

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

## an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

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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, **Luella** Sims, **Carroll** Kuhlman, **Martha** VanKriegenbergh, **Willie** Nolen, **Mollie** Evans, the **Loftin** family on the death of Markul's father, Anne Nolen's mother (**Betty**), **Dutch** Uran, **Wilma** Wallis (Gary's mother), **Zach** Hopson (Kay Hyle's cousin), **Emilyn** Harris, **Mara** Price, Laura Bradley's sister (**Patti**), **Wanda** Ford, **Jack** Williams, **Tim** Cates, **Carolyn** Diehl, **Bill** Norris, Tracey Moore's mother (**Shirley**), **Kathy** Sloan, **Thomas** McDearmont, **James** Tandburg, **Sike** Smyers, **Paul** Hickman, **Becky** Ware, **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.

## From Your Pastor To His People at Cokesbury

I am delighted to announce that I will be your pastor, having been appointed for another year to Cokesbury UMC. I enjoy being here and feel the blessings of God upon me and my family. Thank you for your affirming applause Sunday. It was humbling, yet gratifying. God is doing miraculous things at Cokesbury that no one planned or ever thought possible. But God is good and his will is awesome. I am looking forward to sharing more of God's gracious acts together with you.

Bro. Bill, Oleta and Adam will be on vacation next week-end. Gary Wallis will be preaching both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Come and support this lay person as he shares his story and his heart with the congregation. He and his wife, Kris, and daughter Kaitlin are very active in the life of church and love Cokesbury UMC.

At The Fountain, Dakota Loftin will be preaching. He is one of our college students considering the call to ministry as an ordained United Methodist minister. One of the joys of a church is watching for young people who carry with them the gifts and graces of ministry. Mark it on your calendars: June 13 at 5:00 p.m. at The Fountain. The Praise Band will be ministering and Dakota will be preaching.

## Cokesbury: Celebrating 50 Years of Connection and Commitment to Christ

Cokesbury's 50th birthday celebration has started. Our birthday committee has met. Plans are being made! Our birthday theme is Cokesbury--Celebrating 50 Years of Connection and Commitment to Christ. The date of the celebration will be the second or third Sunday in November, 2011. The journey to that date has already started!

A commemorative quilt is in the making. The birthday committee wants every member and past member and pastors to have their names embroidered on the quilt. The cost is \$10 per person or \$30 for a family. This money will help pay for our celebration and dinner.

Starting Sunday, June 20, envelopes will be available during Sunday School and between church services for members to donate the money for having their names on our quilt. Quilt envelopes will be available for six months, but we would like you to have your name embroidered on our quilt sooner than later.

More details will be coming your way. Cokesbury is a true blessing. It is a holy place where we meet Christ and each other, where we grow in Christian faith and love, and where we share that faith and love with our world.

Mary Short, Birthday Chairperson



**June 13**-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Wendy Sullivan's birthday from Wendell, Debbie, Janie and Whitney.

**June 20**-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthdays of Cody, Casey and Reagan from Lady and Bob Gersteman.

## From The Pastor

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies." (2 Corinthians 4:9) All I can say is Wow! It is difficult to keep "hanging in there" when afflicted in every way...!" How does one keep going when all seems against you?

I believe God helps us, affirms us, but also gives us this power that comes from above, but feels like it comes from within, where the soul is. It is the power that amazes because we know it is not from ourselves but something entirely different from our abilities. Nevertheless, there is that human component. It is the ability to get up and try again. Yet, it is a choice from a resolute spirit.

Emmitt Smith set the record for yards rushing in his career as a Dallas Cowboy, Arizona Cardinal, and then back again as a Dallas Cowboy. He rushed for 18,355 yards. His average yards per carry were 4.3. That means he was tackled an amazed 4,269 times. Professional football players hit hard, a punishing risk to every football player. It is not that he got knocked down 4,269 times. He set the record because he made the conscious decision to get up and go back to the game and did so 4,270 times.

Life is not easy and we get hit, tackled, slammed, and brutalized. There is not a person out there anywhere that does not have some scars. But thanks be to God for his infinite good will toward us for we are "more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)

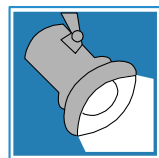
God has already provided for the victory....let's reach out there and claim it! This victory is our church's challenge, our cause and the source for our crown of life. Get up! Let's get going!

Sincerely Yours in Christ Jesus,

*Bro. Bill*



## Children's Variety Show



Presented by  
Cokesbury's Children's Choirs  
Anne Nolen and Lisa Nelms, Directors

Saturday, June 12 at 4 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

## Mission Pilots Needed for Galactic Blast



Galactic Blast mission is scheduled to take off on June 28th at 6 pm. The Commander for this mission is still needing a few Mission Pilots to help with our cadets. In case you are wanting to know, our Mission Pilots (teachers) have a very simple job. They take their age group on a spacewalk to each center, do an art craft with their kids, and end the evening reflecting on the Bible mission for that day. The "teaching" is done at each center and we have leaders for each of those centers. If you are able to volunteer, please visit the information table in the Commons or contact Alison Myers at 713-870-7361. For those that have signed up to volunteer and for those that want to help but not sure where, join us this Saturday, June 12th at noon in the conference room for VBS orientation and Safe Sanctuary Training. I can't wait for this Galactic Blast mission!

-Alison Myers

## Nursery Workers Needed

We are in need of some loving caregivers in our church nursery. The individuals need to be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma, and willing to work on Sunday mornings and some during the week. The pay is \$10 per hour on Sundays and \$8 per hour during the week. Please contact Alison Myers at the church office, 281-484-9243, if you or someone you know is interested in working with our little ones.



By the time this article comes out, we will be more than half way through with our week at UMARMY in Orange, Texas. Cokesbury's support, encouragement, and generosity have been overwhelming! Thank you so much for making it possible for our Senior High youth to participate in this amazing mission.

Attending this week are: High School Students: Amanda Bates, Joseph Bitner, Will Carter, Mandy Hite, Isaac Moen, Andrew Parker, Heather Pues, Melanie Thompson, Kaitlyn Wallis and Sonya Wilson; College Students: Johnny Hite, Alex Johnson and Dakota Loftin; Adults: Chudi Abajue, Laura Bradley, Linda Hite, Tom Roper and Nathan Sutton. Jack Kestler was originally part of our team, but had to drop out due to health concerns. However, he is coming over on Wednesday with Kris Wallis bringing our night's meal provided by the various Cokesbury adult Sunday School classes and the UMW.

As I write this we are packing the last items and checking our lists, and looking forward to this week with excitement and joy. This week is often a life-changing event for both kids and adults. I know it was for me when I went for the first time last year. We will spend the week living the life Jesus teaches us about in scripture. We will share the love of Christ with our church youth group and chaperones, as well as the youth and chaperones from several other churches, and all our clients. We will deepen existing relationships and build new ones.

I am reminded of a relative of one of our clients last year who tried to send the team away that went to work on his mother's house. He just couldn't understand that they were going to make repairs and build a ramp for her and were not asking for anything in return. It took a while to convince him, but finally he agreed to let them stay, but he was still skeptical. By the end of the week he was interacting with the kids and complimenting the job they were doing. I think UMARMY changed him too.

We look forward to coming home and sharing our stories with our church family.

In His Service, **Linda Hite**, Youth Director

UMArmy  
Campers  
During  
June 6  
Consecration  
Service



## Check Here for Children's June Events

School is out! Summer is here!! Now what? Children's Ministry has scheduled several events for the month of June that everyone is invited to. You will not want to miss any of these events!!

Friday, June 11th-6:30 pm is Movie Night. You will want to bring your family to this.

Saturday, June 12th-4 pm is the Cokesbury Kids & Young Singing Angels Variety/Talent Show. This will be unlike something you have seen in the past.

Wednesday, June 16th 10:30 am - Kemah Trip. We are meeting at the church at 9 am. Bring your \$5 if you have not paid yet.

June 28th-July 2nd @ 6pm - Galactic Blast VBS

-Alison Myers

## Youth Schedule

June 6 - June 12- Sr. High UMArmy  
June 20 Father's Day-No MYF  
June 24 - June 27- Jr. High Big House  
June 28 - July 2- VBS!!  
July 12- July 16- Lakeview Camp  
July 18 - July 21- District Youth Week  
Activities with other churches  
August 4- 6- Schlitterbahn,  
New Braunfels

## By The Numbers

May 30	
8:30 a.m. Service.....	66
11:00 a.m. Service.....	101
No Fountain due to Annual Conference	
Total.....	167
June 6	
8:30 a.m. Service.....	75
11:00 a.m. Service.....	99
The Fountain.....	38
Total.....	212

## Spotlighting Our Graduating Seniors

Join us in congratulating one more Cokesbury Youth who graduated from high school last week. If there are other high school or college graduates we have overlooked, please send a short article and photo to newsletter@cumchouston.org.

**Simi Indupalli** took pre-AP and AP classes throughout her high school career. She was also been a part of the choir all four years of high school. She graduated from Pearland High School last week. She now plans on attending college at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. She plans on going to medical school after she graduates from college and becoming a doctor.



## Nominations Committee Report

Your Nominations Committee is working hard planning for next year. One major project involves interviewing Cokesbury's current committee chairpersons to get their ideas about what we can do better for next year. For example, some committee tasks could be streamlined or we may need to include new priorities. We are also preparing a handout of information about each committee that can be given to prospective volunteers who are looking for a place to serve. The Nominations Committee will review the suggestions and make recommendations to the Church Council by mid-September.

Another project involves creating a new Leadership Development Program with the goal of training and supporting all of our volunteers. We are preparing a varied agenda of workshops and Bible study classes designed to give our volunteers new leadership tools, direction and inspiration. Look for more information about this in the next issue of the Courier.

Cokesbury appreciates our volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a committee, contact one of the Nominations Committee members: Pastor Bill (Chairman), Don Smith (Lay Leader), Jon Akkerman, Craig Elings, Janis Shields, Jay Hyle, Sherry Brooks, Rod Hite, Carolyn Lofland, Johnny Hite, and Patti Akkola.

## Women Learn About Living Water

Shannon Strossner of Living Water Internation (LWI) spoke at the June UMW General Meeting, presenting a video/slide show about the drinking water crisis around the world. Living Water works to help locals have safe drinking water. 884 million people around the world lack access to safe drinking water. Around the world, communities are trapped in debilitating poverty because they constantly suffer from water-related diseases and parasites, and/or because they spend long stretches of their time carrying water over long distances.

LWI began in 1990 when a Houston group went to Kenya and saw the need for clean drinking water. They returned and formed a 501(c)3 non-profit. The new group equipped and trained a team of Kenyan drillers, and LWI Kenya began operations the next year. LWI has now completed more than 9,000 water projects (and counting!) in 26 countries. Sharon also pointed out in Haiti LWI is rehabilitating wells damaged by the earthquake. A collection was taken after the talk and a check given to LWI. See their website [www.water.cc](http://www.water.cc).

-Laura Bradley

## College Bible Study Resumes

Our summer College Bible Study class will resume Sunday June 13. The class meets upstairs in the Junior High youth room each Sunday morning during the 9:45 Sunday School hour. For information, contact Chudi Abajue by email at [chudiabajue@hotmail.com](mailto:chudiabajue@hotmail.com)

## Give To Book Drive

Savannah Rose Lohec, 14, is having a book drive until June 20. Books will go to her silver project for Girl Scouts, which is to build a library for children/youth here at Cokesbury. She is also running a book drive for the ECDC. Please donate both religious and non-religious books suitable for children and youth. Put your donations in the box in the Commons.

## Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

## 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:

**2nd Sunday:** Patti & Dennis Akkola, Linda Garies, Theresa Graham, Margo & Tom Green, Linda Hite, Laurel Johnson, Carolyn Lofland, Herb Parker, Cathy Pleasants, Lois Seeley.

**3rd Sunday:** Sherry Brooks, Lynda Detwiler, Maymie DuBard, Jo Farris, Joyce Garner, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Janis Shields, Martha von Kriegenbergh, Patsy Womack.

## Recycle Your Pots-Help Restore A Prairie

I volunteer at Armand Bayou Nature Center as part of the Prairie Friday group. One of our projects is to restore the tall grass prairie at the center. Part of this effort involves growing grasses or other plants from seeds. At any one time, we have as many as 5,000 to 6,000 one gallon pots in use. If you have any 1 gallon plastic pots that you have received from nurseries when you buy new plants, bring them to the church for use in this effort. While the one gallon pots are the most use, any size will be appreciated. Put them in front of the tractor building or near Cokesbury's own prairie garden behind the Fellowship Hall.

-Laura Bradley