

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Prayer Corner

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

Jay Standridge, Beverly Crouch, Wade Hudson, Dakota Loftin, Jon Akkerman, Luella Sims, Carroll Kuhlman, Marlette Reed on the death of her nephew, Julie Hoover on the death of her parents, the family of Ned Botkin (Bill Botkin's father), Zach Hopson (Kay Hyle's cousin), Teresa Mauney's parents, Laura Bradley's father, Marian Royster, Beverly Blumrick, Mara Price, Wanda Ford, Janie Sullivan, Jack Williams, Tim Cates, Gunter Braun, Joan Nolen, Gloria McWhirt, Robert Chamblee, Carolyn Diehl, Joyce Garner, Emilyn Harris, and for all our servicemen and women who are serving overseas, especially Aaron Smalley, Nathan Diehl (Betty Evan's grandson) and Barry King. If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, please call the church office, 281-484-9243. In addition, keep the people and workers in Haiti in your prayers.

Cokesbury's Eggstravaganza



Cokesbury's Easter Egg Hunt, our Eggstravaganza, will be held this Saturday, March 20, from 10 am - noon. All children through 5th grade are invited. We will even have an area designated for those with special needs. Bring your friends and neighbors for some fun, crafts, goodies, and refreshments. Volunteers are needed to help welcome our estimated 100-150 visitors.

Holy Week Calendar

Thursday, April 1	Maundy Thursday Service and Choir Cantata With Communion	7 p.m.
Friday, April 2	Good Friday Service	7 p.m.
Easter Sunday (Communion at Fountain only)		8:30 and 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. (The Fountain)



Baptism

Gracelynn Emily Myers was baptized during the late service on Sunday March 14. Pictured at left along with Gracelynn are proud parents Alison and Kevin Myers along with Pastor Bill. Participating in the baptism along with friends were big brothers Nathan, Cody and Steven. Members of our current Confirmation Class also participated.

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.

All proceeds will benefit Cokesbury's General Fund.



March 21-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Don and Billy Strong by Barbara Strong.

March 28-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Rev. Fred S. and Clarice Flurry by Jo and Charlie Callaway.

From The Pastor

Easter comes only once a year. Choirs rehearse extra hours, children make special artwork, we sing special songs of the faith, and flowers fill the chancel. The accoutrements of Easter do not tell the whole story. Yet, these decorations and activities grab our attention and happiness bubbles to the top of our joy list.

Holy Week, it seems, slows the pace of preparations, but we need it. Yes, Easter comes only once a year though we can rush it so that we miss it. Maundy Thursday recalls the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples. All the emotions that surrounded the table there, envelop us, too. Will we be faithful or disloyal? Will we speak for Jesus' remarkable work in our lives or will we be silent?

The Chancel Choir will be presenting "Song of the Shadows". Musically, it will be excellent; emotionally it will feed our souls. Yes, it comes on a Thursday night, at the end of a long day, and "tired" may sneak up on you. Come join us, anyway. Our spirits need to be fed just as our bodies do. Communion and sacred music are transforming experiences.

The Good Friday service is a necessary one. As Christians, we cannot have Easter unless we encounter Good Friday and its darkness. For some the agony of Jesus' Good Friday is too frightening, overwhelming hope and life itself. Yes, our Lord felt these things. Frankly, we have to experience them in some form, also. As a butterfly struggles to be free from its chrysalis, we struggle too.

Easter comes only once a year, but it comes! After the experiences of Holy Week, let Easter morning speak to you. Out of the darkness, Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star brings the new day!

We are starting a young adult and married Sunday School Class. Jennifer Howard has agreed to teach the class. We are currently looking for an assistant teacher who can teach the class and keeping the enthusiasm rolling when Jennifer must be out of town. Please call the pastor or leave a message for Jennifer through the church office. We are rolling! Let's not let the momentum stop!"

Thank you to all who help provide the meal following "The Fountain" each Sunday night. The attendance has been great--a mixture of youth and adults is a great thing to see and experience. It starts at 5 p.m.

Grace and Peace,

Bill Newcomb



Donate Blood Here Saturday, March 27

Cokesbury will host a blood drive in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come out and help save a life by donating. If you want to reserve a time, sign-up sheets will be available this Sunday, March 20. While here, you can buy some great barbecue from the Bubba Chub cooking team.

All potential donors must be at least 17 years old to donate, 16 with parental consent. You must bring a valid picture ID. Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds (16 year old donors 122 pounds).

Medical technology has provided many life-saving discoveries over the years, but there is still no substitute for blood. In a medical emergency, often the most important element is the availability of blood. If you donate whole blood, a unit (about one pint) of blood is drawn. This procedure takes about five to 10 minutes. The average person has between 10 and 12 pints of blood in their body. It takes about one month to replace the blood that is donated.

In addition to helping save up to three lives, blood donors receive many benefits. All donors receive a mini-physical exam at the time of their donation. This includes the determination of hemoglobin levels (as sign of anemia), blood pressure, temperature and various blood screening tests. After each donation, donors will receive their blood type and cholesterol level. Additionally, individuals who Commit for Life (donate at least twice per year) receive points that can be redeemed for great items in the Commit for Life store.

-Rob and Laura Bradley

Remember Loved Ones on Easter

Dedicate Easter flowers this year to remember your loved ones at Easter. Envelopes are available in the Narthex. The cost is \$12. Please make your checks payable to "Cokesbury Altar Guild". Remember to indicate whether the flowers are in honor or memory. Place your envelope in the Altar Guild mail slot near the Pastor's Office.



I hope everyone had a fantastic Spring Break! Several of us went to Crossroads Homeless Mission this week and took supplies to them. What a blessing to be able to participate in this ministry and be the body of Christ in our world.

This Saturday, March 20, from 10 to 12 is our Easter Egg hunt. The youth will be helping with setting up the hunt, so we will be getting there about 9:30. We will all go out to eat together after the Easter Egg hunt. My treat!

The first Camp Out at Cokesbury is Friday, March 26! We're going to eat, play games, cook s'mores, and sing praise songs around the campfire. It's going to be a lot of fun. I hope you all can come! We will arrive at 4 p.m. Friday to set up, and the event lasts until 10 am Saturday morning. If you need a tent, let me know. We have 2 loaner tents available. Check out the youth board to sign up!

Remember to keep selling that fantastically delicious Butter Braid Bread. We will sell it through the end of the month to raise money to buy materials to build a house for Haiti. You guys are amazing!!

It's time to finish filling out forms for Big House and UMARMY. If you are going to either one, please fill out your forms and get them back to me as soon as possible. If you don't have a form, let me know.

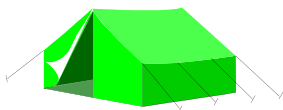
Beach Retreat is just around the corner! It will be May 14-16. The sign up list is on the youth board. Check it out and sign up. It's going to be a blast!

Youth Sunday is April 25. We are going to be working on that the next couple of weeks at MYF. Be sure to be there so you can sign up for the part you want.

In His Service, **Linda Hite**

Let's Go Camping

Whether you have a tent, pop-up or RV, make plans now to be part of our "Cokesbury Camp-Out" here at the church on Friday, March 26 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. the following morning. What an exciting time of enjoying the great outdoors while participating in Christian fellowship. Come see our parking lots evolve into one big campground! Our Youth will provide dinner on Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday morning.



If you are interested, please sign up on the Youth bulletin board, so there will be enough food. Also, we will need to know if you have a tent or RV. If you have questions, please

contact Linda Hite through the church office (281-484-9243).

-Linda Hite

Music and Theater Arts at Cokesbury

Children's choirs have been busy preparing special music for our 11 a.m. Palm Sunday service. Cokesbury Kids are excited to be playing the hand bells. Young Singing Angels have a special musical offering in the works. Don't miss their performances on Sunday, March 28th at 11am.

With the end of the school year growing near, both children's groups are working together on *The Cokesbury Music and Comedy Hour*. The end-of-school year production will incorporate music, movement, and lots of fun into a variety show format. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 12th at 5pm.

There's still room for any child aged 3 through 5th grade to join the fun. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7 p.m. for little singers, and 6:30 to 7:30 for older kids.

We would love to welcome your kids to the group!

-Annie Nolen

Mowers Urgently Needed



Do you want to help make the church look better to our members and potential visitors and help save the church money? Volunteer to help with the upkeep of the church grounds by being a member of this year's mowing crews. The mowing crews are responsible for the mowing and edging of the church grounds and the baseball fields. Having volunteers do this probably saves the church over \$10,000 a year.

Once the grass starts growing faster, mowing is usually done weekly. Ideally, we have four mowing teams, with each team typically mowing once a month with the work done on your schedule, any time between Wednesday and Saturday. If you can not commit to a monthly schedule, any help will be useful, even a single time!

Training will be provided. Contact Rob Bradley at 281-992-2604 if you are interested.

-Rob Bradley

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

By The Numbers

March 15

8:30 a.m. Service.....	68
11:00 a.m. Service.....	98
The Fountain.....	50
Total.....	216



Music Notes



Chancel Choir will be singing selections from the Lenten Cantata, "Song of the Shadows" on both March 21 and 28...The cantata will be presented with soloists and narration on Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m., for the Maundy Thursday Communion worship service.

Cokesbury's Choir Chimes and Handbells will soon be presenting music for worship: watch the next Newsletter.

Next week's schedule for Wednesday will have ALL regular rehearsals: Choir Chimes at 5:30, Handbells at 6:15, Men's Chorale at 7:00, and Chancel Choir at 7:30...(Our Men will also be singing soon!)

"Thank You!" to Teresa Mauney, for her powerful and meaningful solo Sunday. We all appreciate her outstanding musical contributions to our worship experiences here at Cokesbury.

Again: "Thanks!" to our worship team for Sunday evening worship at "The Fountain".

In Him, *Marsh*

Mobile Medical Clinic Is Shipped To Grace Children's Hospital In Haiti

It's Monday, March 8 – a happy day! I am watching the truck load our clinic. It will be transported to the Mobile Alabama Port today and loaded on the ship tomorrow. The ship



departs on Wednesday and it should arrive in Haiti in about 7-10 days. A well deserved thank-you goes to Christian Alliance for their role in making the connection with Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Christian Alliance also made additional arrangements to help ensure that the clinic will be safely delivered to Grace. As you know, there are still many problems in Haiti – one is security. The Port-au-Prince Port is a prime target for looters. To help avoid this risk, Christian Alliance

purchased a truck chassis that is being shipped with our clinic. When the ship arrives at the Port, the clinic will immediately be transported to a secure fenced yard several miles away. Representatives from Grace will pick up the clinic from that location and take it to their property where it will become the Grace Children's Hospital Medical Clinic.

Grace was founded in 1967 and is considered Haiti's leading medical facility dedicated to treating children with tuberculosis (TB), HIV and other diseases. The hospital treats children on an in-patient basis and they also offer out-patient preventative care for children such as eye exams and vaccinations. During the earthquake, Grace's main hospital building suffered significant structural damage and is not safe to use. They currently are using large tents for in-patient use. Grace sends their heartfelt thank-you to the congregation at Cokesbury for the generous donation of the Medical Clinic.

This project has been a blessing for Cokesbury! Many of you contributed the \$1 in the offering plates for this mission project and many of you also contributed 'sweat equity' to build the clinic. We worked together on this project for most of 2009. Please keep the clinic on your prayer list. I believe Cokesbury will be able to keep in contact with the clinic and I will give you future updates (maybe pictures too!) as I receive information. May God bless the Mobile Medical Clinic as it begins serving the children in Haiti.

Picture shows Jess Stokely (Christian Alliance Founder) and Tom Roper, (Cokesbury MMC Team Leader) as the clinic is leaving Houston for the Mobile, Alabama port.

-Patti Akkola



Treasurer's Report

Giving-March 1-12

General.....	\$11,114
Bond Fund.....	\$140
Designated Giving.....	\$633
Total Giving.....	\$11,887

Bank Balances -March 12

Operating.....	\$3,513
T-Mobile.....	\$13,699
Designated Savings.....	\$57,012
Total Cash Balance	\$72,224

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

BBQ on Sale Saturday, March 27

During your blood donation on Saturday, March 27, the technicians will tell you to "make your next meal a hearty one." What better way than to have a great barbecue sandwich prepared by the Bubba Chub team (Wendell Sullivan, Jay Hyle and Gary Wallis). They will be selling sandwiches. Come on by even if you are not donating blood.

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: 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 Yeany