought, then pulled the reins and turned to her. "You're right. We can't leave, these people are too dear to us," he told her, and then he turned around to shout at the crowd. "We're going to stay and I need help unloading this wagon."

The flock surged forward with shouts of joy and praise and the Fawcett family was soon settled back in. The next Sunday, when he should have been in the London pulpit, Fawcett preached to the Wainsgate church, using Luke 12:15 as his text: "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possesseth" and then the congregation saw a new hymn Fawcett had created:

"Blessed be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love!  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above."

Until his death in 1817, Fawcett remained at Wainsgate, and after the unsuccessful parting he continued to serve God. Eventually the Wainsgate congregation built a new building, Fawcett began a preacher training school and published several popular books. Even when King George III, who was particularly fond of one volume, offered Fawcett honors the pastor declined. He responded, saying that he "lived among his own people, enjoyed their love; God had blessed his labors among them, and he needed nothing which even a king could supply." And from that love of his congregation came the hymn that touched so many lives.

-Anne Adams

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