

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, **Carole** Krafka, **Ed** Shields who is recovering from surgery, **Denise** Grays who is recovering from surgery, Chuck Dyrud as he completes his chemotherapy, all those working on our Mobile Medical Clinic, those undergoing medical tests, 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, 281-484-9243.



Meeting the Challenge

When God gets going, you'd better get on board fast!

Since I've been at Cokesbury, I've been pestering our leadership – without the slightest bit of shame! I've been very concerned about the small number of children, and the small number of young adults at Cokesbury. Our children's Sunday school is very small. In fact, Sunday before last, we had only 6 children from age 3 through the 5th grade. Other weeks, we've had as many as 15 or so.

Friends, those are scary numbers.

The future of our church depends on young adults and children. Plus, there are hundreds of children and young families who live all around us who desperately need the grace of Jesus in their lives. We have not been reaching them for Christ, and this is wrong.

At the January Church Council retreat, our leaders made a commitment to correct this situation. 2009 will be the year we focus on ministries to and with children.

A subcommittee got to work, and last Monday made a recommendation to the Council that we invest in a part-time staff person with the title "Director of Children's Ministries." That person will work with our own children and their families, and help us reach out into the community to bring in other young people.

The Council supported the hiring of such a person – provided we could find the funding.

Then, an amazing thing happened! A couple in our church issued us a challenge.

They will meet whatever we raise towards the support of a Director of Children's Ministry up to \$20,000 – and the deadline to raise that money is Sunday, April 26.

So, if we raise \$4,000, they will match \$4,000. If we raise \$20,000, they will match \$20,000. What a marvelous gift!

Last Sunday, Gary Wallis and I issued that challenge to the congregation. Can you guess how much we raised in one Sunday on short notice?

\$12,470!

We are more than half way there, on our first Sunday!

That's what happens when churches take a leap of faith. God honors us and blesses us when we trust him with our future.

The challenge is still out there, and we want to meet our goal. Please prayerfully consider what you can give towards this amazing step forward into our future with God.

I know God has great plans for Cokesbury. I can't wait to see what God will do next!

Blessings to all,

-Sandra Smith

Easter Egg Hunt

This year we will be hunting Easter eggs on Easter Sunday at 9:45 a.m. All children through 5th grade are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for Easter breakfast, crafts and an egg hunt. Please bring your baskets. We will be done just in time for the 11:00 service. We will be setting up a donation box in the Commons for those who are able to donate candy or small toys for this event.



March 15 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of our mothers, Shirley Crawford and Roy Helen Mingus Ackers by Kayren and John Mingus.

March 22 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mildred "NoNo" Tynes' birthday by granddaughter, Savannah "Ariana".

FROM THE PASTOR

As most of you already know, our resident bishop, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, has decided to make a change in the pastoral leadership here at Cokesbury.

As of the end of May, I will be serving as the Superintendent of the Northwest District. Randy and I will be living in Tyler, TX. He doesn't yet know where he will be serving, but the bishop and her cabinet will find him a place.

Serving as a district superintendent will be a steep learning curve for me. I will be supervising 104 churches. 104! A number of those churches are rural and small, and are linked together with one pastor. There will be 75 pastors under my supervision.

My last Sunday at Cokesbury will be April 19, the Sunday after Easter. The bishop will send an interim pastor to serve Cokesbury until the new pastor arrives on June 10, so you will never be without a pastor.

As you can imagine, I have terribly mixed feelings about all of this. I am looking forward to a very new and different challenge, but at the same time, I hate to leave this wonderful church! I have learned so much from all of you.

One thing I ask – I hate saying goodbye to people I love, so let's not say goodbye until we have to!

On my last Sunday, April 19, we'll be having one service together, with lots of music and joy. Let's save our goodbyes until then.

Love from your pastor,

Sandra Smith



Children's Game Night

Wednesday, March 18
Fellowship Hall
6:30 - 8:30

All Children through 5th Grade are invited to join us for Game Night.

A Nursery will be provided for infant care and toddler play.

Bring your favorite snack and enjoy fun and fellowship with us.

This event is FREE

Donations to the Children's Ministry Fund would be greatly appreciated.



Mobile Medical Clinic Walls Going Up

There were two workdays last week on the mobile medical clinic. On Wednesday, a group installed the linoleum flooring. It had been too cold the previous Saturday for the adhesive. This last Saturday, a group began building the framing that will make up the walls to divide the clinic into rooms. This Saturday, March 14, more framing will be constructed and wall sections will begin to be installed. More workers are needed! Come out and help build for others.



By popular demand...the youth will be selling Butter Braid Bread for the next few Sundays. There will be samples to taste and the orders will be ready for Easter! All proceeds will help support our adults attending UMARMY and Big House.

NO MYF or CONFIRMATION ON MARCH 15...enjoy Spring Break!

We have some great opportunities for the youth in the next month...parents please check your mail and the bulletin board for more info. Don't forget the youth website is up: www.cyouth4jc.org. Have a great week. In His Grip,

Christie

Go, Indians!

Cokesbury is sponsoring a Little League team this year. They belong to the Pee Wee division, and their mascot is the Indians. Our Indians already won the pre-season tournament, and won their first regular season game 14-0!

They also won their division banner competition. Their banner featured the kids' names on baseballs, with an Indian at the center. Our church's name is printed at the bottom.

And the fact that the pastor was one of the judges of the banner competition had absolutely nothing to do with their winning!

Our Indians practice on the field next to the church each Monday and Wednesday, so stop by and give them a cheer. We'll be publishing a game schedule when it is available.

Cosmetics Needed

The Stafford/Wyatt UMW Circle is asking for your help in gathering cosmetics and cosmetic bags for donation to The Bridge Women's Shelter in Pasadena. Each year we sponsor a Mother's Day Party for these women who are escaping domestic violence. The cosmetic bags are presented as gifts. If you have any unused make up or bags (that we often get as gifts from the department store cosmetic companies) that you do not want, please donate them to The Bridge. We will have a collection bag located in the Commons. Thanks.

By The Numbers

March 8

8:30 a.m. Service.....	128
9:45 a.m. Service.....	50
11:00 a.m. Service.....	128
Total.....	306

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

Rainbows Along The Way-An Open Hand

"Want a cracker?" Sarah asked baby Marie. Up shot the chubby fist, but there was a problem. For Marie had been gumming and slobbering on a rubber ring and now the small fist that awaited the treat was clenched tight around the toy.

Sarah immediately saw the problem. "No, darling, you have to put that down to take the cracker," she explained, again holding out the treat. Again the small hand was thrust out still clenching the ring. Sarah smiled in amusement as she realized Marie didn't understand. So she gently pried open the stubby fingers, removed the ring and then closed them around the cracker.

"To get something good," Sarah explained, "you have to have an empty hand."

That's a lesson we sometimes have to learn when God has a task or even a blessing for us. It happens when he reaches out to us but when we reach up to him, our hands are already full. We might be gripping any several things. It might be a fault or sin that we won't release to his forgiving mercy. Or perhaps we have an idea or plan we think is even better than what he has in mind.

Yet whatever it is, we can't accept what he wants to provide because our hands are full. We must remember that God's blessings are waiting - for those with open hands.

-Anne Adams

Insure Donated Items Go To Proper Group

At times, items donated to groups in the church are left and it is unclear for whom they are intended. Leave food items for SeAM in the plastic tubs in the Commons or outside the narthex. Other SeAM items can be left in the "soup barrel" in the kitchen.

If there is likely a question about who the items are for, please label them with the recipient's names (MYF, SeAM, UMM, UMW, etc.).

What's Acceptable In Paper Recycle Bins

We have new information about items acceptable for our paper recycle dumpsters.

Acceptable items: Newspaper and inserts, magazines/catalogs, office/school papers, mail, phone books (both Yellow and White Pages) and softcover books.

Unacceptable Items: Cardboard, food boxes (cereal boxes, soda boxes and other paper food containers), fiberboard or chipboard, hard cover books (unless the covers are removed).

- Rob Bradley



Music Notes



Youth Choir Super rehearsal on Sunday, March 8! Remember we WILL have rehearsal on March 15 & 22 from 3:30 - 5:00 as planned.

All others choirs (Chancel Choir, Handbells, ChoirChimes and Men's Chorale) will also still have practice as usual on Wednesday, March 18 (Spring Break week).

In Him,

Marsh

UMW Meeting Updates

The Dulin Circle met on Tuesday, February 24 at the lovely home of Mary Hackward. We had eight members present and our Chairwoman, Charline Knox, led us in a discussion about what kind of project we wanted to undertake as a circle this year.

Carolyn Breathed gave a program on love and other topics.

We all enjoyed a delicious lunch of homemade soup and other goodies that Mary had prepared.

We also got to enjoy Mary's beautiful garden and see her lovely handmade quilts.

-Carolyn Breathed

Sara Owens-Gemoets Circle

Tuesday, February 24, brought nine members and one visitor to Debbie Carter's home for our second meeting of 2009. Marlette Reed gave the inspiring devotional.

Dee Pouzar led our business meeting and it was decided that our circle would provide funds for CUMC's Pastor's Discretionary fund this year.

Debbie Carter suggested we print a cookbook with special recipes for the diabetics among us. We are asking that if you have some particularly tasty ones, please pass them on to any CUMC circle member.

Marna Seaman gave a thoughtful program prepared for us from Max Lucado's book, *Great House of God - A Home for the Heart*, showing us a different slant on the Lord's Prayer. Her program ended with all reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Debbie Carter treated us to a fabulous luncheon. We enjoyed the fellowship one receives from sharing our lives with others.

All the ladies of CUMC are always welcome at our meetings. Bring a friend or neighbor to share it.

-Betty Sutton

Vacation Bible School Date is Set

This summer, campers will be taking over Cokesbury the week of June 15th - 19th from 6 - 8:30 pm.



Cokesbury's Vacation Bible School 2009 theme is Camp E.D.G.E. (Experience & Discover God Everywhere). Each day the campers will learn

an EDGE pledge, which will be taught throughout the evening with music, science, storytelling, crafts, games, and snacks. As we prepare for our campers, we will be asking for donations and volunteers. If you have an artificial Christmas tree to help make our forest and camp grounds, we would love to borrow it. Contact Alison Myers, kevali313@sbcglobal.net or 281-648-9808 with any questions.

Alison Myers & Lisa Nelms

Nursery Toys Needed

The nursery is in need of some toys for infants and toddlers up to age 2. We are particularly looking for a saucer or rocking horse. If you have toys at your house that are no longer needed, please consider donating them to the church nursery. Leave your donations in the church office.

-Linda Garies

UMM To Meet

The United Methodist Men will meet at 6:00 pm on March 12 for a business meeting.

We will discuss recent events and the upcoming shrimp boil in April. We will also re-evaluate our meeting time and date. As agreed, there is no dinner so please eat at home.

Calling All Cokesbury Players

A dinner theatre is "A-Coming". We are going to re visit Cafe' Flambe and Garcon (Gar-Shohn). The cast of characters involves 5 men, 5 women and 3 children (teen, pre-teen and child).

If you are interested in being an actor, please contact Danna Whorton, at 281-461-6422.



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 Yeane.