



Bonnie Goodwin and Patricia Watson, and Joanna Maske gave gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Madelyn Wood**.

Bill & Gwen Coulter gave a gift to the Youth Fund in honor of **Steve & Jeannie Noble's marriage**.

Joyce Dear gave a gift to the Discretionary Fund in memory of **Madelyn Wood**.

Bobbie DeViney gave a gift to the UMAR Fund in memory of **James Angel**.

Tim & Mary Freeman gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of **Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater and Pete & Faye Chewning**.

Kay Hildreth gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Pete & Faye Chewning**.

Jim & Connie Short gave a gift to Carolina Cross Connection in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater**.

Jim & Connie Short gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **James Angel**.

Louise Ward gave a gift to Carolina Cross Connection in memory of **Madelyn Wood**.

Carrie Winkler gave a gift to the Prime Timers in memory of **Madelyn Wood**.



Earl & Agnes Rankin celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 7th.



Thank you for all the cards I received during my last surgery. It's nice to know so many people care.

In God's Love,

Diane Bolster

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous 2007 donation of \$1,000 to Hearts with Haiti, Inc. Per your request, your gift will be used for Wings Land Fund. We are grateful for your contribution in furthering the Mission of St. Joseph's.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Proctor, Chair

Hearts with Haiti, Inc.

Dear Cokesbury UMC Members,

On behalf of all the children and staff at Wings of Hope, our leadership team would like to thank you for your donation to the Wings of Hope expansion project. With your donation, the donation of several others and the match donation, we have been able to make the payment on the land. The fund-raising effort was very successful and we raised enough money to also pay the legal fees associated with the land purchase and begin a building fund for the expansion.

We are currently working with architects to finalize the plans for the expansion project. We will be letting our supporters know more about our plans for the future.

Thank you for helping us realize our dreams for the mentally and physically challenged children of Haiti. Your support has made a world of "POSSIBILITIES" open to the children we serve.

Peace,

Wings of Hope

(See pictures and Pierre's card on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.)

### COKESBURY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

and

Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Don't miss your chance to enjoy a weekend filled with lessons about what it means to follow God and Jesus as we **LIFT OFF!** and **Soar to New Heights with God!** There are classes for children three years and older, for youth, and for adults. Registration forms will be included in the worship service bulletins over the next few Sundays and are also located in the narthex and outside the Fellowship Hall. You can also call the church office to register. The registration deadline is Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**So...Blast the Burners... Hop on Board... Hold on Tight... and Get Ready to LIFT OFF!**

– Submitted by Donna Pharr



### PRIME TIMERS SUMMER COOKOUT

Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

10:30 a.m.

The Prime Timers are taking a little summer break and only have one meeting planned – Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Come join us and enjoy a delicious meal of:

- Grilled Hot Dogs • Homemade Chili and Slaw
- Baked Beans • Potato Chips
- Beverage and Dessert

We have a program planned – a "sing-a-long" with Pat McKenzie, with special music by Pastor John. All Cokesbury members and friends are invited... and it's FREE!!! Questions: call Dottie Burns, Kay Dumas, or Dot Hailey.

– Submitted by Kay Dumas



# Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol. CCLXI 291

July 15, 2007

## The Ninety and Nine

As we consider the theme: "The Love of Jesus to Love the World"; consider the story of the shepherd and the hundred sheep. As the story is told in Matthew's gospel (St. Matt. 18:10-14) one of the sheep had gone astray and the shepherd goes in search of the lost sheep. The story is intended to share the immensity of God's compassion for those who are lost. Its intent as well is to encourage us to emulate God's love for one another and especially for the one who is lost. I believe we learn a great deal from the story about love for the lost when we contemplate the ninety-nine, the ones not lost.

The ninety and nine get into the story because they are what's left after one sheep goes astray. I believe the point of the gospel writer is to demonstrate the magnitude of God's love by showing the shepherd leaving the ninety-nine in search of the one. Otherwise, the story need only be about a lost sheep. The comparison continues in God's great joy for the lost sheep when found over God's joy for the ninety-nine who were not lost. If we consider the nature of the ninety-nine, the whole tenor of the gospels inform us that each of them is a formerly lost sheep as all have fallen short of the grace of God and all bear the peculiar nature of being having been lost. The ninety-nine can empathize for the lost sheep for each has experienced this predicament and has shared the compassion of the shepherd who sought each sheep when lost and brought them back to the fold. In many ways, the life of the church is understood by a contemplation of the ninety-nine left alone while the shepherd is out looking for the one who is lost.

Life among the ninety-nine is not entirely sheepish. The confidence of the shepherd in leaving the ninety-nine is in knowing that there are sheep among the ninety-nine who know something about shepherding. I believe it is a false perspective to assume that the pastor is the shepherd of the congregational flock, but rather the pastor is him/herself a sheep. The pastor is a very special sheep in that this sheep has been called by the shepherd and given special gifts by the shepherd for the task of shepherding among the flock in the shepherd's absence. However, the pastor is not the only sheep with such characteristics from the shepherd. We believe in the priesthood of all believers because we insist that each sheep knows something about shepherding and each has responsibilities for the task of shepherding. In particular, there are among you whom God has blessed with very special and strong gifts for shepherding. You see them in Sunday school classes and in administrative gatherings, and out in the mission field. You hear the shepherd's concerns in their voices and you can see it in their eyes. No church grows or prospers without the ministry of these shepherding sheep and no pastor can fulfill his/her calling without them at their side.

Do you know the shepherding sheep in your midst? Can you point them out; do you know them when you hear them? Has your church found ways to acknowledge them and authorize them to be in ministry in your midst? Our growth depends on your answers!

Peace,  
Pastor John

**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

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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:

**Islesia El Shoe.** Pastor Felix Herera  
Tuesdays & Friday 7:00-10:00 p.m.  
**Providence of God Free Methodist Church**  
Pastor Calby Patva  
Sundays 6:00 p.m.

## YOUTH PARK OUTING

It was a hot day on Saturday, July 7, but it didn't stop our UMYF group from having a fun-filled day during our Park Outing at Frank Liske Park in Cabarrus County. We arrived at the park at approximately 10:30 a.m. and after enjoying some free time, we were treated to a lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs cooked over the coals by Bruce Fowler and his assistant, Tommy Pharr. After lunch, Teresa Fesmire and Donna Pharr chaperoned the Youth to the lake to enjoy riding the paddle boats... or at least most of the Youth did! There were some pesky snakes in the water that sent a couple of our not-so-adventurous Youth back to the shore to enjoy the shade and watching the ducks and geese along the shore with Teresa and Donna. We arrived back to the picnic shelter to realize that Pam Betts had been left with all the clean-up duty (she did have a little help from the guys) while Chris, Tommy, and Bruce enjoyed playing horseshoes. Although hot, it was definitely a day filled with fun and UMYFELLOWSHIP!

## MORE YOUTH SUMMER VACATION ACTIVITIES

**Brett Howie** is staying busy this summer! He has already participated in the Youth Beach Retreat to Ocean Isle Beach and will be part of the Carolina Cross Connection group at Camp McCall during the week of July 15-21. On July 23, he is scheduled for Forensic Science 101 at the Matthews Branch of the Public Library. He will follow a crime scene by analyzing prints, comparing impressions and samples and looking at bones. Then during a week in August, he will go to Camp Tekoa where he will experience white water rafting and canoeing. He also has plans for a family vacation at Sunset Beach and to attend the wedding of a close family friend in St. Louis.

**Jonathan Wembo** is getting ready for football! With the exception of a two week summer break, he has been training and practicing football since two months before school was out for the summer. During the training, they run some plays but it is mostly work outs. There is one called "Suicide" in which the player runs 50 yard sprints over and over again until he just can't run anymore! Jonathan will be playing the positions of wide receiver and safety for Butler High School this fall.

- Submitted by Donna Pharr