



Floyd & Irma Fike and C. W. & Martha Simpson gave gifts to the Room in the Inn in memory of **Inez Booth**.

C. W. & Martha Simpson gave a gift to the Work Team in honor of **Floyd Fike** and **Jim Black**.

Louise Ward gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Inez Booth**.

Buddy & Etta Woodall gave a gift to the Carolina Cross Connection in memory of **Thomas Worthy**.

Buddy & Etta Woodall gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Inez Booth**.

Buddy & Etta Woodall gave a gift to the Music Fund in memory of **Kathy Francois**, the niece of Nancy Eanes.



Congratulations to Ernie & Pat Holder who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### In Appreciation

On behalf of all the people we support and the staff of UMAR, I want to gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$745. Because of your generosity, UMAR is able to further its mission of supporting the quality of life for our residents across western North Carolina.

Sincerely,  
Steve D. Sellers



Children's Christmas Program

Everyone is invited to enjoy *The Twelve Days of Christmas* that will be presented by the children during the Sunday School hour on **Sunday, December 16**. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cookies and punch will be served at the conclusion of the program.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

### Victory Native American UMC

Victory Native American UMC in Indian Trail, whose pastor is Greg Collins, is collecting clothing and household items to send to a Cherokee Indian Reservation in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma town near the reservation has all but shut down leaving those that live on the reservation in need.

If you have any clothing or household items that you would like to donate, please contact Priscilla Casteel at 704 243-6430 and she will make sure your donations are delivered to and loaded on the truck for Christmas delivery to the reservation in Oklahoma.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

### Urban Ministry Center Celebrate the Season of Hope

The Urban Ministry Center is offering a meaningful way to celebrate the season in honor of your family, friends, clients, – anyone! Your donation to the Urban Ministry Center will be recognized to your honorees with a full color Christmas greeting card featuring artwork by Joe Robinson, one of Charlotte's formerly homeless, whose life has been changed by the center.

The Urban Ministry Center is an interfaith organization whose ministries include St. Peter's Soup Kitchen, Room in the Inn, Art Works 945, and Servant Leadership School. More information and Honor Card Order Forms are located on the table outside of the Fellowship Hall.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

### Youth Fall Retreat

The Sunset Inn in Lake Junaluska was the setting for the Youth Fall Retreat during the weekend of November 9-11. The early 1900's house provided nostalgic and comfortable lodging in a spiritually inspirational location that was perfect for the thoughtful and introspective retreat.

The retreat program divided the Youth into crews that used scripture and their surroundings to delve deeper into their spirituality as a group and as an individual. Many thanks to all of you that support and made possible this retreat and the many other Youth activities and programs!

– Submitted by Donna Pharr



### Youth Auto Bell Fund Raiser

The Youth are selling Auto Bell Full Service Car Wash coupons. For only \$12.95, you can purchase a coupon that is good for one full service car wash at any Auto Bell location. What better gift is there for that hard to buy for business client or associate? And it's the perfect stocking stuffer for that special someone that just got a new car, and for the busy dad or mom that enjoys a clean car but has so little time. It's probably **THE** most perfect gift for anyone that owns a car! Be sure to see any member of the UMYF to get your car wash coupons in time for Christmas and maybe gift **YOURSELF** with one as well. You know you deserve it! All profits will be used to fund Youth activities including Carolina Cross Connection and retreats.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr



Poinsettias are on sale for \$8. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to place in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill-out an order form at the church or call the church office. The color choices are red, white, or marbled. We would appreciate any poinsettias left for the Christmas Eve Services.



On Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the United Methodist Men will be hosting the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for about 25 children. They will be collecting donations each Sunday or you can simply send a check to the office payable to the United Methodist Men with a note for Bethlehem Center. This is a wonderful mission project that is a JOY for Cokesbury and the children and staff from the Bethlehem Center.

– Submitted by Tom DeVries

### I Saw Jesus...

*I saw Jesus last week.  
He was wearing jeans and an old shirt.  
He was up at the church building.  
He was alone and working hard.  
For just a minute he looked a little  
like one of our church members.  
But it was Jesus.  
I could tell by his smile.*

– Author Unknown  
via Bud Frimoth , Portland, OR

**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 Sioe, 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

**COKEsbURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.**  
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## Through Cokesbury Windows

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### Resolutions for a New Year

OK! It's not New Year's Day yet. It's the beginning of a new year for the church. On January 1, we will make resolutions concerning our personal and social lives. Here we make resolutions for who we are as Disciples of Christ. The Advent Season is the beginning of the church year and a time to reflect on Christ who has come in our past, Christ who comes to us in the present, and Christ whom we expect to come to us in our future. As we contemplate Christ's continual coming to us, what resolutions do we make as Disciples of Christ who anticipate Christ's presence?

As we celebrate Christ who has come in our past, we renew for ourselves our covenant with Christ to be his witnesses. We remember that the world crucified our savior and if we are to walk in his footsteps, we must renew our reverence of the cross and learn again to carry our own crosses, the yolk of Christ. We rarely speak of Christ in our daily lives but we must again find ways of introducing Christ in our daily conversations. We must pick the places, times, and persons to whom we will share the news of Christ's resurrection and salvation for the world. We must again feel the flame of God's Holy Spirit moving in us and trust God to give us the words and the courage to speak for Christ. We are Christ's witnesses in twenty-first century America in Charlotte, North Carolina.

As we sense Christ present with us now, we are called to act on behalf of Christ for justice and mercy. We live in what is a very cruel and difficult world depending on who you are and where you are. If you are part of the middle to upper-class segments of American society, life can be very good though even to these tragedy and crisis is not unknown. But, if you are part of the poor in America or among the poor anywhere in the world, life is a constant struggle for survival. There is very little hope for tomorrow for the poor and few are able to rise from the clutches of poverty to a better life. In many ways, the deck is stacked against the poor as financial and administrative institutions are of little help to them. The poor are dependant on those who know the love of God and are convinced that God calls us to speak and act on behalf of the broken, the poor, and the lost.

As we anticipate Christ coming to us in our future, we are called to hope and urgency. We are to remember that any day can be the day that Christ is to return. We must live like Christ's return is always right around the corner and, therefore, to clean our lives and live as people of the light whom God has drawn out of darkness. We must put away all behaviors and thoughts we would not want Christ to find in us on the day of His return. We must learn to live on the edge and to live with grace as inspiration to many who are still unsure about life and God.

We resolve in this New Year to our Lord to be Disciples of Christ!

Peace!  
Pastor John