

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Selected Contents

Youth Update	8
Teachers Needed.....	8
Rainbows Along the Way.....	8
Music Notes	8
SeAM Back in Operation After Ike.....	8

Cokesbury After Ike

Our own church did suffer some damage from the recent hurricane. One of our light poles in the front of the church fell down onto the easement. There were two leaks in the sanctuary. One of those leaks went into the sacristy (the small room next to the sanctuary where Communion is prepared) and the ceiling in that room collapsed.

In addition, the flashing at the very top of our new building, on the side facing Scarsdale, was curled up on both corners. We now look a little like a pagoda!

There was also apparently some damage done to the "old building" air conditioner, but that has yet to be determined. In addition, water came in under most of the doors and the fence around the flagpole has been partially knocked down.

All in all, we have very little to complain about.

In other places in the South District of our Conference, Moody Memorial and St. Paul's UMC's in Galveston had damage. First UMC in Crosby lost their steeple and part of their roof, Bridge City UMC had about 5 feet of water in their sanctuary, and Seabrook UMC is most likely a total loss.

Be praying for all our brothers and sisters whose places of worship

The Pumpkins Are Coming!

Attention Pumpkin Brigade. We now have an estimated time of arrival for our pumpkins! Please plan to be at the church on Saturday, October 11, at around 3:30 p.m. After unloading, our pumpkin sale will continue through October 31. All profits from the pumpkins will go to youth mission and ministry.



And on October 25, please join us for Pumpkin Fest – classic car show, bake sale, Blessing of the Pets and other activities. YOU are welcome!

In Memoriam

The pastor and congregation of Cokesbury United Methodist Church extend their sympathy to the family of Louise Stetzel, a member of our congregation until she moved closer to her son a number of years ago.

Mrs. Stetzel died September 11 in Mineral Wells Texas. Her husband of 50 years, Paul, preceded her in death. He was extremely active with SeAM and other projects, and both of them were faithful and active church members. Mrs. Stetzel's funeral was Saturday, September 20 at Forest Park Lawndale.



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, Kayren Mings' mother, **Roger Northrup**, all those affected by Hurricane Ike, 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

When the Hebrew people were led out of captivity in Egypt, they were just that -- perfectly ordinary people. When Moses led them across the Red Sea with not so much as a speck of mud on their sandals, they were still just perfectly ordinary people.

But then they reached their first crisis. They had run out of food. There was nothing to eat, and the perfectly ordinary people were hungry. Faced with their first real crisis, the people immediately began to complain.

They complained that they should never have left Egypt, where they enjoyed the "fleshpots," whatever those are! They complained that back in Egypt, they had plenty of bread to eat. Of course, in Egypt they had been slaves, and I can't imagine slaves being given "fleshpots" to eat, but that's neither here nor there. The point is, they complained.

But then, Moses called all of the perfectly ordinary people together. And for the first time in the Bible, the perfectly ordinary people were called "the congregation of the Israelites."

When the crisis happened, a community was formed. The same thing is happening all around us. When Ike blew through, everybody complained about the losses and the inconveniences. No electricity, no A/C, no cable, unreliable cell phones, holes in the roof, trees down, and so forth.

But before long, everybody was helping everybody else. People with chain saws popped up everywhere, cutting everybody's tree limbs, not just their own. People got together and barbecued the meat in their freezers, and everybody had plenty to eat. (Fleshpots!)

In the Deer Park parsonage where Randy and I live, somebody came by when we weren't there and raked our yard for us. We have no idea who they are -- they just left the neatly tied up garbage bags on the curb.

God didn't design us to be on our own. God created us to be in a community.

By the way, God sent the "congregation of Israel" manna to eat, and God also provides for us.

I hope to see you in church Sunday. We all need our faith community!

Peace to all,

Sandra Smith



Children's Choirs Have Resumed

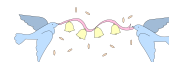
All children, ages 3-1/2 to 5th grade are welcomed to join the Children's Choir. We are rehearsing every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. The Young Singing Angels (3-1/2 to K) will meet in room 153 (next to the elevator) and the Cokesbury Kids (1st through 5th) will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please call Donna Bane at 713-326-0881 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

New Sunday School Class Forming

On September 14th, a new Sunday School class will begin and will meet in room 210 at 11:00 a.m. This class is being formed to accommodate the need for a young parents class. If you are a parent of young children, please plan on attending this exciting, new class. This class will be temporarily led by Laura and Rod Keith. Your young children, 4 yrs to fourth grade, can attend Children's church, while the younger ones will be cared for in the nursery. Refreshments will be served.

Congratulations Judy and Mike

The Cokesbury family wishes to extend blessings and good wishes to our church secretary, Judy Craddock, who married Mike Boessling in our sanctuary Saturday afternoon, September 20. They have gone on a honeymoon to Italy and the Greek Islands. May God bless their marriage and give them much joy!



September 28-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of our five grandchildren (Madalyn, Brooke, Bailey, Bryce and Macey) from Grandma and Grandpa Botkin.

October 5-Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jo Lee Scott on her 10th. birthday from Grandmother Jean Bonds.



Hey Everyone!

Well, we are all slowly but surely getting things back to normal. Just to let you know we are back in full swing with Sunday school and MYF! I will have to regroup and reschedule the Youth Leadership Meeting, so look in the newsletter for that info.

I will have sign up sheets for the Pumpkin Patch at the Youth Bulletin Board. If you want help paying for summer camps and mission trips, please sign up to work some shifts.

I will need A LOT of help on Saturday, October 11 around 3:30 pm. The Pumpkins will arrive and the more hands the faster the work gets done! So mark your calendars.

I would like to put in a personal note of thanks! Thank you for your prayers, support, hugs and helping hands during this "storm." A lot of scripture has been flooding my mind (no pun intended), but James 1:2-3 is the first one on the list. Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. God has never failed me yet...and I know He causes all things to work together for good.

In His Grip,

Christie

Remember our **New Youth Times** :

- 5:00 pm - Hangout time - This is NOT mandatory. It is a time to come and play foosball, shoot pool, listen to music and visit with friends upstairs in our rooms.
- 5:30 pm - Snack Supper - Please bring \$2 to help offset the cost to feed our "hungry" selves.
- 6:00 pm - Lessons, Games, etc...
- 7:00 pm - Games, hangout, etc...
- 7:30 pm - PICK UP!! GO HOME & GET SOME REST FOR SCHOOL!

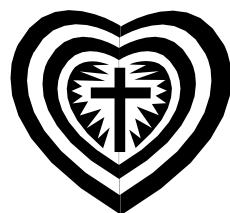
SeAM Back in Operation After Ike

Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) opened to serve on Thursday September 18 after Hurricane Ike. The buildings at SeAM did not suffer any significant damage. However, they did lose about 700 pounds of frozen meat due to loss of power. Higher than normal client loads are expected for the next few weeks. Chrysler Corporation through the Houston Food Bank brought us over 5,000 pounds of food and drinks on September 19 for storm relief.

This year through August, SeAM has interviewed 1785 families for assistance. A total of 88,000 pounds of food has been given out this year. Direct financial aid through August for rental or utility assistance, medicine or transportation totals \$30,000. In addition, over \$10,000 of goods have been given to clients from the Thrift Store. Back-to-school assistance will total over \$10,000 by year's end.

Thanks to everyone who brought plastic bags to the church. Whenever you have some that you do not need at home, drop them off in the big soup can in the church kitchen.

Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee



Save Time!

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

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

First Sunday: Karen Akkerman, Jean Bonds, Charlotte Davis, Gloria Hurley, Sandy Lawrence, Laura Morgan, Winnie Smith, Sandra Smith, Sharleta Vochoska and Carmen Wilhite.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

By The Numbers

September 21

8:30 a.m. Service.....	70
9:45 a.m. Service.....	35
11:00 a.m. Service.....	103
Total.....	208



Music Notes



Youth Choir-We welcome Greyson Chisholm as a new member of the choir! We are working on music to be presented in October and next week, we begin the first Christmas music selection. All "Varisty" Choir members are needed now! September 28th will be Snack Time in honor of our new 6th. Graders.

All choirs are now officially "back in the saddle" again, so come on back (Please!).

Special thanks to Teresa for her amazing rendition of "Jesus Loves Me" with four or five awesome variations during the relocated 11 a.m. Service Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

God bless all of you and don't forget to let us know if you need help at your residence, please.

In Him,
Marsh

Rainbows Along the Way

The Right Authority



Gene hopped down from his tractor, wiped his face with the red bandanna and leaned against the fence post, as he admired the newly turned furrows in the newly plowed field. Then his gaze shifted to the adjacent field where Primo, his hefty prized Angus bull was grazing. Indeed, he had much to be proud of. Next, with a check of his watch, Gene remembered that he still

had some work at the house and within a few minutes he had driven the tractor down to the barn, and then returned to the house. But as he climbed the porch steps, he heard the sound of a motor and turned to see a dark sedan pulling up to the house, and the driver emerge. He was a hefty fellow wearing a khaki shirt and blue jeans, and carrying a clipboard. As he came nearer Gene saw he wore around his neck on a lanyard an ID badge. Pulling a card from his shirt pocket to display, the newcomer was quick to state his business. "I'm with the State Highway Department and I need to inspect one of your fields for a possible new road."

Gene examined the card. "Which field is that?"

"The one down by the road – you know – the pasture." The man snapped.

Gene considered. "I wouldn't recommend doing that. You can stand at the fence but I don't think you'd better go into the field."

The man frowned. "Look, mister, I have the authority of the state to go wherever I want. See that card? It gives me the authority to go anywhere I want on your farm!"

Gene shrugged. "Go ahead, but don't say I didn't warn you." He handed back the card and leaving the man on the porch, he entered the house.

Gene had just seated himself at his desk in the front room and was just starting to concentrate on a seed catalog when he heard a shriek. "Help!"

Gene hurtled himself out onto the porch and down the lane as the shrieks got louder, as he skidded to a stop at the pasture fence he saw the problem. The highway department employee, his clipboard flying, was sprinting across the pasture, with Primo close behind. With his hooves chucking up sod, the Black Angus was gaining on the man.

With a leap, the man gained the fence and scrambled over then stood there panting as Primo returned to grazing.

Gene cocked his head at the guy. "Well, mister, all you had to do was show him your card."

That fellow certainly thought he could go anywhere he wanted, but though I'm not likely to be chased by a bull I often make the same assumption on my spiritual journey. And the problem comes when I barge into a new area of service for God, sure in my own mind that it's not just perfect for me but for him, too. Of course the problems come when I realize it wasn't so great for me – or God – because he wasn't behind it from the beginning. If he was, then everything would go smoothly and perfectly and that's not happening. So next time I'll serve him best when I don't create my own "service opportunities" but wait for his leading. And that's no bull!

-Anne Adams

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)

Teachers Needed

Children's Sunday School is off to a great new year. New volunteers interested in teaching or assisting in our classrooms are always welcome. Class time is from 9:45 to 10:45 on Sunday mornings. Our three classrooms are: Pre-K and Kinder; First and Second Grade; and Third through Fifth Grades. This is a fun and rewarding way to serve the church. You may help as often as you like, we will work to fit your schedule. 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.