

THE COKESBURY COURIER

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Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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UMW Christmas Party



Cokesbury's United Methodist Women will hold their Christmas party on Tuesday, December 8 at 7pm at the Church.

All ladies of Cokesbury and friends are invited to attend. We will all bring finger food and a thankful heart for this wonderful season. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Strong at 281-481-4375. Hope to see you there!

-Jean Bonds

Thankful For The Opportunity To Give

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving shared with family and friends. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, a group of youth and adults went to Crossroads at Park Place to participate in their outreach to the homeless. We took several bags of grooming supplies with us to donate. We helped re-package them into individual use containers, sorted clothes, distributed clothes and grooming supplies, and ate and visited with the clients. One of the clients even gave us an impromptu Bible lesson. The program director, Margo Montgomery, gave us a history of Crossroads and an idea of what they do and why they do it. It was very eye opening, and quite rewarding to be able to participate.

As I was camping during Thanksgiving, (a family tradition) I found myself reflecting on how the cold weather was affecting some of the people that we met on Tuesday. They are no longer the faceless "homeless" to me, but people that I know...Scotty, Chuco, Paul, Chico, Mike, and many others. Were they warm enough? Did they get something to eat at all on Thanksgiving? Will I see them the next time I go?

I am reminded of John 12:8 when Jesus reminded the disciples that "You will always have the poor among you,..." There will always be the poor among us. We can be the tangible expression of Jesus' love for them as we each do our own small part to help others.

-Linda Hite, Youth Director



December 6 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Phyllis Beaty's birthday by Jay and Kay Hyle.

December 13 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Johnny and Kathy Lemaster's Anniversary.

***Please sign up for Christmas poinsettias and 2010 altar flowers now in the Narthex.*

Prayer Corner



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

Beverly Crouch, Linda Garies, Jay Stanbridge, Larry Pleasants, the family of Tom Hughes, Bruce Williamson, Guenter Braun (Rod Hite's step father) **Mandy Jo Laurent, Amy Earnest** (Bridge employee), **Linda Simmons** and her whole family on the death of her mother, **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.

Santa! At Your Front Door

SANTA is coming! If you would like him to come visit you at your home, call 281-481-8589 and ask for SANTA's schedule desk. He will be in the area Dec 19-23 checking his list. To defray the cost of feeding his reindeer he's asking donation to CUMC of \$ 30 per visit.

Breakfast with Santa

Hey Kids! tell your family and friends to join you for Breakfast with Santa at Cokesbury on **Saturday, December 5 from 9-11 a.m.** You will enjoy a yummy pancake breakfast sponsored by the United Methodist Men and Crafts sponsored by the Children's Ministry. I heard that Santa plans to stop by to meet you and get your wish list to take back to his elves. Bring your cameras for a great snapshot.

-Alison Myers

From The Pastor

We are entering into the season of Advent. This is a time of preparation. In our getting ready for our Christmas celebration, let us remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. By now this saying has almost become a cliché. But for the Christian, we recognize that if it were not for Christ Jesus we would be lost. There would be no savior of the world, no prophecy fulfilled, no forgiveness of our sins.

When you purchase your gifts, think of the joy of your salvation. When you bake a cake or craft some gift for a special someone, pray for that person and ask that they may know your love for them and the Lord of your life. As you untangle the miles of snarled lights for the tree and yard, recall the blessing of your salvation and your joy in serving Christ. Let Christmas abound in your celebration for the greatest celebration of them all: the birth of the Savior, your re-birth by faith in Christ Jesus, and your new life in Him. Christmas is the greatest celebration of them all because this holy time celebrates the greatest Savior of them all.

Grace and Peace,

Bro. Bill



Advent Events



Saturday, December 5	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa Neighborhood Walk
Sunday, December 6	6:30 p.m.	Tasting Party and Carol Sing
Sunday, December 13	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	NO 8:30 SERVICE TODAY Chancel Choir Cantata Children's Choir Musical
Sunday, December 20	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Christmas Without Them Service Live Nativity
Monday, December 21	6:30 p.m.	Live Nativity
Thursday, December 24	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Eve Service Traditional Candlelight Service Traditional Candlelight Service

Cokesbury Helping Others



On Sunday, November 29, 2009, Carole and Jim Krafska delivered the 96 Helping Hands lunches to Houston Christway Ministries and attended the worship service led by Pastor Alex Morrison. Several personal testimonies were given during the service about people accepting Jesus Christ in their lives. You could tell by these personal messages that Pastor Morrison's ministry is reaching people and changing lives. Afterward we delivered 29 "Quillow" sets made and donated by Winnie Smith to the homeless ministry. Previously, Winnie made tote bags that were delivered a few years ago. Thank you, Winnie for your thoughtful and generous gifts to the homeless. The picture above shows Carole and Jim Krafska with Charles Walden, a long time participant in church services at Houston Christway Ministries.

Neighborhood Walk

Grab your most comfortable walking shoes and join us on our next Neighborhood Walk. We will be distributing door hangers in the neighborhoods around our church on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. In case of rain, this event will be rescheduled to Sunday, December 6 at 12:00 noon.



Remember as the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season descends upon us, that we are focusing this month on giving to others as we reflect on the most wonderful gift our Father in Heaven gave us in His son, Jesus Christ.

This Saturday, December 5, at 10 am, we will be participating in distributing door hangers again. This is a great way to reach out to our neighbors and invite them to come to Cokesbury to learn first hand about Jesus' gift of salvation for them.

Sunday, December 6, we will meet from 5:30 to 7:30, but our schedule will be a little different. **Be sure to eat supper before you come.** For the first hour we will be sorting beans and rice for SeAM, which we will deliver on Saturday, December 12, in the afternoon when we go work at SeAM. At 6:30 we will join the Carol Sing and Tasting Party. You can bring your favorite Christmas treat to share with everyone after we sing Christmas Carols.

Sunday, December 13, we will be working on making 10 School Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief). **Again, be sure to eat supper before you come.** We will meet in the Conference Room to assemble the kits. At 6:30 we will watch the Cokesbury Kid's Christmas Show. You can bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to share.

We have adopted a family from SeAM to provide Christmas gifts for. There are 5 kids in the family, ages 1, 7, 10, 12, and 14. There are two kids in this family that are youth age. I will get details to you about when we will be going shopping for their gifts very soon.

In His Service, *Linda Hite*, Youth Director

UMW Meeting Updates

The Sara Owens-Gemoets Circle met on November 24. Gloria Pace served as our hostess. Two very welcome guests were Frances and Elizabeth Carter. Debbie Carter presented the program. She gave a report on the Christian Science Monitor - a publication started by Mary Baker Eddy. Being mostly a secular publication it does contain one inspirational writing per issue. Also we discussed the Taliban and it's effect on the world today. Marlette Reed brought a devotional reading from "Grace for the Moment" by Max Lucado. We enjoyed Gloria's tasty luncheon along with much lively conversation on this - our last meeting of 2009.

-Betty Sutton

On Thursday, November 19, the Stafford Wyatt Circle held their November Meeting. Laurel Johnson opened the meeting by sharing a beautiful devotional for Thanksgiving. All



the women shared the things for which they are most grateful, including good work, good health, their homes, children and marriages, the church family, and opportunities to show God's love to others. Laurel then blessed each person with a little gift - and a homework assignment, be a blessing to someone this week.

Strengthened by their gratitude, the women focused on being a blessing to others. They planned the menu for the baked-potato bar, party games, awesome prizes, and kids crafts for the upcoming Christmas Party at *The Bridge over Troubled Water* on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

Our wonderful church friends donated tons of great gifts for prizes during the party. There are enough items to make sure that every woman will win a prize. One hilarious moment occurred when Carmen Wilhite produced her homemade "Hot Potato" for one of the party games. All the women were sworn to secrecy about what's really wrapped up inside that tin-foil!

Thanks to Karla Parker, each woman will receive a little Christmas tree and a present to put underneath it. Karla arrived at the meeting with bags and bags of luxurious bath and body products which the group happily sorted and wrapped.

Not only United Methodist Women are getting into the act... The group was pleased to welcome, Mandy Hite to the meeting. Mandy and a few other Cokesbury Youth will be helping with the party. Jim Krafa sent a box of goodies to share and even Cokesbury's littlest members will help with this event by decorating gift bags and wrapping presents for the party during their Sunday School!

Cokesbury's United Methodist Women have had a long history of reaching out to the women and children who are served by *The Bridge over Troubled Water* - a shelter for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and homelessness. By sharing the message of Jesus with these women and children who have seen so much sadness and pain, The Stafford-Wyatt Circle will continue the tradition this Christmas. The Circle meets on the third Thursday evening of each month. All women of the church are welcome!

-Anne Nolen

It's Your Turn To Help With Helping Hands

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

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



Music Notes



"Carol Sing & Tasting Party" this Sunday! Come and bring your favorite "Christmas Goody" (Cakes, pies, lemon bars, brownies, chips & special dips, Hors d'oeuvres of any kind, soups & chilis, cookies, relish trays, candies, or whatever is your specialty...), for the fellowship time following music in the sanctuary: carols, "Young Singing Angels", etc.!

"Mary, Did You Know?" on December 13 at 11:00 worship (no 8:30 worship that week only), presented by Chancel Choir and instruments. "Come and worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King!"

French horn ensemble "Esprit" will present special musical offerings on December 20... Have a blessed Advent!

In Him, *Marsh*

Two Great Ways To Share This Christmas

Once again Cokesbury is reaching out to spread the peace, hope, love and joy of Christmas by supporting families in need through SeAM's Adopt a Child for Christmas and through the Angel Tree Program. SeAM supports needy families in our neighborhood while Angel Tree supports the children of incarcerated parents. You can participate in these programs now by choosing a child off one (or both!) of the trees in the Commons. All the instructions are on the tables. It's a great opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child and to get the true spirit of Christmas coursing through your veins. You'll be glad you did. Thanks for supporting these wonderful programs.

Remember The Needy With Donations

Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) continues to help the needy with food and other assistance. Through October, SeAM has given out more food than in all of 2008. Your food donations help. Remember your First Sunday donations on December 6 for the SeAM pantry. Items currently in short supply are canned tomato products and macaroni and cheese. Drop off your donations then or on any Sunday in the plastic tubs outside the narthex or in the Commons. As always, we can use your small plastic bags for filling food orders as we use over 100 a day!

-Rob Bradley, Cokesbury SeAM Trustee

Thanks To Our Mowing Crew

As winter approaches, the church grass will only be cut a time or two more this year. It is appropriate to give thanks to our small but faithful group of mowers who kept the church grounds mowed and edged. Thank you to Carroll Kuhlman, Wendell Sullivan and Laura and Rob Bradley. We need more people to help with this worthwhile service to the church. The efforts of our mowing crew keep the grounds looking good and also save the church thousands of dollars by not having to pay outside crews. Think about volunteering next spring!

Thank You! From Peggy Smith

Thanks Ms. Linda, Cokesbury kids and grown-ups (or so they think) for a wonderful tribute to myself and Ms. Donna. You were thanking us when we should be the ones thanking you. I am sure Ms. Donna would agree that we are the lucky ones. We had many happy and sometimes challenging times watching you grow up, and it was a real blessing being a part of that. Thanks again and all of you will always be a part of my happy days at Cokesbury.

Love you all,
Ms. Peggy



Treasurer's Report

Giving for November 15 & 22

General.....	\$15,195
Bond Fund.....	\$40
Designated Giving.....	\$319
Catch - Up Fund.....	\$2,044
Total Giving.....	\$17,598

Bank Balances -11/30/09

Operating.....	\$1,061
T-Mobile.....	\$13,699
Designated Savings.....	\$61,712
Loan from Designated Fund.....	\$9,112
Total Cash Balance	\$76,472

Apportionments

YTD Paid.....	\$19,366
Total Due.....	\$22,518

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

By The Numbers

November 29

8:30 a.m. Service.....	77
9:45 a.m. Service.....	30
11:00 a.m. Service.....	103
Total.....	210

We're Catching Up



Congratulations Cokesbury! As of November 8 you have now reached the mark of \$26,543 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.