

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

## an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

Vol. 156 No. 17

Friday, August 28, 2009

076453

### Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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## Welcome Linda Hite, New Youth Director

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has chosen Linda Hite as the Youth Director for Cokesbury! Linda and her husband, Rod, have been members for 13 years. Linda has volunteered for seven years with the youth and brings to the youth a rich experience. She and her husband, Rod, have two children, Johnny, a freshman at San Jacinto College and Mandy, a high school sophomore. Linda began her duties on Monday, August 17. Linda said, "I am very excited to work with our fantastic youth and to help them build deeper relationships with God, the church and the community."



Laura Bradley will continue to assist in the youth ministry. She too brings enthusiasm to the program as she has been volunteering with the youth ministry for several years. Both Laura and Linda look forward to planning with the youth and leading them into ventures in faith. The SPR's quick action was in accordance with the church's emphasis of children, youth, and young priorities. The SPR believes that Linda Hite can effectively lead the youth ministries providing stability alongside growth.

-Bill Newcomb

## WELCOME

Welcome to Tracey Moore, who joined Cokesbury during the late service on August 17. Tracey is a member of the New Beginnings Sunday School class. Many of them stood with her as she joined.

Tracey, in a note to Pastor Bill said "I want to thank each and everyone of you for your support in standing up with me today. It means a lot to me to have met a wonderful group of new friends and have a church family. I thank you all for welcoming me with open arms and it means a great deal to me. I feel like I'm at home and Cokesbury is where I'm supposed to be."



## Children's Church Resumes September 13

Summer is over and school has begun, which means Children's Church is ready to begin once again. Children's Church will begin September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. All children ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us. The children are to meet in the sanctuary for the 11 a.m. service. After the children's message, they will be led upstairs to room 252 (room across from the elevator) for their own service, on their own level. Children's Church includes singing, praying, and a message through different methods of teaching. At the end of the service parents are welcome to pick up their child in The Commons.

If anyone is interested in helping with Children's Church, as a leader or assistant, please contact Alison Myers for more information on how your gift can be used.

## The Backpacks Have Been Blessed

All the children grabbed their backpacks, supplies, and lunches and headed back to school this week. Before entering school on the first day, Brother Bill blessed them and their backpacks to enjoy their year and remember Jesus is with them every step of the way. The congregation joined in the blessing on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 11 a.m. service. Afterwards, the children received a backpack tag to remind them Cokesbury cares for each of the children.

## Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your prayers for health and healing:

**Charlotte Davis, Katy Kuhlman, Beverly Crouch**, our ECDC teachers and public school teachers, all those returning to school, those working on our Mobile Medical Clinic, our new Sunday school teachers and youth volunteers, those undergoing medical tests, and for all our servicemen and women who are serving overseas. If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, please call the church office, 281-484-9243.

## From The Pastor

Can we give up too soon? How long till we present ourselves to the Lord for redemption, release from a situation or even an addiction?

Chuck Negron became wealthy and famous over a decade ago with the rock band, Three Dog Night. Have you ever heard: "One Is The Loneliest Number", or "Joy To the World", or even "An Old Fashioned Love Song?" Do any of these ring a bell?

For a while he was famous and had everything including an addiction to heroin, that he just could not overcome. By actual count he made more than 100 attempts at rehabilitation including 35 hospital stays, and, yet, he failed again and again. He tried one more time after 100 failures, and then he made it.

There are times in my own life when I hit the wall, wondering if it would be easier to live with losing than struggle for success.

Proverbs has a word of strength for me, "though the righteous man falls seven times, he rises again; but the wicked are brought down by calamity." (Proverbs 24:16)

Does this "old saying" work? Well, I am able to write this article, aren't I?

Blessed by One More Try,

*Bill Newcomb*

Senior Pastor



## First VBS Reunion Was A Success!!!

Did you know the annual oxygen produced by one tree is 260 pounds? This is just one of the facts the children learned last Saturday during our first annual VBS reunion. Children returned to enjoy games, plant some native grass and see the new tree planted in Cokesbury's courtyard. The money children from Camp E.D.G.E. 2009 VBS raised was \$327, which was to go toward helping the environment. Since trees help reduce carbon dioxide, lower air temperature and provide goods to us, it only made sense to use the money to plant a tree right on Cokesbury's ground. You can see the red maple tree in the middle of the courtyard. You will also want to see the flower bed in the back parking lot by the Fellowship Hall (see back page article). All the children that attended our reunion got to plant most of the plants. I thank all the children, parents, volunteers, and visitors that came by on Saturday.

-Alison Myers, Children's Ministry Director

## Flu Shots Coming

On Sunday, September 13 from 9:30 until 12:30, flu shots will given in the Commons. The cost is \$23 and cash and checks are accepted. With Medicare Part B, there is no charge. This is *not* the shot for the H1N1 swine flu.

## Many Thanks, Hap

The congregation wishes to extend its sincere thanks to Hap Gaires for his devoted service to our church as Treasurer during the past two years. May you have many more years of service to the Lord, Hap. Thanks again.

## Pumpkins are Coming!

It is official. We have a delivery date for our pumpkins. They will arrive Sunday, October 11, at approximately 12:30 pm. Many hands make light work, so please plan on staying after church and helping us unload. Not only will we get done sooner, but it will be much more fun with YOU there to help. Funds raised will be used to help pay for Youth summer trips.

The Pumpkin Patch is not only a great fund-raiser, it is also a great opportunity for our church to reach out to the community. Watch the youth board for sign up sheets for your opportunity to work in the patch and represent Cokesbury in reaching out to the community.

We also still have a key position, Volunteer Coordinator, for a person who wants to do more than just unload pumpkins or work the patch. Please prayerfully consider accepting this position. More information will be coming soon, so keep watching for updates.

-Linda Hite, Youth Director



**August 30** - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthday of Larry Lohec by Savannah Rose Lohec.

**September 6** - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ron Richey by Pat Richey.



I want to thank all the parents that came to the MYF Parent's Meeting on August 16. I am excited to work with the youth, and look forward to serving as their Youth Director. Thank you for all the help and support you have provided the youth in the past. I am so thankful to get to work with such an amazing,

dedicated group of parents that support our youth group so whole-heartedly.

To all the youth, I am looking forward to putting into action the plans that we have been working on over the last few weeks. If you have any more ideas, I would love to hear them. You can always contact me at [lwhite143@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwhite143@sbcglobal.net) or 713-398-0980.

We will be starting a Youth Disciple Bible Study for High School students. If you are interested in participating, please put your name on the sheet on the youth board. We will meet Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30 pm starting September 13. Johnny Hite and Nathan Sutton will be leading the class.

Please be sure to check out all the sign up sheets on the youth board. There are sheets for working on the Mobile Medical Clinic and sheets for signing up to help in worship. All of the worship sheets are stacked up together. Just flip through the pages until you find what you are interested in signing up for.

We have a game night coming up September 18, from 6 to 11 pm. We will be joining the Children's Ministry's Game Night from 6 to 8 pm, and then staying until 11 pm for the Youth Game Night. If you have a favorite game that we don't have, please bring it.

This past Sunday we joined Friendswood United Methodist Church's youth group for their Back to School Bash. We had a lot of fun Sumo wrestling and playing Volleyball. Then we joined them for a very inspirational worship service with a powerful message. Hey guys, Stay Hungry and Stay Foolish!

The pumpkins for our Pumpkin Patch will arrive October 11 at approximately 12:30 pm. Please see related article on the front page.

In His Service

*Linda Hite*

## Youth Enjoy Lakeview Summer Camp

Almost a month ago, 20-24 July to be exact, I spent a week at Lakeview with 11 kids from Cokesbury. Actually there were more than just a dozen of us. The number was approximately 850 of us from South District; the kids ranged from 4th grade thru 12th. Our Cokesbury was represented by Christie Burnette, Laura Bradley, myself, and Greyson Chisholm, Mandy Hite, Melanie Thompson, Sonya Wilson, Amanda Bates, Rachel Glass, Sydney Dreger, Sarah Loftin, Elizabeth Carter, Jack Yeane, and Ted "Bear" Yeane.

I really did not know what I was getting into as I had not been a counselor at Lakeview for approximately 20 years. Yes, things have changed, (to include my being 20+ years older), but the kids and the message of Jesus remain constant. With that large number of kids, we were obviously divided into much smaller groups. I was in a cabin with 8 boys, and for daily small group activities (approximately 2 hrs/day) I had 10 kids (boys & girls), where we would discuss other subjects/activities that affected us as individuals that day. I might add that in neither of these groups was I assigned any of our CUMC kids.

For purposes of this article I will not go into all that transpired during the week, but jump to day 5 when we departed Lakeview and upon arrival back home. I had six Cokesbury kids in my SUV traveling home and had anticipated their falling asleep and a quiet ride home. This was far from the truth. The enthusiasm carried over from Lakeview was so real. But what so impressed me was conversation I had with two of them shortly after arrival home. I asked them what impressed them the most at camp. The answer was everything was awesome! They couldn't put a finger on any one thing. And each of them brought attention to the lead minister in their particular group. ( 2 different groups: 6th & 7th grade, and 8th & 9th grade), and how he brought/delivered to them exciting stories each day. One of them told me he was anxious to report back to his Dad about the challenge he was given prior to camp, "Yes Dad, it was a life changing experience." I know his dad got goose bumps upon receiving that report. I know I did, because he's my grandson. Both boys were so excited and responded that they definitely want to go again next year.

Well that's a brief synopsis of youth camp at Lakeview this year. Our kids had a fabulous time and I trust received and were enriched with the Spirit so evidently present at Lakeview.

-Jerry Yeane

## It's Your Turn To Help With Helping Hands

The following folks have signed up to help with Helping Hands for the next two weeks:

**5th Sunday:** New Beginnings Sunday School Class

**1st Sunday:** Karen Akkerman, Jean Bonds, Charlotte Davis, Claudia Gentry, Gloria Hurley, Carole Krafka, Laura Morgan, Winnie Smith, Carman Wilhite, Kay & Bill Young

### Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

### By The Numbers

August 23

8:30 a.m. Service.....	80
9:45 a.m. Service.....	38
10:30 a.m. Service.....	104
Total.....	222



## Music Notes



Calling all singers and ringers,

On Wednesday, September 9, our normal practice schedule will resume:

5:30 Choir Chimes                      6:15 Handbell Choir

7:00 Men's Chorale                      7:30 Chancel Choir

And on Sunday, September 13, the Youth Choir will resume their practice schedule at 4:30 p.m. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are welcome.

Thanks to everyone for submitting your favorite hymns. Our regular worship format will resume on September 6 with our Chancel Choir, robes, anthems, etc.

In Him,

*Marsh*

## Happy Birthday!

Our Caring Ministry wishes a happy birthday to the following September Birthdays:

Sept. 3 - Steve Provence	5 - Tammy Pues
12 - Sarah Loftin	14 - Marsh Hudson
17 - Jo Hartnett	19 - Mark Remely
20 - Jon Akkerman & Teresa Mauney	21 - Elgense Smith

We also would like to collect wedding anniversary dates. Please add these to our birthday calendar (located in the kitchen) as well. If we have missed your birthday, please call the church office (281-484-9243) or add the information to our calendar.

## Linda Garies Accepted to Ministry College

Linda Garies, a long-time member of Cokesbury, has been accepted to Methodist Hospital's Lay Ministry College. The Lay Ministry College is a partnership between the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church and The Methodist Hospital System.

The college offers a two year course in pastoral care for lay people who seek an opportunity serve the church either in a part-time or full-time capacity. The Texas Conference will serve as a liaison to help match congregations with lay ministers from the college. These congregations would seek trained persons to perform various pastoral care ministries to their member families. Such ministry will include pastoral visits in the home, hospitals, nursing and retirement facilities.

Ms. Garies will continue to function as a layperson involved in caring ministries here at Cokesbury while she participates in the Lay Ministry College.

## Help SeAM Food Pantry September 6

Items needed: any canned vegetables and macaroni and cheese

## Come See Our Tall Grass Prairie Garden

Look at the area around where you are sitting as you read this article. What do you see?



Buildings, roads, or maybe a green lawn? Looking at the same scene 200 years ago, what would you have seen? Coastal tall grass prairie. Miles and miles of grass. As far as the eye could see. This is why we have names such as Prairie View and song lyrics such as, "the prairie sky is wide and high, deep in the heart of Texas." Our heritage is the prairie. Now, less than 1% of coastal tall grass prairie remains. Not only is the environment in danger, but many animals that lived here are endangered. The Attwater Prairie Chicken is hanging on by the smallest numbers.

Prairies disappear quickly when man settles an area because they are so fertile. They become farmlands, homes, factories, and shopping malls. Or they become lawns. Intrusions from invasive species such as chinese tallow trees take over areas that have not been built on or farmed. The few prairie fragments that are left are for the most part not even what we would call a "climax prairie".

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists (GBAMN) and other area groups are working to not only save some remnants of our prairies, but to actually restore the few that remain. Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) is one of the foremost prairies remaining in the area. The ABNC Prairie Friday Group along with the Galveston Bay Master Naturalists is leading the effort to maintain and restore our area prairies. This work involves planting climax plants (grasses, wild flowers, and other plants), removing invasive species (tallow whacking is a great way to take out your frustrations), and education.

Little gardens are being built in the area to showcase our prairies. The gardens are at ABNC, the Texas City Prairie Preserve, and other places around the city. There is now also a small garden at Cokesbury. With Trustees' permission, the GBAMN, along with our Vacation Bible School (VBS) installed a small garden on Saturday, August 22 during the VBS reunion. Kayla and Nathan are shown watering it. The garden has grasses from a climax prairie, plus some wildflowers. If you want to see what your front yard looked like 200 years ago, come see our garden. It is located behind the fellowship hall. All plants are labeled. Some of the labels have the name of the child that put in the plant on the back. Keep watch. If the transplant did not stress it, the big bluestem grass should be blooming in a few weeks. You can spot the seed by looking for a stalk with a turkey foot (3 toes) at its end.

**Laura Bradley**, Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalist, VBS 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Assistant Teacher