



Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Missions Fund in memory of **Inez Booth**.

Jim & Carol Black and Tom & Nancy De Vries gave gifts to the Budget Fund in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Ernie & Pat Holder**.

Tom & Polly Shropshire gave a gift to the Prime Timers in honor of **Agnes Rankin**.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of her grandson, **Jesse**.



♥Cokesbury Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and cards in the loss of my sister. Your support means a lot to me.

Mickey Helms

♥Cokesbury UMC

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200 for needy students at Idlewild Elementary School. These funds will be put to good use this Christmas season. Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely,  
Diane Walter

♥THANK YOU

The "Big Dinner" fund raising event to help find a home for orphans of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was a real success. At least 38 people attended that evening and we're glad all of them enjoyed the delicious food. From the dinner itself and all donations before and after the dinner, we collected \$1,565.00. Thank you so much to you all.

As we move along, our fund raising season will end in February 2008, and at that time, all the money collected will be sent to D R Congo for the purchase of the land for the implementation of the Children Village (Orphanage).

Also, some sponsorship cards can be found on the table in the narthex at the church. Anyone who would like to donate to the project, his/her contribution will be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of Action for the Vulnerable, Inc.  
Mundeke & Annie Wembo



Group Martha made a donation to the UMW Reading Program for the purchase of 2008 books. We had 24 women who participated this year so the demand for books is going up as well as the price of books!

– Submitted by Judy Hagler



<u>General Fund</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Contributions	\$15,992.76	\$314,032.04
Tower Rent	\$2,869.85	\$31,298.15
Disbursements	\$33,501.30	\$343,061.20

The final bank deposit for the church will be made on Monday, December 31. If you wish to pre-pay a portion of your 2008 Estimate of Giving before December 31, please indicate your intention on your check or offering envelope.

– Submitted by Jim Atwater



**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



**Christmas Eve Services  
7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**

(Continued from front page)

God's love for the world. A love to be sure that embraces all whether you are fortunate enough to be able to afford gifts for your children and jewelry for your spouse or if you're begging on the street or call Crisis Assistance to get help with the rent just to afford a roof over your children's heads and a little something to warm bones and stomachs. God so loved the world. Can we return a little love to God at Christmas?

Peace!  
Pastor John



### Christmas Wish

What do I wish for you this Christmas?  
 Not something you'll find in a store;  
     but gifts that will live in your heart.  
 When the holly's gone from your door,  
 I wish you the gift of true friendship,  
     as warm as holiday cheer,  
 The kind that will bring your heart joy  
     each day of the coming year.

I wish you the gift of good health,  
     good fortune in all that you do.  
 I wish you a prayer time each day,  
     your spirit to ever renew.  
 What do I wish for you this Christmas?  
 More precious than this set apart –  
 I wish you the gift of the Christ Child,  
     living each day in your heart.

– Kay Hoffman

**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

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

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### Christmas with the One You Love

Many can hardly wait for the Christmas season to arrive for it is filled with so much brightness and hope. The landscape of our society literally changes with bright colored lights adorning many houses, Christmas tree lots coming into being with all the attendant trimmings, and cars and SUV's darting to and fro with a tree tied to the top. The streets seem to swell with an extra influx of cars and shopping malls, stores, and restaurants and filled to overflowing. There is added joy in ordinary conversation as people wonder if the weather will cooperate with a chill in the air if not a light dusting of snow just in time for December 25.

In our homes, we begin making plans for family gatherings whether at granny's place and the advent of Christmas travel or staying put with the members of the household. In addition to the list of gifts for everyone, there are also the plans for a traditional meal with turkey or ham, certainly two or three varieties of dessert, and those special dishes that are only prepared and served at Christmas. We look forward to a few days off from work so that family and friends can gather for Christmas day and few days to recover from the same while enjoying the presence of a special someone before the world returns to its usual rumble. Christmas is a time for family and loved ones as much as anything.

Yet, as sons and daughters of the Most High, we must not forget that when the Magi came from afar to visit the one born king with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they were not intending to start a tradition of family gift-giving. Their gifts were intended for one person only, the Christ-child! Their long weeks of travel were not to visit family but to visit the place where the star would take them, there to find a wonder that would shake the world. I believe there is nothing more needful today than time away from work as I believe we are overworked and tired to our bones. I also believe that it is always worth the effort to bring family together for a time of sharing to remember the ones who love you and are responsible for your life and growth. But what a shame if at Christmas we forget to offer a gift of love to the one for whom the season is given.

"God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten Son", says the gospel writer and in that we can be sure that God loves us. When we view the Christmas stories of Jesus born to Mary and wrapped in bands of cloth and laid in a manger, or of the Magi visiting from afar to present their gifts, or of shepherds in a field being blessed with a chorus of angel praise and directed to see for themselves, we are hearing announcements of

(Continued inside)