

THE COKESBURY COURIER

an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

Vol. 156 No. 44

Friday, March 5, 2010

076453

Cokesbury United Methodist Church

10030 Scarsdale Boulevard
Houston, TX 77089
(281) 484-9243
www.cumchouston.org

Selected Contents

Music Notes.....	8
Remembering Billie.....	8
Kuhlman Circle Experiences Lent.....	8
Dulin Circle Meets.....	8
Easter Egg Hunt.....	8
Thank You, Share Holders!.....	8

Prayer Corner

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

Jay Standridge, **Jack** Kestler on the death of his wife **Billie**, **Dean** Hebbel on the death of his sister **Amy**, **Beverly** Crouch, **Wade** Hudson, **Jon** Akkerman, **Luella** Sims, **Walt** Pasciak on the death of his mother, **Carroll** Kuhlman, **Dale** Powell (Marlette Reed's nephew), **Zach** Hopson (Kay Hyle's cousin), **Marian** Royster, **Gloria** Hurley on the death of her nephew, **Beverly** Blumrick, **Mara** Price, **Wanda** Ford, **Crista** Erickson, **Janie** Sullivan, **Jack** Williams, **Tim** Cates, **Gunter** Braun, **Cindy** Hagman, **Ned** Botkin, **Joan** Nolen, and for all our servicemen and women who are serving overseas, especially **Aaron** Smalley and **Barry** King. If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, please call the church office, 281-484-9243. In addition, keep the people and workers in Haiti in your prayers.

Scouting Sunday

Cokesbury's Scout Sunday was held February 14. A color guard flag ceremony was presented by Cub Scout Pack #773. Cub Scouts *Trey Ingram, David Nolen, Jason Sabal, John Mendiola, Ethan Blair,* and *Thomas Torres* proudly posted the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flags of The United States of America and The Christian Flag.

On this day the Cross and Flame Award, which recognizes adult leaders who have given exceptional service to programs for young people, was presented to Robert Nolen at the 8:30 service and to Johnny Lemaster at the 11:00 service. Johnny is a long-time member and Scout Coordinator and Robert is the Cub Master for Pack #773.

Cub Scout Pack #773 calls Cokesbury UMC their home. The pack serves area boys in the first through fifth grade. Any boy is welcome to join the scouting program, even if they are not members of Cokesbury. For more information email pack773@sbcglobal.net.

Pictured below are Robert Nolen (on left) and Johnny Lemaster (on right).



March 7-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Chance, Phyllis Beaty's beloved pet by Jay and Kay Hyle.

March 14-The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of Wendell Sullivan's birthday by Janie, Debbie, Wendy and Whitney.

Cokesbury's Statement of Purpose

Learning to serve God and humankind in Jesus' name.

UMW To Hear About Nutrition

The March meeting of the United Methodist Women will be on Tuesday, March 9. The speaker will be Tish Wright (MS, RD, LD, CDE) of Clear Lake Regional Hospital. She will be talking about nutrition and diabetes eating. Her talk will begin at 7 pm. The business meeting will follow. All women of the church are invited to come hear this speaker talk about an important issue for many of us.

Blood Drive

Saturday, March 27
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

From The Pastor

We often believe in things because of the authority of someone else's testimony. When people's lives are lived out with such conviction and honesty, we tend to believe them because of their lives. C. S. Lewis wrote: "Believing things 'on authority' only means believing them because you have been told them by someone you think trustworthy." Ninety-nine percent of the things you believe are believed on authority. I believe there is such a place as New York. I could not prove by abstract reasoning that there is such a place. I believe it because reliable people have told me so. The ordinary person believes in the solar system, atoms, and the circulation of the blood on authority--because the scientists say so. Every historical statement is believed on authority. None of us has seen the Norman Conquest or the defeat of the Spanish Armada. But we believe them simply because people who did see them have left writings that tell us about them. A person who balked at authority in other things, as some people do in religion, would have to be content to know nothing all his life.

Countless millions of people have based their lives on the testimony of a Christian whose lifestyle lived out the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is one reason I keep going as a Christian and a minister of the Gospel. I am not content to live on empty, but base my energy for the gospel on the testimony of faithful others, the Scriptures and as the Apostles Paul desired, ". . . that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection." (Philippians 4:3:10)

May your season of preparation during Lent give you strength for the victory of Easter itself.

Grace and Peace,

Bill Newcomb



Children's Game Night

Our next Children's game night will be Friday, March 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All Children through 5th Grade and their families are invited to join us for Game Night. A Nursery will be provided for infant care and toddler play. Bring your favorite snack and enjoy fun and fellowship with us. This event is FREE.

Houses for Haiti

Builders Without Borders, a local non-profit, is sponsoring houses to be built locally and then shipped to Haiti. The house is small (8 ft by 12 ft by 8 ft high). It is made out of plywood and 2 x 4s. It has no windows, no plumbing, and no electricity. It has a tin roof. The building is designed to take a hurricane with 135 mph winds. The hurricane will blow off the roof, which can be easily replaced. The building is built here, then painted, then partially disassembled for shipping to Haiti. It is set on concrete blocks and tied down. The purpose of the building is to provide shelter from rain during Haiti's rainy season. The approximate cost of the building is \$600.

The Mission Team has voted to build 5 of these buildings. There is money in the Dollars for Missions budget to build one building. Several groups in the church have already expressed an interest to fund or to build one of these buildings. If your group is interested please call Laura Bradley at 281-992-2604.

If anyone would like a copy of the recent DVD slideshow showing "the building of the Mobile Medical Clinic" and/or the DVD slideshow showing CUMC's Haiti Relief efforts please notify Carole or Jim Krafka at 281-481-3102 to place your order(s). We would ask for a "donation" that will be used to help finance the new Missions project to construct "Houses for Haiti".

-Laura Bradley, Chairman Missions

Have You Been To The Fountain?



The Fountain is our new worship experience at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday nights. The service is short (only 30 minutes) and is filled with uplifting sermon offerings and music. Our very talented Youth Band provides the music. For the past two services we have enjoyed a fellowship meal together and we all leave feeling very uplifted. We are refreshed from the meal, the fellowship and the living waters at The Fountain. If you have not had an opportunity to try this new service, please give it a try. You will be glad you did.



For the past few weeks we have been learning about covenants. First we studied the covenant between God and Abraham and all his descendents. This past week we learned about the Passover, and even enjoyed a Passover Meal. Well, maybe we didn't "enjoy" the "Maror", or bitter herbs, so much, but we did learn a lot about the Jewish Passover Meal and how and why it is still celebrated today. In two weeks we will resume our studies of covenants as we learn about the new covenant in Jesus Christ and about His last Passover Meal, The Last Supper.

This coming Sunday, March 7, we will be going to Friendswood UMC right after we worship at The Fountain. We are going to the Wayne Kerr concert. Parts of the audience participation will be recorded and blended with others recorded around the country on Wayne's "One Voice" album. The concert is FREE and everyone that goes will get a download card to download the song when it is finished for FREE!! T-Shirts will be on sale to help offset the cost, so if you want a T-Shirt, be sure to bring some cash. They have not said how much the shirts are, but they are usually between \$10 and \$15. The concert will be over at 8 pm, and we will be back at Cokesbury by 8:30.

Spring Break is coming up soon. We will be taking a group to Crossroads at Park Place Homeless Outreach on Tuesday, March 16, during Spring Break. A sign up sheet will be on the Youth Board. Be sure to check it out and sign up to go.

Don't forget that you can come to MYF a half hour earlier, at 5 pm and worship at The Fountain. Refill and refresh as we worship God before we go back out into the world for another week.

In His Service, **Linda Hite**

Easter Egg Hunt



Cokesbury's annual community Easter egg hunt, the Eggstravaganza, is back. This egg-cellent event is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, at 10:00 a.m. In addition to the usual egg hunt there will be some arts, crafts and activities. We will have a special hunting spot for children with disabilities. To help defray some of the eggs-penses we are in need of your donations, Easter candy (individually wrapped), or small Easter trinkets (toys, stickers, tattoos, etc.). You can drop these donations off anytime in the Commons. Monetary donations are also helpful and can be dropped off in the church office. So, round up your children, grandchildren, neighborhood children, or anyone else you can find and plan your eggs-cursion to the Cokesbury Eggstravaganza. It will be an eggs-hilarating eggs-perience! I apologize for the egg-cessive use of the word "egg".

Remembering Billie

Billie Tucker Kestler entered the gates of Heaven on Saturday, February 27, 2010. She was a beautiful and lovely lady from her head to her toes, from her outside to her heart. We at Cokesbury are sure she was greeted by all the angels in Heaven with cheers of joy because Billie had come home to her heavenly home--her work on earth was done.

Billie was a personal friend to so many at Cokesbury. She loved us and we loved her. Billie and her first husband Payson Tucker joined Cokesbury in the 1970's. Billie told me that they joined Cokesbury because Payson had been diagnosed with early stages of Alzheimers disease, and they wanted to join a church that they felt would provide support and comfort in their lives at that time. Billie said that she loved Cokesbury and the Christian people in it.

Billie and Payson became very active members. We at Cokesbury were the very lucky ones for having them find us!

I first got to know Billie when I was her UMW secret pal back in the 70's. I would take my gifts to her telling her I was delivering them for someone else. I truly enjoyed my visits with her and Payson. They were both so friendly and cheerful. I never felt that they wanted me to hurry my visit. We enjoyed taking our time engaging in memorable conversations.

Billie was a teacher in Houston ISD. Payson had been in the military and they had lived on military bases and traveled a lot. She had beautiful pictures in her lovely home of all their family. She was so proud of her two sons and her grandchildren.

When Payson had to go live in the V.A. nursing home due to his illness, Billie was there to support him all the way. He passed away in the 90's.

Billie continued to be a faithful member of Cokesbury. Later on she married a high school friend from Port Arthur, Jack Kestler. We again at Cokesbury were the lucky ones. Jack has brought us so much love and joy. He is one of the most positive Christians that I have ever known, and I know that we at Cokesbury all feel the same way.

Billie was a member of the Good News Sunday School Class, Friendly Folks, and UMW. She served as president of the UMW for several years and was a wonderful president. She also was a member of the Caring Committee and Pastoral Care Committee and Visitation Committee and many of the other committees in the church through the years.

I told my husband John many times that if you had a party and wanted a lot of people to come, you would let them know that Billie was going to be one of the hostesses--and all the people would come and the party would be successful. It definitely would be! She brought charm and grace and loveliness to every event she attended.

We at Cokesbury were so very blessed to have Billie Tucker Kestler among us for so many years. We truly thank God for her. She has now joined her Lord and the angels. All in Heaven are smiling. Billie is in her heavenly home. We at Cokesbury extend our thoughts, prayers, and condolences to all her family and friends.

-Mary Short



Music Notes



Chancel Choir: Reminder! "Song of the Shadows", our Lenten Cantata, is being rehearsed on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Please come and join us. Our presentation date is April 1 at 7:00 p.m. (Maundy Thursday)

Youth Choir rehearsals will resume in April. We are taking March off due to scheduling conflicts.

Cokesbury's **Handbell Choir** will present a musical offering on March 14 at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

Our **String Ensemble** will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Thank you to all our string players who have shown an interest.

And to our Sunday Evening worship team...Great Job!

In Him, *Marsh*

Thank You, Share Holders!

GREAT NEWS! All of our youth and young adults have most of their summer mission trips paid for. Most kids only have one or two spots left. I will have the shareholder sheets available if anyone would still like to contribute.

The youth voted to use their next fundraiser, Butter Braid Bread, to raise money so they can build a house to send to Haiti. They will be working with Builders Without Borders to build a small 12 X 8 house that costs about \$600 and can be shipped to Haiti. I know that they have learned how to be so giving and generous from their church family here at Cokesbury.

Dulin Circle Meets

The Dulin Circle met on Tuesday, February 23 in the home of Debbie Carter. We had 11 members and one visitor, Majorie Kehr's daughter, Megan.

Debbie Carter served us a very delicious breakfast prior to our meeting.

Nancy Owens gave a very entertaining and interesting program. She discussed the movie "The Blind Side" and what an inspirational movie it is and how when we reach out to help others, sometimes we benefit more than the person we are helping.

Ellie Melanson, our co-chairman, led our meeting. We discussed various projects, visiting shut-ins, visiting nursing homes, and the possibility of a circle garage sale.

-Carolyn Breathed

Kuhlman Circle Experiences Lent

The Katy Kuhlman Circle met on a cold Tuesday morning on February 23 at the lovely home of Marlette Reed. Ten members and one visitor attended.


The theme of our entire meeting was Lent. Barbara Strong, our chairperson, began the meeting with Jackie Leftwich reading Matthew 6:7-15. Then Barbara asked us to share our experiences of Christian forgiveness. Afterwards we discussed mission projects for our circle --a coat party for SeAM and a money making project for missions.

We discussed those in our circle and church who are ill, and Barbara reported on the Sunday night contemporary service with the youth. She said it was absolutely great!

Jackie Leftwich gave a book report on the book "Weep for the Living", by Anne Butler. The theme of the book was forgiveness.

Barbara then asked us to tell what we were doing to prepare for Lent. Afterwards we enjoyed delicious refreshments, visited, and made get well cards to send.

-Mary Short



Mark Your Calendars
VBS is June 28 - July 2
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Lakeview District Camp

Lakeview District Camp will be July 12 through July 16. Children as young as having just completed 3rd grade are eligible. We will receive registration forms mid April. Early registration deadline is May 9. If you register early, the cost is \$190; otherwise, the cost is \$225 due on June 6. We ask that you prayerfully consider being a chaperone to this rewarding and meaningful camp experience for our children and youth. If you are interested in going as a chaperone, please contact Alison Myers or Linda Hite.

-Linda Hite, Youth Director

By The Numbers

February 28	
8:30 a.m. Service.....	86
11:00 a.m. Service.....	98
The Fountain.....	70
Total.....	254



My daughter, Linda Baker, and I want to thank everyone for the prayers for the loss of my son in law and the check. Thanks so much.

-Annabelle Fookes