



**Cokesbury**

United Methodist Church

# The Cokesbury Connection

September 2012

*Our next Sermon Series:*

## **More than Enough**

*Sunday, September 23-*  
**Financial Wisdom**

*Sunday, September 30-*  
**Financial Courage**

*Sunday, October 7-*  
**Financial Peace**

## **World Communion Sunday October 7, 2012**

We would like to invite you to bring your favorite bread for World Communion Sunday. All over the world people celebrate communion using the bread that is common to their home. If you have special homemade bread or a favorite bread from another part of the world please share with us. We will use the bread in the worship service on October 7. Please bring your bread to the Sanctuary between 9:30-10am.



## **PASTOR'S PAGE**

### **How big is your God?**

So my God is big, like OMNI big. You know, ALL: All-powerful, all-knowing, all-present. I love my big God, because I really need a God who is big. I've got big stuff going on in my life that can't be handled by a small God. But the thing about my big God, is that often thinking about how big God is, reminds me of how small I am. Sometimes I really need to be reminded how small I am. Remember, how two sentences ago I talked about the big stuff going on in my life, well it's really not THAT big. Not in the scheme of things.

That's the thing about my big God. Sometimes God is so big and I begin to realize how small I am and I start to think, "How can small little me do anything for a God so big?" Or even worse, when I contemplate God as all in all, it makes me think "Do I even need to do anything for a God that is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present?" It's when I start thinking like this that I wonder, "Is my God too big?"

Now I know that God can't be too big. But sometimes I forget that even though God is big, God still can use me. The path that God chose for God's people was to be an extension of God's son Jesus. We are the hands and feet of Christ. We are the church and the church was God's gift to the world, which in turn makes us God's gift to the world. And suddenly, our really big God becomes life-size; me-size, you-size, even child-size.

I get overwhelmed with all of the big things that need to be done. Our church's mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That is big and I need a big God for that! But I also need to remember that every small thing that is done by me, by you, by our church is a step in making that mission a reality. Sure sometimes big things happen, but mostly its small things done faithfully in the ordinariness of the day. This is how God works. God works through the church, through the body of Christ, through small little us. And through the small things great big things happen!

**Pastor Megan**

**NEVER WORRY ABOUT NUMBERS.  
HELP ONE PERSON AT A TIME,  
AND ALWAYS START WITH THE PERSON**

**NEAREST  
YOU.**

**-MOTHER THERESA**



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# September 2012

**Sunday Morning Schedule**  
**9:30 a.m. Sunday School**  
**10:30 a.m. Combined Worship**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <b>Labor Day</b> (church office closed) 7:00 pm AA & AI Alon 7:00 pm WSID	4 1:00 pm Emmaus 5:00 pm Camellia Gar Club	5 9:00 am Petal Pushers Gar. Club 6:30 pm Choir	6 6:30 pm Weight Watchers	7 District Lay Speaker School thru Sunday, September 9	8 Lay Speaker School
9 <i>Epworth Workday Offering</i> Lay Speaker School NO Church Council	10 3:30 pm Twin Oaks 7:00 pm AA & AI Alon 7:00 pm WSID	11 1:00 pm Emmaus	12 12:00 pm Yah Yabs 6:30 pm Choir	13 6:30 pm Weight Watchers	14	15 9:00 am Food Pantry
16 SPRC meeting after worship	17 7:00 pm AA & AI Alon 7:00 pm WSID	18 1:00 pm Emmaus 7:00 pm UMW	19 6:30 pm Choir	20 6:30 pm Weight Watchers	21	22
23 Food Pantry Offering after worship service	24 7:00 pm AA & AI Alon 7:00 pm WSID	25 1:00 pm Emmaus	26 10:00 am Newsletter Folders 6:30 pm Choir	27 6:30 pm Weight Watchers	28	29
30 Lay Leadership mtg. after worship						



The next **KAIROS Weekend** at Lieber Correctional Institution is **September 13-16** and David Wiley is again asking for **homemade cookies** for the prisoners and staff. Flyers with instructions will be in all adult classrooms and in the narthex. David will provide boxes for those who need them and will collect the cookies on Sunday, September 9.  
 Thank you for sharing your love with those in prison.

## THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Christine Smith	16	Dakota Alford
3	Jason Alford	16	Teresa Forney
3	Cindy Peek	16	Mike Hinson
3	Tony Ramirez	16	Blakelee Jackson
3	Jimmy Shipman	16	Jennifer Tuxworth Lee
5	Eleanor Clayton	16	Janice Pye
6	Ben Rivers	17	Bo Keller
6	Angela Wiley	18	Christina Mitchell Baker
7	Lynn Corley	20	William Flake
7	Jonathan Grimsley	20	Patrice Rivers
8	Rose Marie Jones	20	Abby Thompkins
9	Ryan Peterson	21	Dennis Scott Every
9	Michael Whitt	21	Jim Riddle
11	Hannah Peterson	21	Ryan Rivers
12	Helen Ford	24	Zachary Austin
12	Chad Graham	24	Bernard H. Williams
14	Matthew Alford	25	Anne Cantrell
14	Sylvia Gale	25	Bobby Harrelson
15	Mitchell Spivey	25	Sophie Harrelson
		25	Ron Sayer
		26	Bryan Byers
		26	Deanna Taylor

27	Michael A. Ham
27	Edith Kaufman
28	Tracy Wall
29	Frances Beasley

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Francis & Marlene Harter
2	Charles & Suzan Phillips
5	Richard & Sidney Froom
18	Bill & Vicky Warner
23	Harris & Dianne Cashwell
24	Wilfred & Barbara Zuk
30	Michael & Amy Buck

If your name is not included in our birthday or anniversaries lists or if you know of names that should be deleted from the list please contact the office.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

The UMW will hold their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, September 18, at 7:00 pm.** Our guest speaker will be Jeannie Keller who will present a program on the church library and UMW Reading program for 2013. All women of the church are invited to come to the meeting and be part of UMW.

### EMMAUS MONTHLY GATHERING

This month's **Emmaus Gathering** will be held at **Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist in North Charleston**, on **Friday, September 21, at 7:30 pm.**

### TWIN OAKS SING-A-LONG

Every **second Monday** of the month, at **3:30 pm**, a group of our Cokesbury members gathers at Twin Oaks Retirement Home to lead a **Sing-a-Long** for the Twin Oaks residents. This monthly outreach ministry would be delighted to add new voices to their group. No prior experience required. Call Mac Ham for more details.

### THE COKESBURY LIBRARY

**Come and enjoy your library! You are always welcome!** We have a wonderful selection of Christian books and DVDs for your entire family, including sections devoted to Children, Youth, Fiction, Christian Living, Marriage, Parenting, Women, Men, Devotionals, Prayer, Bible Study, Reference, and more. To see a list of the books currently in our library, please visit our online catalog at Library Thing at

<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/Cokesbury>

Also, if you would like to donate "gently" used **Christian** books or DVDs to the library, please drop them off in the "Donation" basket in the library. The library **only accepts Christian material and can no longer accept cassette tapes or VHS tapes.** Monetary donations for the purchase of new library materials are also very much appreciated! The Cokesbury Library is open on Sunday mornings and during our regular church office hours (Monday through Thursday 8:30 am-3:30 pm).

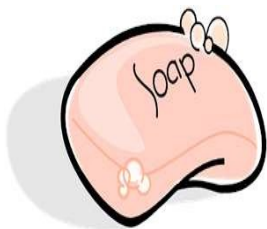
### FOOD PANTRY

Our monthly Food Pantry is held **every third Saturday** of the month at **9:00 am.** If you are aware of anyone in the 29405 or 20418 zipcode who need food assistance please tell them about our monthly Food Pantry.

Every fourth Sunday of each month Romayne Eaddy, our hat lady, will collect a special offering after worship service to replenish our monthly food pantry. Please remember those in need.

### WE STILL NEED SOAP!

Each month Cokesbury furnishes 50 to 60 bars of soap to the community supported Shalom Ministries. You may also choose to give money toward the soap ministry. For more information on this important outreach ask Marian Gentry.



Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

### HOME BOUND COMMUNION

Sue Shipman is our Cokesbury Home Bound Communion Coordinator and would be delighted to bring communion to you at home if you are unable to attend church. If you are home bound (or know someone who is) and would like to receive communion from Cokesbury please call Sue at **552-7239**.



## SAVE THIS DATE IN SEPTEMBER!!!

**THE YAH YAHs ARE MOVING INTO FALL ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, WITH A COVERED DISH LUNCHEON AT NOON, IN THE FAMILY LIFECENTER.**

**You are invited to come and be part of the fun and fellowship. Bring a covered dish and a friend and then enjoy.**



### CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

Our congratulations and best wishes to William Flake, the son of David and Dianna Flake, who graduated from Clemson University with a degree in civil engineering. He is working at a geotechnical engineering firm in Greenville. William was also married in May to Brittany Lynn Kidman.

Congratulations to Susan Warren of Jacksonville, Florida, granddaughter of Jo Warren and the late James Warren, Sr., who will be attending National University of Ireland in Galway this fall. She will major in International Human Rights Law receiving her Master's degree in the summer of 2013. Susan just returned from 2 1/2 months of traveling throughout South America.

### ~~ Notes of Thanks ~~

*Thank you to my wonderful Cokesbury family for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits while I was in the hospital. And a special thanks to Pastor Megan who came directly from landing at the airport to visit with me in the hospital. I appreciate all of you.*

*Blessings, Pat Ham*

*Thank you for the many expressions of kindness, thoughts and prayers during my downtime from Mohs surgery.*

*Blessings to all, Bette Renaud*

*Dear Cokesbury Friends,*

*I am a new Associate Teacher of Reading at Burns Elementary. At our meeting on August 16, I was excited to receive the goodie bag from you. It is really nice to feel special but it is encouraging and empowering to know that we have such support from your congregation. Thank you very much. I look forward to meeting and working with you.*

*Gratefully, Sandy Riesberg*

### Notes from the Music Ministries. .

**Children's Choir** — All children are invited to the Children's Choir! Children age 3 - 6 (Preschool - 1st grade) will have a short and playful session from 12:00 - 12:25 pm and young people age 7 - 12 (2nd - 6th grade) will have their rehearsal from 12:30 - 1:15 pm on Sundays. The first rehearsal is going to be on September 9th and I hope to see your children there! Please contact me if you are interested.



**Adult Choir** - We would like you to join us and share the beauty of singing with us! We're especially looking for Tenors and Basses. Feel free to contact me or talk to any of the choir members.

**Praise Music** - Would you like more of it at Cokesbury? Together with the choir, we're working hard on learning as many new songs as we can, and bring it out to the congregation to sing together in services. We even had the chance to hire a drummer a couple of times which was great! But why not have our own drummer? Why not have our own guitar player, singer or keyboardist?

If you have a keyboard and can donate to the church, if you play the keyboard or guitar or drums and can donate your talent and time, please do so! We would like to start a new praise team and we need people who are willing and would enjoy playing/singing praise music. If you're one of those people, please contact me at [eablnczy@hotmail.com](mailto:eablnczy@hotmail.com) or call the church office or my cell phone (843) 513-6443. Thank you!



September Monthly Mission:

# BackPackBuddies



## Packing up help for hungry children

**Backpack buddies** attacks the issue of weekend hunger for Lowcountry children. On Friday afternoon, at risk children are sent home with a backpack filled with nutritious snacks. For some of these children, school lunches may be their only meal of the day.

### How can you help?

By donating non-perishables that require no cooking or special tools such as:

- Single serving fruit cups and applesauce
- Single serving packages of crackers, chips, pretzels and cookies
- Microwavable meals and soups such as Spaghetti O's, Ramen Noodles, mac-n-cheese
- Individual cereal packs, oatmeal and instant grits
- Juice boxes
- Soups with pull tab tops
- Granola bars, raisins and trail mix
- Shelf Stable milk (white or chocolate)
- Canned chicken or tuna



The Cokesbury Children's Ministry has some fun events for the whole family coming up in October so mark your calendar now for October fun!

**Sunday October 7**, following worship service we will have our Fall Festival.

**Sunday, October 28**, we will have our second annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party. More details on this worldwide outreach will follow in the October newsletter.

## The Children's Department needs cereal boxes!

Now through April 2013 we will be collecting cereal boxes for our June 2013 VBS. These boxes will be painted and used to make a huge "stone" wall. You can open the ends and flatten them out to make storage easier. Drop them off in the old sanctuary or the mission room located across from the game room at the end of the education hallway. Thank you!!



## EPWORTH WORK DAY OFFERING

On **Sunday, September 9**, we will invest in the lives of children and we ask you to join us . . . By making a generous financial gift to the ministry of Epworth Children's Home. For more than 116 years, the Methodists of SC have supported the children who call Epworth home with their prayers, time and financial resources.

On September 9, our congregation will collect the annual Epworth Work Day Offering. When you give to Epworth, please know that you are giving directly to the children; children like Clare. Clare has been at Epworth for about two months now. She is there because her father left the family long ago and her mother has an additional problem that prevents her from caring for Clare and her two older siblings..

At the age of 11, this little girl has seen significant violence and experienced a great deal of pain. When she arrived at Epworth she had only the clothes she was wearing and a doll that was disfigured and filthy. Her little mouth was full of cavities and she was malnourished. She was failing school, and she was afraid of adults, new places and the dark.

It has been a long two months for Clare and her two older brothers, but she is approaching a healthy weight. Her cavities have all been filled and she has a new toothbrush she has been taught to use. She was matched with a tutor and her grades are improving; most importantly though, Clare is making friends and bonding with staff members. She is in a safe and nurturing environment that fosters self-respect and teaches life skills. Epworth is investing in her care and her life is being transformed from the inside out.

The financial gifts we give to Epworth Children's Home are invested to provide comprehensive care for children like Clare. We ask you to give generously, and to pray for the children of Epworth in your daily devotions.

Brochures and envelopes will be provided in the narthex and in all adult class rooms beginning on Sunday, September 2.



It's coming soon! On **Saturday, November 3**, the Cokesbury UMW will hold their annual **Fall Yard Sale**. Please consider donating those old "treasures" you no longer use. Check with any UMW member to see when they will be receiving donations for the sale.



**VOLLEYBALL SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER 10.** If you are interested in being part of the church league please call Terri Keller at 296-8767 or Laura Moore at 590-3347 as soon as possible.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER WILL BE SEPTEMBER 20.  
You may call the office, email your announcements, news items or pictures to [cokesburysecretary@comcast.net](mailto:cokesburysecretary@comcast.net) or drop them by the church office.  
Thanks for your help in meeting our deadlines!

### **WANT TO HELP OTHERS BY RECYCLING THINGS YOU HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR**

Place the following items in Room 114 (The room next to the Food Pantry.)

- 1) **BARS OF BATH SOAP** for Shalom Ministries for the North Charleston community outreach, sponsored by the Cherokee Place UMC
- 2) **CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS** (entire label) for Wallace Family life Center in Bennettsville, SC, sponsored by the United Methodist Women
- 3) **CANCELLED US POSTAL STAMPS** (with 1/4 inch edge on all sides) for Mission Storehouse Missions in Marian, Indiana, sponsored by the United Methodist Women
- 4) etc. for the SPCA (for animal beds), sponsored by the Children's Ministries
- 5) **OLD CELL TELEPHONES** to be used by deployed soldiers, sponsored by the Children's Ministries
- 6) **YARN** for shawls and lap blankets for sick and shut-ins, sponsored by the Prayer Shawl and Blanket Ministries
- 7) **USED EYEGLASSES AND GLASS CASES** for the outreach of VIM—Glasses to the Masses, sponsored by the Shepherd's Crook Emmaus Reunion Group
- 8) **USED OR EMPTY INK CARTRIDGES** for computers, sponsored by the Children's Ministries

Place the following items in Room 107 (the Fellowship Classroom)

- 9) **SODA CAN TABS** (tabs only) to Jimmie Gore, outreach project, sponsored by the Fellowship Class
- 10) **USED GREETING CARDS** (card front) for St. Jude Ranch, sponsored by the Yah Yahs and the Shepherd's Crook Emmaus Reunion Group
- 11) **OLD (empty AND washed) MEDICINE BOTTLES** for Outreach, sponsored by St. Thomas Episcopalian Church in North Charleston.

## *Our Deepest Sympathy*

*Cokesbury extends our deepest sympathy to Ken Stovall and his family at the passing of Ken's father, Julian Stovall of Huntland, TN.*

*Cokesbury also extends our deepest sympathy to the family of Lois Elvene Wells. Mrs. Wells was a long time member of Cokesbury, but has been in a nursing facility for the past several years.*

**ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, PASTOR MEGAN  
BLESSED OUR STUDENTS' BACKPACKS  
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**



Picture courtesy of Joan Johnson





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Phone: 843-552-4061  
Fax: 843-552-4063  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Several people have asked for Pastor  
Megan's address and/or telephone #.

Her parsonage address is:  
**3208 Hempstead Court**  
**Charleston, SC 29414**

And her cell telephone # is:  
**(843) 834-5891**

Pastor Megan's tel. # was incorrectly  
listed in the August newsletter. Above  
is the correct #.



### Cokesbury Staff

Megan Gray, Pastor  
Eszter Ablonczy, Music Director  
Pam Coleman, Children's Ministry Dir.  
Miriam Graham, Youth Director  
Leigh Ann Sayer, Youth Director  
Lyn Bridges, Secretary  
Tommy Myers, Sexton

mlgray@umcsc.org  
eablonczy@hotmail.com  
colemanps@comcast.net  
brettfan4@aol.com  
leighannsayer@gmail.com  
cokesburysecretary@comcast.net

