

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017 COURIER:

Cokesbury United Methodist Church of Margate, Florida

Along the Way: GRACE In Action

It takes less than three minutes to read *Philemon*. Though one of the briefest books in the New Testament, Paul's letter to his friend is not short on helpfulness to us. Paul distinguishes between doing the right thing simply because it is the right thing, and willingly doing the right thing because we realize how much has been done for us. True, Philemon had been wronged by his runaway slave, Onesimus, and Paul doesn't deny the fact. But also true is the generous grace God has shown Philemon in redeeming him through Jesus' action on the cross. Bottom line: Paul is saying, "Philemon, how about showing Onesimus the same generous grace? After all, now that Onesimus belongs to Christ he's a changed person—AND your brother in the Lord."

Grace in action. Isn't that what is needed as we live our faith as peacemakers, the children of God? Our testimony of thanksgiving is shaped by knowing how much we have been forgiven, and thus can forgive and show mercy on others. Not dismissing actual wrongs but working for the transformation of the wrong-doer—to the glory of God.

That's why our aim is to ensure every mission and ministry of Cokesbury focuses on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Grace in action—it's what our country and world need right now, and it's what we are about.

I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people. (Philemon, verses 4-7, NLT)

Blessings for the journey,
Pastor CJ



Mission & Ministry Ongoing Opportunities

Each month the organizing leaders of Cokesbury's mission and ministry teams get together to see where work is needed, where it overlaps, where it can be built upon. By its very nature mission and ministry is messy—neat categories cannot define God's grace in action. Below is information for you to lift in prayer AND efforts for you to join as we serve God with thanksgiving in our hearts.

MEN'S GROUP: There are about 70 men in the congregation. The purpose of the Men's Group is to get to know and serve these men by having a prayer breakfast meeting once a month with a guest speaker, a Word from Rich and an activity as they become available; i.e., the ball game Aug. 19. Next gathering is in OCTOBER. —*Rich Updegraff*

FOOD PANTRY: The congregation's generous response to this summer's request for cereal and peanut butter has been extra important as the monetary fund is getting low. We have a great team of workers. —*Geanie Schmidt*

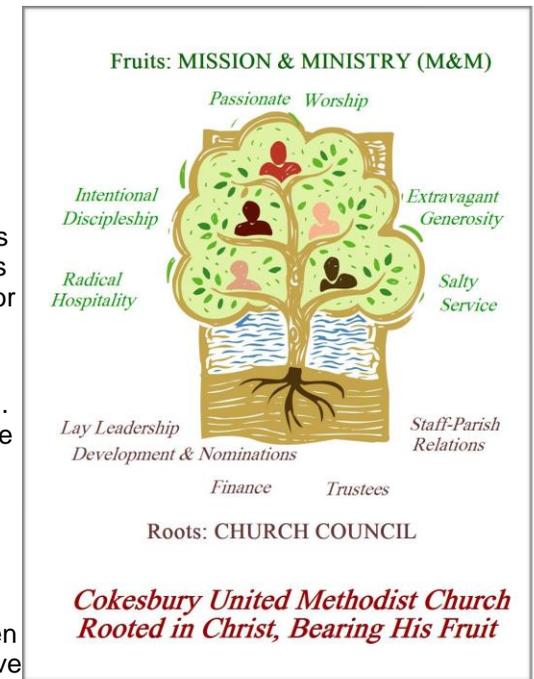
SHOEBOXES: When you see a fun or useful item for a preschool or elementary age boy or girl that will fit into a shoebox consider purchasing it for our shoebox ministry. Come December boys and girls living in resource-poor homes will be very happy to receive a box of delights. Soon we will ask our partners at Parkway UMC if particular items are needed. —*Sondra Bass*

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We are averaging 6-9 children in both services, occasionally 14! The Nursery is for infant-to-2 years of age; Sunday School is for two (2)-to-12 year olds and currently we have no one for 12-14 years of age. Teachers, substitutes, helpers are needed! Also needed: about four (4) more chairs.—*Joan Martin* [Adult SS meets most Sundays at 10.45. Currently studying the Lord's Prayer.]

GALS (GOD'S ANGELS, LOVING SERVANTS)

The purpose of the all-age women's group is to serve each other, the church and the community. They will be meeting **Saturday, September 2nd** at 9:30 in Settle Hall after having been off for the summer. It will be a planning meeting; some programs will be repeated and new ones will be discussed. The profit from the Art/Craft Fair after expenses was \$600.—*Wendie Carper*

GREETERS: This vital ministry makes everyone, but especially first time visitors, know they are welcome at Cokesbury. Still needed: a greeter for the 4th Sunday in the 9:30 service. Greeters: PLEASE call Pauline when they are not available to greet.—*Pauline Torchia*



HOSPITALITY CART: It's been great to have Suzanne Goodwin helping Harry a lot with providing refreshments between services. PLEASE sign up on the roster and take a turn. It's a great way to talk with people you haven't had a chance to meet/talk to in a while. —*Harry Murphy*

Mission & Ministry New/Modified Opportunities

THUMB'S UP: Parents are already asking Margate Elementary Principal, Thomas Schroeder, if their children can join this year's Thumb's Up program at Cokesbury. This year homework and academic enrichment will focus solely on reading. Physical and social games, snack time, will be offered along with training in areas like manners and etiquette, building character, cooking, etc. All groups will remain in Settle Hall when not playing outside. LEADERS needed from 2-5 pm or 3-5 pm (depending on role played). Sign up now and a training class will soon be offered. —*Joan Martin*

READING PALS: We are invited to commit to read to ONE first-grader ONE hour ONCE a week during the school day (8:00 am to 2:00 pm) in the Margate Elementary School Resource Room (staffed by a teacher at all times). A background check and short training in the READING PALS Program is required. Let the Church Office know if you want to participate.—*Pastor CJ*

FALL FESTIVAL: Since we are NOT hosting a Pumpkin Patch this year, Margate Elementary School has invited Cokesbury to enhance their patch with our decorations. As their Fall Festival is scheduled the same night we had planned our Community Dinner: Friday, October 27th we will change our date to November 19th and join them in their Fall Festival (which has over 1,000 in attendance). We can have our Cake Auction with ALL the proceeds going to the church earmarked for the Food Pantry which they said will garner even more support. We can ask for food to be collected at the Festival and Cokesbury can have a booth to offer coffee/water, cookies and conversation. Also, Cokesbury may provide 10 of the 20 cars used for Trunk or Treat. Cars are highly decorated and candy given out from them.—*Pastor CJ*

EVANGELISM: The current working group is going to concentrate on ways to build the choir—and the congregation—of the 11 o'clock worship service. Since each worship service is so different the types of evangelism that works for one isn't necessarily that which works for another. (Pastor CJ is grateful for Tony Torchia's faithful leadership over the past several years and his adaptability!)—*Tony Torchia*

CONVERGE: The new Saturday night worship experience began with 18 in attendance; on August 12th there were 38. Weekly breakdown: averaging 10 from church and the rest are Food Pantry recipients and people from the community; the word is getting out. Wendie reported to the M&M group on August 15th when they see CONVERGE attendees at the Food Pantry giveaway, their demeanor is 'changed;' they are happy to see someone they know from CONVERGE. Geanie said we need more kitchen help: you can make what you want for about \$50-\$60 for about 35 people. A basket for donations is on the food table and some money is collected but not yet enough to cover the costs. Also needed: children's project helpers. The Finance Committee agreed to cover current

costs. The worship leader, a high school student from Plantation, is being paid from the Ministry Encouragement Fund. —*Wendie Carper, Geanie Schmidt, Pastor Scott*

We will be offering the Cokesbury Fundraiser Calendar Contest for 2018...so, get your photographs ready!

The contest rules are:

Photographs must be horizontal

Photographs must be Florida places and things

Photographs must be digital

You can submit two (2) photographs each

NO previous photographs

NO photo shop pictures

Must be submitted by **Friday, September 1st**. Judging will be the third Thursday of **September, the 21st**

Also! Please attempt to get business card-size ads for the calendar from local businesses to help defray publishing costs! (See Ad Receipt form below) Thank you,
John & Gerry Leone, 954-380-0487 or 954-979-9855

REGISTRATION FOR BUSINESS CARD-SIZE AD TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE 2018 CALENDAR

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Donation: \$50.00 Cash _____ Check No. _____

Make checks payable to: **Cokesbury UMC** * Attention or Memo: **Digital Photo Discovery**

This calendar is a fundraising project to benefit the Digital Photo Discovery Group that meets on the third Thursday of each month to share and experience the use of our digital cameras. Meetings are held in Room number 6 of Cokesbury United Methodist Church. Membership is open to amateur photographers over the age of 18.

Can You Step In?

We are the church together! NEEDED: Two more ushers at 9.30 and two at 11. Two more greeters for the 9.30 service. THREE people to take one turn a month to host the refreshments between services. (If you cannot physically host would you help by providing the snacks once a month?) Nursery substitutes and Sunday School teachers. Bread Angel every other Tuesday morning. People willing to be called upon for transport. Commitment to prepare a meal for CONVERGE.

Twice monthly: people willing to host refreshments on a Friday for parents waiting in our parking lot for their school children. Someone attending the 11 o'clock willing to help Carolyn Marshall pick up the Friendship Pad sheets after worship. **Do not wait to be asked—these are ways to serve that need someone to step in and say, “I’ll be glad to handle that!”** Speak to Pastors CJ and Scott or Linda Sue if the someone is YOU.

Calendar (as of August 19th)

Other Groups Sharing the Campus:

Monday through Friday, **Victory Living**, 7 am- 4 pm, Rooms 2, 3, 4

Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, **Spanish Alcoholics Anonymous**, 8-10 pm, Grace’s Place (Room 4)

Tuesdays, **Boy Scouts**, 6.30-9 pm, Settle Hall

Wednesday and Fridays, **Anglo Alcoholics Anonymous**, 7-8 pm, Don Lowe Chapel

Thursdays, **Spanish Al-Anon**, 8-10 pm, Don Lowe Chapel

Always check with our Church Secretary about room availability before you schedule usage as there are “one-off” meetings NOT listed. Thank you.

AUGUST

- 19 **9:00 am Men’s Breakfast —Settle Hall**
5:30-7:00 pm — CONVERGE Dinner & Worship - Settle Hall
- 20 **9:30 & 11:00 am Worship; also Sunday School & Children’s Church**
9:45 am - Choir Practice - Room 7
10:45 am – Bible Study – Lowe Chapel
4:00 pm – Next Steps with Pastor – Bowman Library
- 21 1:00 pm – Lunch Bunch – Settle Hall



- 23 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 24 7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice - Sanctuary
- 26 **5:30-7:00 pm — CONVERGE Dinner & Worship - Settle Hall**
- 27 **9:30 & 11:00 am Worship also Sunday School & Children’s Church**
9:45 am - Choir Practice - Room 7
NO Adult Sunday School today.
- 28 4:30 pm – Food Pantry – Settle Hall & Room 1
- 30 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library (Rich Updegraff, leading)
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 31 7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice – Sanctuary

SEPTEMBER

- 02 **9:30 AM – GALS (God’s Angels, Loving Servants) – Settle Hall**
5:30-7:00 pm — CONVERGE Dinner & Worship - Settle Hall
- 03 **9:30 & 11:00 am Worship also Sunday School & Children’s Church**
- 04 **LABOR DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
7:00 pm - NO Trustees Meeting until next week.
- 05 7:00 pm — 11 o'clock Evangelism Committee Meeting – Bowman Library
- 06 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 07 7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice - Sanctuary << 7th LIKELY Lay Leadership
Development & Nominations @ 6/7.
- 09 **5:30-7:00 pm — CONVERGE Dinner & Worship - Settle Hall**
- 10 **9:30 & 11:00 am Worship also Sunday School & Children’s Church**
- 11 4:30 pm – Food Pantry – Settle Hall & Room 1
6:30 pm - Finance —Bowman Library
7:30 pm – Trustees Committee Meeting – Bowman Library ****Note day/time change**
- 13 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary

- 6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 14 7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice - Sanctuary
- 15-16 6:00 pm Fri. - 5:00 pm Sat.—Leaders’ Retreat — Duncan Center, Delray Beach.**
- 16 5:30-7:00 pm — CONVERGE Dinner & Worship - Settle Hall**
- 17 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship also Sunday School & Children’s Church**
- 18 1:00 pm – Lunch Bunch – Settle Hall
- 19 6:00 pm – Mission & Ministry Meeting – Bowman Library
- 20 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 21 3:30 pm - M.I.C.A.H. Meeting – Lowe Chapel << **21st LIKELY** Lay Leadership
7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice – Sanctuary Development & Nominations
7:00 pm – Digital Photo Discovery – Courtyard Room 6 meeting at either 6 or 7
- 23 5:30-7:00 pm — CONVERGE Dinner & Worship - Settle Hall**
- 24 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship also Sunday School & Children’s Church**
- 25 4:30 pm – Food Pantry – Settle Hall & Room 1
6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting – Lowe Chapel
- 27 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
7:00 pm *Our turn to attend and pray for City Commission Meeting*
- 28 2:30 pm – Thumbs Up Begins – Settle Hall
7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice – Sanctuary

NO Adult
Sunday School
on 17th.

Leadership Retreat

Thankful for leadership past and present, what is God’s plan for Cokesbury in the future? We prayerfully continue the discernment process through a dedicated time set apart for discovery. If you ARE serving in a leadership capacity or are WILLING to do so in the near future we hope you will sign up for the **Leadership Retreat, Friday and Saturday, September 15th and 16th at the Duncan Center, 15820 S. Military Trail, Deerfield Beach.** The cost is \$140/person for each person staying in a double room, three meals, conference room, use of pool, etc. There is a different rate for folks who can only attend on Saturday but we will benefit from as many as possible coming on Friday for community

building. We will be taking the next step of setting SMART goals to implement the Vision Group’s accepted recommendations to Church Council, and we’ll also have rich times of worship and fellowship together. Beginning with dinner at 6:00 pm on Friday through Saturday before dinner (around 5:00 pm), please be in prayer for this gathering. If you feel called to participate please speak with Pastor CJ, Pastor Scott, Lay Leader Joan Stout, Church Council Leader Chelsia Binns or Mission & Ministry Chair Harry Murphy.

Harvest-Thanksgiving Celebration (Caribbean-style)

We have a Harvest-Thanksgiving (Caribbean-style) planned for morning worship, **Sunday, November 19th.** The sanctuary will be decorated with sugar cane, banana, etc. and Joan Stout is hoping to provide steel drums player. Everyone is invited to bring food that we can then either distribute through 1-GALS to the house-bound, 2- Food Pantry, 3-the auction held in the evening. If you would like to help Joan with the planning, etc. please speak with her as soon as possible.

Community Thanksgiving Worship and Dinner

Following the great Harvest-Thanksgiving Celebration of the morning, we plan to host an outdoor worship and dinner that night, Sunday, November 19. This event will be sponsored by Cokesbury as part of MICAH (Margate Initiative for Community Action and Hope). Inviting our neighbors, school families, fellow members of MICAH, the vision is to set up tables displaying harvest celebrations from around the world. Food, music, and perhaps crafts from the nations will help us celebrate the rich, varied cultural heritage of our country’s citizens. Many churches do this on what they call Multi-cultural Sunday with flags, costumes, music, etc. We might auction off the morning harvest decorations and/or other items; for the benefit of the Food Pantry or another mission.

The planning is just beginning with the idea embraced by M&M and MICAH. Do YOU have an inspiration as to how we can include all ages and cultures?



Worship at Cokesbury

On Saturday nights:

Dinner and Worship from 5:30pm - 7:00pm.



CONVERGE is an all age, family style event combining dinner, music, fellowship, and fun in a fresh interactive format focused on relationship building. Building relationships with each other and most importantly, with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, will be the intentional focus throughout each part of the program. Patterning ourselves off of how the early church organized itself in Acts 2: 42-47, we worship together, pray together, study together, sing together, eat together, living with each other as the Body of Christ.

The program changes from week to week to keep it fresh. Right now we're focusing on FORGIVENESS. We have short sermon sections, followed by table discussions and singing. The room is arranged in a semi circle, with round tables to enhance discussions and relationship building. Children and teens lead in parallel activities that they then share with the group at the end of the service.

The music is coffee house style with one musician, Lizzie, leading the service with up tempo, fun and joyful songs.



On Sunday mornings:

Informal Music and Message from 9.30-10.40

Traditional Worship at 11.00 (10.50—with additional hymn sing during August)

Sunday morning worship is the best way to begin your week with remembering Who you are because of WHOSE you are. Participate through prayer, singing, meditating on the Word of God, contributing your talents and treasure, and encouraging others.

We are looking to diversify—do you know anyone willing to play **KEYBOARD for the Lord** (or other instruments, including vocals) at 9.30? The hope is to have at least TWO praise teams so our selfless volunteer musicians can share the load and also to allow us to integrate additional types of Christian music.

At 11 we have a wonderful choir... with room and a heart for more choir members. We are also in need of people to help with our frailer worshippers—are you available to give a hand?

At both Sunday morning worship services we will have a three week series called “By God’s Grace, YOU CAN, beginning August 27th. It’s about simple yet effective ways we can bring civil conversation and positive political action back into the public arena. Mid September (17th) we focus on MOSES: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE RELUCTANT PROPHET. This remarkable story continues to speak to our lives today—come and see!



Together We Do More

This is true in the local church AND through the global United Methodist Connection. Through our giving combined with that of 16.5 million other United Methodists we are serving people in need in 136 countries. We call the methodical collecting and distributing resources the Apportionment System. Each congregation sets aside a portion of their income as the base line of giving beyond it's own local mission and ministries. Each month we designate 10% (a tithe) of all that is given to Cokesbury to sustain these funds. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

WORLD SERVICE: The essential core of our global outreach ministry, this fund underwrites Christian mission around the world. By giving to World Service we empower United Methodist evangelistic efforts...stimulate Bible study and spiritual commitment...encourage church growth and discipleship...and help God’s children everywhere.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY: This vital fund supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa—serving students from 21 countries, all across the continent of Africa. Africa University provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.

BLACK COLLEGE: The 11 U.S. historically Black colleges and universities supported by The United Methodist Church have played a unique role in U.S. higher education. Their graduates—teachers and doctors, ministers and bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs—are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States.

EPISCOPAL: Bishops are elected and consecrated to speak to the church, ...and from the church. The apostle Paul called it “a noble task,” but it is practical, too, since our bishops oversee and promote the church’s spiritual and temporal interests as well.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION: Men and women choose the ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way of helping them answer that divine call. Our United Methodist seminaries lead the effort to proclaim God’s word in a world desperately in need of that message.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION: We United Methodists acknowledge that we are but a small part of the worldwide Christian church—the living body of Jesus Christ. Our unity with other

Christian communions is affirmed as we witness to a common Christian faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION: This fund underwrites and finances general church activities that are administrative in nature, rather than program-related—like General Conference, the legislative branch of the church. General Council on Finance and Administration coordinates and administers the finances of the church, receives, disburses and accounts for the church's general funds, safeguards the denomination's legal interests and rights, compiles and publishes denominational statistics and maintains the church's records.

The above is in addition to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for disaster response and reconstruction; particular ministries through ADVANCE, special gifts to WORLD SERVICE and YOUTH SERVICE Funds AND local work such as Food Pantry, Worship, Bible Study, etc. We believe this orderly way of accountable giving is the best way to ensure good stewardship of what is entrusted to the church for mission and ministry as we focus on doing what Jesus did (and continues to do through us): discipling those who lead his church; welcoming those who don't know his Father, and those who do; meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the poor; and healing the sick.

