

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

## an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

Vol. 155 No. 39

Friday, January 30, 2009

076453

### Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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### UMW Valentine's Banquet



All women in the church are invited to the UMW Valentine's Banquet on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Las Haciendas Mexican Grill. Reservations and advance payment are required by February 3. Please contact your circle chairman, Margie Remely or Beth Northrup. We'll be playing games and there will be door prizes. Come join us.

-Margie Remely & Beth Northrup, UMW Co-Vice Presidents

### Young Adults Meet

Our first meeting of Cokesbury's Young Adults was very successful. Our first order of business was to agree on our definition of "young" adult. We came to the conclusion that if you think you are young, then you are. We also, have many ideas brewing for future fun events. There has been a FaceBook page set up for everyone to keep in touch and share your ideas and concerns. Please log on and let us know what you think at facebook.com and search for Cokesbury UMC Young Adults.

## Welcome



Please join us in welcoming Bill and Kay Young to our Cokesbury family. Bill and Kay joined our church on January 11. They were both members of the Bell Choir at their former church and Bill is already lending his expertise to our Bell Choir. We are so happy to have them as part of our church family.

#### Save Time!

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



**February 1** -Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the Wilson Family by David Hamm.

**February 8** - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Savannah's 13th birthday, by Amanda and Larry Lohec.

### FROM THE PASTOR

I have a confession to make -- I sometimes get lost on the Labyrinth.

The Labyrinth is an ancient form of prayer. A winding path is laid out on the floor, a path which gradually takes you to center. While you walk towards the center, you pray, asking God to help you let go of something that you need to shed. When you reach the center, you stop to reflect. Then you begin to make your way out of the Labyrinth.

The way out is a mirror image of the way in. As you walk the path, you ask God to give you something that you need. And God answers that prayer, often giving you a word you had no idea that you needed until you heard it.

When I walk the Labyrinth, I get absorbed in the journey, and sometimes I step off the path without realizing it. In other words, I get lost!

It occurs to me that we walk a labyrinth every day in our ordinary lives. We move with God through our day, asking him to help us shed what we need to get rid of, and take on that which God knows we need the most. But of course, this can only be a spiritual experience if we make it so. I hope you do.

Last night, over 30 people walked the Labyrinth at Cokesbury. As far as I know, nobody got lost! In fact, there was so much positive feedback that we may host it again. Be watching for it!

See you Sunday!

Love from your pastor,

*Sandra Smith*



### 2009 Friendship Dinner-Sponsored by Methodist Men

Saturday, February 21-6:30 Fellowship Hall

Catered by Two Brothers-\$10/ticket

Entertainment by Salvation Army "Harbor Light" Choir

### Give Generously to Souper Bowl of Caring



This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month and Cokesbury normally has a food drive for Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM). This Sunday, it will be combined with our annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection. Please remember those less fortunate on Super Bowl Sunday. We will be collecting non-perishable food and monetary donations after all three services. Items that can be used at SeAM are canned tomato products, rice and beans. Everything collected at Cokesbury will go to

SeAM. Food collected at area grocery stores such as HEB and Kroger will go to the Houston Food Bank where it will be redistributed to area food pantries such as SeAM.

This year marks a special event for the Souper Bowl of Caring. February 1 marks 20 years since the youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S. C. addressed the issue of hunger in their community with this Super Bowl Sunday prayer:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

This prayer inspired this single church to invite 21 other congregations to join them in collecting \$5,700, which was then donated to local charities that provide assistance to those in need.

Over the last 20 years, more than \$50 million has been raised in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger. From a single prayer and a single youth group, the Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year.

Be part of this movement that begins in our own backyard and reaches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please give generously with food or cash. Everything collected will go to SeAM to help our neighbors in need.

-Laura Bradley, SeAM Pantry Manager

### Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has participated in the Shareholders Fundraiser! We still have a few spots open, so if you missed it please go by the table in The Commons.

February is full of fun activities:

- Feb. 1 - Super Bowl Party hosted at the Bradley's 5pm.
- The youth will be selling Sub Sandwiches at all 3 services.
- Feb. 20 - Sr. High Girls Night 6-10pm @ the church
- Feb. 21 - Friendship Dinner 6:30pm need youth to help!
- Feb. 22 - YOUTH SUNDAY all 3 services
- Feb. 27 - Jr. High Girls Night 6-10pm @ the church

Details to these activities are in the monthly Youth Newsletter. Copies are on the Youth Bulletin Board.

A far look ahead---Hurricane Ike Relief Concert featuring Wayne Kerr & Lauren James will be at Friendswood March 1.

In His Grip,  
*Christie*

## Tutoring Opportunity Available

Our church has just begun an outreach ministry at Stuchbery Elementary School. Volunteers are meeting at Stuchbery on Thursday mornings to help first graders with reading and math skills. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child. Please contact Laura Bradley at brad9@flash.net or 281-992-2604 if you would like to join our team of volunteers.



Dear Cokesbury Family,  
Many thanks for all the acts of kindness and christian love toward our family after the death of Sharon, Ed's Sister.  
The food, cards and prayers and friendship are so much appreciated!  
Thanks again,  
**Ed and Janis Shields**

## Rainbows Along the Way

### A King's Advice



For many years it has been a New Year's tradition for the British monarch to address the nation and the commonwealth. Today the Queen does it flawlessly on television, because she can pre-tape her presentation.

Yet for her father, George VI, it was not so easy when he addressed his people on the radio. This was because he stuttered and so he was uncomfortable speaking in public and particularly before a microphone. However, with the help and encouragement of his wife, Lady Elizabeth, he received professional coaching, practiced and gained poise.

In 1939 as Britain faced the deadly threat of Nazi Germany, King George was particularly worried as he considered his upcoming address. He was anxious not only about speaking but also about the content of the speech. What could he say to his subjects in such a terrifying time as he tried to encourage them? So he decided to share some words of timeless advice from an American academic and poet, Minnie Louise Haskins, who was living in the U.K. at the time. The words were from a work titled "The Gate of the Year," published as part of a 1908 collection titled "The Desert". This publication received international recognition when Lady Elizabeth suggested her husband include them in his address. The passage inspired her all through her life and she had the words on a brass plaque set on the gates of Windsor Castle's King George VI Memorial Chapel where the King was interred. The words were also read at her state funeral in 2002.

So on that memorial day in 1939 the king ended his address with these words: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.'"

Many years have passed, and while we may not face the same sort of threats as did the king and his people, our world is still a tumultuous place to live. And as the British of that time found hope with the king's advice so can we draw inspiration from the same words as we begin a new year.

-Anne Adams



## By The Numbers

<b>January 25</b>	
8:30 a.m. Service.....	77
9:45 a.m. Service.....	44
11:00 a.m. Service.....	124
Total.....	245



## Music Notes



**Youth Choir** is embarking on a youth musical by Michael W. Smith, "Living on the Edge". Watch for a new schedule in February. We will not have rehearsal on February 1 due to the Super Bowl (and "Bye, Bye, Birdie" with one of our singers). Heather Pues is appearing as Marian in "The Music Man" at Dobie High School. Opening right now! Catch her if you can. We have other members involved in musicals as well, so we will have a very busy spring.

**ChoirChimes and Handbells** welcome a new ringer, Bill Young. ChoirChimes will be playing in February. Handbells will be playing soon also.

Congratulations to Will Carter on his selection as an All Region Orchestra member! We will soon be hearing from our youthful orchestra members in church.

**Chancel Choir** will be performing Written in Red as our Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday. We have already begun rehearsals.

In Him,  
*Marsh*

## SeAM Serves the Needy in 2008

Last year was a busy year at Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) as it continued in its 21st. year to serve the needs of the less fortunate. Cokesbury is one of 20 covenant churches that provide funds, food and volunteers to SeAM. The 20th anniversary party was held at Cokesbury on Valentine's Day.

SeAM serves 8 zip codes in our area. Over 7,500 people were given food in 2008. This was an increase of about 17% from 2007 due partially to Hurricane Ike and the worsening economy. During 2008, 875 new families received assistance. Almost 140,000 pounds of food and toiletries were distributed to the needy families.

In addition to the food assistance, SeAM provided limited financial assistance to those with dire utility, housing, medical or transportation needs. A total of \$48,000 in financial assistance was provided in 2008.

SeAM sponsored its annual Back To School program that provided children with shoes or vouchers for use with school supplies or clothes. At Christmas, 169 children were provided presents through SeAM in the annual program which was organized this year by Cokesbury's own Jo Ann Gray and Claudia Gentry. Cokesbury provided gifts to 54 of the children.

In addition to food and direct financial assistance, SeAM was a coordinator of the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CeAP) for 22 zip codes. Using federal funds administered locally through Sheltering Arms Senior Services, SeAM provided access to CeAP funds of over \$188,000 to 328 families with low income seniors and disabled persons for help with future utility bills.

Cokesbury continues to provide the largest number of volunteers at SeAM of any covenant church. Cokesbury members who volunteered during 2008 were Kathy Lemaster, Janis Shields, Chuck Dyrud, Jim Krafka, Carole Krafka, Anniel Lawrence, Ed Whorton, Carolyn Lofland, Claudia Gentry, Jo Ann Gray, Tom Roper, Dennis Akkola, Patti Akkola, Laura Bradley and Rob Bradley. Come join us in helping to serve others. Come by and see what goes on and how you can help. In the Ministry/Food Pantry office, we can use pantry workers, interviewers, phone answerers and computer entry help. The Thrift Store can use sorters, pricers and donation pick-up.

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

## Confirmation Class Begins Next Month

Confirmation classes will begin Sunday, February 8 at 4:00 p.m. If you have a 6th grader or older that has not been confirmed and you would like for them to attend classes, please e-mail Christie at cyouth4jc@gmail.com or call the church office at 281-484-9243 to sign them up.

## Here's Our Updated Helping Hands List

The following folks have signed up to help with Helping Hands for the next two weeks:

### 1st Sunday

Karen Akkerman, Jean Bonds, Charlotte Davis, Claudia Gentry, Gloria Hurley, Carole Krafka, Laura Morgan, Sandra Smith, Winnie Smith, Carman Wilhite

### 2nd Sunday

Patti & Dennis Akkola, Linda Garies, Carisa Goodman, Theresa Graham, Margo & Tom Green, Laurel Johnson, Billie & Jack Kestler, Carolyn Lofland, Herb Parker, Cathy Pleasants, Charlene Provence, Lois Seeley

### 3rd Sunday

Anna Aquilar, Lynda Detwiler, Maymie DuBard, Jo Farris, Joyce Garner, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Martha von Kriegenbergh, Danna Whorton, Patsy Womack

### 4th Sunday

Barbara Craft, Jo Felts, Denice Grays, Nancy Hensley, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Tracey Moore, Peggy Smith, Linda Trevathan, Kris Wallis, Carol & Jerry Yeany

### 5th Sunday

New Beginnings Sunday School Class