

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

## an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

Vol. 153 No. 28

Friday, November 17, 2006

076453

### Cokesbury United Methodist Church

10030 Scarsdale Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77089  
(281) 484-9243  
www.cumchouston.org

### Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: **Dot** Margheim, **Ed** and **Janis** Shields, **Mildred** Tynes (Amanda Lohec's mother). **Jerry** Doan (Suzanne Warren's brother-in-law), **Jay** and **Lotus** Ricketts, **Gloria** Crawford, **Garth** Sloan during his Iraq deployment, **Clint** Keith, **Herb** Parker, **Rachel** Glass, **Martha** Heinrich and **Katy** Kuhlman. Also prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of Madeline Ruth Bogan (parents Amy and Robert Bogan and grandmother Donna Klassen). If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 281-484-9243.



**November 19**--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Leo LeBlanc from Don and Sue Smith.

**November 26**--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of David from Jim and Peggy Smith.

### Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

### From The Pastor

One of the wonderful things I've learned lately is how to recognize junk. By this I mean, my computer has been trained how to recognize junk e-mail as it comes in. It automatically funnels junk email from the inbox to the junk file.

You know the kind of junk e-mail I'm talking about -- offers on fabulously profitable stocks and bonds, offers of pharmaceuticals I will never need, and weird stuff I don't even want to think about. Darrel Raines set this up for me, and I'm really grateful -- it's saved me lots and lots of aggravation.

In order for the computer to recognize junk, it has to be taught what's worth keeping. Each time a piece of junk mail arrives, I send it to the junk file. Gradually, the computer learns how to tell the difference.

Wouldn't it be great if we each had our own personal spiritual junk file? We could train it to recognize some of the ridiculous things we think are true about God and our relationship with God.

This Sunday will be our Consecration Sunday. As I told you before, it's a very holy time for our congregation.

Here's some junk I'd like you to delete: You should give out of guilt. You should give because the church needs money. You should give because God will punish you if you don't. What you give should be decided by your budget and your checkbook.

Here's some truth I hope you will save: Giving is not about money; it's about your relationship with God. Giving is trusting God to take care of you. Giving is a joy, not a burden. Giving comes from your heart.

I'm looking forward to next Sunday. It's a beautiful opportunity to connect more closely with God.

God bless you,  
**Sandra Smith**

P.S. Don't forget our 45th birthday celebration Sunday the 19th at noon! Come help us blow out 45 candles.



### Selected Contents

- Position Open at Cokesbury.....8
- Help Others At Christmas Thru SeAM.....8
- Thanks, Jay.....8
- Upcoming MYF Events.....8
- Hope for the Holidays-November 26.....8

### Sunday is Deadline for Christmas Child

Make a difference in a child's life this Christmas. The Stafford-Wyatt Circle of the UMW is sponsoring Operation Christmas Child which sends gifts to needy children around the world through Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse. Send a shoe box filled with treasures to a child who has never received a present, a child who has suffered because of war, natural disaster, poverty or neglect.

We have been told that a plastic shoe box is best as it can be useful in many ways to the child who receives it. These and many of the items to include in the box can be found at local dollar stores. It is important to include \$7.

Our last Sunday for to receive the boxes is **November 19**.

-Kris Wallis

### Apportionments Due!

"Apportionments" are the part of our church's budget that go to ministries beyond our doors. It is about 10% of our expenses. You could call it our "tithes" to others.

Apportionments pay pension benefits for retired pastors, support campus ministries for our young people at colleges and universities around the state, keep our camp at Lakeview open, help provide nation-wide programs such as Igniting Ministry.

Apportionments send and support missionaries all around the world. Through our apportionments, the hungry are fed, the thirsty can drink clean water, the homeless find shelter.

Our Apportionments are our "Great Commission" ministries - they offer God's love in tangible ways all around the world.

**We want to pay our fair share of these ministries.** That means, before the end of the year, **we must send an additional \$18,500 in to the Annual Conference.** We have a long way to go!

Please prayerfully consider making an extra gift to Cokesbury before the end of the year to help us meet the needs of others. You can write "apportionments" on the memo line of your check, and we'll be sure it gets to the right place. Thank you!

### HAPPY 45TH BIRTHDAY COKESBURY!

### Tree of Lights



is being offered  
at Cokesbury again this year.

It is a beautiful and meaningful way to remember those people who have touched our lives. You can honor or memorialize someone special by lighting a light on our tree. The tree will be placed on the Scarsdale (front) side in our new courtyard. Fill out the form below, attach your check, and drop it in the offering plate. You can also mail it to the church office. All proceeds will benefit the church.

Watch our tree  
begin to glow  
with beauty!

### Tree of Lights

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 - Red Light

\$50 - Blue Light  
\$500 - Star at the Top

\$100 - Yellow Light

Please print CLEARLY exactly the way you want your light to appear.

### Help Decorate the Church

Order Poinsettias For Christmas-\$10 each

In honor/memory of: circle one

From \_\_\_\_\_



## Cokesbury - A 21st Century Church

This last Sunday, November 12, Cokesbury church members had group pictures taken in celebration of Cokesbury's 45th birthday. The pictures will be on display in the narthex this Sunday November 29 for our Commitment Sunday and Birthday Party.

Everyone had a good time getting their picture taken in our church's common area. Thanks to our photographers Jim Krafka, Hap Garies and Jackie Glass. The group picture sessions were filled with laughter, memories of old times, discrepancies in watch time, and waiting for the camera to snap, and everyone said "cheese," "Hey", or better yet "Cokesbury." We were all the family of Cokesbury United Methodist Church. Some of us ended up in the wrong picture, but that is okay. Some of us have become bald or wrinkled, but that is okay too. We all had smiles on our faces. We were with our very own church family, and that feeling made us smile.

Many people might think that we are a church of the 1970's or '80's, but no--Cokesbury is a church of the 21st century. Please take a look at those pictures this Sunday and you will see that most of our members have joined Cokesbury since 2000. That's a lot of new ideas, energy, and spiritual blessing to be used for our Lord!

Thank all of you for getting your picture made on November 12 and also for pictures made on November 5.

-Mary Short

## Upcoming MYF Events

On Sunday the 12th, MYF had another successful parent planning meeting! There was an excellent turnout and much was accomplished. Thank you to all who showed up and helped with their time, ideas, and suggestions!

This Saturday the 18th, the Youth will be returning to Park Manor Nursing Home to visit with the older folks! Nikki Sikora and her Youth Choir will be singing some beautiful songs and we'll all spend some time getting to know our neighbors from down the street a little better! All youth are invited to come. We will meet at church at 9:00 a.m. and return around 11:30 a.m.

There will not be MYF this Sunday (the 19th), but we will be participating in a service project over at Christian Alliance in Pearland on Monday the 20th. We will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. and head over to help with various clean-up projects. We will go out for lunch afterwards and return to church at around 1 p.m.

We will have MYF on Sunday the 26th at the regular time (5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.).

We also set tentative work camp dates for next summer: JUMMP (for junior high youth): July 9 - 13 and UMARMY (for high school youth) June 3 - 9.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything, call me at church! Thanks!

Peter Bonanno-Youth Director

## A New Way to Give-Contributions Made Easy

Many of you have asked if our church offers an electronic or automated option for giving. Now we do! Easy and simple for you, Electronic Giving allows your weekly, bi-weekly or monthly contributions to be transferred electronically from your checking or savings account to the church's account. No more writing checks or making sure you have cash. One simple and easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount. Of course you can cancel your authorization of transfer at any time by notifying us in writing. The authorization forms and "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions" will both be available by November 19th, Consecration Sunday. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ted Pace.

-Ted Pace, Finance Committee Chair

## Help Others At Christmas Through SeAM

Again this year, Southeast Area Ministries has a number of families whose Christmas season will be bleak without assistance. SeAM has collected the names of the children under fifteen in the families so we can help obtain gifts for them. They also obtained the clothing sizes and toy wishes of these children.

This is very similar to what was done the last few years. If you would like to purchase items for a child, look for the small Christmas tree outside the narthex on Sunday. It will have little paper ornaments with a child's name and their desired gifts. Take the ornament and write your name and phone number on the sheet of paper located by the tree.

You can take presents to the families or arrange to meet the family at SeAM's office. Contact me if you have questions (281-992-2604).

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

## Future Deadlines

The deadlines for our next few editions of the Courier are shown below:

Items to Paper	Paper Issue Date
November 27	December 1
December 11	December 15

## By The Numbers

November 12

Worship Attendance 8:30.....	105
Worship Attendance 9:45.....	45
Worship Attendance 11:00.....	147
Total Worship Attendance.....	297

## Thanks, Jay

A very big thank you to Jay Hyle for arranging for the major concrete work that was completed last week at Cokesbury at no cost to the church. Our long-existing holes in the parking lot were repaired. In addition, the front sidewalk damage was corrected and two additional sidewalks were added to the back of the Fellowship Hall.

Say thanks to Jay the next time you see him for the improved look of the church.

## Position Open at Cokesbury

Cokesbury UMC is looking for a part-time Assistant Director of Praise and Worship. This person would work closely with the pastor and the Director of Praise and Worship to plan and implement the contemporary worship service. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 281-484-9243. The deadline for application is Monday, November 20.

## Hope for the Holidays-November 26

Christmas is a time for joy! But if you are missing a loved one, Christmas can also mean an empty chair at the dinner table, packages missing under the tree, and an overwhelming sense of loneliness and loss. In fact, more people suffer from depression around the Christmas holidays than at any other time of the year.

This year, we will be offering a special worship service on Sunday night, November 26 at 6:30 p.m., called Hope for the Holidays. It is designed for anyone who feels a sense of sadness or loss during the holidays.

The service will be brief and simple. We will honor the memory of those we are missing and remember again the promises of God. If you are anticipating a difficult Christmas, you and your family are welcome. And please invite any of your neighbors and friends who may benefit from such a service.



Dear Friends,

Carl and I want to thank you for your cards, gifts and prayers and for also coming to my mother's memorial service. We want to especially thank Dee Pouzar and Carolyn Breathed for putting together such a meaningful and thoughtful service and organizing the food. Also, thanks to the Wesley Class for providing sandwiches. Thanks to Kathy Lemaster for playing the piano and to everyone for your thoughtful words and stories about my mother. Seeing all of you at the service helped me to get through losing my mother and to speak about her life.

-Lynda and Carl Detwiler

## Noodle November

This month is "Noodle November" for donating food to SeAM. Try to bring a package of spaghetti or noodles or other non-perishables to help the needy.



### Giving for October 29

Budgeted.....	\$5,409
Bond Fund.....	\$260
CDO Income.....	\$1,255
Designated Giving.....	\$18
Interest Income.....	\$147
Total Giving for 10-29.....	\$7,090

### Giving for November 5

Budgeted.....	\$10,849
CDO Income.....	\$4,925
Bond Fund.....	\$966
Designated Giving.....	\$1,846
Bazaar.....	\$4,912
Total Giving for 11-05.....	\$23,099

### Bank Balances As Of November 11

Operating Balance.....	\$1,479
Bond Fund.....	\$4,236
Designated Fund.....	\$23,776
T-Mobile Account.....	\$31,823
Total.....	\$61,328

We are 4 months behind on our apportionments.

Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

## Adult Class News

### Becomers (Room 252)

Our current study book is "Who Is God in Three Persons?" It includes interesting Bible Reading and discussion. Adults of all ages are welcome with us.

### New Disciples (New Location-Room 208)

We have started a new series of lessons titled, "Families in the Family of God". This Bible study focuses on our individual roles within our families and what roles we play in the family of God.

### New Beginnings (Room 156)

We have begun a new lesson series on Challenging Traditional Christian Beliefs, led by Darrel Raines. On November 18, we will have "Fish and Fund" at the Brooks' home.

### Omega-(Room 153-11 a.m.)

We have begun a study on the Sermon on the Mount. Join us at 11 a.m.

### Wesley Class (Conference Room)

We are studying the book, "Jesus Did It Anyway", by Kent Keith.

### Adult Bible Study (Room 210)

We have started a study of the book of Leviticus based on the book by John Hartly, other commentaries and the Bible. We will be covering Chapters 8,9,& 10.

### Good News Class (Room 153)

We are studying the book "Who Is Jesus?" and it is being led by Jack Kestler.

### Affinity Class (Room 209)

We are discussing the book "Meet The Methodists," by Charles Allen. The class is led by Bill Sutton.