



Nancy Cottingham gave a gift to the Music Fund in memory of **Steve Wilson**.

Ann Benoit gave a gift to the Room in the Inn in honor of the 60th anniversary of **Tim & Mary Freeman**.



Dear Cokesbury Family,

We'd like to thank everyone for the delicious food, visits, phone calls, and cards during Irma's recent surgery and recuperation. Your caring made this difficult time much easier.

Floyd & Irma Fike

Recently in the Hospital

Wade Cox

Max & Mary Jane Meredith are doing well after being in and out of the hospital.



You're Just Like a Pumpkin

A Christian is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you.

"Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of fear, doubt, despair, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

– via Jim Reed
Cotter, AR



Room in the Inn

It seems hard to believe that soon we will be approaching the winter season! But when cold weather arrives we want to be prepared to house and host those who are homeless. Once again we are collecting items to dispense to our guests and you can help! Just purchase travel sizes of deodorant, toothpaste, combs, shampoo, lotions, or toothbrushes. Then look for the basket marked "Room in the Inn" in the narthex and place your items in it. We will soon be assembling the hygiene kits that we give out. You might suggest to your Circle, Sunday School class, study group, or family and friends that they help you collect items. Also begin thinking about what else you would like to do to contribute to this program. And, most importantly, be sure to pray for the ones whose lives have led them to be homeless in the first place.

– Submitted by Patsy Johnson

Thank You!

THANK YOU! for supporting the Methodist Men's Fish Dinner that was held on Saturday, September 29. Thank you for coming out to eat, making a donation, or working to make the dinner a success!! We served over 250 people and our Cokesbury Youth servers received almost \$150 in tips. In addition, we raised \$1,200 and these proceeds will be used to support Youth programs here at Cokesbury. Praise the Lord and thanks again for your support!!

Also, a BIG THANK YOU to the United Methodist Women's Circles for providing the delicious desserts! Yum! Yum!

– Submitted by Tom De Vries

**Pilot Club of Charlotte
29th Annual "Love Lights"**

for
Alzheimer's Disease Research
Saturday, November 17
5:00-9:00 p.m.

Around beautiful Freedom Park Lake

To light a candle *in memory* or *in honor* of loved ones, you must complete a form (which can be found on the table in the narthex) and mail to:

Pilot Club of Charlotte, Inc.
2419 Hatherly Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
Questions: 704 814-4567

All proceeds benefit Pilot International Foundation
Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund.
www.geocities.com/pilotclubofcharlotte

– Submitted by Kay Dumas

**SHOE BOXES FOR
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Don't forget to fill your shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Brochures and additional information are located in the church narthex and in the area outside of the Fellowship Hall. You will need a label from the brochure for each shoe box that you fill. Be sure to note what items are appropriate and those that are prohibited. Also, if you can, as requested by Samaritan's Purse, please include the \$7 processing and handling fee. It's okay to include cash or a check made payable to Samaritan's Purse. All filled shoe boxes must be delivered to the church by November 11. Remember, the first ingredient to pack in your shoe box – **PRAYER!**

– Submitted by Donna Pharr



Up Close and Personal

Emily Hagler is a 16 year old junior at Butler High School. She is a friend of Dylan Fesmire's who joined our Cokesbury UMYF this fall and immediately fit right into the group!

Emily takes three Honors Classes at Butler – Honors Science, AP Biology II, and AP Environmental Science. She was in the play "Dinner with the Griffins" and is a member of the Latin Club. After graduating from high school, Emily hopes to go to NC State and double major in Zoology and Business. Her ultimate career goal is to work at a zoo in the reptile department.

In her spare time, Emily teaches kids and their parents about snakes and hawks at the Nature Museum and at Discovery Place. She also enjoys snake hunting during which she locates, weighs, records the type of snake, and then releases the snake. There is a lot of "re-capture" and in those cases she records the then current weight before releasing it. The most common snakes she finds are Pygmy Rattlesnakes and Water Moccasins. During the day, she sometimes also finds some Hognose Snakes. For her Senior Exit Project, Emily plans to go camping in the Everglades and Florida Keys during spring break. She will be looking for and hoping to find Burmese Pythons, Iguanas, and Crocodiles. Not to worry... Emily is not doing any of this all by herself! She has a mentor named Steve Hughes as well as other high school and college students.

At home, Emily has her very own reptile mini-zoo that includes two snakes, Hannibal and Skippy-O, as well as a tortoise named Dewie. Her non-human family also includes a dog named Bailey and three cats that came to her family as strays. On the human side, Emily is the daughter of Jeff and Terrie Hagler and she has two older sisters, Beth and Jill. Her family is originally from Oklahoma and Texas; however, Emily was born and raised in Matthews, NC where she still lives.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

(Continued from front page)

We celebrate the laity as ministers in and of the church of God both for what is possible through your hands and hearts and for what is possible because God is with you and believes in you. We celebrate the Church of God that will explode with power and service as more laity discover what there is about themselves that's worth celebrating. But again, it's about the numbers! So, what can you do with 481 ministers, and one clergy?

Peace!
Pastor John

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 Siloe, 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.

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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Celebrating the Laity

We are indebted to our Lay Leader, Tommy Pharr, for his insights and convictions with regard to the ministry of laity. It is a ministry of joy and strength and is a ministry at the heart of the life of the church. We have entered a time in which much of the church's ministry is dominated by clergy, theologians, and preachers presuming to dictate the course and terms of our conversation as Christians in the mission field of Christ. However, it is the laity who are the subject of our conversation with God in Christ as the object of that conversation. We cannot forget that while it is God about whom we speak and postulate, it is the laity who comprise the army of those who go out in the name of Christ our Lord to win the world for God. You see, it's about the numbers.

Cokesbury is a church with 481 members (on the official role) and one ordained clergy. That means that when it comes to the expression of Christ's ministry of grace around the world, we accomplish it with one clergy and 481 laity. When we worship God to show God's worthiness and lift a joyful noise to proclaim God's glory, it will work better if it's the voices of the 481 laity that is heard instead of the one clergy even if the one clergy has a big mouth. When we consider the impact of the presence of the church in the world in general and the local community in particular, we hope the clergy person has a ministry that will be felt in the community, but it will pale in comparison to the impact 481 laity can make. With regard to drawing others to the cross of Christ and his church, what can one clergy do when there are 481 laity at the disposal of God's Spirit?

There are two things about the laity that should be known that may make a difference in whether we celebrate the laity or passively acknowledge them. First is that the laity are the ministers and stewards of God's mysteries and treasures. The secrets and joys are not in the hands of the clergy but in the hearts of the people of God. The clergy's job is to point to it, describe it, and rejoice in it; to encourage the laity with it and inspire them to use it. The mysteries and treasures are the very presence and power of God's Holy Spirit within us all. The second thing about the laity is God's absolute confidence in, and blessings upon your hands and lives to be witnesses of Christ Jesus. When you take the courage to speak a word of witness in the name of Christ, God will be there to bless your efforts for God believes you have it in you to win the heart of another and draw that person to salvation in Christ's name. God believes in you, weaknesses and flaws notwithstanding, and has invested in you the future of the lives of many.

(Continued inside)