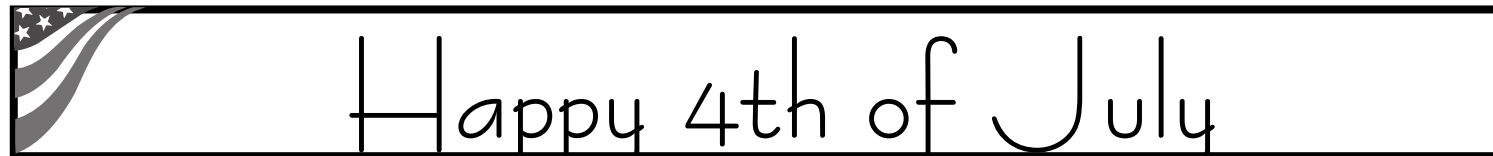


Cokesbury United Methodist Church
10030 Scarsdale Boulevard
Houston, TX 77089
(281) 484-9243
www.cumchouston.org
www.mycokesburyspace.com



Prayer Corner

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

Charlotte Davis, **Katy** Kuhlman, **Beverly** Crouch, **Betty** Biggins, Teresa Mauney's parents, **Randall** Smith family on the death of his grandmother, 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

As I stand in the shadow of Sunday's patriotic worship service and looking forward to July 4 itself, I find myself looking for new patriots. New patriots will be those who "love country for more than self," who esteem God above all else, even country, and use their wit and wisdom to continue to preserve us a nation. These new patriots will have no easy task.

The Psalmist said: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." I hope the new patriots for this new age remember these words from the 127 Psalm. Nor will it be uncomplicated for the new generation of new patriots. At the same time, we can draw strength from those who have been there before as great figures of our American past still speak to us, if we will let them. Consider Benjamin Franklin. It was not easy for the aging Ben Franklin, who had signed the Declaration of Independence to make it back to the Constitutional Convention. His body ached and his joints ached with arthritis. Yet, he came to the Constitutional Convention convinced that the new nation needed government which came by way of the people.

Franklin was renowned as a scientist and philosopher, yet, he was thought to be an agnostic. But in 1787, when the Constitutional Convention and the future of the United States—was on verge of collapse, he made an extraordinary appeal. "And have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? The longer I LIVE, THE MORE CONVINCING PROOFS I SEE OF THIS TRUTH: 'that God governs in the affairs of men.' And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

The Constitutional Convention succeeded and guided by God's hand they created a document that made and preserved us a nation.

There will be new tests, but also there will be new patriots, younger Benjamin Franklins rising up through our ranks. What can we all do about this? First, encourage the bright, articulate young men and women to consider public service as part of their careers. Second, go the extra mile and raise money for advertising, and let your support be for those who understand, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

Blessings and Peace,
Bill Newcomb, Pastor



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Alison Myers Chosen As Director of Children's Ministries



As you are all aware, our church's goal for this year was to put a greater emphasis on our children's ministries program. In an effort to do so, we identified the need to hire a new staff member to function as Director of Children's Ministries. Through the benevolence of a very special couple and the generosity of this congregation, this position was funded for a two year period.

I am now pleased to announce that our very own Alison Myers has accepted the SPRC offer to fill this position beginning July 1. Alison has proven invaluable as a volunteer and has demonstrated leadership skills as well as great vision with regard to our children and their families. If you

have been involved with VBS over the last two years or any other aspect of our children's program, you have no doubt witnessed her diligence and enthusiasm.

Please help me welcome Alison to this role and offer her your support and prayers as she takes on the challenge of expanding Cokesbury's children's ministry and taking the message of God's love to the children and the families in our community.

-Gary Wallis, Chairman SPRC

Home Meeting Scheduled

Our new pastor would like to get to know everyone better. We are scheduling a series of home meetings. The following home meetings have been scheduled, but we need more:

The home of John & Mary Short	Tuesday, July 7	10:00 a.m.
The home of Julie West (Disciple 1 only)	Thursday, August 13	7:00 p.m.

If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office 281-484-9243. Also, if you would like to host a home meeting in your home, please call the church office as well.



July 5 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the Becomer's Sunday School Class by Cathy Pleasants.

July 12 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Amanda Kay Lohec's birthday by Savannah Rose Lohec.

Donate Food to SeAM on 1st Sunday

This Sunday, July 5, is the first Sunday of the month and is the Sunday we collect Cokesbury's food donations for the Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) food pantry. Items needed at this time are macaroni and cheese, canned tomatoes and canned corn. Due to the increased number of clients, the pantry is having a hard time staying stocked. Drop off your donations in the large plastic tubs just outside the narthex and in the Commons area.

Riley Payton Matocha was born May 8, 2009
She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces

Parents: Brian and Ramee Matocha
Big Sister: Kayleigh



Thanks for Helping UArmy

Thank you Cokesbury members for donation of some of the kitchen and food supplies for the UArmy camp next week. Cokesbury will be sending 22 campers (13 youth, 2 college age campers and 7 adults) to the camp that will be hosted by St. Marks UMC.

Supplying some of the food items allows more of the campers' registration fees to be used for building materials. This means the camp gets to complete more extensive repairs or revisions to the houses of the needy people they are serving.

Camp Edge VBS Wraps Up

We had a great week at vacation bible school. Seventy-one children joined us at Camp E.D.G.E. as we Experienced and Discovered God Everywhere. Eighty-two percent of the children who attended were not members of our church. What a wonderful outreach to our community.

During our week, our mission project was to raise money to plant a tree on the church grounds in honor of the VBS 2009 children and to support our church's efforts at re-cycling. Almost \$300 was collected! At a later date, a tree will be planted.

It took an awful lot of planning from many volunteers to make this event such a success. Thank you, to everyone who donated supplies, gave of their time, and prayed for our success.

-Alison Myers & Lisa Nelms



Yes! It's UArmy Time.

We will be working in Baytown, Texas during the week of July 5 - 11. We will be based at St. Marks UMC and working in the surrounding communities. Look in the inside pages of this week's *Courier* for an article about the spreading impact of UArmy.

Please pray for our UArmy work team: Mandy Hite, Johnny Hite, Melanie Thompson, Dakota Loftin, Alex Johnson, Daniel Sawyer, Kaitlyn Wallis, Andrew Parker, Sonya Wilson, Kyle Warren, Megan Roper, Sarah Koons, Heather Pues, Scott Pace, Cristi Pace, Julie West, Linda Hite, Nathan Sutton, Tom Roper, Laura Bradley and John and Christie Burnette.

The Shareholder dinner will be held on Sunday, July 26. All who helped fund our mission trips to UArmy and Big House are invited to come and listen to testimonies and see a slide show of our trips.



In His Grip,
Christie

Rainbows Along The Way

Heavy Loads

"Now this armored truck job is going to be tricky but if we do it right, we'll get thousands!" Stubby told Roscoe.



However, when his partner furrowed his brow, Stubby knew he had to go over the plan again. "When the truck pulls up at the coffee shop and the guard and the driver go inside, we climb up on the back of the truck and I open the doors with these keys I got from a guy that works for the company. Then once the doors are open, we'll grab as many money bags as we can and get out of there." With this explanation Stubby seemed confident, but Roscoe still wasn't so sure.

The next morning with Stubby at the wheel of their get-away car, they arrived at the coffee shop. Sure enough, as Stubby predicted, the armored truck arrived right on time and the guard and the driver entered the coffee shop for their morning break.

"C'mon!", Stubby hissed as he bolted out of the car and climbed upon the back of the truck, keys in hand. Roscoe joined him as the lock turned and Stubby flung open the door to reveal a pile of bulging money bags. "Grab what you can carry and let's get out of here!"

Stubby snatched two of the bags, stuffed them under his arms and then reached for two more. At the same time, Roscoe caught hold of a bag but as he tugged, he realized it was heavier than he expected. And so was the next bag he grabbed. Then as he pulled at them, they dropped off the truck and thumped on the pavement.

"Hurry!", Stubby called from car. "I've got my bags back here - bring yours!"

Stubby started the car as Roscoe continued to tug at the bags.

"You're so dumb!" Stubby snarled. "I got several bags and you can't even grab two of them! You're on your own - I'm outta here!" Stubby shoved the car into gear and floored it, shooting the car out of the parking lot and away.

"Hey!" Roscoe hollered at the fleeing vehicle, and then turned to see the leveled gun of the uniformed guard pointed right at him.

"What a dunce!" The guard told the driver the next day as they stopped for their coffee. "I admit we shouldn't leave the truck like we did, but that guy was so dumb!"

"Yeah - and because he messed up, it delayed that other guy so the police could catch him," the driver recalled. "And they both got caught, all because the dunce tried to get away with those bags of pennies. His buddy picked up about \$10,000 in big bills but the dunce only got \$800! He wasn't going anywhere because of the heavy load!"

Heavy weights can be a real problem and not just for those like Roscoe, but also for us on our spiritual journey. In that case, the heavy loads often take the form of problems or worries or memories of past failures - in short, anything that restrains our growth or service for God.

Of course just as Roscoe didn't get anywhere, so also we don't make any progress with such heavy loads, so the best answer is to eliminate them. And we do that with our worries and problems by trusting God and with concern about failures by confessing and forgetting.

Concerned about your burdens? Handle them with God's help and unlike Roscoe, you can make cents of it.

-Anne Adams



Music Notes



Chancel Choir will sing "Statue of Liberty" on Sunday, July 5, then be on vacation until mid-August. Our Men's Chorale and the "Women of Praise" will each bring special music during the Summer. . . Special thanks to **ALL** our musicians!

Congratulations to high school soprano Simi Indupalli, for her award of the Silver Medal during the Solo & Ensemble Festival in Austin this Spring!

Thanks to Teresa Mauney for her stirring rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" last Sunday! We all appreciate you, Teresa!

Our good friends, Judy and Mike Boessling, will return on Sunday, July 12, for 8:30 and 11:00 worship services.

This Summer we will begin working on various instrumental groups, including strings (youth and adults) and wind instruments, for next school year. Please let me know if you are interested/available. Thanks!

In Him,
Marsh

SeAM Serves More Clients

Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) continues to serve the needy of our area through its food pantry, ministry and Thrift Store. To accommodate the higher numbers of clients being served this year, the Ministry/Food Pantry is now opening thirty minutes earlier, at 9:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday. Through May, SeAM has interviewed 17% more clients compared to 2008 with a comparable increase in food given out. Through May, a total of over 60,000 pounds of food and toiletries have been distributed. In addition to food, SeAM provides limited financial assistance with utilities, housing, transportation or prescription needs. SeAM also offers free vouchers to clients to shop at the Thrift Store for needed clothing or housewares.

SeAM provides additional services. The Thrift Store also gives free clothing to women and children from the Bridge Women's Shelter in Pasadena. The Back to School program provides vouchers for clothing or school supplies to needy children in the area.

Cokesbury is one of the 22 covenant churches that support SeAM through financial donations, food donations, prayers and volunteers. See the related article on the front page about this month's First Sunday food donations for SeAM.

Cokesbury has the most volunteers of any covenant church. Current Cokesbury volunteers at SeAM are Jim and Carole Krafka, Carolyn Lofland, Janice Shields, Rob and Laura Bradley, Joanne Gray, Claudia Gentry, Ed Whorton and Kathy and Johnny Lemaster. Due to the increased client load and volunteers missing for vacations, more volunteers are needed. Areas where you can help are computer data entry, telephone reception, food order filling or client interviewing.

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

College Bible Study Class

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.-Room 210

For information, contact Chudi Abajue 281-974-2443 or chudiabajue@hotmail.com



Dear Cokesbury UMW,
I would like to express my thanks for receiving the Dot Margheim Memorial Scholarship. It is a great honor to receive this wonderful gift and it will help financially while I attend Texas A&M University again in the fall. I have learned so much about helping others from Cokesbury UMC. They have taught me about spreading God's love through music and mission work. I feel very fortunate to have support from such a great youth group and church family!

Thank you,
-Scott Pace

Church Furniture for Sale

The Cokesbury Trustees have put some of the parsonage furniture up for sale. They can be seen in the church office and the hallway outside the pastor's office. For sale are a dining room table, a china cabinet, love seat, end tables, lamps and stuffed chairs. Most of the items are priced. If items are not priced, contact Johnny Lemaster. Payment can be given to the church secretary.



Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

By The Numbers

June 28

8:30 a.m. Service.....	85
9:45 a.m. Service.....	30
10:30 a.m. Service.....	117
Total.....	232

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:
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