



The *International Sunday School Class* gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Bob Spencer**.

Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater, Jim & Carol Black, Joe & Martha Coulter, Dan & Kay Dumas, Floyd & Irma Fike, Tim & Mary Freeman, Judge & Kate Lane, Bill & Pat McKenzie, Jack & Irene Murphy, Louise Ward, and Carrie Winkler gave gifts to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Kathleen Butler**.

Ann Benoit, Samuel E. Butler, Jr. & Family, Bobbie DeViney, Dot Hailey, Steve & Cynthia Hands, Melvin & Linda McCullough, Mike & Mary Anne Wilhort and Paul & Cindy Petersen, and Madelyn Wood gave gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Kathleen Butler**.

Bobbie DeViney and Ms. Chris Lockee gave gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Mildred Pitman**.

Dan & Kay Dumas gave a gift to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Bob Spencer**.

Tim & Mary Freeman, Jack & Irene Murphy and C. W. & Martha Simpson gave gifts to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Mildred Pitman**.

Eileen Gray and Judith Clemon gave a gift to the Prime Timers in memory of **Kathleen Butler**.



Thank you to our church family for all the cards, words of sympathy and support when we lost our mother, Kathleen Butler, on June 23. She would have been so touched to know what a wonderful job Cokesbury Church did in comforting us during this time. My family and my brothers' families thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Karen & Ray Saito & family
Samuel E. Butler, Jr. & family
The Revered Douglas H. Butler & family*

(Excerpt from a Thank You from Crisis Assistance Ministry):

The \$2,000 gift from Cokesbury United Methodist Church helps save families from losing their electricity, gas, water, or worse yet, their home. Your gift also helped provide them with donated food vouchers, clothing, beds, linens and basic household appliances.

Thank you again for your thoughtful gift and for helping families who face financial crisis in our community.

Sincerely,
Carol Hughes
Executive Director

Recently in the Hospital

*Cindy Dyer
Kathryn Little*



Jack & Irene Murphy celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on August 9.



Saturday, September 30
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Donation of: Adults - \$7, Ages 6-10 - \$5, Under 6 - eat free
Our prices have not changed in 5 years!
Proceeds will be used to support our Youth Programs here at Cokesbury.
Tickets are available from any Methodist Men's Member.



Building on Faith...Habitat for Humanity

"When you do this for the least..."

The meaning of the words are clear. We are to help our brothers and sisters. Cokesbury United Methodist Church has a history of responding to the needs of others; we have supported foreign missions, UMAR, Carolina Cross Connection, and other causes too numerous to mention. Do not let us fail this time. We are now pledging ourselves to fund one-half of a Habitat for Humanity house. Of the total price of \$60,000, we are committing \$30,000 to be raised by November 30. Already, \$18,500 has been raised and our pledge drive is for the remaining \$11,500. Please make your pledge today and mail to the church or drop it in the offering plate this Sunday. You can spread your commitment over weeks or make it at one time, but please do your share. The deadline for the pledge cards is Sunday, August 20. You'll have until November 30 to fulfill the pledge. Put your faith into action! "You do for me..."



United Methodist Women

August 26 is the Charlotte District Annual Meeting at Davidson UMC at 9:00 a.m. All reservations must be prepaid and made by August 18. The cost is \$5. Please make checks payable to Cokesbury Church UMW and turn in to Mary Ellen Atwater.

Circle Leaders will be given a form to fill-out. There will be a car pool from church *leaving* at 8:15 sharp. The Hands-On Project is School Supplies for the Bethlehem Center.

– Submitted by Dottie Burns



Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol. CCLXX 270

August 15, 2006

I Will Shout for Joy When I Sing Your Praise!

As we continue to think about the wonders of the Christian fellowship, I offer for your contemplation Psalm 71. This psalm is full of so many emphases and aspects I ask that you spend considerable time with it to glean all it has to offer. It especially speaks of life from youth to old age and the power of God to keep us throughout the times of our lives. What is even more provocative about this psalm is its concern for offering praise.

When we are able to move ourselves from the more simplistic perceptions of Christian fellowship, attending worship and meals in the fellowship hall, we discover many aspects of the fellowship in our relationship both to the world and to God. Praise invokes such a relationship in that we have a moral responsibility to offer praise to God and the world comes to understand our hope and love for God precisely when it hears our praise and experiences its genuine character of joy. There are few acts more inspiring and moving than the intentional and sometimes spontaneous acts of praise offered by members of the congregation.

It might surprise many to learn that the protestant reformers like Luther, Zwingli, and also Wesley were not fond of the use of choirs in worship. Their concern was that when there is a choir it will want to sing special music, which the congregation cannot sing. If the congregation cannot sing the song of praise, then the act of praise belongs to the choir and not the congregation. The congregation becomes hearers of as well as objects of the songs the choir sings. In contrast to this, God should not only be the subject of praise but also the object of praise. That is, we sing not to please the congregation, but to please God and it is not the task of the choir to please God, but it belongs to the congregation to please God with praise.

Therefore, the many delightful statements from Psalm 71: "My mouth is filled with your praise;" "My praise is continually of you;" "I will yet praise you more and more;" and my favorite, "My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you." These are not declarations of or about a choir, but from the lips of the believer who beholds the beauty of God. It is the responsibility of the Christian fellowship that gathers to worship God that we praise God with our whole being; a swell of praise and delight that rises from the congregation. This praise is inspired by our faith that God in Christ Jesus has won for us a great victory over death, sin, and evil and has prepared for us a home in the heavenly places where we can live in the presence of the beauty of God for ever and ever. To God be glory, and honor, and power, and might for his great goodness.

Let us be transformed from an audience that comes to hear what the choir and preacher have prepared for our amusement and delight, and become instead a congregation, a great fellowship called by the name of Christ whose intention and desire is offer to God a sacrifice of praise that God might be pleased, that the world might know our love and joy and be drawn to God, and that our fellows might be inspired to praise God as well.

Peace!
Pastor John

A Letter from Nick Connell

Editor's Note: Youth member, Nick Connell, is a cadet at the Tar Heel Challenge Academy in Salemburg, NC. The program is sponsored by the National Guard. He asked that his letter to Judy Hagler be shared with the congregation.

"Hey Judy. How are you? Thanks for the card. I have the biggest smile. Tell Pastor John that I'm the dorm preacher; you know, the Chaplin. He inspired me. I miss the church. Pass out hugs for me and tell John to write. I did a couple of poems to read out loud to the church. I am doing very good and hope to see everyone soon. Sorry for my spelling. I'm working on that. Give my mom and John and everyone a hug for me. I send my prayers. This Bible verse inspired me:

*"Those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up
With the wings of the eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint."* Isaiah 40:31

This Church is My Home

*I pray to God every day.
The price his Son had to pay.
I have a sweet ring,
The sound of the organ and John sing.
This is great,
No one can hate.*

*I am the Chaplin and hold Bible study.
Just like the kids we play with putty.
The church I miss
It's always bliss.
Hear the word; see my youth friends to pass the time,
Even when I do this rhyme.
You all are close extended family to me,
And that you will always be.*

*The church is the best place,
And a great space.
This church I love.
My spirit is a free white dove.*

*Don't be afraid to write to me.
Letters I hope to see.
I love you all,
And I'll try to call.
When things are done.
I'll be back for more fun."*

Love always,
Nicholas Ray Connell

Church Staff
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Mission Statement

*As disciples of Christ, we are called to look upward
in celebration of God's grace, mercy, and love;
to reach inward in worship, study, prayer,
and to send outward in mission and servant ministry
the love of Christ in our community.*

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