

THE COKESBURY COURIER

an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

Vol. 156 No. 13

Friday, July 17, 2009

076453

Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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

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UMW General Meeting Coming Up

The UMW General meeting will be Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. Our program will be presented by Tom Green on Historic Flags of America. Everyone in the church is welcome. His programs are always interesting.

-Beth Northrup & Margie Remely
UMW Co-Vice Presidents

Home Meeting Scheduled

Our new pastor would like to get to know everyone better. So we have scheduled a series of home meetings. The last home meeting is scheduled for:

Jeb & Sherry Brooks **Tuesday, August 4** **7:00 p.m.**

If you would like to attend this meeting, please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office 281-484-9243.



August 2 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 4th Wedding Anniversary of Jay and Kay Hyle.

August 9 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Juanita Roder's Birthday by Charles Roder and Family.

Interim Youth Directors Step Forward

For years Laura Bradley and Linda Hite have held interim positions at Cokesbury. Often they served as back-up to paid youth directors. Both have graciously agreed to serve as interim youth directors until the Staff Parish Relations Committee can meet and determine what path to follow. The critical need is for the youth to know that their involvement and participation at Cokesbury is of great concern and value to the congregation. Moreover, the children, youth and their parents are three of major areas of outreach of Cokesbury. Under the direction of Laura and Linda, the program for the youth is meant to thrive, to continue to grow in number and to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Cokesbury is blessed to have both Laura and Linda as interim youth directors.

DJ Nolder Weds Whitney Wyatt

Cokesbury member DJ Nolder, son of Donna and Jim Bane, married Whitney Wyatt on May 23 in Cleveland, Texas. DJ and Whitney met at San Jacinto College in theater classes. They are both board members at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse, where both have appeared in many stage productions. They have made their home in the Clear Lake area.

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, 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.



Acolytes Needed

Acolytes are still needed for both services. If you are 3 grade or older, please have your parents contact Sherry Brooks at 281-481-5968 or e-mail me at jebrooks@sbcglobal.net. We will arrange for training and get you started. Acolytes are a vital part of our worship experience and a wonderful way to start your service to the church.

-Sherry Brooks

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 23rd, 11 a.m. service

Bring your backpack and stay for the 11 am service. Pastor Bill will bless the children's backpacks. Each child will also receive a Cokesbury backpack name tag to attach to their bag.

From The Pastor

Nature teaches us. After all God created the heavens and the earth and all that lives here. One such creature is the common European bird, the chaffinch. It looks like a robin in that the male has reddish breast plumage and is known for its cheerful singing. Yet, unlike some birds kept in cages, the male chaffinch loses its ability to sing well if it is kept away from other male singers in the wild.

This serves as a sad parable: when cut off from the song of others, we lose the ability to sing freedom's song. There are other imprisonments: our own. These can be addictions, hatred, depressions, obsessions, and a sense of meaninglessness, physical pain, emotional pressures, and other dark nights of the soul. If we could hear again, our own voices signing with others the songs of a healthy spirit, we might take heart and move toward God's redemptive healing.

One step is worship. Hymns of the faith help us recover the melodies that first attuned us to the harmonies of life. There are those Sundays when a familiar hymn, unsung for a long time, speaks to the difficult places of our lives. Job calls attention to God "who gives men songs of gladness in the night (35:10)." Join me in worship this Sunday. Let's sing the hymns of our faith and see what new stirring of courage and worth is stirred within us.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Bill Newcomb



Sign In Please

We are now entering everyone who attends Cokesbury's worship services into a computer program. This will help us note guests and members who happen to miss a few Sundays. Therefore, we can contact guests with greetings and also contact members who may miss a few Sundays. This new system will help us stay in touch with our membership and not lose track of you! SO PLEASE, EACH FAMILY MEMBER IS ASKED TO SIGN THE REGISTRATION PAD EACH SUNDAY.

Please Donate Food on First Sunday

This Sunday, August 2, is the first Sunday of the month and the Sunday we promote bringing food donations to Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM). SeAM can use almost any non-perishable food as recent client demand has been very high. Of particular need are macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and canned vegetables. Buy the store brand and make your money go further. Your donations can be placed in the plastic tubs outside the narthex doors or in the Commons.

SeAM saw a large increase in clients needing assistance in June. Compared to 2008, SeAM saw an increase of 74% in the number of clients needing food! For the first half of 2009, there has been an increase of 37% in clients needing food. Through June, about 60,000 pounds of items have been distributed from the SeAM Food Pantry. Due to the Houston Food Bank not having many of their typical items, SeAM is spending significantly more funds buying supplies at grocery stores.

-Laura Bradley, SeAM Pantry Manager

Park in the Front and Sides First

Yes, it is true. You are so hospitable that you park in the back, leaving plenty of space for guests. But the problem is that when people pass by on Sunday mornings, our church looks deserted. If you would park in the front and on the side parking lots first, then the back, passersby will SEE MORE ACTIVITY. Doors will be open for members and guests to enter through the education and other front and side doors of the building on Sundays. Thanks for caring!

VBS Reunion Scheduled



Save the date! On Saturday, August 22 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., we will have a reunion of all VBS participants and volunteers. During VBS, the children raised over \$300 to plant a tree on the church grounds. On this date we will plant and dedicate that tree in honor of the 2009 VBS children. In addition to planting the tree, the children can plant other items in our flower beds. There will be games, crafts and refreshments available as well. Please join us.

-Alison Myers, Children's Director



We have a wonderful time last Sunday with our Shareholder's Meeting. Johnny Hite put together a fun slide show of Big House and UMARMY. 60 people met in the Fellowship Hall for taco salad and brownies and ice cream. Thanks again to our sponsors of our mission trips. If you missed the slide show, we can get you a copy for viewing on your own.

This next Sunday will be the home meeting for the youth. These are the meetings that Pastor Bill has been scheduling for members at certain homes. The youth meeting will be at the church at 6:00 pm. Bill's family will be providing the dinner. Come give input on where you want the church and the youth to be going. MYF will start at 5:30 with supper. Note that this is 30 minutes later than the recent 5:00 p.m. start time.

We have scheduled Pumpkin Patch for this year. The pumpkins will be arriving early to mid October.

-Linda Hite & Laura Bradley, Interim Youth Directors

SeAM Helping With Back To School

Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) is beginning its annual Back-to-School program to help needy students living in their service zip codes. Following interviews to determine eligibility, parents will be offered a choice of two of three items: voucher for school supplies from Fiesta, voucher for school clothing from Fiesta or a shoe card redeemable at Payless Shoe Store.

In addition to the above program, SeAM is starting a program to have socks and underwear available year round to those in need. This will include school age children or adults such as homeless persons. Because of the wide age range, all sizes of socks and underwear are needed. Donations can be placed in the SeAM food tubs or in the large "soup can" in the kitchen. The church or organization supplying the most socks/underwear will win the "Golden Underwear Award".

You can help with this worthwhile program by donating to the socks/underwear program or by making a monetary contribution. Monetary contributions may be made directly to SeAM (P. O. Box 267, South Houston, Tx 77587) or through Cokesbury. In either case, be sure to mark SeAM BTS on the memo portion of the check.

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

Bargain Shoppers Needed

Can you believe it is already time for back to school sales?! The children's Sunday school classes likes to use this time of year to stock up on basic craft supplies, since they are being offered at such low prices. For example, the following great buys can be found this week: OfficeMax has scissors for 20¢ and crayons for a penny, while Staples and Walmart have glue and crayons for 25¢. But, at these great prices they only let you buy a few (usually 2 or 3). So, we need your help. If you happen to be near one of these stores and can spare a few cents, we would really appreciate you picking up a few of these bargains for us. There is a donation bin in the Commons where you can drop your supplies. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Plan Ahead and Communicate

Each committee is asked to plan ahead for their activities and ministries. Then, two-three weeks prior to the event, write up the event using these criteria: who, what, when and where. These should be written up as press releases. The Marketing Committee will send these press releases to areas newspapers. This new way of advertising will reach many people about the exciting ministries of Cokesbury. This is free advertising!

This is an idea of what you could do:

1. Recruit a writer from your committee
2. Write the forthcoming activity
3. Get it to John Akkerman, chairperson of marketing, as soon as possible for dissemination to areas newspapers.

Cokesbury UMC does many meaningful activities. Let's all work at getting the word out...for free!

Sawyer Awarded Baseball Scholarship

Daniel Sawyer, son of Doug and Cathy Sawyer, will continue his education and baseball playing career at Marion Military Institute in Marion, Alabama. Marion is a Division I, two year college in the NJCAA. Daniel is a 2009 graduate of Dobie High School and pitcher for the varsity baseball team. Congratulations, Daniel!

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

By The Numbers

July 26

8:30 a.m. Service.....	79
9:45 a.m. Service.....	30
10:30 a.m. Service.....	120
Total.....	229



Music Notes



Thank you for your response for favorite hymns. Your favorites include: *Amazing Grace; In the Garden; Spirit Song; Here I am, Lord; The Old Rugged Cross*, and others. Note that we have sung another favorite, *Holy, Holy, Holy*, recently and will be singing other right away.

Thank you to Dee Pouzar, whose granddaughter, Carol Pouzar sang at 11:00 on July 26. What a beautiful voice! Thanks also go to our Chancel Choir Ensemble for singing on July 26 and for singing so beautifully.

Our Men's Chorale will be singing soon and on August 9 the "Esprit de Cors" French horn ensemble will present special music.

Special thanks go to Teresa Mauney for her beautiful piano work (as usual).

Please continue praying for Charlotte Davis, on of our Cokesbury "Women of Praise" singers.

In Him,

Marsh

Utilize a Valuable Resource: Jan Floro

Jan Floro consults with Cokesbury. She has vast experience in church growth and networks with hundreds of churches, United Methodists and other denominations. If your committee or work area would like to get insights into your specific needs, she is ready to help. She can be reached through e-mail at florojan@aol.com. Her website address is www.growchurchnow.com and her telephone number is 713-826-7809. The following is only a partial list of needs she can address: speakers for youth, men and women's groups, financial resource material, speakers, and programs, successful strategies for growing groups within the church: youth, children, men's ministries, community outreach and resources. Use Jan Floro. She is quite capable and works for Cokesbury for all of our benefit.

Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

On July 30, the New Beginnings Sunday School class is going to the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) as a service project to provide the evening meal for up to 110 people. These are guests of the RMH while a family member is undergoing medical treatment somewhere in the Texas Medical Center. Staff and other volunteers will also be provided with a meal.



These tabs came from many of you and your extended family or friends. Just stop and think about what "one tab at a time" can amount to! The possibilities are without limits. Those of you with internet capability can go to the following site for more information about the "Pull Tab" program.

Using the same philosophy of what one person can do, think about your giving situation. During the summer months the contributions seem to lag. If you fall into the category like many of us, and are behind in your regular giving, please consider catching up and maybe even giving an extra \$100.

-Jim Krafka

Mobile Medical Clinic Work Continues

Work continued Saturday, July 25, on the Mobile Medical Clinic (MMC). All of the interior walls inside layer have been installed and on Saturday work began with the installation of the interior wall finished material. Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) panels are being used. Six panels were installed and the inside of the MMC is beginning to look more and more like a real medical facility.



Anyone wanting to help with this worthwhile mission project can come out on Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Work is stopped around 11:30 AM due to the summer heat. Call Jim Krafka at 281-481-3102 to confirm the schedule for a particular work session.

The picture at left shows Jeb Brooks, Dennis Akkola, and Tom Roper discussing the "measure 3 times", "mark 2 times", and "cut once" method.

-Jim Krafka

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, 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