



Bob & Dottie Burns gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Jackie Cresswell**.

Frank & Frances Fuller and Wade & Sylvia Tomberlin and James & Katherine Deal gave gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Pearl Horne**.

Tom & Nancy DeVries gave a gift to the Youth Fund in memory of **Fannie Pharr**.

Dot Hailey gave a gift to the Liberia Mission in memory of **Pearl Horne**.

Bill & Pat McKenzie gave a gift to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Pearl Horne**.

Jack & Irene Murphy gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Pearl Horne**.

Louise Ward gave a gift to the Liberia Mission in memory of **Jackie Cresswell**.

Buddy & Etta Woodall gave a gift to the Discretionary Fund in memory of **Pearl Horne** and **Jackie Cresswell**.

Quilla Cartee gave a gift to the Liberia Mission in memory of **Mary Wilson, Jennifer E. Holmes, Pearl Horne, and Fannie Pharr**.

Tim & Mary Freeman gave a gift to the Liberia Mission in memory of **Betty Alexander**.

Theresa Hall gave a gift to the Honorarium Fund in honor of the **UMAR Sunday School Teachers**.

Mary Kale gave a gift to the Prime Timers in memory of **Pearl Horne**.

C. W. & Martha Simpson gave a gift to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Fannie Pharr**.

The following books were purchased for the Library in memory of **Pearl Horne**:

Then Sings My Soul – 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories by Circle Sarah and Then Sings My Soul, Book 2 by Circle Martha.



I greatly appreciate the many thoughts, prayers, and get well cards during my recent stay in the hospital and recuperation at home.
Ken Penland



<u>General Fund</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Contributions	\$27,056.79	\$118,817.26
Tower Rent	\$ 2,842.80	\$ 5,685.60
Disbursements	\$31,494.60	\$61,339.94

– Submitted by Jim Atwater

Volunteers Needed to Prepare Meals for Habitat Work Team

March 17th we will begin to build a Habitat home for the Tanou family. Our volunteers will be ready to go! We need just a little additional help to make the day complete. We need volunteers to prepare lunch for our volunteers. Following are the six dates Cokesbury will be responsible for meal preparation and the number to prepare for. If you can help on any of these dates, individually or as a group, please call Kay Dumas at 704 814-4567. There are *some* funds available.

March 17(35); March 31 (30), April 14 (30), April 28 (22), May 12 (30 - Discovery Class), June 9 (30).

– Submitted by Kay Dumas

All Methodist Men

We will gather on **Thursday, March 22 at 6:15 p.m.** for a light meal and an ensuing brief discussion at 7:00 p.m. We have about 25 men each time we meet so if you were not able to be with us in the past, you will want to attend this month. Please join us on the 22nd and feel free to bring guests or friends. Please let Tom DeVries know you will be attending by Wednesday, March 21 via a call 704 566-9594 or an email tomdev@umich.edu.

– Submitted by Tom DeVries



Cokesbury UMW Annual Attic Sale
Friday, March 30 – 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 31 – 7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

We would appreciate any new and used items you have. You may bring them to the church any time. If you need someone to pick-up donations, please call Betty Flowe at 704 573-1961. We will also be collecting items starting on March 26 through March 29 at the church from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. each day. We can provide you with a receipt for tax purposes upon request.

If you are unable to help and would like to make a cash donation, that would also be very much appreciated. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

– Submitted by Betty Flowe

NOOMA

NOOMA is a funny word! It is the English phonetic spelling of the Greek word pneuma that is commonly translated to “spirit” or “breath”. In Christian theology, pneumatology refers to the study of the Holy Spirit.

NOOMA is a series by Rob Bell that provides spiritual direction in a new format for getting Christian perspectives. NOOMA uses short films on DVD, each with a 32-page discussion guide, that is appropriate for personal and small group settings such as Sunday School or an evening study group. Currently, there are 14 separate sessions that include titles such as *Sunday, Noise, and Rain*.

Bill Campbell has generously donated the full series and Judy Hagler is in the process of cataloging them so that they will be available for check-out from the church library. For more information, you can check out the NOOMA web site at www.nooma.com or go to the Cokesbury web site at www.cokesbury.com and search on NOOMA.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

UMAR Sunday School Class Honored

March 4 was a special day at Cokesbury when we honored some “very special” people, particularly our UMAR Sunday School class, their teachers, and parents.

UMAR members participated in worship and were joined by over 100 people for a special luncheon. A special “thank you” to all who helped – the members of the Adult & Family Ministries Committee who prepared our meal, the Family, Faith & Life class who set-up and decorated the Fellowship Hall, and the Adventures in Faith members who handled the clean-up. Mark your calendar for our next Lunch Bunch on April 1.

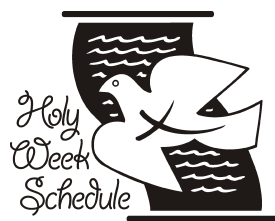
– Submitted by Kay Dumas



Easter lilies and geraniums are for sale if you would like to purchase one to place in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one. The Easter lilies with a bow are \$10 and the geraniums (available in red, pink, violet, and salmon) are \$7. Order forms can be found in Sunday's bulletin or on the table in the narthex. You may also call the office (704 537-5818) or email jgillis-cumc@carolina.rr.com to place an order. Please include your check payable to Cokesbury UMC with your order. All orders must be in by March 25th.



The children's Easter Egg Hunt will be during the Sunday School hour on Palm Sunday, April 1. This will be the perfect time to teach the children about the meaning of Easter and also have some fun before the solemn observances of Holy Week. Look for more information in the usual locations!



Thursday, April 5

– Holy Thursday Service with Communion –
7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 6 – Good Friday –

“The Seven Last Words of Christ” by Theodore Dubois
7:00 p.m.

April 8 – Easter Sunday

7:00 Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast

9:45 Sunday School

10:55 Easter Worship Service

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

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

Address Service Requested

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



Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol.CCLXXXIII 283

March 15, 2007

Meditations from Psalm 131

I hope there are many in the fellowship that have joined me in the spiritual disciplines for the Lenten Season. Our three emphases are: alms-giving for the orphanage in Liberia, fasting for those who are medically able from dawn to dusk, and contemplation and prayer with a particular scripture for the season. I have been in contemplation of my favorite psalm for the season and would like to offer some of my perceptions.

This psalm begins with the psalmist declaring that her “heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high”. It is both an allusion to humility and to the priority one gives in mental occupation. It points to what you spend your time thinking about. I am fond of thinking about rotation around the earth. I enjoy sky-gazing at night to observe what part of the solar system the earth’s rotation allows us to view and what we might see when we’re on the other side of the sun. These are quite lofty contemplations and while they have their place, sometimes we need to lower our gaze to perceive our purpose on this planet and the relationships we have been given to tend. The Lenten Season is a time to look inward and around to the very local circumstances of life least these priorities escape us while contemplating things out there.

The psalmist speaks of the “weaned child” as a analogy of the way he has calmed his soul. The weaned child is the child that no longer needs his mother for her breast milk but delights in her because she is his mother. Such is the relationship of the quieted soul with God. We still need God for the provisions of daily life, protection from the many perils of life, and the power of God's Spirit to guide. But the quieted soul does not call on God for these and other things. This child seeks God because God is a joy to be with. To feel the warmth of God's presence, to know the confidence of standing in the midst of God's power, and to know joy and peace that come from sensing that our human nature is bound up in the mystery of God are all beyond the lofty aspirations of what is happening in the far reaches of the universe. To know that we are bound to one another through the mystery of God and to know the truth of being a brother or sister's keeper is the true mystery of the universe that gives meaning and vitality of life on this planet amidst the stars. When we turn our gaze again to those loftier thoughts, we can do so with a sense of how it benefits life spent in community with one another and with God on planet earth.

These things, says the author of Psalm 131, is what gives us hope. Hope in a more peaceful world, hope in deeper relationships with the many others with whom we spend our lives, and hope in a more enduring legacy of love for the generations to come are all grounded in our hope in God. This is true mystery, this is true joy, and this is where I find the calm and quiet for today's journey, and tomorrow's promise.

Peace!
Pastor John