



Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater, Ann Benoit, Quilla Cartee,  
Tom & Nancy DeVries, Tim & Mary Freeman,  
Mitchell & Judy Hagler, and Louise Ward gave gifts  
to the Liberia Mission in memory of **Mildred Graham**.

Bob & Dottie Burns gave a gift to the Liberia Mission  
in memory of **Betty Alexander**.

Ann Benoit, Quilla Cartee, Tom & Nancy DeVries,  
Tim & Mary Freeman, Dot Hailey, and Louise Ward  
gave gifts to the Liberia Mission  
in memory of **Buddy Freeman**.

Quilla Cartee gave a gift to the Liberia Mission in memory of  
**Clarence Schoolfield** and **William Horne**.

Judy Wright gave a gift to the Youth Fund  
in memory of **Mildred Graham**.

Floyd & Irma Fike gave a gift to the Liberia Mission  
in honor of *Kay Dumas' birthday*.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Memorial Fund  
in memory of the **fallen students of Virginia Tech**.



### **Our Deepest Sympathy**

...To Judy Sims as she mourns the death of her mother, Mildred  
Graham.

...To Bobbie DeViney who mourns the death of her brother, Buddy  
Freeman.

### **Recently in the Hospital**

Bob Burns  
Ray Cabaniss  
Helen Chandler  
Al Forrest



Our Spring fun, fellowship, and work day will be held on  
**Thursday, May 3**. We will clip shrubs and clean up the church  
grounds. Come ready for fun and work. We will start at  
**9:00 a.m.** and work until done. Thank you for your support.

– Submitted by Ed Bolster  
Trustee Chairperson

### **Desk Available**

There is a large desk leftover from the Attic Sale. If you can use  
this desk, you can get it at a bargain price (delivery also available). Just  
contact Jim or Mary Ellen Atwater at 704 573-0506.

### **Gold Standard Chorus**

The Gold Standard Chorus presents its spring concert on **May  
12** at Dana Auditorium, Queens University at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
The special guest quartet is Hot Air Buffoons. Also performing is  
Quadzilla. The Gold Standard Chorus is the Charlotte chapter of the  
Barbershop Harmony Society. Tickets for \$15 can be purchased from  
Buddy Woodall. Seniors and student tickets are \$12. Additional  
information is available at [www.goldstandardchorus.org](http://www.goldstandardchorus.org).

– Submitted by Buddy Woodall



## **Congratulations!**

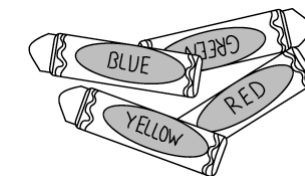
Congratulations to Judy Hagler who was named Volunteer of  
the Year by the Guardian Ad Litem program. The award was  
presented “with gratitude and appreciation for your commitment to  
abused and neglected children in Mecklenburg County...” Judy has  
been a volunteer for eight years. She has had one young man since he  
was ten years old. He will age out of the system next year.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler

### **Adventures in Faith**

The Adventures in Faith Sunday School Class is studying *Death  
by Suburb: How to Keep the Suburbs from Killing Your Soul*. Visitors are  
welcome.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler



### **Your Crayons Made a Difference!**

At the request of Flo Sowell, many of you donated crayons over  
a period of several weeks at the end of last year and the beginning of  
this year. Those crayons made a difference for the children of the EC  
Class at Lewisville Elementary School in Richburg, SC.

The children helped prepare the crayons by removing the  
wrappers so that they could be melted down and molded into easier to  
hold large size crayons. The children wrote a thank you note to all of  
you that donated crayons and included some photos and some very  
special crayons molded into different shapes. Be on the lookout for a  
bulletin board or poster where these items will be displayed.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr



## Cokesbury Vacation Bible School

The Children's Council is excited to announce the program curriculum and schedule format for our 2007 Summer Vacation Bible School. We chose as our VBS curriculum Cokesbury's **LIFT OFF! SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH GOD**. The date schedule for

our 2007 Vacation bible School is **Friday, August 3 through Saturday, August 4**. No – that is not a typo or mistake! We decided to think out-of-the-box this year and try something new. During the evening of Friday, August 3, there will be a kick-off dinner that includes an introduction to LIFT OFF! using skits and music. Then on Saturday, August 4, you will be in-store for a whole day of VBS fun with a flight plan that includes Bible lessons, crafts, music, and plenty of other activities – and of course, food for lunch and special VBS-related snacks. LIFT OFF! is for the whole family with age level programming and curriculum for children, youth, and adults. So be sure to mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks!

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

## YOUTH FUND RAISER WAS A BLAST!

The **Not So Newlywed Game and Homemade TV Dinner** on April 21 was a huge success, not only in terms of fund raising, but also in **FUN** raising! All enjoyed a delicious meal of meatloaf and all the trimmings prepared by Marta Cox with her hard-working kitchen staff. After the meal, we were entertained by The Not So Newlywed Couples – Floyd & Irma Fike, Mitchell & Judy Hagler, Pastor John & Pat Moore, and our blast from the past couple, Bill & Jane Swenty. (Did you get a load of Bill's hair and his funky threads?) The couples were introduced by our handsome and debonair announcer, Dylan Fesmire. Our co-hosts, the lovely Melissa Chappell, and the dashing, Brett Howie, were charming hosts and the couples were hilariously funny as each husband and wife tried to answer questions in the way they thought their spouse would answer them. Our grand prize winner was Pastor John & Pat Moore who were invited to cut the elegant wedding cake that was baked and decorated by Jane & Melissa Chappell. But, everyone in attendance was a winner of a good meal and an evening of fun entertainment.

Many thanks to the aforementioned, especially our contestants. There were so many other people that worked so hard to make the night happen, that I cannot name each one. However, I do want to say a special word of thanks to our sound and light team of Bruce Fowler, Linwood Brooks, and Jim Dinkler and to Jaime Jackson who ran the video camera. (Yes, there will soon be available a video on DVD!) And, a sincere thanks to all of the other youth, youth leaders, and parents that made the night such a great success. Last, but not least, a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of you that bought tickets to raise money in the amount of \$543.83 in support of the youth summer activities. We hope you had as much fun participating, as we did in presenting it to you!

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

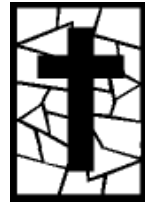
**Mission Statement**  
*As disciples of Christ, we are called to look upward  
in celebration of God's grace, mercy, and love;  
to reach inward in worship, study, prayer,  
and to send outward in mission and servant ministry  
the love of Christ in our community.*

**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.**  
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# Through Cokesbury Windows

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## The Resurrection Community and Death

As we contemplate life in the Resurrection Community this season, we are challenged to consider the most difficult aspect of that life: death. What should be the case, as Paul puts it, is that Christians do not grieve as others do. Not that we are immune to grief because we are in the Resurrection Community but because we have different perspective and attitude toward death because of the resurrection of Christ. All the problems of humankind not withstanding, our greatest hurdle / roadblock / brick wall, is facing our end / demise / mortality. Because of death, humanity has to make temporary life on this planet worth the effort and make it last as long as medical science can muster. Death creates a temporal ethic that can vary widely depending on a person's goal during the brief life span on earth. The resurrection of Christ changes that dramatically.

The resurrection of Christ does not eliminate death, it conquers it. Those who believe in Jesus Christ will still die, but we die to live again in the heavenly kingdom of God. We look forward to changing dynamics in the resurrection community as some depart to join the church victorious in heaven and others are born new in the Spirit of God to join the church militant on earth. We grieve because of the pain associated with the breaking of the bonds of love and affection that will likely affect all humans. These bonds are renewed as we realign ourselves with other family and friends within the resurrection community by the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit. However, those who do not accept the resurrection of Christ are also grieving their mortality and a deep sense of loss. Paul says their grief leads to death. Our grief is different because of the hope of life beyond death. This hope not only envisions our own lives with God but also a hope to be rejoined with all who have gone before us as we are joined to that great fellowship of saints who worship God before his throne. Our grief is quickly overcome by our joy in the power of God who gives, creates, and redeems life.

All these things depend on our maturity and growth in the faith of God and His Christ. There are still many who grieve as if they have no hope and have no help. Our strength in the face of death depends on those things Paul says endure through time: faith, hope, and love. Our faith in God who was in Christ reconciling the world to himself through the death and resurrection of Jesus, our hope in the life to come beyond death, and in the eternal fellowship with God and all the saints, and the love of God poured out in our hearts to renew and empower us in every crisis of life. What is essential in the resurrection community is maturity in faith. Our strength comes from knowing Christ at the center of our lives and community, and trusting the presence of God to lift us above earthly cares. Maturity in faith orders our thoughts and lives to parallel what we believe, so that we treasure what we have with God and make all earthly treasures a distant second. When trouble, crisis, and even death come to visit, we are not dismayed or disjointed since the hurt and pain these things can cause us has already been removed. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Peace!  
Pastor John