



*Dot Hailey* gave a gift to the Discretionary Fund in honor of **Nancy DeVries** for speaking at the Prime Timers.

*Al & Margie Forrest* gave a gift to the Habitat Fund in honor of **Muriel Morrison's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**.

*Louise Ward* gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **James & Nancy Angel's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Muriel Morrison's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**.

*Jim and Carol Black* gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **Muriel Morrison's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**.

*Quilla Cartee* gave a gift to the Adult Care & Share in memory of **Clyde Pierson, Bill Conder, Donnie Hill, and Walter Cartee**.

*Tim & Mary Freeman* gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Mary Wilson**.



*Congratulations to John and Ida Mae Malloy who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 6.*

**Recently in the Hospital**  
*Madelyn Wood*



**Our Deepest Sympathy**

*...To Connie Short as she mourns the death of her sister-in-law, Mary Wilson, who died December 8.*

How beautiful the entrance to our church is!! We say a special "thank you" to church members who are responsible for the beautification:

- ★ To Martha Coulter who designed the landscaping
- ★ To Martha and Joe Coulter, Dan and Kay Dumas, and Jim Atwater who worked together to remove and replant the old plants, prepare the soil, and put in the new plants and shrubs.
- ★ To the Prime Timers for their generosity in providing the funds to make our church an even more beautiful place to worship.  
– Submitted by Kay Dumas



**Spaghetti Supper**  
**Boy Scout Troop 147**  
**Saturday, February 10, 2007**  
**5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Donation \$6 Adults, \$3 Children 6-10**  
**Children Under 6 eat Free**

Those wishing to purchase tickets to our annual spaghetti supper, please see members of Troop 147 scouts or adult leaders, Bruce Fowler, Dave Badger, or Bill McKenzie. Thanks for your continued support in this annual fund raising drive for our scouts at Cokesbury.



### January Birthdays

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Mary Jane Meredith | 20 <sup>th</sup> Bill Coulter    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pat Holder         | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Carlene Coggins |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Julia Cox          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mitchell Hagler |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Jane Swenty        | 24 <sup>th</sup> Pearl Horne     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Roger Spittle     | 29 <sup>th</sup> Curt Caskey     |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Jacob Brooks      | 29 <sup>th</sup> Israel Wembo    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> Jim Johnson       | 30 <sup>th</sup> Floyd Fike      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Etta Woodall      | 30 <sup>th</sup> Ed Bolster      |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Phyllis Jones     |                                  |

### Youth Share Christmas Joy

On Sunday, December 10, fourteen youth and five adult leaders shared Christmas joy with the residents of Sardis Oaks Nursing Home by singing Christmas carols and giving gift bags. The residents seemed to enjoy the familiar carols that included *We Three Kings*, *The First Noel*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and others. *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* was always the final song we sang as we moved from room to room and hall to hall. One of the highlights was caroling to resident Dorothy Fowler, mother of Bruce Fowler. One lady resident followed us to listen to us sing everywhere we went in the nursing home. While singing in the activity room, a gentleman joined us as we sang and a lady joined the group as we sang and took a special liking to Linwood Brooks. Sometimes we were off key and we frequently missed the words; but, no one seemed to care because we were making a joyful noise and sharing Christmas joy and most importantly Christian love with others

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

### Come to Christmas

Many thanks to those of you that participated, assisted, and contributed to the Cokesbury tradition *Come to Christmas*. The Christmas story was told and service projects were completed for Room in the Inn, Adult Care and Share, Cokesbury shut-ins, and the Bethlehem Center Christmas Shopping Spree and Party. Special appreciation is expressed to Marta Cox for planning and coordinating Come to Christmas and to Adult and Family Ministries for the delicious meal that was served.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr



<u>General Fund</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Contributions	\$22,234.67	\$330,667.10
Disbursements	\$32,575.78	\$309,071.51



## Habitat for Humanity

Our Habitat for Humanity fund raising drive “*We are Building on Faith*” was a huge success! Cokesbury has nurtured this wonderful mission in the past and this time was no exception! It was exciting to see the enthusiastic response. To date, we have collected over \$32,600 and more pledges are still coming in. At the end of December, we will be submitting our request to Habitat to be paired up with another organization to build a house in the early spring. Continue to covet this mission in your prayers as we begin the next phase of signing up to volunteer to participate in the actual building of the house and putting our faith into action.

– Submitted by Roger & Denis Spittle  
Habitat Fund Raising Chairs

*(Continued from front page)*

Second, though our lives may be full beyond measure, there is always room somewhere for those who are without. God has blessed us all with a very wide and rich world. We say it has become small but only because of our ability with telecommunication. This planet is rich with resources and room. There is no reason in this world why every human being should not be blessed with the basic necessities of life. It’s not a resource problem; it’s a will problem. As the Inn-keeper demonstrates where the heart is open and there is a will, there is also room! Our task as sons and daughters of the Most High God is to believe these things with all our might and to make life happen for the many that are without. Christ continues to be born in the lives and crevices of this world. Even today, God is certain to be found among the poor.

Peace!  
*Pastor John*

**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.*

**Church Staff**  
John A. Moore, PASTOR  
Donna Pharr, COORDINATOR OF  
CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES  
Louise Ward, FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
Marty Gregory, MUSIC DIRECTOR  
Joan Gillis, SECRETARY  
Dennis Cannon, SEXTON

**COKESBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.**  
6701 Idlewild Road  
Charlotte, NC 28212  
(704) 537-5818  
www.cokesburyumc.net

Non-Profit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Charlotte, NC  
Permit No.  
1412



# Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol.CCLXXVIII 278

December 15, 2006

## Christmas at the Inn

There was Joseph and Mary seeking shelter at the Inn. The Emperor’s decree made it all necessary as he sought to know who was where and how he could more effectively extort taxes from the populous. Everyone was in a mad scramble to find their ancestral home for this operation so that many first century cities were a mass of humanity trying to find their way and obtain some shelter for the duration of this enterprise. There in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary were doing the same with the extra circumstances of her pregnancy and their dreams and visions that the child would be someone very special. It all converged at the Inn-keepers desk with the simple question, “Do you have a room?”

I imagine that this Inn-keeper was the last chance on a long list of places Joseph and Mary had tried without success. This one would be their last opportunity because Mary’s pregnancy was pressing and would not tolerate further travel not to mention their tired feet. The Inn-keeper could see their dire circumstances and apart from being a businessman, he was human enough to sympathize with their situation. Not having an available room was beyond his power, but he did what he could, he provided them his stable. There is this technical issue about the gospel story, there was no room in the Inn, but there was plenty room in the Inn-keepers heart.

The lives we live are often filled to the brim with all manner of issues and concerns not to mention our schedules, our homes, and our bank accounts are often stretched beyond limit. Often because we do not see that we have the means to care for the needs of others, we close our heart’s door for what is the point if there’s nothing I can do. Yet, there are two things we should note about the nativity story for our own lives. The first is that caring for others begins with the sense of compassion we hold in our hearts. We can never fail to see the plight of the many refugees, abandoned, broken, and marginalized people of this world. It is no accident that God came to us as a member of a poor family and that God’s son was born in a place where animals eat, sleep, and defecate. God leans in the direction of the poor; God is concerned for the plight of the broken; God’s heart is found among the marginalized. We must be there as well with our compassion.

*(Continued inside)*

