

HISTORY OF
COKESBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Cokesbury church was named in honor of the first two bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury. Organized on October 16, 1949, with a membership of 37, services were held in the Rock Springs Public School until February 1952 when the Sanctuary on Sheridan Road was completed and consecrated.

Cokesbury continued at the Sheridan location until early 1964 when, at the suggestion of the Board of Church Extension and under the leadership of the Rev. James W. Scarborough, relocating the church elsewhere was begun. Under the guidance of the Rev. Allen T. Newby an 11 acre property, complete with an old residence, on North Druid Hills Road at High Haven Court, was placed under contract and liquidation of the Sheridan facility was begun. During the nine months design and construction period of the combination education and sanctuary building, services were held at Briarcliff High School.

In March, 1967, the education and sanctuary facility was completed, consecrated and occupied. It has served in a fine fashion during the ensuing 27 years. Several studies were made and plans developed to improve the worship area during those years. None were able to be implemented until early in 1990 when an offer was made by a developer to purchase the rear portion of the property for the construction of homes. The funds provided by this sale were the seed money for the present sanctuary. Under the leadership of our pastor, the Rev. Dr. James D. Howell, and the building committee the present sanctuary was designed and completed in March, 1991.

A \$93,000 mortgage was secured to supplement the funds from the property sale to pay for this building. In December 1993, through the generosity of the membership, the mortgage balance was paid and since that time the property has been debt free.

Cokesbury's organizing pastor was the Reverend J. Douglas Swagerty who served from 1949 to 1955. Succeeding pastors of Cokesbury have been:

Dr. Walter E. Brown	1955-1960
Rev. James W. Scarborough	1960-1964
Rev. Allen T. Newby	1964-1968
Rev. B. H. Benier	1968-1969
Rev. Gerald Jacobson	1969-1973
Rev. Norton Campbell, Jr.	1973-1980
Rev. Charles H. Duffey	1980-1984
Rev. Frank E. Jenkins	1984-1987
Dr. James D. Howell	1987-1993

Our present pastor, Dr. William A. McKoy, was appointed to Cokesbury in June, 1993.