

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, Lillian Lemaster (Johnny's mother), Wade Hudson, Jon Akkerman, Luella Sims, Carroll Kuhlman, Zach Hopson (Kay Hyle's cousin), Jennifer Howard's mother, Emilyn Harris, Linda Simmons, Teresa Mauney's parents, Laura Bradley's father, Marian Royster, Mara Price, Amanda Royce, Gerald Eddins, Wanda Ford, Linda Dumah upon the death of her brother (Fred Jones), Jack Williams, Tim Cates, Matthew Bunn, Joan Nolen, Carolyn Diehl, Bill Norris, Claudia Gentry's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Tracey Moore's mother (Shirley), Derek Chamness, Terry Allen, Gail Wallace, Amanda Richardson, and for all those serving our country or working in Iraq or Afghanistan 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 and Chile in your prayers.

Biking For Cokesbury



The Children's Ministry is sponsoring a Bike-A-Thon to raise money for children's outreach programs. Please join us this Sunday, May 2nd 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 so Sunday morning in the Commons.

The Youth Band will provide the music entertainment and the Confirmation Class will be there to assist. We will be raising money for a good cause and tiring out some overactive kids. Sign in will begin at 2:30 p.m. and the Bike-a-Thon will begin at 3 p.m.

-Alison Myers, Director of Children's Ministry

Come Hear About Drinking Water Crisis

Do more people die every year from AIDS or from lack of safe drinking water? If you said AIDS, you are wrong. While it is estimated that 2 million people per year are currently dying from AIDS, lack of drinking water kills more. The estimate is that 2.3 million people per year die from drinking bad water.

We water our lawns with potable (safe-to-drink water). We flush our toilets with potable water. Many people across the world can not even get a few gallons of decent water per day to drink and to use to cook. When we water our lawn we are pouring on to the ground something that many people in the world are dying because they can not get.

The UMW speaker on Tuesday, May 11 will be from Living Water International, a non-profit headquartered in Houston but doing good works around the world. Come hear efforts that are being taken world-wide to try to end this crisis. The talk will begin at 7 p.m. The UMW invites all who are interested to attend.

Laura Bradley, Vice President UMW

UMW Meeting for May

The UMW will meet Tuesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be from Living Water International (see article above). There will be a short business meeting following the speaker.



May 2-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of George Ellington by Lou Ellington.

May 9-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Kayla Johnson on her 10th Birthday by Laurel, Arthur and Alex Johnson.

Goodbye to Marsh

Marsh Hudson has announced his retirement to the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Marsh has served three years with Cokesbury, but has been in music ministry for 43 years. SPRC's search for Marsh's replacement has already begun. The SPRC and the church-at-large wishes him well in this new phase of his life.

From The Pastor

What compels us to take a vacation is the anticipated joy of arriving at the destination providing sheer pleasure and gratification. The color of the steering wheel that steers the car to the destination nor the long wait at the airport intrigues us. It is the destination. The moment you get excited about a destination is the picture you claim as your own. It may be beaches, mountains, flower gardens, and fishing. This is what draws us. When Moses spoke of claiming the promised land, he used the same "picture words" to tell of the "land of milk and honey." We have picturesque view of these words as found in Deuteronomy 8:7-10:

"For the Lord Your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks and water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread with scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and of whose hills you can dig copper. and you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given to you."

This vision was enough for the Hebrews. For as in any clear mission, it is the vision that moves the heart to a deep level and engages the imagination with God-sized dreams. I see Cokesbury with ample opportunity to realize the vision that God has planted in your hearts. Sure, there will be steep steps to get there. We may have to change a wall or two to accommodate small group Bible studies, or spend extra time in coordinating multi-use spiritual life experiences. God's desires and our vision of them will make us cross the desert places to the land of our destination. There will be hassles and deadlines, but these are not barriers. The goal is being brought to a place in our future that fulfills our God-sized dreams, not the least of which is growth in the nature of God, expanding our boundaries to include those who need the saving grace of the Lord, and being a force for good in this world by being seen and known in the community.

I really want to share this destination with you. It is the vision you have and together we can let this kingdom be built right here at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. If all those seems out of bounds and reason, good. God-sized dreams are not ours, they are His and by faith we will arrive safely and securely to that planned destiny.

Sincerely Yours in Christ Jesus,

Bill Newcomb



WELCOME



Please join us in welcoming the Palmer Family. Pictured above from left to right are Taylor Palmer with dad Tommy and mom Candy.

Candy joined by profession of faith, Tommy by transfer of membership, and Taylor by baptism and profession of faith during the 8:30 service on April 18. We are overjoyed that we have this wonderful family. Candy is the administrative assistant for an orthodontist, Tommy is a highly skilled instrument technician, and Taylor is in guest relations for Houston Heritage Society.

Baptism



Isn't she cute! Sophia Isabella Estella Schuman was baptized during the 11:00 am service on April 18. Proud parents are Cynthia and Thomas Schuman. Thomas is the son of Cokesbury member Elizabeth Schuman.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.



What an amazing youth group we have! You guys were amazing at Youth Sunday this past week.

Not only did the youth provide all the worship services this week, but they also started Cokesbury's first House for Haiti. We will also



be working on it this Friday, April 30, starting at 6:00. Everyone is invited to come help or just stop by to see what is going on. On Sunday, May 2, during MYF time we will paint the house, so wear work clothes that you can mess up.

Don't forget, BEACH RETREAT IS COMING!! We will meet at the church on Friday, May 14 at 6:30 and return around noon on Sunday, May 16. Bring a sack supper and snacks to share. A full list of what to bring is on the youth board. Be sure to sign up!

Lakeview Registration forms are in! If you want to go to camp, please get a form off the youth board and fill it out. If you register by May 9, the cost is \$190, which is \$30 cheaper than the regular registration cost of \$220. Make your check payable to Cokesbury MYF.

In His Service, **Linda Hite**



Dear Cokesbury family,

We had a great send off party on Saturday, April 17 and enjoyed showing off our new home and tow vehicle. I enjoyed cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs for you and the sharing of this time together. We will return again to spend some time in Texas and have kept a Texas address. Thank you so much for the certificate of appreciation and the cake and the gifts from the choir and our Sunday School class and your gifts of prayer and friendship.

We are not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and promise to continue to live for our Lord and Savior.

We are sad at leaving you for awhile but you are an important part of our family. We have worked together, prayed together, cried together and laughed together. That being said, we are also excited about our new plans to see the USA in our Chevrolet (that ages us I guess). We will keep in touch with you and let you know what is going on. Our email for now is Ed3rd1@sbcglobal.net and our phone is 1-281-728-1456 and 1-281-728-1702.

Our new address is: 121 Rainbow Drive, #2135; Livingston, TX 77399-1021

Love ya!
Ed and Danna Whorton

T Minus 58 Days Until VBS Blast Off



Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School at Cokesbury is June 28-July 2. Are you ready for the mission into space? An information table will be in the Commons and sign up sheets will be available. The theme this year is space. Pre-registration started Saturday during the Spring Festival. The first 25 families that register get a free Take Home CD filled with music and computer games. There are still some left. For more information, please contact Alison Myers at 713-870-7361.

-Alison Myers & Lisa Nelms

Grasses and Birds Mean It's Spring

The Cokesbury Prairie Garden has begun blooming. The Gammagrass is now over 3 feet tall with seeds appearing on the stalks. The Texas Cone Flowers, the Mexican Hat, and the Liatrus are all budding. Come take a look at the garden behind the Fellowship Hall on the edge of the parking lot near the baseball field. This garden was designed by Laura Bradley with labor assistance from last year's VBS children.



As some of you know, Cokesbury has been the site of spring nesting killdeer birds for several years. For the last two years, the nest has been in the large playground on top of the mulch. This year, the nest had four eggs. All hatched and the

baby birds were seen on the baseball field for the last couple of weeks.

-Laura Bradley

A Note from Servant Savior Presbyterian

Dear Judy and Bill,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your kind note of encouragement and for your generous offer of assistance. We are meeting at Stuchberry Elementary for the time being, and our insurance may cover the cost of temporary buildings on our site. The community is a bit overwhelmed but also energized at the prospect of a new beginning. We have received many offers of assistance and are planning to hold some work days and/or fund raisers to give our many friends a chance to help out. In the meanwhile, please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Grace and peace,
Alan Brehm <http://thewakingdreamer.blogspot.com>

Christway Ministries Visit Cokesbury



Cokesbury was blessed Sunday with the presence of members of Houston Christway Ministries as they shared experiences, and gratitude, about Cokesbury's Helping Hands food ministry to the homeless in Houston. Wayne Coker meets the people from Cokesbury every Sunday when the lunches are delivered to downtown. Wayne also expressed his appreciation to all of the people at Cokesbury that make the lunches possible. Pictured at left are from left to right James and Janelle Williams, Carole and Jim Krafka, and Wayne Coker.

-Jim Krafka

Shalom Choir To Visit Cokesbury May 16

You do not want to miss The Fountain worship service on Sunday, May 16. During this service, a special choir from Africa, called the Shalom Choir, will perform. This choir is made up of 23 young people from Rwanda, Burundi and The Congo. They will perform several songs in their native language and will perform a song in English with our own Cokesbury Kids choir.

Cokesbury is the first stop for this amazing choir in this concert series called "Voices of Hope". We hope that this concert will create an awareness of the plight of the people of Africa and help to raise funds to support this group of refugees as they begin their new life in America. We have an opportunity to embrace and support our brothers and sisters from Africa, to show that we are truly one world. Join us.

Remember SeAM On First Sunday

This Sunday, May 2, is the first Sunday of the month and the traditional time for Cokesbury members to bring items for the Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) food pantry. Items can be left in the large plastic tubs outside the narthex or in the Commons. Items in short supply are canned mixed veggies and macaroni and cheese.

Your contributions are needed as the demand is still increasing. Through the first three months of 2010, SeAM has provided food to 2,335 clients, a 27% increase from 2009. These clients have received a total of 37,000 pounds of food and toiletries.

-Laura Bradley, Pantry Manager



Treasurer's Report

Giving-April 11 & 18

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| General..... | \$10,183 |
| Bond Fund..... | \$185 |
| Designated Giving..... | \$682 |
| Total Giving..... | \$11,050 |

Total Expenses Thru April 25

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Payroll..... | \$7,743 |
| Church Overhead..... | \$3,593 |
| Program Expenses..... | \$1,484 |
| Apportionments..... | \$3,028 |
| Retirement Bond Pmt/Interest.. | \$8,292 |
| Total Expenses..... | \$24,140 |

Bank Balances - April 25

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Operating..... | \$2,263 |
| T-Mobile..... | \$8,699 |
| Designated Savings..... | \$57,989 |
| Total Cash Balance | \$68,951 |

Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

Bradleys Honored

During the 8:30 service on April 25, Laura and Rob Bradley were presented with the Cross and Flame award for their many years of work with Cokesbury's youth.



Spring Festival Wraps Up

We had a beautiful day for a Spring Festival this past Saturday. Kids had fun playing games and bouncing in the moonwalk. The bake goods and hot dogs were yummy to eat. Our silent auction was a big hit!! The total money from the auction was just over \$400, which will be applied to Cokesbury's General Fund. Thank you for the donations and help with our Spring Festival.

-Alison Myers

By The Numbers

April 25

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 8:30 a.m. Service..... | 81 |
| 11:00 a.m. Service..... | 81 |
| The Fountain..... | 57 |
| Total..... | 219 |

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, Claudia Gentry, Gloria Hurley, Carole Krafka, Anne & Robert Nolen, Winnie Smith, Carman Wilhite, Kay and Bill Young

2nd Sunday: Linda Garies, Theresa Graham, Margo and Tom Green, Laurel Johnson, Jack Kestler, Carolyn Lofland, Herb Parker, Cathy Pleasants, Lois Seeley