

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: **Katy Kuhlman**, Jay Ricketts, **Garth** Sloan during his Iraq deployment, Linda Simmons' granddaughter **Lacy**, Mary Hackward's great grandson **Mason** Tilton, **Herb** Parker, **Martha** Heinrich, **Piper** Heinrich, Suzanne Warren's sister **Karen** and Phyllis Beatty's grandmother. If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 281-484-9243.

From The Pastor

Advent and Christmas are probably the busiest time of year for pastors, surpassing even Lent and Easter. At least we get six weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter. We only get four weeks of Advent, and every one of those weeks is crammed with activities.

I try to keep myself grounded by doing some Advent reading. This week, I found something I'd like to share with you. The gist of it is from Brennan Manning's book *Reflections for Ragamuffins*.

In his book, Manning talks about the power of hope (one of the great themes of Advent and Christmas). Hope, he says, is a decision. Hope is a choice to trust in God.

When we decide to trust in God, it costs us something. We have to give up our false sense of security and status quo that causes us to believe we can actually manage our own lives all by ourselves. In order to trust (and hope), we have to give up the illusion that we are captains of our own ships and masters of our own lives.

On the other hand, when we choose hope, we can also put away our dismay over our own personal dishonesty, self-centeredness and feeble spiritual lives. We no longer need to feel weak, defeated or insensitive.

As Manning puts it, "... the question no longer is: Can I do it? Am I able? Can I overcome my moodiness, my laziness, my sensuality, my grudges and resentments? The only question is: Is Jesus Christ able? Can my Savior, the Lord of my life, revive my drooping spirit and transform me at Christmas as he transformed the world through his birth in Bethlehem?"

I know the answer to those questions, and so do you. But it doesn't hurt to be reminded of the answer during the Advent season.

God bless you all, and give you a wonderful, hopeful Christmas!



Love from your pastor,
-Sandra Smith

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Christmas Poinsettias



In Memory of:

Jack Bonds by Jean Bonds

Charles R. Murphy and J.K. Wallis by Gary, Kris and Kaitlyn Wallis

Lucille Oberkampff by Tom and Margo Green

Our Parents by Jack and Billie Kestler

Eleanor Pace and Charlotte Simon by Gloria and Walter Pace

Evelyn Wyatt by Gary and Lori Turney

Stephanie Suzanne Klassen from Donna Klassen

My husband, Jim, from Jean Foltz

Ralph and Helen Karraker from Richard and Dollie Philpott

Matthew, beloved son, from Vicki Talley

Travis and Effie Lenamon from the Lenamon's

Ruth Hairell from the Lenamon's

Juanita Roder from Charlie, Dianne and Charlie Jr.

John Garner and Raw Coon from Joyce Garner

George E. Ellington, my husband, from Lou H. Ellington

Mary Crouch from Bob and Beverly Crouch

Charles Symons from Bob and Beverly Crouch

Marylyn Dixon from Bob Dixon and Beverly Blumrick

Bill Blumrick from Bob Dixon and Beverly Blumrick

Paul and Berneice Miller from Bob and Patsy Richmond and family

Our parents and sister, Walter and Mary Williams, Kenneth and Thelma Richmond

and DeLores Steinborn from Bob and Patsy Richmond and family

George Margheim and Winopal Brooks from Sherry and Jeb Brooks

In Honor of:

Our Children and Grandchildren by Mr. And Mrs. James Warner

Robert's 17th Birthday by Larry and Cathy Pleasants

Scott Pace, Greyson and Shara Chisholm by Gloria and Walter Pace

Peggy Smith from Jim and Donna Bane

Sandy and Randy Smith from Jim and Donna Bane

Dot Margheim from Mildred Lohec

Larry, Amanda and Savannah Rose from Mildred Lohec

Matthew and Walter, Dylan and Josh from the Kropps

Our family from Carol and Jerry Yeaney

Our children and grandchildren from Bob and Patsy Richmond

Jay Hyle from Kay Hyle

Dot Margheim from Sherry and Jeb Brooks

Gloria Markovich from Sherry and Jeb Brooks



Flowers

December 17--The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Barbara and Don Strong's 52nd anniversary from Billy and D. P. Strong.

December 24-- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 17th birthday of Robert from Larry and Cathy Pleasants.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name

Christmas At Cokesbury



Saturday, December 16 - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast with Santa - Pancakes by Methodist Men
Picture with Santa

Third Sunday of Advent - December 17

8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

Sunday, December 17 - 1-3 p.m.

MYF presents Live Nativity with Live Animals

Sunday, December 17 - 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Cantata, *The Winter Rose*, presented by Chancel Choir

Tuesday, December 19 - 6-8 p.m.

MYF presents Live Nativity in front of the church

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve-Morning Worship

8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

Children's Christmas Service at 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Services

Come to MYF Live Nativity

The MYF Live Nativity will begin at 1:30 on Sunday, December 17. For this performance, there will be LIVE animals. There will be a second Live Nativity presentation (without the live animals) on Tuesday evening from 6-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and see these performances by our wonderful youth.

On Sunday the 17th, MYF will be having lunch at noon followed by a gift exchange (no more than \$5).

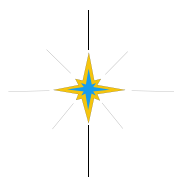
Breakfast with Santa-Saturday-12/16 9 a.m.

Have the Youth Wrap Your Presents

Cokesbury's MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) is a great group of teens that work hard for their money. They will hold their annual gift wrapping fundraiser on Saturday, December 16 at noon to 3:00 p.m. here at the church. For a donation we will wrap all your gifts for you and decorate them with ribbons and bows, leaving you more time to continue with your shopping or entertain your holiday guests.

-Peter Bonnano, Youth Director

Tree of Lights



In Memory of:

L.E. Hinson by Sandra Hinson
 Jack Bonds by Jean Bonds
 Charles and Mary Symons by Bob and Beverly Crouch
 Mary Crouch by Bob and Beverly Crouch
 My Son, John Foltz, by Jean Foltz
 My Beloved Wife, Ann, by Floyd Keith
 Ralph and Helen Karraker by Richard and Dollie Philpott
 Nana by Rob and Laura Bradley
 Robert Evans by Betty Evans
 Our Parents and Grandchild by Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Warner
 Philip Owens by Richard and Dollie Philpott
 Philip Owens by Nancy Owens
 Jack Pritchett by Helen Perry
 Ron and Paul Richey by Pat Richey
 Ruth Smith Chase by Linda and Carl Detwiler
 Evelyn Wyatt by Kenneth Wyatt Lori Turney and Kathi Sanders
 Bob and Garry Mattiza by Marie Mattiza
 Cecil Richardson and Mollie Sullivan by Pat Richardson
 Jack Seaman by Marna Seaman
 Foster and Harriett Dinger by Jerry and Carol Yeaney
 Lester and Mildred Yeaney by Jerry and Carol Yeaney

In Honor of:

Glory of God by Wesley Sunday School Class
 Cokesbury Church Family by Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Warner
 Dane Dull by Rob and Laura Bradley
 Carroll and Katy Kuhlman by Lynda and Carl Detwiler
 Mom and Dad, Harley and Clara Muse, by Bobbie Barfield
 Our Children and Grandchildren by Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Warner
 Jack Pritchett by Helen Perry
 Paula and Tim Richey by Pat Richey
 Karen Short by John and Mary Short
 Rollin Short by John and Mary Short
 John, Ellen and Jonathan Sekumade by John and Mary Short
 Garth Sloan by Katie, Russell, and Sandy Sloan
 Our Kids and Grandkids by grandkids
 All our Friends and Family by Jerry and Carol Yeaney

Children's Choir Presents The Next Noel

Last Sunday, the Children's Choir entertained a packed fellowship hall to a delightful production of "The Next Noel". It made us remember the true meaning of Christmas. Thanks to all of the children, adult leaders, youth assistants and parents for an enjoyable Christmas play. The cast and some of the leaders are shown below.



Stewardship Update

Our stewardship campaign is proving to be a great success, and we would like to thank all of you for your generous pledge of support. Since Consecration Sunday, we have received 134 pledges totaling \$332,696. This represents a significant increase over 2006 pledges. Cokesbury's budget has been increased by about \$20,000 for 2007, and we have pledged 72% of that number. By comparison, we pledged about 62% of the smaller 2006 budget. Additional good news: a large number of households "stepped up" in their projected giving for 2007. If you have not yet filled out a pledge card, we still have some available. Just call the church office or speak to one of the ushers on Sunday morning.

We would like also like to thank all of you that helped us celebrate Cokesbury's 45th birthday celebration. All had a good time celebrating and getting together for fellowship. The Sundays school classes did a bang-up job preparing the salads. A special thanks goes to Mary Short and John Short, and their team, for providing a delicious dinner including turkey and wonderful homemade dressing! Thanks also to Jennifer Pogue and her team for decorating and making arrangements for the birthday cake, and to the MYF and Peter Bonanno for setting up table and chairs.

-Tom Green, Stewardship Chair

A Fine Weekend

The Wyatt/Stafford Circle had a busy weekend assisted by many others. On Friday we had scheduled a trip downtown to see a play for our Christmas party. When we called at 4:00, they had cancelled the play due to an illness. Even though our circle's nickname is the "circle that does not make decisions quickly", we were able to plan and make reservations for a dinner by 6:30. Eight of us went to Ashikas. It was a fun show with great food.

The next morning we headed to the local women's shelter, the Bridge, to provide a Christmas lunch and a Christmas tree for each family. We were assisted by the Sara Owens-Gemoets Circle who bought pizza for all the kids (financial assistance from the two day circles of the UMW). We also brought brisket cooked by Bubba Chubs for the women. And we brought canned fruit provided by the MYF.

-Laura Bradley

Adult Class News

Becomers (Room 252)

Thank you to Donna and Jim Bane for hosting our Christmas party on December 15. We're bringing paper towels and toilet paper that evening, to be donated to the Bridge. Our study of the book "Who is God in Three Persons?" continues several more weeks.

New Disciples (New Location-Room 208)

Please join us for Bible based Sunday School class.

New Beginnings (Room 156)

We have begun a new lesson series on Challenging Traditional Christian Beliefs, led by Darrel Raines.

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

We are continuing 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 and 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.

It's Your Time To Help at Helping Hands!

The following people have agreed to help with the Helping Hands Ministry the next two Sundays:

December 17: Anna Aguilar, Lynda & Carl Detwiler, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Carol Trotter and Edna Faye Campbell, Martha Van Krigenbergh, Danna Whorton and Fran Wright.

December 24: Jo Felts, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Peggy Smith, Faye Stafford, Kris Wallis and Carol Yeaney.

Sign Up For Flowers

The flower calendar for 2007 is now available. Sign up for flowers in honor or memory of a loved one Cost is \$35.

By The Numbers

December 10

Worship Attendance 8:30.....85
 Worship Attendance 9:45.....61
 Worship Attendance 11:00.....182

Total Worship Attendance.....328