

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, **Jon** Akkerman, **Luella** Sims, **Thomas** Gentry (Claudia's husband), **Ray** West, Walt Pasciak's parents, **Carroll** Kuhlman, **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), **Don** Piecznski (Cary's dad), **Jim** Rogers (Helen Perry's friend), **Jack** Williams (Rick's dad), **Marian** Royster, **Richard** Orr (Gloria Hurley's nephew), **Laura** Bradley's parents, **Juanita** Peters, **James** Perry, **Tim** Cates, **Beverly** Blumrick, **Charlie** Strickland, **Mara** Price, **Wanda** Ford, **Crista** Erickson, **Jean** Wallwork, **Janie** Sullivan, **Jerald** Eddin, **Carlos** (5 year old who needs a prosthesis), **Elizabeth** Angeles, **Richard** Salisbury, 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.

Come To The Fountain



I hope you will join us Sunday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m. for our first Sunday evening worship service. The service has been named The Fountain because it will be a place to come for one last drink of God's calming presence right after your crazy weekend and before your challenging work week. This service will be short (only 30 -45 minutes) and filled with a joyful and uplifting message and music.

Immediately following the service we will have a good old fashioned covered dish supper. So, bring a heaping helping of your favorite main dish, side dish, or dessert to share with your church family as we feast in fellowship together.

Mobile Medical Clinic Update

At this time, Cokesbury's Mobile Medical Clinic is at Christian Alliance in Pearland. It is one of six clinics that are being packed with medical supplies and equipment ready to be shipped as soon as possible. Because of the severe damage to the port at Port au Prince, there is a bottleneck in shipping and unloading. Christian Alliance is waiting for a permit clearance to Port au Prince from the U. S. Government. Since the Search & Rescue phase in Haiti has ended and the Recovery & Rebuilding phase is beginning, Christian Alliance is confident that the delay in shipping will be resolved soon. The six clinics and two supply containers are expected to leave the Port of Houston in March for delivery to hospitals in Haiti. Several Cokesbury members (Don and Sue Smith, Tracey Moore, and Dennis and Patti Akkola) volunteered some time to help Christian Alliance pack the six clinics. If you are interested in helping at Christian Alliance, call Patti Akkola at 281-755-1124.

Confirmation Class Begins February 25

Confirmation begins in February. Do you have sixth graders or above who ask questions like: Why do we pray? Why did Jesus have to die? What is so bad about sin? If so, then Confirmation Class may well be exactly what you need. Contact Reverend Newcomb as soon as possible as these questions will begin to be answered on Thursday, February 25. Classes will meet at 6:00 p.m.



February 21- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Linda and Bill Botkin.

February 28- The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Anya Parker on her 3rd Birthday by Marcus, Karla, Allison and Andrew Parker.

From The Pastor

Lent is the 40 days prior to Easter not counting Sundays. Forty days itself is found through the scriptures: it rained for 40 days and nights when God cleansed the world, saving Noah and his family. Moses, the great deliverer of the Hebrew slaves from captivity was 40 years old when he received the call to tell Pharaoh, "let my people go." And in another cleansing, the Hebrew people wandered for 40 years in the wilderness before they were allowed to enter into the Promised Land.

Forty days seems significant for us not only to count the days, but to reflect on our lives, to offer to God our confessions, and to develop resolution to overcome the sins which we habitually commit. After all, it is the promise of the Kingdom of God we seek!

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. At 7 p.m., February 19, there will be an Ash Wednesday service in which we will hear the Word, pray, sing, but most of all enter into a season of repentance. Lent is not an end in itself. Rather, it leads us to Easter, wherein we can joyfully celebrate Christ's victory and our own over sin and death. Through the days of Lent, the path leads us to Paul's exclamation of life: "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again: death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he dies to sin, once for all; but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:9-11)

Don't expect these days of Lent to be boring, not all all. For Jesus told us as we seek, knock on the door for we may well find the "pearl of great price," or a "treasure hidden in a field," that is worth far more than anything we have sacrificed. For it will be the kingdom of God.

Blessings through Christ our Lord,

Bro. Bill



Lenten Wreath To Be Introduced At Cokesbury For The First Time

During the season of Lent, Cokesbury worshipers will encounter the "Lenten Wreath." The wreath itself is made of briars and has one candle for each of the Sundays in Lent plus candles for Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday. Each of these candles is gray. The wreath is completed by the Good Friday candle which is black, and the white Christ candle. It looks similar to the Advent Wreath only it is not meant to be a thing of opulent beauty, but rustic. All the candles are lighted beginning on Ash Wednesday and then each worship service during Lent, one candle is extinguished until all are extinguished on Good Friday. There are special prayers and liturgies written for these Sundays in Lent.

The purpose of the Lenten Wreath is to heighten our worship experience and to visually mark the Sundays that led Jesus to Jerusalem, where he suffered and died for each one of us. Come Easter morning, the goal is that we truly celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death and our own as well as we have learned to trust Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Come see how "everything is changed" by Christ's victory!

50th Anniversary Team

The Committee on Nominations will soon be meeting to fill vacancies in our leadership team for 2010. One area of particular need is a group who will spend the next year and a half planning the 50th anniversary celebration of Cokesbury. If you have ideas and people who are go-getters, please contact Bro. Bill. Our 50th anniversary is only two years away! It is time to get started.

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. Please make checks out to Cokesbury MYF and give to Linda Hite. If you can't find me...you can leave your check in the Youth mailbox located by the pastor's office.

In addition, all shareholders will be invited to a Shareholders Dinner at the end of the summer. You will be treated to dinner, a slide presentation of all our mission trips, and wonderful testimonials from the kids themselves about the great times they had and what they have learned from their experiences. It is a great time of fellowship and a chance for you to see just where your \$20 went and the great impact it made.



We had a great time at our Super Bowl party. It was an exciting and fun game. Thank you Laura Bradley for feeding us!

The past week was very busy for us. We served dinner at the Methodist Men's Friendship Dinner and we cooked and served the UMW's Valentines Dinner. We had a wonderful time working together and fellowshiping with our church family.

Our new Sunday evening contemporary worship starts next Sunday, February 21, at 5 pm. The Youth Praise Band will be participating. Come to MYF half an hour earlier to join us for a moving worship service as we spend time with God before going out into the world the next week. There will be a covered dish supper at 5:30 after the worship service, and then we will have our regular MYF.

Our Shareholders sign up will be available through the rest of the month. Please stop by the Commons to join us in our mission trips this Summer by signing up to be a Shareholder for \$20 a share. We will have a Shareholder's dinner at the end of the Summer for all those who participated in mission trips either as a participant or a Shareholder. We look forward to sharing our experiences with those who made the trip possible.

In His Service,
Linda Hite

Kids In The Kitchen

Our first ever children's cooking night was a success this past Friday. The kids participated in making cupcake cones and a no bake strawberry shortcake pie. They enjoyed decorating their cupcakes and making a craft to hand to their valentine on Valentine's Day. This was such a fun evening that we plan to schedule it again. If you were not able to attend this time, watch the calendar for the next night of "Kids in the Kitchen."



The Youth extend their heartfelt thanks to the Katy Kuhlman circle member who donated \$500 for band equipment. And to the New Disciples Sunday School class for putting the icing on the cake with a donation of \$100.

It Was A Super Souper Bowl for SeAM

Congratulations Cokesbury! You donated \$170 and 230 pounds of food items at the Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you so much! So far, nationwide over \$6.8 million dollars in money and food donations has been generated in the 2010 Souper Bowl of Caring. All food and money we raised at Cokesbury goes directly to the Southeast Area Ministries (SeAM) food pantry. If you didn't get a chance to donate, and are still interested in doing so, see Linda Hite.

Final statistics for 2009 for SeAM are now in and confirm that 2009 was a record year for SeAM in helping those in need. A total of almost 180,000 pounds of food were given to clients, a 29% increase from 2008! A total of almost \$60,000 was given in direct aid to help people with utilities, housing, or transportation needs. In addition, over \$21,000 was given to clients in goods from the SeAM Thrift Store.

Get involved with this vital ministry and join your fellow Cokesbury members helping others. Ask one of your fellow members about volunteer opportunities: Janis Shields, Jim and Carole Krafka, Carolyn Lofland, Jo Ann Gray, Claudia Gentry, Laura and Rob Bradley and Kathy Lemaster. Food donations for SeAM can be placed in the plastic tubs outside the narthex or in the Commons. Plastic bags or small amounts of donations for the Thrift Store can be left in the large soup can in the church kitchen. The Thrift Store accepts donations until 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For furniture donations, contact Rob Bradley.

Use Your Kroger Card to Help Church

Cokesbury is a participant in Kroger's Neighbor to Neighbor program. If you choose, every time you shop at Kroger, Cokesbury will receive a contribution based on your eligible purchases. To enroll, you simply need to present a customer letter with the Cokesbury's barcode to a Kroger cashier upon checkout. A copy of the customer letter is on the Missions table outside the narthex. After they have scanned your Kroger Plus Card, you will be enrolled for the remainder of the program year (until mid-2010). On future visits, all you have to do is show your Kroger card as you normally do. This is an easy way to help your church.

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

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



Music Notes



"On Eagle's Wings" will be sung by the Chancel Choir on the first Sunday of Lent - February 21. Among anthems for Lent will be: "God So Loved the World" and others to help us focus on Jesus's Journey to Jerusalem.

Cokesbury's **String Ensemble** will at last begin meeting on Sundays at 4 p.m., with our first rehearsal on February 28. All violin, viola, cello and bass players please come at 4:00 in the **Choir Room** (upstairs), for just 30 minutes!

Youth Choir will have our "re-union" on February 28 at 4:30 p.m. In the Choir Room (upstairs)! Among music to be worked on, is "Siyahamba" (in English and in Zulu!) All current and former Youth Choir singers please come!

Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. And there is still time for you to sing our Lenten Cantata, "Song of the Shadows", by Joseph Martin. You are invited to share your talent with us!

In Him, *Marsh*

P.S. Great singing, Children's Choirs!

Mark Your Calendars For VBS

Cokesbury's next mission is schedule for take off on June 28, 2010 at 6pm. Vacation Bible School this year will be June 28th through July 2nd from 6 - 8:30 pm. The theme for 2010 is **Galatic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!** During this week, our cosmic adventure will focus on praising our wonderful, incredible, amazing, magnificent, and awesome God! Each mission includes a Bible Story, a science activity, music, art projects, recreation and snack. As we prepare for our cadets, we will be asking for donations and volunteers. If you would like to join us on our mission to see our awesome universe - and our awesome God - please contact Alison Myers, kevali313@sbcglobal.net or 713-870-7361 and let her know.

-Alison Myers & Lisa Nelms

Thanks, From Our New Mommy

While I was home bonding with our new baby girl, I had lots of time to think. During this time of thinking, I came to realize I have a terrific family. What more could I ask for? I have a wonderful husband, who took over household chores when I wasn't able to, 3 loving boys and now a beautiful baby girl. My family seemed complete. Well, I left out an even bigger part of my family, a **TERRIFIC** church family. You have always welcomed me at Cokesbury, but I came to realize the true meaning of a church family. You showed me how much I am part of this Cokesbury family over the holiday season and then again at the baby shower. Thank you Laurel and Lisa for having a baby shower for Gracelynn and thank you to everyone that attended and those that couldn't. Gracelynn and I were showered with lots of lovely gifts. Everyone enjoyed the shower, trying to guess what gifts I would open. There was lots of pink (kind of liking the color right now) but some didn't forget the color I am used to, BLUE. I love everything and cannot thank you enough. I believe she is going to be the best dressed little girl there is, if I do say so myself.

Thank you, my Cokesbury Family,
Alison & Gracelynn



Treasurer's Report

Giving-February 7

General.....	\$9,890
Bond Fund.....	\$130
Designated Giving.....	\$291
Total Giving.....	\$10,311

Bank Balances -February 12

Operating.....	\$4,708
T-Mobile.....	\$13,696
Designated Savings.....	\$60,897
Total Cash Balance	\$79,301

-Sandy Hinson, Treasurer

Sunday School Teacher For Hire

Brother Bill wants to visit and present a Sunday School lesson soon to your Sunday School Class. He will be available February, March, and April to present overviews of the home meetings and projections as to how the church can minister to the membership we now have and thereby create an inviting place for those desiring to make Cokesbury their church home as well. Please call Bro. Bill at 713-484-9243. We can't wait to hear from you.

By The Numbers

February 14, 2010

8:30 a.m. Service.....	128
11:00 a.m. Service.....	97
Total.....	225



Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.