

# THE COKESBURY COURIER

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### Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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## Prayer Corner

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

**Beverly Crouch**, those undergoing medical tests, those working on our Mobile Medical Clinic, our new Sunday school teachers and youth volunteers, 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.



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## The Pumpkins are Coming!



Be sure to mark your calendars for October 11, at 12:30 and plan to stay after the 11:00 service to help unload pumpkins. We always have a great time. The Pumpkin Patch will help us reach out to the community and raise awareness that a vibrant and active church is right here in the neighborhood. There is no such thing as too many people for this event. Please come and bring a friend. Also, if you have them, bring a wheel-barrow or wagon (or both!) and a rake. These will help make setting up our Patch even easier.

- Linda Hite, Youth Director

## Stewardship And What It Means To Me

I want us all to think about something I heard someone say, that stewardship involves everything we do in this world.

To me, financial stewardship's real meaning is revealed by my attitude about Jesus' plans for my life. I was just sitting around thinking about this the other evening. I feel that Cokesbury needs my contribution.

Then it came to me in a flash. Jesus doesn't want me to give because my church needs the money. He wants me to give as a response of grace to God. It doesn't make any difference what shape the church's finances are in, but I should give as a tangible response to God's grace, for my love for Him and for the many ministries that can be accomplished in His name.

-Jim Krafka

# WELCOME



**September 27** - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Dutch and Carol Uran's First Wedding Anniversary.

**October 4** - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Donna Jo Dutcher's birthday by her mom, Jo Ann Gray.

## Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

## From The Pastor

When the deputy sheriff of Hemphill, Texas, Sonny Speights got up one morning in June, 1872, little did he realize a lesson was about to be learned the hard way.

In the meantime, John Wesley Hardin was also getting up to face a day of promoting horse racing in Hemphill. Yes, John Wesley Hardin the famous gun-fighter and outlaw had turned to promoting horse racing after winning a considerable sum at the Nacogdoches races. He rode his favorite mount, Coaly. There seems to have been plenty of witnesses on that hot July morning when John Wesley Hardin, son of a Methodist minister, road into town just in time to hear deputy Sheriff Sony Speights cursing a young boy in front of the court house.

Hardin spoke up, "That boy is too small for you to talk to in such a fashion. Curse somebody who is your own size and see how far you get with it."

Speights accepted the challenge and both men reached for their guns. Hardin was faster and sent a derringer's bullet through the sheriff's wrist. He dropped his weapon, howling in pain, as his own pistol exploded when it hit the ground.

Of course there was an eventual pursuit. Hardin escaped in part due to the fact that the sheriff, Elmore Harper, stepped back and aside when he recognized the famed outlaw.

Later, Hardin himself wrote, "I could just as easily have shot him through the heart and dropped him dead, but I did not wish to kill him. I only wanted to defend myself and teach him a lesson in the use of firearms."

So what do we get from this lesson in history? Could it be, "Don't ever curse a small child for you will never know when a son of a Methodist preacher is listening?!"

Grace and Peace  
With Careful Words,  
Bro. Bill

Source: Bob Bowman's East Texas: "John Wesley Hardin Take on Hemphill Sheriff for Cursing."



## Opportunities to Serve

Looking for a way to feel younger? Volunteer to work with Cokesbury's Youth Ministries. There are many opportunities to work with the Youth. You can be the second adult in Sunday School, or be the lead teacher for a month to give the regular teachers a chance to re-charge their spiritual batteries. You can serve dinner on Sunday evening at MYF or help chaperone MYF. You can help drive the youth on a scavenger hunt or other event that requires transportation. To find out about these and other ways you can serve, email me at [lhite143@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhite143@sbcglobal.net) or call me at 713-398-0980.

-Linda Hite, Youth Director

## Let's Invite 1400 People to Cokesbury!

Sunday, October 4, after the 11 a.m. worship service, Cokesbury members will be walking through neighborhoods close to our church distributing door hangers. Participants will hang "door hangers" on area resident's door informing them of the upcoming fall activities at Cokesbury. There will be close to 1400 people receiving these invitations. Will you be one of the two by two teams participating? The more we have taking part, the more fun we will have. Lunch will be served for all the participants.

## A Letter To Parents

Dear Mom and Dad,

In Children's Church (or as we like to call it DiscipleTown) we are discussing How to Worship God. So far, we have talked about worshiping God by singing and by having a regular quiet-time with God. We have played the Price is Wrong to discuss how valuable Jesus is and we had fun whispering this last week. As we move forward in our series we are going to be discussing how we can worship through giving and serving.

Join us this coming Sunday as we learn about how we worship through giving. Encourage your child to bring a small offering to God with them. It is always better to help them give of their own money, no matter how little, than to supply your own. Better a dime from a child than a dollar from Dad!

Making Disciples,  
Alison Myers, Director of Children's Ministry



We had a lot of fun at game night on Friday the 18. We joined the Children's Ministries from 6 to 8 pm for their game night and then we had our Youth Game Night continue until 11 pm. We saw some faces we hadn't seen for a while, and we hope to see them much more often!

We had a scavenger hunt for SeAM this past Sunday evening. We collected 214 pounds of non-perishable food to donate to the food pantry at SeAM. We also collected \$8. Way to go guys!

We are going to have a lock-in Friday, October 16, from 8 pm to 7 am. Bring a snack to share and bring a friend. I won't give away what we're going to do, but you won't want to miss it.

Don't forget our pumpkins arrive in less than three weeks. We will be unloading pumpkins October 11, at 12:30. See related article on the front page for more information.

We will start working on our Youth Sunday Service next week. Youth Sunday will be November 15. I encourage you all to start considering how you want to participate. We are also about to start a series on covenants. What are they? Who did God make them with? What do they mean to me today? Come Sunday evenings at 5:30 to find out. Bring a friend.

In His Service, *Linda Aite*, Youth Director

## Remember The Needy With Donations

October 4 is the first Sunday of the next month. Remember your First Sunday donations for the food pantry at Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM). Items currently in short supply are canned vegetables, pasta and macaroni and cheese. Drop off your donations October 4 or any Sunday in the plastic tubs outside the narthex or in the Commons. We can also always use your small plastic bags for filling food orders as we use over 100 a day.

A record number of clients were helped by the SeAM Ministry office during the summer. During June-August of this year, 80% more clients received food from SeAM than in 2008. Total pounds of food and toiletries given out to the needy in these three months was over 51,000. Through August, the number of new clients served is up almost 50% compared to 2008

The SeAM Thrift Store is a source of income for the Ministry office. Vouchers are also given to those in need for free clothing, housewares or furniture from the store. Women and children from the Bridge women's shelter also are the recipients of vouchers for clothing. Clothing is also taken from the Thrift Store to the Crossroads Ministry. Remember the Thrift Store with your donations. Small bags of donated items can be left in the church kitchen in our "soup can". Donations can also be dropped off at the Thrift Store Monday-Saturday from 9 to 3. If you have furniture for pickup, contact me at home (281-992-2604).

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

## Did You Catch the Game?

The children and youth ministries held a game night this past Friday, September 18. Everyone had a lot of fun. We had snacks, refreshments and a variety of games. They played board games along with ping pong, basketball, and the Wii. Some of our adults joined in and played along with the young ones. If you missed this Friday, keep your eyes open for information on the next Friday night event coming soon.

-Alison Myers

Children's Ministry Director

## By The Numbers

September 20

8:30 a.m. Service.....	83
9:45 a.m. Service.....	35
11:00 a.m. Service.....	120
Total.....	238

## Krafkas In Boston

Saturday, September 26, Carole and I are traveling to Boston for a program at the Joslin Diabetes Center. I was accepted in a program intended to evaluate diabetics that have been insulin dependent for more than 50 years.

Since I came down with diabetes while a senior in high school, the difficulty began with the lack of records available from the clinic where diagnosis took place, and the hospital where treatment began. I had to turn to personal letters from family members or friends my age or older that would confirm my diagnosis, since "proof" was necessary. My aunts, an uncle, a cousin my age, and a classmate all wrote letters. Some information from my high school was helpful and I was finally approved for the program.

We will have an update about the medical tests and evaluation upon our return late on October 1. We are planning a few days of sight seeing while there.

## 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:  
**4th Sunday:** Barbara Craft, Jo Felts, Denice Grays, Nancy Hensley, Suzanne Houck, Janice Johnson, Tracey Moore, Peggy Smith, Linda Trevathan, Kris Wallis, Carol & Jerry Yeaney

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



## Music Notes



Handbell Choir is back in rehearsal, and due to schedule problems, three of our ringers cannot ring! We are meeting Wednesdays at 6:15 pm and would welcome new ringers - all you need to do is READ! We'll teach you ringing techniques and even how to read the music! Please come!

Youth Choir has resumed practice on Sunday afternoons, and we welcome Christian Aquilar, Elizabeth Carter, and Samantha Schwartz! But, we need more singers! We present our youth musical on October 24 at 6:30 pm as part of the Fall Festival, and one third of the choir missed rehearsal due to flu and schedule conflicts! Every week is important: we need you!

Choir Chimes are back in "full swing", and will soon play during worship, as will our Men's Chorale. Watch bulletins and newsletters for updates.

Many Chancel Choir singers will be at Lakeview this weekend, and David Blystone will be guest soloist on September 27, with "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing", arranged by Mark Hayes.

In Him, *Marsh*

## UMW Meeting Update

On Thursday, September 17 the Stafford/Wyatt UMW circle had their September meeting. There were 8 ladies in attendance including 2 new members. Laura Bradley gave the opening devotional. We also discussed and put on our calendar the following mission projects: raising money for the Dot Margheim Scholarship, the Pumpkin Patch Bake Sale, Operation Christmas at SeAM, and Christmas at the Bridge. A tentative date of December 2 was set for Christmas at the Bridge. We also made the decision that we will start bringing basic toiletries to each meeting which will be donated to SeAM.

We invite all ladies of the church to join us on the third Thursday of each month. We meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. We have a lot of fun participating in many outreach programs and we would love for you to join us.

## A Letter from Brother Bill

Dear Church Family at Cokesbury:

I have been listening carefully to you. You have many fine qualities and a dynamic desire to grow reach children, youth, and young adults. Yet, regardless of the age group, I have heard your voice anxiety about our financial condition. I am addressing this issue now for the time is right.

In order to pay mandatory bills, payroll and mortgage, we have used \$30,000 of designated funds. These monies were given for specific ministries of the church, not to the general budget. This was in part precipitated by a 25% plunge in attendance since September 2008. Additionally, we have paid only a fraction, less than 30% of our apportionments. These askings keep us connected to the larger church, missions, worldwide evangelist and ministries.

I am personally addressing this drop in attendance and identifying members who have ceased to attend. Our aim is to re-claim these church family members and to repay the \$30,000. I am sharing this as a heart to heart message from me to you. Plus, we need to raise the apportionments due by December 30, of another \$30,000. It is a staggering amount, but I am confident we can raise this amount over and above our usual giving.

There are approximately 200 giving units families at Cokesbury. If the average gift is \$300, we can meet this crisis and turn it into an opportunity to state of basic belief in the value of the church. Some may be able to give more and others less, but if the average is \$300 we can "catch up." **We can expect some things to stay the same and others to change.** We will continue our emphasis for reaching youth, children, and young adults. We will look seriously at the anticipated budget for 2010, make appropriate cuts but reflect our visionary goals at the same time. A stewardship campaign for 2010 is planned, which we did not have for this year.

**A change will come in the way we pay off our mortgage debt of \$700,000.** Currently, there is not a plan to raise money to pay off this debt other than through the general budget of the church. With due diligence, we can address this need, minister to our existing members, and re-claim those who have ceased attending. The vision of the future is a church serious about making disciples for Jesus Christ, growing in the areas of children, youth and young adults, by providing experiences for God to further mold us into his disciples.

**In order to get there we will have some "catching-up" to do.** Please pray about your "catch up" gift. Yes, we all received Ketchup bottles on September 13 worship service. I have one for you, too, if you missed out. Why the Ketchup bottle? Everytime you share a meal, and the Ketchup is there, you will be reminded of the extra blessings God has given you, and the community that helps build the church. Let it be a reminder to you of Cokesbury's need to meet a challenge and to continue your dynamic ministries. You may be able to give a lump sum or pay your "extra gift" out by the month or week, December 30, being the deadline. Please memo your check "Ketchup" so we can be accurate in our accounting. We will keep you informed as to the results and together we will celebrate.

Sincerely Yours in Service to Christ,

*Wm. J. Newcomb*

Your Pastor