

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:

Jay Standridge, Billie Kestler, Linda Garies, Beverly Crouch, Wade Hudson, Roger Northrup, Jon Akkerman, Sandy Hinson's son Ron, Luella Sims, Thomas Gentry (Claudia's husband), Jim Smith on the death of his sister, Ray West (father of Julie West), Walt Pasciak's parents, Joanne Lasher (Patsy Richmond's sister), Annabelle Fookes on the death of her son-in-law (Pete Baker), Ellie Melanson on the death of her sister Barbara Chapin, Denise Agema (Carroll Kuhlman's step-daughter), Russell and Sandra Jones' grandson, Phillip Reel, Marian Royster, Rodney Nolen (Sara Musselman's brother), Dale Powell (Marlette Reed's nephew), Amy Harbridge (sister of Dean Hebbel), Zach Hopson (Kay Hyle's cousin), Trisha Altier (Alison Myer's sister), Kara Hazen (Jennifer Miller's friend), Mark and Rachel Dawson, John Elam 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. In addition, keep the people and rescue workers in Haiti in your prayers especially Gloria Hurley's friend, Ruth Ann, and the UMCOR workers several of whom were killed or are still missing.

Cokesbury's Haiti Disaster Relief Effort

Cokesbury volunteers have spent many hours converting a shipping container into a Mobile Medical Clinic. This clinic will be dedicated to the Lord's Service on Sunday, January 31. Because of the recent tragic earthquake in Haiti, Cokesbury's clinic is urgently needed and will be shipped immediately to Haiti to serve in the disaster relief effort.

The United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) and Christian Alliance will be working with Cokesbury to collect emergency medical supplies for the clinic. These supplies may include crutches and wheelchairs donated by medical supply companies or gently used ones from individuals. Houston area churches will be asked to prepare 'Health Kits'. **No clothing will be accepted.** Cokesbury has been asked to serve as one of the receiving points for these medical supplies.

This week, a second shipping container will be delivered and temporarily set up next to our clinic. As we receive medical supplies, they will be packed in the second container. Both the clinic and the supply container are scheduled to leave Cokesbury the first week in February. They will be taken to a Houston port staging area bound for Haiti and they will leave on the first ship available.

Cokesbury needs volunteers to help with this effort for the next two weeks. If you can help prepare and receive the Health Kits at the church or if you can volunteer to help pack the second shipping container with the medical supplies and equipment, contact Patti or Dennis Akkola (e-mail: Den Pat Akk@msn.com), home 281-922-9932 or cell 281-755-1124). The deadline for receiving health kits is Saturday, January 30.

If you would like to make a cash donation, you can make the check payable to Cokesbury UMC and note on the memo line 'Haiti Relief'. If you would like to make a cash donation to Christian Alliance, you can mail your check directly to them at 4401 Rice Dryer Rd., Pearland Tx 77581.

Health Kit List of Supplies (Pack in 2 gallon zip lock bag)

Hand Towel (15"x25" up to 17"x27")	Wash Cloth
Bar of Soap	Shampoo and Conditioner
Toothpaste and Toothbrush	6 Band-Aids
Q Tips	Comb and Brush
Deodorant	Fingernail File
Disposable Razor and Shave Cream	

All items must be new. Do not include notes or additional items in the bag. A smaller health kit (1 gallon size) can also be made. See the list at the church.

Men to Host Friendship Dinner

The Cokesbury Methodist Men are now selling tickets (\$10/each) for their annual Friendship Dinner. The dinner will be on Saturday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m with catering by Two Brothers restaurant. Entertainment for the evening will be provided during and after dinner by the Wayne Gordon Trio. See one of the Methodist men for tickets to this always entertaining event. Invite a friend to come with you.

From The Pastor

A year ago, you embarked on a daring plan: to build a mobile medical clinic. Armed with the vision of being in service in Christ's name to hurting people, you paid for a container and supplies. You paid for it with all your \$1 bills that found themselves in the offering plate. Some twelve months later and hundreds of volunteer hours later, it is finished. On January 31, the Mobile Medical Clinic will be dedicated. On February 1 it will be deployed to Haiti.

The timing has been right all along for it has been God's timetable. Soon the clinic will be deployed to Haiti. Your prayers will be felt and God's power will be experienced. This begs the question, "Is there anything too wonderful for God?"

As we are experiencing God's timing we recall that "all things work for the good of those who love the Lord and are called to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) How grateful I am to find a church people cooperating with the Holy Spirit.

I will be at a two day seminar on church growth at Clear Lake UMC this Sunday. Darrel Raines will be giving the message.

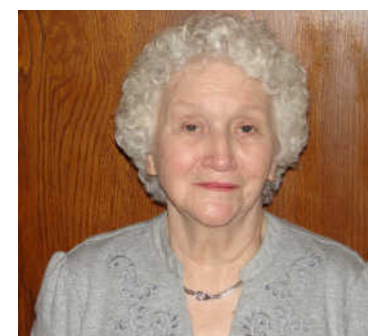
Sincerely Yours in Christ' Service,
Brother Bill



We are joyful that we had new members who transferred their membership to Cokesbury on Sunday, January 10. Tracey and Shannon Tobias are shown below along with their son Cameron and their daughter Madison. Also joining during the late service was Geraldine (Geri) McDermott.

We would also like to recognize Tracey Shaw who earlier transferred her membership. We will include a photo of her in a later issue.

We thank God for each of these new members and for their enthusiasm and love for the Lord. Please greet our new members and welcome them into our church family.



Church Pays Full 2009 Apportionments

Thanks to your generosity, Cokesbury paid all its apportionments in full for 2009. It was a whole-church effort. The "Ketch-up" fund repaid the \$30,000 we borrowed from designated funds and raised an additional \$10,000 toward apportionments. This along with your strengthened giving let us pay our apportionments in full and enter 2010 with great confidence.

In the midst of this you gave generously to missions, supported the youth and children's ministry with generous giving and support. Now you have embarked in a major participation to the aid of Haiti. God bless you!



January 31 - Flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 46th wedding anniversary of Lady and Bob Gersteman.

By The Numbers

January 17, 2010

8:30 a.m. Service.....	88
11:00 a.m. Service.....	109
Total.....	197



Join Us for a Baby Shower

Wow! Alison Myers had a GIRL, after three bouncing baby boys. Please join us in showering her with girly things. We will be throwing a Baby Shower for Alison on Saturday, February 6 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. There will be lots of fun, and fellowship. You are all invited and we hope to see you there.



This past Sunday we had our Parent Planning Meeting. Thank you so much to all the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to meet and discuss our youth program! Please keep the following dates and events in mind:

BIG HOUSE for Junior High students will be June 24-27. We have already pre-registered, and have **one** more space available with the current number of chaperones we have. If you want to go, let me know right away so we can get you registered.

U.M. ARMY will be June 6-12. A deposit is due by **January 31**. If you want to go, please let me know right away. I will be sending off the registration the first week of February.

LAKEVIEW camp is July 12-16 this summer. We don't have registration forms yet, but I would like to know how many are interested in going. Children who have completed 3rd grade and up are eligible to go. Any adults who want to go as chaperones also need to contact me. This week is always filled with worship, spiritual growth, new friends and lots of fun. I hope you can join us!

CONFIRMATION classes start February 21 at 12:30 pm. Bring a snack lunch to eat at church. All youth 6th grade or older that have not been confirmed are invited to attend. If you want to attend, please contact Bro. Bill at (281) 484-9243.

February 7 the youth will be participating in Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and financial donations before and after both services Sunday morning. Please bring your donations to church with you. We will be in the Narthex, or you can drop your donation in the SeAM boxes located in the Commons.

MYF on February 7 will be a Super Bowl viewing party at Rob and Laura Bradley's home. We will meet at their house from 5:00 to 9:30 or the end of the game, whichever is first.

The United Methodist Men will be having their annual Friendship Dinner Saturday, February 6 at 6:30 pm. We will be serving the meal. Please be there at 5:45 to help set up and prepare. This is always a lot of fun.

We will be cooking and serving the United Methodist Women's Valentines Dinner Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Be here at 5:00 to help cook and set up. We will also be meeting the day before, Monday, February 8 at 5:30 to pre-cook some of the items. This will be our first official cooking class!

We have lots of great opportunities to serve God, our church, and our "neighbors" in the next few months. I hope to see you there!

In His Service,
Linda Hite, Youth Director

Confirmation Class To Begin February 21

Confirmation Classes will begin February 21 led by Reverend Newcomb. Confirmation is for sixth graders or above regardless of whether you have been baptized. It is a time of bringing all the pieces of a child's life together so each can determine in a casual atmosphere if they want to accept the gospel of Jesus Christ, to confirm the promise made for them, and now wishes to announce his or her own faith. It will be a time of exploring and learning about the United Methodist Church and its role in making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Confirmation classes will meet in the library. Participants will be asked to bring a sack lunch as we will be meeting after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for an hour and 30 minutes or less. Call the church office at 281-484-9243 to register.



Treasurer's Report

Giving-December 27 & January 4

General.....	\$23,943
Bond Fund.....	\$380
Designated Giving.....	\$3,020
Catch - Up Fund.....	\$3,175
Total Giving.....	\$30,518

Bank Balances -01/11/10

Operating.....	\$5,760
T-Mobile.....	\$13,699
Designated Savings.....	\$64,562
Loan from Designated Fund.....	\$0
Total Cash Balance	\$84,021

-**Sandy Hinson**
Treasurer

Keep Informed With Quick Connection

Three issues of the Cokesbury Quick Connection including one on our Haiti relief effort have gone out by e-mail. Quick Connection updates members each week and gives a thumb nail sketch of the upcoming sermon, calendar of events through the following Wednesday. Everybody needs a reminder, and this ministry will not only serve as a reminder, but it will also help us all to stay in prayer about our church's ministry and the care of its membership.

If you did not get the initial issues, but would like to receive them, contact the church secretary by phone (281-484-9243) or e-mail (secretary@cumchouston.org) and give her your e-mail address.

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

5th Sunday: New Beginnings Sunday School Class



Music Notes



Calling **ALL** singers!!! **Chancel Choir** singers are all needed every Sunday. We have been struggling with illness and even some family deaths. We need to "re-group" in anticipation of Easter music! Please remember that we are Volunteers! You are sorely missed when your spot is empty. **AND** you are greatly appreciated by your Cokesbury family and me!

UMC's **Handbell Choir** is playing another energetic selection, "Ribaltimento", by Kathleen Wissinger on January 24 (8:30 and 11:00). Our **Choir Chimes** will be playing very soon as well.

On January 24 at 4:30 pm, we will resume our String Ensemble (violin, viola, cello, and bass if available), to play in worship as soon as we are ready. **All** string players (intermediate and high school as well as adults!) are welcome. Please plan on it!

On January 31, **Chancel Choir** will sing "Here I Am, Lord" as we send our Mobile Medical Unit on its first "mission" to Haiti! How exciting!

Chancel Choir will share Twila Paris's "Lamb of God" on Communion Sunday (February 7).

Don't forget! Easter music is starting **NOW** in preparation of our Easter Cantata! Please plan on singing: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

In Him, *Marsh*

Become A Youth Shareholder!

Would you like to invest in the youth and send them on their mission trips this summer? Well...for \$20 a share you can! Sign up sheets are in The Commons. If you wish to remain ANONYMOUS, you can! Either write "Anonymous" in the "shareholders name" slot, or if you want to write a check for an "x number" of shares and let us fill in the gaps where they are needed on the sign up sheets, that is fine too. Please make checks out to Cokesbury MYF and give to Linda. If you can't find me...you can leave your check in the Youth mailbox located by the pastor's office.

Give Generously to Souper Bowl of Caring



Sunday, February 7 is the first Sunday of the month and Cokesbury normally has a food drive for Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM). However on this first Sunday, it will be combined with our annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection. Please remember those less fortunate on Super Bowl Sunday.

The MYF will be collecting non-perishable food and monetary donations before and after the two services. Items that can be used at SeAM are canned tomato products, rice and beans. Everything collected at Cokesbury will go to SeAM. Food collected at area grocery stores such as HEB and Kroger will go to the Houston Food Bank where it will be redistributed to area food pantries such as SeAM.

Last year marked a special event for the Souper Bowl of Caring as last February 1 marked 20 years since the youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S. C. addressed the issue of hunger in their community with this Super Bowl Sunday prayer:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

This prayer inspired this single church to invite 21 other congregations to join them in collecting \$5,700, which was then donated to local charities that provide assistance to those in need.

Over the last 20 years, more than \$50 million (over \$10 million in 2009) has been raised in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger. From a single prayer and a single youth group, the Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year.

Be part of this movement that begins in our own backyard and reaches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please give generously with food or cash. Everything collected will go to SeAM to help our neighbors in need.

-**Laura Bradley**, SeAM Pantry Manager

ECDC Garage Sale Is January 29!

Cokesbury's Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) will have a garage and bake sale on Friday, January 29 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We are seeking any donations for this event. We are now accepting large donations. All proceeds will benefit ECDC and will fund staff registration for the Annual Methodist Early Child Conference and help purchase classroom supplies. If you have questions, call Lori Brown at 832-235-5885.

Get Ready For Fat Tuesday

Mark your calendars for the United Methodist Men sponsored Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) Pancake Supper. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, February 16 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Come out for the free pancakes, waffles, bacon and sausage.

Fat Tuesday (also known, in French, as Mardi Gras), is traditionally the day when all the fats, sugars and luxurious foods in the house are eaten up before Lent begins the next morning. This is always a delicious event -- you won't want to miss it.