

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, **Katy** Kuhlman, Theresa Mauney's parents, **Rhonda** Ruiz, (whose uncle, Wilbert Warren, died last week), **Ed** Shields anticipating surgery this week, **Denise** Grays, **Jack** Kestler anticipating surgery, **Theresa** Graham (whose brother is gravely ill), those undergoing medical tests, and for all our servicemen and women who are serving overseas. And a prayer of thanksgiving for Chuck Dyrud (whose doctors cannot find any trace of cancer!)

If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, please call the church office, 281-484-9243.

FROM THE PASTOR

Two things to tell you about. First, our 80-foot sea-faring container is on its way! Before long it will be in our front yard, ready to be converted into a Mobile Medical Clinic capable of serving people in crisis anywhere in the world.

Once the container arrives, it becomes our job to put in flooring, walls and ceiling that can be washed down easily, to install a couple of sinks, to wire the container for electricity, to create three small examination rooms and a tiny office for the use of doctors. All of this will be done by volunteer labor from Cokesbury.

It should take 10-12 weeks to finish the job. When it's complete, we will dedicate the clinic and send it on its way.

The second thing -- we had a mystery guest audit last Sunday. Jan Floro, who serves as our consultant, worshiped with us at the 9:45 and 11:00 services. Her job was to check on our progress in becoming a more welcoming and hospitable congregation.

Her report was somewhat mixed. We did not have greeters in place as we should have, and we needed more greeters. (Our Hospitality Team is working on that.)

Jan also mentioned that, when a visitor drives up to Cokesbury on Sunday morning, it looks like nobody's there. That's because we tend to park in the back parking lot, where cars can't be seen from the road. It would be helpful if more of us parked in the front or side parking spaces, so people driving by would know at a glance that people really are worshipping with us! Is that something you can do? Please join me in parking in the front or on the side.

One of our members made a big impression on Jan. Not only did this person greet her in a friendly way, but told her his/her name and asked what her name was. He or she then asked Jan if this was her first time to worship at Cokesbury. When Jan said she had been here several times before, he or she encouraged her in a friendly way to come back and worship with us again soon.

This coming Sunday, we will be revealing the name of this special person. In the meantime, can you guess who it might be?

I hope to see you again Sunday -- it's going to be a great day at Cokesbury!

Love from your pastor,

Sandra Smith



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Now The Real Fun Begins!



Thanks to your contributions, including the one dollar bills on Sunday, Cokesbury has begun the process of building a mobile medical clinic that can be used in this country following disasters or overseas. An empty shipping container, like the one shown in the picture above, was purchased last week. As soon as an access door is installed, it will be delivered to our church.

After arrival at Cokesbury, volunteers from the church will be needed to transform the trailer into a medical clinic. When complete, the clinic will have 3 examining rooms (2 doctor, 1 dental) with generator, air conditioner and sink. A myriad of skills will be needed to make this happen: planning, purchasing, construction, electrical, plumbing, painting, food preparation for work days, etc. In addition, your prayers will be needed for the successful completion of this project. If you think you might be interested, talk to Tom Roper, Jim Bane, Don Smith, Rev. Sandra, or me for more details. Listen for the work dates during announcements at church or in the Courier.

-Laura Bradley, Missions Team Chair

Thank You, God

The Cokesbury family gives thanks to God for the life of Faye Stafford, a long-time member of our church. Faye died last week, and her service was held Thursday, February 5 at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home. Faye served as a member of the Missions Committee, and enjoyed bringing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to Helping Hands. She will be greatly missed at Cokesbury. At her family's request, all memorials for Faye will go to the Landscaping Fund.



February 15 -Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 44th wedding anniversary of Bill and Linda Botkin.

February 22 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Anya Parker's 2nd birthday, by Marcus, Karla, Andrew and Allison Parker.

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

Get Ready For Fat Tuesday

Mark your calendars for the United Methodist Men sponsored Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, February 24 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Fat Tuesday (also known, in French, as Mardi Gras), is the day when all the fats, sugars and luxurious foods in the house are eaten up before Lent begins the next morning. How lovely of the Methodist Men to help us out with that! This is always a delicious event -- you won't want to miss it.

Welcome



We are so delighted to welcome the Perez family to Cokesbury United Methodist Church. On Sunday, February 1 during the 11:00 service Tisha Perez (far left) joined our congregation and her three sons were baptized. The boys from left to right are Leo Jessiah Williamson-Perez, Roberto (Robert) Javier Perez, and Jose (Joey) Antonio Perez. Please extend them the good ole Cokesbury welcome next time you see them in church.



A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone! We have sold ALL the shares for UMARMY & Big House! What a generous church family we have! Look for dates & times for the Shareholder Dinner at the end of the summer.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 20 - Sr. High Girls Night 6-10pm @ the church
- Feb. 21 - Friendship Dinner 6:30pm needs youth to help! Sign up on the bulletin board!
- Feb. 22 - YOUTH SUNDAY all 3 services
- Feb. 27 - Jr. High Girls Night 6-10pm @ the church
- March 1 - Hurricane Ike Relief Concert @ Friendswood UMC
Featuring: Wayne Kerr & Lauren James.
Meet at Cokesbury 5pm / \$10 tickets @ the door.

In His Grip,
Christie

Thanks for Super Donations



Thanks for donating food and money during the Souper Bowl of Caring. At Cokesbury on Super Bowl Sunday, \$320 and 258 pounds of food were collected that will all go to Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM). The amount collected was significantly higher than last year. In addition, SeAM should receive a portion of items donated at Houston area grocery stores that went to the Houston Food Bank for distribution to area pantries.

Nationally, Souper Bowl of Caring for this year has generated donations of over \$5 million from 8,860 groups for local food pantry agencies. This is with a large number of churches and other organizations not reporting totals yet. Thanks for caring about those less fortunate.

-Laura Bradley-SeAM Volunteer Pantry Manager

UMW Updates

The Breneman Circle

The Breneman Circle of the UMW met at the lovely home of Fran Wright on Tuesday, January 13 at 10:00 a.m. We had eight members present. Mary Short gave the devotional on depending on God to take care of us here on earth. Donna Northrup presented a short program on prayer and our need to pray. Fran Wright, our chairperson, led us in a business meeting. We then enjoyed a delicious soup luncheon with ice cream on yummy pound cake for dessert.

Circle meetings are a very important part of the lives of ladies who attend. We have a spiritual time and fellowship time. We give each other support in good and bad times and we enjoy supporting missions and doing things for our own church.

We invite all ladies of Cokesbury to join one of the 3 day circles or our night circle. Contact Jean Bonds, our UMW President for more information.

-Mary Short

Sara Owens-Gemoets Circle Meets

Our circle met on January 27 in the home of Dee Pouzar with eight members and one guest attending. Dee is our Chairperson this year. She led a discussion on our circle's yearly calendar and our group project which will be decided later.

Betty Sutton gave the program which was on the Bible and on how we can write the 67 books of the Bible on the palm of our hand as a reminder to remember to "pass it on".

Debbie Carter brought her neighbor, Jean, who is from Korea. She talked about her experiences living in America, especially in regard to being a Christian here.

Ellie Melanson gave a prayer and we enjoyed fellowship while eating a hearty winter time luncheon of soup and chili - and yum-yums.

All the ladies of CUMC are always invited to attend our meetings - and to bring a friend.

- Betty Sutton



Thank You

Dear Cokesbury,

Thank you so much for bringing to Crossroads last Tuesday all the wonderful warm clothing! There were 148 pieces donated. I cannot tell you how needed everything was. The cold is unbelievably harsh for those on the street.

Our clients are very thankful and appreciative to you for the warm clothing. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Margo Montgomery,
Site Director of Crossroads

Save Time!

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

By The Numbers

February 8

8:30 a.m. Service.....	65
9:45 a.m. Service.....	49
11:00 a.m. Service.....	163
Total.....	277



Music Notes



Youth Choir has a new schedule. We will now be meeting from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Those attending confirmation class can still attend from 4:00 to 5:00. Don't forget, February 22 is Youth Sunday. Also, congratulations to Marian the Librarian (a.k.a. Heather Pues) on her performance in The Music Man.

ChoirChimes and Handbells will both be performing soon! Handbells will perform on March 8 at the 8:30 and 11:00 services. ChoirChimes will perform very soon (more details later).

Cokesbury's New **String Ensemble** will be playing in March. (details later)

Chancel Choir There is still time for adults to join the Chancel Choir for our Easter Cantata, "Written in Red", which will be presented on Palm Sunday. Don't miss Ramee Matocha who will be singing a solo on Sunday, February 15, at the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

In Him,

Marsh

A Lesson on Giving

The following is a letter received by Jim and Carole Kraffka from Wayne Coker, a member of North West Baptist Church who helps deliver the lunches we prepare each Sunday for the homeless. We thought his story was an excellent example of joyful giving.

First of all, praise to God for all He is doing through Cokesbury Methodist and your team of humble servants there. It has been a real blessing for me to be a part of the lunch bag ministry with you every Sunday for the last few months. Through your efforts and the efforts of many others like you, many people are receiving food and other provisions that would not otherwise be available. Praise His Holy name!

I told you about the gentleman named Keith in our homeless ministry that was so thankful when he received a coat from Houston Christway Ministry after church last Sunday, on a weekend when it was cold and he had to borrow a coat from a friend just to have something warm to wear that day. Keith said he knew God was at work. The coat he had borrowed from a friend was a London Fog brand, and he had never worn something so nice. He had borrowed the coat on Saturday and felt guilty on Sunday, because he had failed to take the coat back to his friend when he had promised. Then, on Sunday afternoon, after we handed out 36 bags with coats and other winter clothing in them, he was amazed to find that the coat inside his bag was exactly like the one he had borrowed, a London Fog brand that fit him perfectly!

When I told my wife Sterle about what happened, she pointed out that there was a second part to that story. You see, a few weeks earlier when we were organizing the clothing we had collected for a fundraiser to support Houston Christway Ministries, I had noticed that my wife had donated some of my old coats to the fundraiser without telling me about it. When I saw that some of the coats she donated were just like new and had hardly ever been worn, I got a little upset and took several of them home with me. I told her that I didn't want to sell those coats for \$.50 each in a garage sale, that we could sell them online for more money if we had to, or that I might just want to keep some of them and wear them again. What was she thinking? Well, Sterle first pointed out that I had hardly ever worn those coats and that many of them didn't even fit me any longer. She was right, they didn't come close to fitting! But, she also made the bigger point: that Pastor Morrison intended to give these coats to people who needed them now and who would wear them right away! When I heard that, I felt very bad about my actions and took all of those coats right back up to the church and hung them up along with the other coats we had been collecting.

Well, guess what else Sterle noticed? The London Fog coat that Keith pulled out of the plastic bag, that made him so happy that he stood up and shared his experience with the whole church during yesterday's service, was the London Fog coat that she had donated out of my closet at home, where I had been storing it for so long, hardly wearing it even once during the last few years! God must have a real sense of humor. Needless to say, it made me think about how easy it had been for me to cling to "stuff" that I actually had no use for, when there were others who needed it so much more.

I am going to let this be an encouragement and a constant reminder to me that He owns it all, and that we need to always show love and compassion for others, even if it takes us out of our comfort zone every now and then. You and your wife Carole have obviously lived that way for many years, but I guess I need God to keep me on my toes until I can remember it on my own.

Thanks again for all you do,

Wayne

It's Your Turn To Help With Helping Hands

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