

**Cooper Memorial United
Methodist Church**
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For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of our tasks; the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation.
Rainer Maria Rilke

Visit Cooper Memorial on the web at <http://www.cooperchurch.com>



**September/ October Calendar
Inside!!!**

November/December Calendar &
Newsletter Submission Deadline is
October 15th.

**Flu Clinic 10 AM to 12 PM
Monday, October 11th**

**Pneumonia shot \$40
Flu w/H1N1 shot \$25
Must bring Insurance Cards**

Cooper Memorial: Offering Hope and Love through Jesus

Sunday Morning Classes 9:30

Paid Nursery staff: birth - age 3

Preschool: Ages 4 to 6 - Peggy Mouser, teacher

Elementary grades 1 to 3 -Amy Lee, teacher

Elementary grades 4 to 5- Mary Beth Granado & Renee Hudgell, teachers

Mid-high grades 6-8- Robbie Hudgell, teacher

Serendipity Class (Teens to early 20's)-Barb Hudgell, teacher

Life Builders- Rick Smith, leader

Friendship Class- Glinnie Moss, leader

Journey Class- SanDee Crabtree & Charlene Smith, leaders

Christian Service Class- Bob Smith, leader

Cooper Memorial UMC

Connections

September and October 2010

Volume 4, Issue 28

Meet the Church...

Hi; I am Vicki Basham, the treasurer/bookkeeper/administrative assistant here at Cooper. Consecration Sunday is on its way once again, the time where you make your covenant with God for your stewardship. Your pledge is what the finance committee uses to create the church's budget for the year.

Keeping that in mind, I would like to talk to you about the money side of things. I feel I may have a unique perspective that only a small percentage of the current members have: I not only see the amount of money deposited every week, I also pay the bills. I see where our money is going. Before I was treasurer, I did not really think about where the money I gave to the church went. It just went "to the church" or to God. I think you need to see where the money is going, and how much it takes each and every month just to keep the church doors open, not to mention the few ministries that the church is able to do on a regular basis. I plan to show you the BASIC expenses, following the conclusion of this article. It will not include additional expenses, such as repairs, snow removal, expenses for bereavement meals, pastor business expenses, etc.



Vicki Basham

If you are not happy with the way things are going with something in the church, please handle them through the proper channels (through the SPR- Staff Parish Relations- for example) instead of withholding your funds to the church. That only hurts the church as a whole, and may affect the church in ways you didn't want or expect. Also, whether you are attending church or not; those needs are still here and in the community. We all still need to continue to honor our commitment we made to God.

Every dollar counts. Even if you consider the amount you contribute to be small, it still all adds up. For example, if one person gave \$10 a week, that is \$520 a year. If that one person quits contributing, it could mean the difference in getting a bill paid or not. If several persons quit contributing, it can really be a huge detriment to the church- it can really set the church on a downward financial spiral.

I recently read on the internet that congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. I agree with that; however, bills have to be paid in order to continue to keep the doors open to be able do those missions and ministries. And I would like to see us be able to do much, much more (as I am sure most of us would).

Below is a total averaged from six consecutive months; again, please keep in mind that these are just the basics:

Operational Expenses	\$6,541.32	Our Mission Together	\$1,135.33	
Program Expenses	\$ 621.81	Loan Payment	\$ 250.00	TOTAL: \$8,548.46



Mark your calendars for September 19th at 11:45!

Potluck and meeting with Fred Goodwin. All members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend this potluck and meeting as your responses will provide the foundation for the goals of the Church Health Team