

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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New Pastor Bill Newcomb Arrives in June

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has received word that the new pastor coming to Cokesbury in June will be Bill Newcomb. Bill graduated from Athens High School, North Texas University, Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. He has also earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Texas Christian University.

His passions in ministry include creative worship, as well as church growth and evangelism. He has received four district awards for evangelism, as well as the Copeland Award and the Bishop's Award for Evangelism.

Bill directs the Special Camp for Special People, a camp for mentally disabled, special needs adults. He has been very active in the Christian Community Service Center (similar to SeAM).

Bill is married to Oleta King Newcomb, and they have two sons, Robert and Adam, both grown. Adam lives with his parents, so you will have the privilege of getting to know him.

Bill, Oleta and Adam will be moving into the Cokesbury parsonage sometime during the week of June 8, and his first Sunday will be June 14.

Please begin praying now for your new pastor!

Church Positions Open

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has announced the opening of two positions at Cokesbury.

First, the Committee is soliciting resumes for a part-time position of Director of Children's Ministries. This director will help to create and implement ministries to and with children and their families both in our church and in the community.

The second position is Director of our Early Childhood Development Center. This is a part-time position, and the director must meet state education requirements.

Resumes should be sent to the church office in care of Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Silent Auction Planned

A Silent Auction to benefit Children's Ministries is planned for April 19. As you know, this is Pastor Sandy's last Sunday with us and the future of our Children's Ministry is very important to her. It would be a great going away present for her to know that this vital ministry is being supported. So, please consider having your group (bible study, Sunday school, choir, etc) sponsor a basket to support this program. Please contact Alison Myers with any questions 281-648-9808.

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. We hope to see you then.



March 29 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Carson Miller's 3rd birthday by Great Grandmother, Jean Bonds.

April 5 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of our nephews Brad & Robert Patterson and Ryan Mendez and also in honor of the 13th birthday of Ryan's twin, Josh Mendez by Laura & Rob Bradley.

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers for health and healing:

Charlotte Davis, **Katy** Kuhlman, **Bob** Crouch and family on the death of his father, Theresa Mauney's parents, **Carole** Krafka, **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.

FROM THE PASTOR

One of the hardest parts of leaving a church and going to a new appointment is the anxiety I feel about leaving behind people I love. I want to know that you are in good hands; that your next pastor will be strong, loving, a preacher of the Word, a wise guide and so on and so on. Not that I have those qualities myself, but I want you to experience them!

Since I found out who your new pastor will be, I have no more anxieties at all.

Bill Newcomb is a wonderful pastor. He is enthusiastic about ministry. Every church he has ever served has grown in membership and in grace. He has a compassionate heart, he is a great administrator (I am in awe!), and he has a good sense of humor.

You will love his wife, Oleta, and their grown sons, Robert and Adam. Adam lives with his parents, so you will have the privilege of getting to know him. Bill and his family will be moving into the Cokesbury parsonage the 2nd week in June.

As you know, my last Sunday will be April 19, the Sunday after Easter. (Remember, we will have one service that day, at 10:30 a.m.) There will be a gap of several weeks before Bill arrives.

During that time, Cokesbury will be served by an interim pastor, Jim Killen. Some of you may know Jim, as he served as the interim at Pearland 1st UMC last spring. Jim is a retired pastor living in Beaumont. We are looking for a garage apartment for him to stay in several nights each week. You will like Jim very much.

You will be well served in the weeks ahead by Jim, and in the years ahead by Bill. They will love you, and you will love them.

I hope you will join me as I pray for both of them as they come to serve at Cokesbury.

I hope to see you Sunday. And don't forget our Holy Week schedule of special events. You'll find them elsewhere on this page.

Love from your pastor,

Sandra Smith

P.S. The funds raised for our new Children's Ministry Director now total \$21,170, exceeding our goal of \$20,00! Thank you to all who have contributed.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday - 6:30 Easter Cantata, *Written in Red*, featuring the Chancel Choir

Good Friday - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Church will be open for prayer.

Easter Sunday - Traditional services at 8:30 and 11:00
"New Day" contemporary service at 9:45
Children's Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45

On Easter morning, the congregation is invited to bring fresh flowers to decorate the outdoor cross as a sign of resurrection.

Good Friday Art Work

In preparation for our Good Friday prayer time we are looking for any pieces of artwork you may have depicting Holy Week scenes. We would like to display the artwork in our sanctuary on Good Friday. If you have any items you could loan us, please contact Darrel or Kirsten Raines.

Bike-A-Thon



The Children's Ministry is sponsoring a Bike-A-Thon to raise money for children's outreach programs. Please join us Sunday, March 29 at 4:00 p.m. here in the church parking lot to cheer on the kids. If you would like to sponsor a child, you will have one last opportunity to do that on Sunday morning. The Youth Band and the Confirmation Class will be there to assist as well. We will be raising money for a good cause and tiring out some overactive kids.

Easter Portraits



On Easter Sunday you will have an opportunity to have a family Easter portrait taken in front of our beautiful Easter cross.

Portraits will be taken before all three services. The cost of the portrait package is \$30 and includes one 8X10, two 5X7s, and four 4X6s.

An information table will be set up in the Commons.

All proceeds will benefit the Children's Ministry.



The Youth T-shirts are here!!!
They are free...that's the best kind!
If you missed MYF last Sunday, come by my office
and pick up yours!!

NO MYF or CONFIRMATION ON April 12th (Happy Easter)

Letters will be going out this week to detail our Ike Relief Work Day on April 18.
Our theme - Renewed Hope, Hearts, & Spirits!
I will have sign up sheets on the youth bulletin board.

Remember that Pastor Sandy is coming to MYF on April 19. It's our time to say our good-byes and show her our love!

In His Grip,
Christie

Rainbows Along the Way

Songs from the Shadows: Beyond the Cross

"I saw the Christ of the Cross as if I was seeing John 3:16 leave the printed page, take form and act out the meaning of redemption," said George Bennard about a time in 1913.

And from that image came a hymn that has echoed down the years to believers and unbelievers alike – bringing alive the real meaning of the Cross.



Born in Ohio but raised in Iowa, in the early 20th century George Bennard was a traveling evangelist, working first with the Salvation Army and later with the Methodist Church. At this time as he was traveling through Michigan and New York, conducting

revival services, he began to struggle with faith challenges that brought new reflections. He became particularly intrigued about Paul's writing about being part of the fellowship of Christ's suffering, especially on the cross. This brought him to consider the real meaning of the cross beyond its origin as a Roman execution device or more recent depiction as a symbol in churches and jewelry. He was familiar with decorative crosses made of carved wood, gleaming brass or even silver, placed on altars and on walls, or miniature versions hanging from delicate necklace chains. Yet though everyone was familiar with these, what about the real – the original cross? Was it so elegant and polished? No, he knew it was filthy and grimy and streaked with bloody gore – from the wounds and piercings of the world's Savior. And what happened on that distasteful and repulsive cross was the basis of the gospel because on that particular cross, died the faultless Man who did not remain dead but rose. Bennard came to feel he should compose a song about it. The melody came first, but the words didn't. He knew the verses should emphasize the reality of the cross so he sought words to define the rustic wooden beams that bore the Master. Wood that was perhaps craggy, jagged, rough, rugged... that was it! And that one descriptive word became part of his new realization: "I will cherish the old rugged cross"...but nothing else came.

Then from his home in Albion, Michigan, Bennard set out for some previously scheduled meetings in New York, and as he preached he began to focus on the cross and its real meaning. Then back in Michigan as he resumed his search for the right words, this time he met success. He said later: "I sat down and immediately was able to rewrite the stanzas of the song without so much as one word failing to fall into place. I called in my wife, took out my guitar and sang the completed song to her. She was thrilled!" Then in June, 1913, Bennard used the song at a revival meeting in nearby Pokagon, Michigan and later sent a copy to a fellow hymn writer who responded, "You will certainly hear from this song."

After the song was featured at an evangelistic convention in Chicago, it was picked up and used by a nationally known evangelist on his radio program. By 1939 more than 15 million copies of the hymn were published and it had been recorded many times.

Bennard died at age 85 in 1958 when he exchanged his "cross for a crown." Though he eventually composed more than 300 hymns, Bennard is best known for the lines that came from an inward struggle as the writer searched for the real meaning behind a common Roman execution device that became a symbol treasured down through the centuries. Yet it is not the "old rugged cross" itself that we honor or worship, but the Man who died thereon to redeem the human race.

-Anne Adams

We Need Mowers

Our grass and weeds are growing in spite of a rain shortage. Weekly mowing and edging will begin in early April. If you would like to help, call me at 281-992-2604. We try to have at least four crews with each working once/month. Work can be done in the evenings or on Saturday. Equipment is provided.

-Rob Bradley

Remember SeAM

Palm Sunday, April 5, is the first Sunday of April. Remember to bring canned goods and other non-perishable foods for the First Sunday food collection for Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM). Place your donations in the plastic tubs just outside the narthex or in the Commons or in the large "soup can" in the kitchen.

-Laura Bradley-Pantry Manager



Music Notes



The **Chancel Choir** is presenting the Easter Cantata, *Written in Red*, on Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. Please put this on your calendars.

On Easter Sunday the **Chancel Choir** and **Handbell Choir** will be presenting, *On the Third Day*.

Youth Choir continues to have great rehearsals on *Living on the Edge*. Youth Choir will rehearse from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. for the next two weeks.

ChoirChimes, Handbells, and Men's Chorale will follow their regular rehearsal schedule for the coming weeks.

For the April 19 church service, the Handbells, ChoirChimes and Chancel Choir will be singing *The Majesty and Glory of Your Name*.

In Him,

Marsh



Thank You

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your visits, prayers, concerns, cards and the meal provided to us while I was in and out of the hospital. They meant so much to both of us.

Fondly,
Liz and Joe Pieberhofer

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

Clinic Work Continues

Work continued last Saturday on the Mobile Medical Clinic. The interior walls have now all been fabricated. They will be installed and secured inside the trailer during the next two Saturdays. Come join us Saturday at 8 a.m. or later in the day.

Come To Men's Shrimp Boil

The Methodist Men will be selling boiled shrimp on Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost will be \$10/bag containing 20-25 shrimp. The UMM will take orders on Sunday, March 29 through April 19.

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

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

By The Numbers

March 22

8:30 a.m. Service.....	80
9:45 a.m. Service.....	35
11:00 a.m. Service.....	147
Total.....	262



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:

5th Sunday: New Beginnings Sunday School Class

1st Sunday: Karen Akkerman, Jean Bonds, Charlotte Davis, Claudia Gentry, Gloria Hurley, Carole Krafka, Laura Morgan, Sandra Smith, Winnie Smith, Carman Wilhite