Ann Benoit gave a gift to the Music Fund in memory of **Steve Wilson** and **Kevin Ellison**.

Jim & Carol Black gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Kevin Ellison** and **Steve Wilson** and in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater**.

Tim & Mary Freeman gave a gift to the Youth Fund in memory of **Kevin Wilson** and a gift to the **Music Fund** in memory of **Steve Wilson**.

Judge & Katie Lane gave a gift to the Music Fund in memory of **Steve Wilson**.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Betty Garrison**.

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

Floyd & Irma Fike gave a gift to the Room in the Inn in memory of **Kevin Ellison**.

Mitchell & Judy Hagler gave a gift to the Honorarium Fund in honor of the 60th anniversary of **Tim & Mary Freeman**.

Judge & Kate Lane and *Henry & Bonnie Springer* gave gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Kevin Ellison**.

Bill & Pat McKenzie gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Steve Wilson**.

The Adventures in Faith Sunday School Class gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Steve Wilson** and **Mildred Graham**.

Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Mission Fund in honor of the 60th anniversary of **Tim & Mary Freeman**.

Louise Ward gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Kevin Ellison**.

Recently in the Hospital

Brittney Casteel
Ernie Holder
Pastor John Moore

...Tim & Mary Freeman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 30th.

Dear Cokesbury,

I have continued to heal quickly following surgery and I appreciate all your prayers and cards during this time. I am blessed to have so many prayers lifted up on my behalf. It is nice to know we have such caring church friends.

Barry Ward

GOOD NEWS!

Pastor John is home from the hospital and recovering well from his recent heart attack and stent placements. He will be recuperating for the next two weeks. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

– Submitted by Bobbi Kinsey

United Methodist Men's
6th Annual Fish Fry
Saturday, September 29
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Donation of:
Adults – $7, Ages 6-10 – $5, Under 6 Eat Free

Our prices have not changed in 6 years!
Proceeds will be used to support our Youth Program here at Cokesbury. (Last year we raised over $1,000.)
Tickets are available from any Methodist Men's Member.

ALL METHODIST MEN

We will gather on Thursday, September 27 at 6:15 p.m. for dinner and ensuing discussion at 7:00 p.m. of plans for the Fish Fry on September 29 and a show and tell about "How I Looked in High School"! We have about 20-25 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 27th and feel free to bring guests or friends. Please let Tom De Vries know you will be attending by Tuesday, September 25 via a call 704 566-9594 or email tomdev@umich.edu.

– Submitted by Tom De Vries

"STEWARDSHIP SEPTEMBER"

By this time, you should have picked up or received your "Stewardship September" packet. If not, please give the church office a call at 704 537-5818. In the packet you will find some thought provoking materials that will help you reflect on Stewardship throughout the month of September (and in the future also...). In addition, our church services in September will focus on Stewardship and the management of the many gifts we have been given by God that can be shared with others!

As a reminder, Commitment Sunday will be on October 7. At that time, you will be able to bring your Time and Talent and Giving Commitment cards to the altar.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of Stewardship throughout the month of September.

– Submitted by Tom De Vries

YOUTH FUND RAISER – YANKEE CANDLES

Okay...Who LOVES Yankee Candles? The members of the Cokesbury UMYF hope that the answer to that question is "**EVERYONE**!" This year, for their fall fund raiser, your Cokesbury UMYF is selling Yankee Candle products. All Youth members have their sale brochures and will be asking you to look through them and purchase your fall and Christmas favorites. As you would expect, there are plenty of candles from which to choose as well as candle holders and other accessories. There are also gift items and gift wrapping products. The fund raiser sale is from September 9 through September 30. All proceeds will be used to fund UMYF activities including Carolina Cross Connection and the summer beach retreat.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Having our children in worship during the summer months has been amazing! The sound of the children's voices and laughter, and yes even their crying, has been such a joyful noise. We will continue to offer a nursery for children that are ages four years and younger. However, we hope that children of all ages will continue to be a part of our worship experience and will enjoy using the items that are provided in the Worship Activity Bags.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

During the worship service on Sunday, September 9th, we expressed our appreciation to **Linwood and Joyce Brooks** and **Chris and Pam Betts** for their years of service in leading the Cokesbury Senior UMYF. Their dedication and commitment was not only during Sunday night UMYF meetings but also on Youth Retreats, fund raisers, and other Youth activities. We also recognize and greatly appreciate **Bruce and Sandy Fowler** for their *many* years as Youth Counselors and their continued commitment to the combined Middle and Senior High UMYF for the coming year.

– 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.

Other Churches Worshiping at Cokesbury:

Iglesia El Siloe, Pastor Felix Herera
Tuesdays & Friday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Providence of God Free Methodist Church
Pastor Calby Paiva
Sundays 6:00 p.m.

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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Through Cokesbury Windows

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STEWARDSHIP

This past Sunday, Tommy Pharr helped us begin our financial stewardship campaign with a wonderful message exploring the question "Who do we say we are?" Our stewardship packages were made available to us and over the next four to five weeks, we will be focusing on our financial pledges as well as our time and talent commitment to our Cokesbury family. As I have said many times, each of us needs to tithe for our own spiritual growth more so than Cokesbury UMC needs our individual tithe.

Financial stewardship is important but is only one aspect of stewardship. We are called to be stewards/trustees of this world that God created just for us. Any new way that we can go "green" for the sake of our earth is acting as a good steward. Also, Jesus calls us to be stewards of furthering God's kingdom with two commandments: (1) Love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and (2) Love our neighbor as ourselves. Our Cokesbury core family continues to slowly shrink and our United Methodist Conference would not give us satisfactory marks on furthering God's kingdom if measured solely by the lack of growth of our core family members over the past ten plus years. We need to be creative and diligent in the effort to not only stop the tide of shrinkage of our membership, but to turn it around. We have been faithful to God's call to serve others. Our church family is deeply oriented in mission. We have supported and continue to support many missions with many benefactors. While we are in the midst of all of our missions, we should not miss any opportunity to make sure that every child of God we help, knows without a doubt, that we are a part of the mission completely due to God first loving us and calling us to love others in His name. We are not there for any other reason.

In the past year, we have taken advantage of opportunities to "grow" our church (unofficially) by supporting the growth of several other churches. One new group of our "extended" family members is Iglesia El Siloe with Pastor Felix Herrera. They meet in our church on Tuesdays and Fridays between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. They have approximately 50 members. Providence of God Free Methodist Church with Pastor Calby Paiva is the other new group of our "extended" family. They meet in our church on Sundays around 6:00 p.m. for several hours and have approximately 25 members. We all remember Williette Kesselly and the support we have given Micketta's Prep School/Home for Orphans and Disadvantaged Children in Monrovia, Liberia. They will soon complete a building to house and school their family, our extended family, due to our direct support. All these extensions of our Cokesbury family, and others, are not counted in the membership records of our United Methodist Conference, but I believe that by helping all of our extended church family groups grow, we are doing precisely what Jesus included in His commands for our lives for the furthering of his Father's kingdom here on earth. Stewardship – it is not just about money.

Peace to you and yours,
Bill Campbell
Administrative Chairperson