



Bill & Gwen Coulter gave a gift to the Parsonage Fund in memory of deaths and in honor of anniversaries.

Judge & Katie Lane gave a gift to the Room in the Inn in memory of **Joyce Bryant Poythress**.

Catherine Synder gave a gift to the Work Team in honor of **Bill Coulter**.

Recently in the Hospital

*Bobbie DeViney
Charles Jones*



Our Deepest Sympathy

*...To Mickey Helms as she mourns the death of her sister,
Inez Booth, who passed away November 12.*



"The Nativity Story"

All are invited to join the Discovery Sunday School class during the upcoming Advent Season to view the film "The Nativity Story". This film was made very recently, and is an especially moving and visually powerful depiction of the events just prior to and surrounding our Lord's birth. Scripturally, it is more accurate than most, and all will be directed to read specific Bible passages prior to watching each week so that any "dramatic license" taken by the film makers can be recognized by us as viewers. We have divided the movie into three sections of less than 40 minutes each, so we will be watching the movie from 9:50 a.m. until approximately 10:30 a.m. over the course of three Sundays of Advent (December 2nd, 9th, and 23rd). There will be a 10-15 minute discussion following each session. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to come on any or all the Sundays of Advent. Place to be determined (possibly Fellowship Hall?). If you have any questions, please see Teri Pitcock.

- Submitted by Teri Pitcock

THANKS FOR GIVING 2007

Attention all 2007 Habitat for Humanity Volunteers!
You are invited to a dinner in your honor given by
Habitat for Humanity-Charlotte
at Myers Park Baptist Church (in the Great Hall)
Thursday, December 6
6:00 p.m. Social Time, 7:00 p.m. Dinner

Please RSVP by Friday, November 30 to Beth Van Gorp at Habitat:
704 716-7077 or bvangorp@habitatcharlotte.org
All 2007 Habitat Team Mates are welcome!

- Submitted by Teri Pitcock



On **Saturday, December 15**, we will be hosting the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for about 25 children. Over the next few Sunday's, we will be handing out envelopes for donations. (Or, you can simply write a check to United Methodist Men and note: Bethlehem Center Party and place in the offering plate or get it to the church office and we will make sure your gift is used on December 15.)

This is a wonderful mission project that is a JOY for Cokesbury and the children and staff from Bethlehem Center. UMW Circle Lydia will be making up the "goodie" bags for the Bethlehem children this year. This year we are again giving the children a quality stuffed animal/toy so *please continue to give generously.*

Thank you,
United Methodist Men
- Submitted by Tom DeVries



General Fund	October	Year-to-Date
Contributions	\$22,701.13	\$298,039.28
Tower Rent	\$2,842.82	\$28,428.30
Disbursements	\$28,911.85	\$309,559.90

- Submitted by Jim Atwater



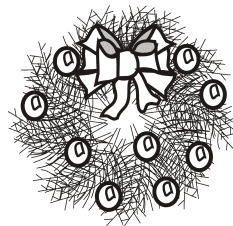
A Christmas Prayer

“Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

“Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

“May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen!”

– Robert Louis Stevenson
via St. Paul Lutheran Church
Columbus, TX



Come Celebrate
Come to Christmas
Sunday, December 2



Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol.CCLXIX 299

November 15, 2007

Together Again

We continue to celebrate the Laos of the church (the laity, the people) and the importance of their lives for the life of the church. From the Acts of the Apostles, at the end of the second chapter, the writer speaks of the first converts to the Christian faith by saying that they were “all together in the Temple”. It is that togetherness we lift in celebration. The Laos of the church are together among their many other qualities and characteristics.

The Laos enjoy being together. The people of God enjoy coming together and seeing one another again. Their greetings are warm and exciting reflecting the essence of family in their sharing. This togetherness has been formed and fashioned by faith in God that is the cause that brought them together. The people have spent years together and know one another in crucial ways though there may be many things about each other they do not know. In the midst of their knowledge of one another and the lack thereof the people are glad to see one another as their years of time together have formed a dependence and reliance that is important to their life journey and existence.

The clergy of the church are often unaware of the existence and extent of this togetherness of the people and first time pastors are often caught off guard when they first encounter this block of the people’s togetherness. The pastor has a mission to move the church from one place to another and can often think of the people as chess pieces in an attempt to refashion what he/she sees to remake the congregation in some vision of the church held fast in their minds. But the Laos are unmoved and often resistant to such methods because the sense of togetherness trumps any vision the pastor may hold and rightly so. Being together is how the people hold fast to the faith and the Spirit of God. Different members perform functions of the faith that keep the people mindful of their togetherness by reminding them of the triumphs and tragedies they have all endured together that have helped form their union. Not even the pastor can break this bond, nor should he/she.

“They were all together” is part of the strength of the people of the church and is what enables the church’s on-going life. It keeps the people from drifting off and falling apart. The people are there for one another in times of hardship and joy and that is a quality that is necessary for community life today. The only drawback to this great strength is that it tends to close its doors to anyone not part of the experience of togetherness over time. If, however, the experience still has God’s love and grace at its core, the togetherness has its value in that it continues to enfold others in the sense of being together. That is to say, there is no discrimination in togetherness. The Spirit of God accepts all in its body. Your task as the people of God is to extend both warmth and kindness and an explicit invitation to a newcomer to become a part of the church’s togetherness.

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

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.

COKESBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.

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