

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Two Sections, Section A

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

10030 Scarsdale Boulevard
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(281) 484-9243
www.cumchouston.org

Consecration Sunday, November 8

One Service at 10:30

Picnic Lunch at Noon

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UMM Meet Again

Methodist Men will be having their first fall meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 pm. Please join us. If you would like to participate in our shrimp boil in November, please contact Ed Whorton at 281-728-1456 or 281-461-6422.

Prayer Corner

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

Beverly Crouch, **Linda** Garies, **Jay** Stanbridge, **Maria** Croasdaile (Anna Aquilar's mother), **Larry** Pleasants, **Mandy Jo** Laurent, **Amy** Earnest (Bridge employee), **Ruth** Tice (mother of Linda Simmons), **Wade** Hudson, **Clare** Lane, **Charles** and **Cheryl** Grigsby, **Amanda** Reel, **Betsy** Brown, **Jo Ann** Lasher (sister of Patsy Richmond), Claudia Gentry's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, 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

Dear Church family,

Generosity begins at home but when it is found on the tennis court, it makes for a great story about two of game's best, Serena and Venus Williams. Serena was eight and her sister was ten and both were playing for the championship. Although Serena won all of her matches in the tournament, she faced her sister for the championship and lost.

During the awards ceremony, Serena received her silver trophy, yet, she was disappointed at not winning gold. She was one despondent little girl. Venus could see she was upset. Afterwards she said to Serena, "I've always liked silver better than gold. Do you want to trade?" Serena says, "To this day, that's the most meaningful trophy I've ever received."

We trade our possessions back and forth. Sometimes it is to gain a material possession. And other times...well, in this case it was to gain a sister!

In God's kingdom-economics, a pledge card is turned into a Bible study commitment, a financial offering is made into a profession of faith, a profession of faith transforms a family unit. Not a bad trade. And who knows, God just may heal a family and another sister is won!

Blessings in Christ's Name,

Bro. Bill



Pumpkin Patch Wraps Up



Well, the pumpkins have come and gone. Thank you so much to everyone who helped with all the different aspects of the Pumpkin Patch. From setting up the tent, photo area, pallets and lights, to unloading and helping to man the patch, to helping with school groups and delivering pumpkins to schools, our patch wouldn't have been as successful as it was without all the wonderful people that helped out. We sold a grand total of \$8,346 in pumpkins. We made a profit of \$2,504 to send our youth on mission trips this summer. Way to go Cokesbury!

-Linda Hite, Youth Director

Angel Tree



Cokesbury is once again sponsoring the Angel Tree Program. We're excited to provide Christmas gifts to children in our area who have a parent in prison. This program provides gifts to the children from their incarcerated parent in their absence.

"When a Mom or Dad is in prison, it's the children who do the hard time." We can let them know they are not forgotten. We can give children from our area the joy of Christmas this year.

There will be a Christmas Tree in the Commons the Sunday after Thanksgiving with tags with the information you will need to sponsor a child.

If you are not able to sponsor a child but would still like to help, we also need gift bags, gift wrap, tape, ribbons, etc.

Please help us make Christmas a happy time for these children. It only takes a small thing to make a child smile. Please consider helping us with this program this year.

-The Angel Tree Team

UMW Update

The Sara Owens-Gemoets Circle met on October 27 in Ellie Melanson's home with six ladies present. Gloria Pace gave a prayer. Betty Sutton presented a program consisting of a video made by Ken Davis who is a Christian Motivational Speaker. Each member of our Circle brought a diabetic dish with the recipe. It was a very enjoyable lunch and fellowship. The recipes will be going into a cookbook soon to be offered for sale. Only one more circle meeting this year. Ladies, come and meet others and enjoy the program and luncheon. You will be welcomed.

-Betty Sutton

Remembering

These church members have died since last All Saints Sunday. We remember them and thank God for their sharing of their spiritual gifts with us. We have all benefited from their presence with us. They are: Faye Stafford, Mildred Lohec, Al Anderson, Charlotte Davis, Katy Kuhlman, and Richard Miller.

A Fabulous Fall

October was full of events for children and their families. First, we started with a Fall Festival. The kids had lots of fun playing games, bouncing in the moonwalk, and getting a balloon from Plum Cute, our clown. Next, we watched "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" in our make shift pumpkin patch (Fellowship Hall). The weather didn't stop us from enjoying a movie, popcorn and drinks. I think the parents had just as much, if not more, fun than all the kids. Our last event for October was our traditional Trunk or Treat. We had kids from all over the community come out to see our fun decorated cars, get goodies, tattoos, and play some fun games. We provided a very safe environment this month for all events that were held and saw lots of members from our community. Thank you to everyone that helped throughout the month doing various jobs. We could not have had such great turn-outs if it wasn't for everyone at Cokesbury UMC.



Keep our visitors in your prayers in hopes they will return to see what we are all about. Until next fall!

-Alison Myers, Director of Children's Ministry



November 8 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of all veterans and in memory of our parents J.K. Wallis and Charley and Kathryn Murphy by the Wallis family.

November 15 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthdays of Tracy Carter and Charlie Lofland by Carolyn and Ed Lofland.



Our Pumpkin Patch is over, and we sold \$8,346 in pumpkins. We keep \$2,504 in profit. Way to go guys! This goes a long way towards paying for our mission trips this summer.

November 8 is Consecration Sunday. Remember that we will only have one worship service at 10:30 am. This is a very special worship service in the life of our church. If you have completed Confirmation and joined the church, you are a full member of Cokesbury UMC. Please consider if you would like to make a commitment to give back financially to God. Sunday School will still start at the regular time, and we will end a little early. The youth band will be playing in the service.

We will run through the whole Youth Sunday Service at MYF November 8. This is our last practice, so be sure to be there. Anyone can also come to Youth Band practice Wednesday from 8 to 9:30 pm to practice the songs we will be singing. Youth Sunday is November 15. Don't forget to be here at 8 am that day. We will be leading all three services.

If you are interested in praising God with the youth band, come to practice on Wednesdays any week from 8 to 9:30 pm. Even if you don't currently play an instrument, if you have an interest, come to practice to see what it is all about.

In His Service, *Linda Hite*, Youth Director

Secure Your Valuables

Recently we had an incident where a car was broken into in our parking lot. The window was broken and a purse and camera were stolen. There has been a rash of similar incidents happening in our surrounding neighborhoods including one on the same night at Sagemont Church. Please do not leave anything of value in your cars even if your doors are locked.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

We Need Your Forgotten Treasures

We all get them. It's those wonderfully thoughtful gifts that we really love, but have no room for in our houses. They end up in boxes in our closets and attics. The Stafford/Wyatt circle would love for you to unearth those treasures and donate them to The Bridge.

The Bridge is a shelter for women and children trying to get their lives back together after domestic violence. Two times a year our circle visits The Bridge to provide some much needed cheer. Our next time will be December 2 for our annual Christmas party. We could use your unwanted gifts as prizes for our party games. These gifts will brighten the day of women who have seen way too much sadness in their lives. We will have a donation bin located in the Commons. Thanks for your help.

-Stafford/Wyatt UMW Circle

Help Wanted

Substitute Senior High School Sunday School Teacher Needed! I will not be able to teach Sunday School on November 29 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) and January 24, 2010. I need someone to teach Sr. High Sunday School those days. I am also looking for someone to teach Sunday School the month of December and February. This is a great opportunity for you to spend time with our wonderful youth, share your faith journey with them, and for them to benefit from the wealth of wisdom, experience and diversity in our church family.

Please prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to help out with this aspect of our youth ministries. Thank you, as always, for all your support. Please pray for our youth group to continue to grow closer to God.

-Linda Hite, Youth Director

It's Your Turn To Help With Helping Hands

2nd Sunday: Patti & Dennis Akkola, Linda Garies, Theresa Graham, Margo & Tom Green, Laurel Johnson, Billie & Jack Kestler, Carolyn Lofland, Herb Parker, Cathy Pleasants, Charlene Provence, Lois Seeley

3rd Sunday: Anna Aquilar, Lynda Detwiler, Maymie DuBard, Jo Farris, Joyce Garner, Betty Grigsby, Karla Parker, Martha von Kriegenbergh, Ryane & Waylon Sheffield, Danna Whorton, Patsy Womack

Adopt a Child For Christmas

Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) is sponsoring the Adopt-A-Child for Christmas Program. If you wish, you may adopt a child less than 16 years old. Contact Jo Ann Gray at 281-997-0614 or Claudia Gentry at 281-481-8361 for further information. In a few weeks there will be a tree in the Commons with tags with the child's name, age, and wish list. Presents are to be purchased, wrapped, and delivered. They can be brought to the church for the clients to pick-up at SeAM if you do not wish to deliver them yourself. Each child will receive one primary gift and 1-2 small stocking stuffers. You are not to spend more than \$40 total.



Music Notes



Well, our Youth Choir and friends presented "Living on the Edge" and had our Cast Party (Yea!!!). Now we want to involve MORE youth in the upcoming worship music at CUMC. Included soon will be "Siyahamba" with Handbell and Chancel Choirs.

For Consecration Sunday (remember it is at 10:30!) Chancel Choir will sing "I Worship You", Handbell Choir will play "Entrata" and "Exuberance", and we will all sing two selections with the Contemporary Worship Team, including "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "Heart of Worship". Plan to be here!

Chancel Choir is well under way with this year's Christmas Cantata, "Mary, Did You Know?", to be presented on December 13 at 11:00, with instruments.

Plans also include for our Men's Chorale, Choir Chimes, and Handbell Choir to present Christmas selections this season...

Thanks to all our music groups! This month we will begin our String Ensemble (violins, violas, cellos, and string basses). Watch for dates/times!

In Him, *Marsh*

Set Apart – No Reservations

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.

"I just don't know what to do now that I've finished college," the young man told his pastor. "I thought about going into law or medicine because I want to make a good living and help people. But since I'm a Christian I also want to do what God wants me to do."

"Law and medicine are good fields, but what if God wanted you to do something entirely different? What if it meant you wouldn't make much money but could still help people. Would you go that way?"

"Well..."

"Look – here's the point. What's most important is you follow God's plan for your life, no matter what it is. Maybe I can illustrate it this way. Suppose someone guaranteed to support you for the rest of your life and all you had to do was sign a binding contract to follow his instructions. But the contract was blank and you had no idea what you'd have to do. Would you agree to that?"

The man hesitated.

The pastor opened a desk drawer and extracted a blank sheet of paper. "If this is the contract – blank – would you sign your name at the bottom and let God fill it in as he wanted to?"

Consecration means "set apart" and as believers we are called to be "set apart" to God and that means being compliant to him and his will for us even though we may not fully know what's involved. Of course it's easy to comply when we know what we're agreeing to do, and if we know what's expected of us, however, it doesn't always work that way. This is because God calls us to follow where he leads even though we have no idea where we're going. Or what we'll encounter along the way. Common sense says it's unnatural to step out into the unknown that way but since when has the Christian life ever been natural?

Whether you call it a blank sheet, or the unfamiliar future, God is waiting. Will you follow?

-Anne Adams



Treasurer's Report

Giving for October 2009

General.....	\$28,527
Bond Fund.....	\$260
Designated Giving.....	\$2,103
Catch - Up Fund.....	\$7,895
Total Giving.....	\$38,785

Bank Balances -10/31/09

Operating.....	\$1,137
T-Mobile.....	\$13,699
Designated Savings.....	\$65,120
Loan from Designated Fund.....	\$18,279
Total Cash Balance	\$79,956

Apportionments

YTD Paid.....	\$11,703
Past Due.....	\$23,201

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

We're Catching Up



Congratulations Cokesbury! As of October 25 you have now reached the mark of \$17,735 for the Ketchup Fund! That's right we are "catching-up" toward our goal of \$60,000 by December

31, 2009. Some of us are paying out goals out by the month or by the week. Some are giving lump sums. Thank you for supporting your Cokesbury, her mission and ministry.

Consider Electronic Giving

The church offers a convenient electronic giving option that allows donations to be made on a scheduled, automatic basis. Forms for signing up for this method of giving are available in the church office (see the secretary). You can also call Gloria Hurley at 281-481-0445 to request a form through the mail.

-Gloria Hurley

By The Numbers

November 1

8:30 a.m. Service.....	73
9:45 a.m. Service.....	30
11:00 a.m. Service.....	89
Total.....	192