

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Sign Up for Vacation Bible School



Camp E.D.G.E. Vacation Bible School at Cokesbury is June 15-19. Are you ready to hike through God's world? An information table will be in the Commons and sign up sheets will be available. Our theme this year is camping out at Camp E.D.G.E. (Experience and Discover God Everywhere). For more information, please contact Alison Myers at 281-648-9808.

Alison Myers & Lisa Nelms



April 26 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Larry and Amanda Lohec by Mildred Lohec.

May 3 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthday of Grandpa Jack Buice by Larry, Amanda and Savannah Rose Lohec.

Mobile Medical Clinic Work Continues



In spite of occasional bad weather, progress continues in our mobile medical clinic. As shown in the photo, framing has essentially been completed with the pre-assembled frames installed in their final positions. The interior electrical has been roughed in as well.

Work will continue this Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m. Come out and lend a hand to help complete this mission project for others.

Prayer Corner

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

Charlotte Davis, **Katy** Kuhlman, **Carolyn** Lofland, **Betty** Biggins, **Ed** Whorton, Theresa Mauney's parents, our new pastors, 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.



Boiled Shrimp For Sale Saturday



Cokesbury Methodist Men will be selling seasoned boiled shrimp to go by the bag this Saturday, April 25, in front of the church. Cooking will begin at 8 a.m. and sales will take place between 10:30 and about 2 p.m. They will have shrimp to sell even if you did not pre-order. The semi-annual shrimp boils are the main fundraisers for the Methodist Men's projects during the year. Come out and get some great shrimp!

FROM YOUR PASTOR

This is the last time I will write the words "from your pastor."

As you know, in June I will be moving to Tyler (along with my husband Randy) to become the Superintendent of the Northwest District. We will be living in Tyler, and I will be supervising 103 churches and 80 pastors.

Randy will be serving two churches, but not in the district where I will be serving. Darn! I would have loved to have been his boss, but wiser heads prevailed!

This coming Sunday, the Rev. Jim Killen will be here to serve as the interim pastor until June 14, which will be the first Sunday your new pastor, the Rev. Bill Newcomb, will be here with you.

Two things I must say:

First, I like Bill, and Bill likes me. Please don't destroy our friendship by saying, "But Pastor Sandy never did it that way," or "Pastor Sandy did such and such." Bill has different gifts, and he will do things differently. You will profit from his ministry.

Second, thank you.

Thank you for the many gifts and cards you have given me. They mean the world to me. And thank you for being a congregation that has received me graciously, listened to me kindly, and made me feel a part of the family.

I will no longer be your pastor, but I hope we will always be friends. If any of you are up in God's Country (East Texas!) please drop by. I would love to see you any time.

In the meantime, God's peace be with all of you.

Love from your pastor,

Sandra Smith



**Thank You, Sandra!
Goodbye and Good Luck
We Will Miss You**

Attention High School-College Seniors

Soon the Cokesbury Courier will be honoring our graduating seniors (high school or college) in an upcoming edition this May. Please submit to our e-mail address, newsletter@cumchouston.org, a graduation photo and any information you would like us to include in the article. We would like to know about your special awards, interests, your plans for the future, and anything else you would like your church family to know.

-The Editors

Interim Pastor to Preach April 26

The Rev. Jim Killen will be serving as the interim pastor at Cokesbury until the new pastor, Bill Newcomb, is in place. Jim's first Sunday is April 26.

Jim is a retired United Methodist pastor, living in Beaumont. He has been through special training to serve as an interim between pastors. He will be staying close to Cokesbury and will be in the office several days each week, as well as Sundays.

Be sure to welcome Jim on the 26th, and thank him for his work with us.

Come to Mother/Daughter Brunch June 13

The Stafford/Wyatt UMW Circle has set a date for their annual Mother/Daughter event benefiting The Bridge. This year's event will be a brunch on Saturday, June 13. It will start at 10:00 a.m. and run until noon. This fiesta themed event is sure to be a lot of fun. There will be live entertainment, and a silent auction with a twist. Tickets will go on sale Sunday, May 17. So, mark you calendars, grab your mom, daughter or a friend and join us for a morning of food and fun that helps a lot of moms and children in need.

-Stafford/Wyatt Circle



With that "mini hurricane" we had last weekend, we have to reschedule our Ike Work day. I'll be talking to the people at the Disaster Recovery Center to book another day, so look for info in the next week.

Youth Parent Meeting: Sunday, April 26th 5:30pm upstairs in the senior high Sunday school room.

District Camp forms are here! I mailed out a packet to all the youth, but if you need more, please see me or go to the youth website: www.cyouth4jc.org District Camp is for age levels entering 4th grade (Aug 2009) through Graduating Seniors 2009. Look for more info on upcoming events in the May newsletter.

In His Grip,
Christie

We Need Mowers

Our grass and weeds are sure to grow at a great rate after our recent rain. Weekly mowing and edging will begin soon. If you would like to help, even occasionally, call me at 281-992-2604. We try to have at least four crews with each working once/month.

Currently, we do not have enough volunteers for four teams. Work can be done in the evenings or on Saturday. Equipment is provided.

-Rob Bradley

SeAM Increases Service to Needy

In the first quarter of 2009, Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) interviewed representatives of almost 2000 clients. Of these, 1845 received food assistance. A total of over 33,000 pounds of food and toiletries was distributed to these families. Almost 50% of those receiving food are seniors or children. Of the clients receiving food, over one third are new clients. Reflecting the economy, new clients are up about 40% over the same period in 2008.

Cokesbury continues to be one of the key volunteer sources for the Ministry/Food Pantry. Come out and join your fellow church members in this ministry.

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

Easter Hunt Wraps Up

On Easter Sunday we had a great turn out for our children's egg hunt. Over 30 children were present, which is twice our normal amount of children in Sunday School. We all had a great time. We wish to extend a big thanks to those who donated candy, toys, and breakfast foods. And thanks for letting your children and grandchildren join us. We had a great time.

-Laurel Johnson

Save Time!

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

ECDC Begins Early Registration



Our Early Childhood Development Center has begun early registration for the 2009-2010 school. Our program accepts children from 18 months to 5 years. You may choose a 2 or 4 day program that runs Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lori Brown, 832-235-5885. Early Registration runs until May 31 for the next semester that starts August 24.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

By The Numbers

April 19

10:30 a.m. Service.....230



Music Notes



Congratulations! Wonderful job to all musical groups who participated in Pastor Sandy's last worship service: Women of Praise with Karen Akkerman and Theresa Mauney, Men's Chorale, Handbells and ChoirChimes, Chancel Choir, and the Praise Team. And, a special thanks to Judy and Mike for songs during the luncheon.

Regular rehearsals will continue in the coming weeks.

On April 26, David Blystone will present special music again during our 8:30 and 11:00 worship services.

And finally, our special message to Pastor Sandra: We will all miss you greatly. Our prayers and best wishes go with you and Randy. Thank you!

In Him,
Marsh

Rainbows Along the Way

The Right Advice



"Oh, no!"

Harold muttered the words as his car engine died and he guided the vehicle to the side of the country road. He braked to a stop on the grassy shoulder of the road next to a fenced pasture.

Climbing out from behind the wheel, Harold checked under the hood, but he knew it was futile. Though he was a great salesman he knew nothing at all about car engines.

"It's probably the carburetor."

Harold jerked up his head. Who said that? Yet there was no one in sight, except for a trio of cows in the nearby pasture. They were standing at the fence, their heads draped over the top bar, their jaws revolving as they chewed the cud.

Thinking he'd imagined the whole thing, Harold leaned over the engine again.

"It's probably the carburetor."

Again he jerked to attention and again all he saw were the cows. Then as he watched, two of them ambled away from the fence and began cropping grass. Only the third remained at the fence.

"It's probably the carburetor."

This time Harold was sure – it was the cow at the fence!

What was going on? Harold had to know! Maybe the cow's owner could help him. But how to find him?

Then he remembered. Just before his car died, he had passed a mailbox and a driveway that might lead to a farmhouse. Within a few minutes, Harold had climbed the driveway and approached the residence to find the farmer standing on the porch.

Harold explained about his breakdown and where it had happened, then asked his question. "Is that your pasture down there by the mailbox?"

The man nodded.

"And are those your cows in the pasture? There were two brown ones and a black and white one."

"Yep, they're mine. What about 'em?"

"I know you're not going to believe this, but as I checked out the engine I distinctly heard one of your cows say, 'It's probably the carburetor.'"

The farmer nodded again. "Was it the black and white one?"

"Yes, yes! The black and white one!"

The farmer sniffed. "I thought so. That's Matilda. Don't pay her any mind. She doesn't know anything about carburetors."

We may not meet any cows like Matilda when we're looking for direction on our spiritual journey, but we usually have no lack of friends or associates who will tell us what to do or how to do it. And often even before we ask them! But while their direction may be useful, whatever guidance they provide is never perfect. And that's when we can confidently turn to God to indicate his will for us.

And he will provide direction, because many of our most beloved Scripture passages assure us of his willingness to guide and direct us. We need only be alert for his leading and be willing to follow.

-Anne Adams

Recycle at Cokesbury

Do your part to save the Earth. Cokesbury can recycle or reuse your plastic bags, paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles. Receptacles are located in the Commons, the Kitchen, and the paper dumpster outside.

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:
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.

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