



Ann Benoit gave a gift to the UMAR Fund in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Pete & Faye Chewning**.

Jim & Carol Black and *Bill & Pat McKenzie* gave gifts to Carolina Cross Connection in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Pete & Faye Chewning**.

Wade & Julia Cox gave a gift to the UMAR Fund in memory of **James Angel**.

Al & Margie Forrest gave a gift to the Maintenance Fund in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Pete & Faye Chewning**.

Mitchell & Judy Hagler gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater, Pete & Faye Chewning, and Earl & Agnes Rankin** on their 50th anniversary.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **all fathers**.

Louise Ward gave a gift to Carolina Cross Connection in honor of **Pete & Faye Chewning and Earl & Agnes Rankin** on their 50th anniversary.

Five copies of *Traditional Beliefs of United Methodists* have been added to the library. They are with the UMW Reading Program books and are a "quick read" under the Spiritual Growth category.



Pete & Faye Chewning were married 50 years on June 15th.



Our Deepest Sympathy

...To the family of Madelyn Wood who passed away June 15.



♥The Charlotte Rescue Mission would like to thank Cokesbury for their donation of \$200.

♥Dear Friends,

We have received, with much gratitude, your gifts to our 2007 Mother's Day Offering. Your gift, as a part of Aldersgate's Supplementary Assistance program, is vitally important to our ministry to those residents living here who are unable to pay the full cost of their care. This financial assistance program is a wonderful way to pay tribute to those who have given so much to others, and we celebrate your participation in this mission.

I am personally grateful to you for your support of the mission and ministry of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers on behalf of the residents, many of whom could not be here if it were not for the financial support of gifts like yours,

Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you, your family or friends.

Yours Sincerely,
Raymond O. Hall, NHA
President

ADVENTURES IN FAITH

The Adventures in Faith Sunday School Class is studying a 7-week series entitled Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues. Each lesson is introduced by a video, followed by discussion. Visitors are welcome for this series.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler



COKESBURY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
August 3rd from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and
August 4th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Blast the Burners! Hop on Board! Hold on Tight! Get ready for **LIFT OFF!** We need **YOU** as we embark on this high flying Vacation Bible School adventure. There are many opportunities to volunteer during snack and food preparation, or as a class leader or helper. There are even behind the scenes opportunities with set decorations, lights, and sound. If you can help, please complete a volunteer form or contact Donna Pharr. There will be classes for all age levels – children, youth, and adults! So, even if you aren't able to help as a volunteer, you can still support VBS with your prayers and your participation in a VBS class. Be sure to make your plans now to **LIFT OFF! Soaring to New Heights with God!**

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007

I was pleased to be a Charlotte District at-large delegate to the 2007 Western North Carolina Conference. Mary Ellen Atwater served as Cokesbury's lay delegate and Pastor Moore served as Cokesbury's clergy delegate. In addition, Bill Campbell attended.

The agenda for this year's conference was different than in most years because delegates had to elect 13 lay delegates and 13 clergy delegates to next year's General Conference and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. Church law provides for a maximum of 1,000 delegates-half clergy, half lay. A conference's representation is based on the number of lay members and clergy members in the conference.

The conference revises *The Book of Discipline* (book of church law) and Social Principles and adopts resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church wide programs for the next four years.

North Carolina is also part of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. This conference appoints bishops.

Both Lay and clergy went through eight or nine ballots (or more) before 13 delegates were elected. It was an interesting but rather laborious process.

Conference highlights for me included:

- A celebration of life service to honor deceased clergy: the bagpipers leading the processional; the message by Rev. James Howell, senior minister at Myers Park, Charlotte; the choir made up of clergy members, and a special soprano duet all made for a moving experience.
- The ordination of deacons and elders: 32 individuals were ordained as deacons or elders in the Methodist Church including Virginia Herron, Cokesbury's former director of Christian Education.
- Recognition of retiring clergy: 19 clergy were honored. Collectively they represented 650 years in ministry.
- Uplifting music: I learned some new songs from The Faith We Sing hymnal. "Spirit of God, Bright Wind" is beautiful.

Other notes from the conference:

- A proposal was approved to give notice not to renew the lease on the Methodist Conference Center in Charlotte but to seek a new location.
- Clergy will now partially furnish parsonages including their own furnishings for the den/family room, the master bedroom and two other bedrooms.
- The Western NC Conference experienced a net increase of 683 professing members in 2006 bringing the total membership to 293,089. Worship attendance also increased. Larger percentage increases were noted in the number of mission teams and the number of individuals participating in them
- Local church spending increased double the rate of inflation; however, money going to apportioned and benevolence causes dropped from 22 percent of total church spending to 12 percent. Conference Secretary, Denny White, noted that "What we have done, consciously or unconsciously, is to spend more on the operation of our own congregational life than we have on the ministry of the church at other levels."

- An offering for the clergy pension fund for retired clergy in Africa collected \$22,000.
- The United Methodist Foundation surpassed \$100 million in total assets this year and became a model UM Foundation within all of United Methodism.
- The Duke Endowment continues to strengthen rural churches across the Western NC Conference. Last year the Duke Endowment provided 250 grants totaling \$13.2 million throughout the conference.

Attending the Annual Conference is an excellent reminder that we are a connectional church. It is the best way to understand how the larger church organization works and how Cokesbury's apportionment part of our budget is spent. Bishop McCleskey is excellent at moving the agenda along by adhering to parliamentary procedure yet making sure everyone has adequate time. I felt blessed by attending.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler

SUMMER VACATION

As I write this, **Melissa Chappell** is in Europe on a Girl Scout sponsored trip that will give her the opportunity to see the Girl Scout World Centers in England and in Switzerland, as well as many other sights in England, Switzerland, and France. She, along with her mom, Jane and a group of other Girl Scouts, flew out of Charlotte to London, England on Monday, June 18. While in London, they will visit Pax lodge, a Girl Scout World Center that features rooms "built" by Girl Scouts from different countries, the US room being the largest.

After a tour of Windsor Castle, they will take the Chunnel, an under water train, across the English Channel to France. During their two days in France, they will take several tours including a tour of Versailles. From there, they will take a train to Adelboden, Switzerland and then a cable car to Mt. Pilatus. While in Switzerland, they will be touring the Girl Scout World Center called Our Chalet.

When I talked with Melissa before her departure, she was very excited and looking forward to her trip and seeing all the sites. After her return on June 27, I'll look forward to seeing the pictures and hearing all about her exciting adventure!

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

View the Charlotte District Electronic Newsletter, E-Connections, on the web at www.chardist.org.



Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol.CCLX 290

June 30, 2007

Annual Conference

What a privilege it was to represent Cokesbury at the Western North Carolina Conference at Lake Junaluska.

It is enlightening to see how our Methodist Church reaches out to our nation and abroad. The business sessions, reports from committees, ballots, worship services, and more ballots were part of each day from Thursday through Sunday. This year was little different than most, as we elected 13 delegates for the General Conference and 13 delegates for the Jurisdictional Conference. Laity and clergy elected delegates. It was a long procedure but gratifying, especially to those who will attend these conferences and represent our Western Conference.

On the financial report, William Wyman stated that we didn't spend more than was taken in. The conference adopted a \$28 million budget for 2008 representing an increase of 3.88 percent over 2007. This is commendable.

The Campus Ministry report was of interest to me as our UMW at Cokesbury supports reaching out to our college students and staying in contact. Churches were encouraged to participate in this ministry and I felt proud that we here at Cokesbury had already implemented this ministry.

The Methodist Church was greatly involved in the post Katrina restoration and are still helping. We had a speaker from Mississippi who showed some slides of the cleanup and he was very appreciative of all churches' participation in a task that still finds 70,000 people in Mississippi alone, homeless from this catastrophic storm.

The worship services and music were rendering. The Reverend Scott Osterberg, a pastor from Yadkinville, spoke on "Are We There Yet?" His message was to go out as bearers of faith. Another speaker was the Reverend Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley from Etowah, NC and she spoke on "God's Gift to Us" and her message was to bear witness to all nations. The Laity address was by Beverly Hill from Black Mountain. She was a delightful speaker. She was a single parent who had raised two daughters – one a minister and the other working for the Peace Corps. Beverly Hill went to visit her daughter in the Peace Corps in Tanzania and while she was there she contracted e coli bacteria and faced death in Africa. By God's grace and all the prayers she was able to get to Kenya and recover. She told of the many people who helped her and had been a witness for Christ. She also had quite a sense of humor.

Services were held for retiring ministers, memorials for those departed in the last year, and ordination of deacons and elders, in which our own Virginia Herron, was ordained as an elder. There were 37 ordained elders!

Thank you Cokesbury for giving me the honor of representing you.

– Submitted by Mary Ellen Atwater

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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.

Other Churches Worshipping at Cokesbury:
Ilesia El Siloe, Pastor Felix Herera
 Tuesdays & Friday 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Providence of God Free Methodist Church
 Pastor Calby Pativa
 Sundays 6:00 p.m.