



Ann Benoit gave a gift to the Choir Fund in memory of Jennie Ellison.

Judge & Katie Lane gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Mary Jane Meredith.

Bill & Pat McKenzie gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Jennie Ellison.

Jack & Irene Murphy gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of Mary Jane Meredith.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of her dad's birthday.

Recently in the Hospital

- Brittney Casteel
Rachel Cox
Letha Ganus
Judy Hagler
Max Meredith

Thank you!



Cokesbury Friends,

Thanks for all the get well cards and telephone calls during my illness. They were all very special. I'm home and hopefully recovering. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Sincerely, Carolyn Noland

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2007

Previous Year

Unrestricted cash reserves increased by \$5,083 from the year ending December 31, 2006 to \$66,776. Maintenance Reserve Fund increased by \$1,128 from the previous year-end balance. The 2007 year-end balance was \$28,339.

Total expenditures for the year were 97.7% of budget estimates for the year. Only two of the nine components of our budget exceeded estimates, and the two areas only had a combined overage of \$213.

All known obligations were paid in full by the end of the year.

Projections for 2008

The number of pledges decreased by two from the year 2007. This continues a trend observed for the past several years.

While our cash reserves are strong, we will be confronted with significant outlays for physical property upkeep in 2008. The heat/air conditioning units for the original Education Wing were installed when the building was constructed in 1973 and have far exceeded any realistic estimates for useful life. We should all consider ourselves fortunate if our home heating/cooling units would last 35 years. The estimated replacement cost is \$23,000. It should be noted that the replacement equipment should reduce our monthly energy cost.

The second major expense concerns our parking lot. Major repairs are needed to prevent further deterioration. The projected cost is \$21,000.

From time to time, the Finance Committee will make suggestions to those who may wish to make memorial gifts or special gifts above pledges. The committee recommends consideration of the following areas during 2008 and 2009:

- Maintenance Reserve Fund
Youth Program
Missions
Transportation Fund.

A detailed Treasurer's Report is available in the church office. Please contact the secretary if you would like to receive a copy.

- Submitted by Jim Atwater



Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. January Collections \$75,451.95, January Tower Rent \$2,842.80, January Disbursements \$31,249.82

- Submitted by Jim Atwater



ALL WOMEN of the Church Invited

We will gather on Thursday, February 28 at 6:15 p.m. for a New York strip steak dinner. (If you do not want steak, you can have chicken.) ALL WOMEN of the church are invited. We will have reservation forms in the bulletins on Sunday, February 17 and 24th. If you do not fill-out a reservation, please let Tom DeVries know you will be attending before Monday, February 25 via a call at 704 566-9594 or an email at tomdev@umich.edu.

- Submitted by Tom DeVries



Mark your calendars for the Cokesbury Work Team's Annual BBQ to be held March 7th from 11:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$7 - Eat In or Take Out.

Correction

All noon Lenten services will be held at Memorial UMC. If you plan to stay for lunch, please make your reservation with Memorial UMC no later than 12:00 noon on the Monday before the service. The cost is \$6.



Many thanks to everyone that made the **Souper Bowl Lunch** on Sunday, February 3, such a huge success! Adult & Family Ministries prepared a delicious lunch of soups, sandwiches, and desserts and the Youth did an outstanding job of decorating, serving, and cleaning up. The Fellowship Hall was full of people – church members and guests – that enjoyed lunch and fellowship.

The best part of all, was that a total of \$384.11 was raised and reported to the **Souper Bowl of Caring** as our donation to **Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina**. According to the Second Harvest web site “...every \$1.00 contributed provides 6 pounds of food. Six pounds of food will provide approximately four meals.” Many in our community will be fed as a result of your participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring and your donation to Second Harvest.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr



Saturday, March 15
9:00 - Noon

at

Memorial United Methodist Church
4012 Central Ave.

Ages 4 to 5th Grade

Children will be making items to use for Holy Week for their congregation and shut-ins, storytelling, and snacks.

Please sign-up at your Congregation before March 9.

Sponsored by
Central, Cokesbury & Memorial UMC

– Submitted by Houston Hall

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
Houston Hall, DIR. OF CHRISTIAN ED.
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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Paradise Lost

The original paradise lost story is the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. These first humans and parents to all humanity lived in a real paradise created by God for their joy as a laboratory for the sharing of love. Their story is both inspiration and warning for us as we enter the Lenten Season.

The lection passage for the first week of Lent is Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7. It includes the command from God to Adam that he should not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and it tells of Eve being confronted by the crafty serpent. So what is there in this passage that is the cause of our first parent's downfall? The first issue is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Presumably the fruit of this tree is able to grant understanding of the way and depth of good and evil, to disclose the positive and negative aspects of both, to reveal the joy of the good and the ugly of evil that one might use them both for personal gain and pleasure and to benefit others. This, however, was not a knowledge needful for fellowship with God since this knowledge is readily available in God. So why is the tree there at all? It is simply this, that God made us for love, to be loved and to return love, to share love. Sharing love requires the ability to choose to love of one's own free will. The choice of free will requires the ability to choose something other than God, and God knows it. There has to be a "not-God" choice in the Garden of Eden, and that was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The second issue in the garden was the serpent that God made. We are told that this creature is more subtle or crafty, or cunning than any other creature. We are not told that this creature is the devil but Christian literature throughout the ages has declared it to be the devil incognito. I prefer to stick with the author who declined to make such an identification for two very good reasons: 1) at the time of the writing of this work, Israel did not have a developed sense of a supremely evil character; 2) the author does not want a "devil-made-me-do-it" scenario in his story. In spite of the presence of the serpent, the story continues to be a story about Adam, Eve, and God. The serpent is present because the author is sure that in the course of human events, we get help with our dark side. There is a little something extra out there such that if you are inclined to lean toward the dark side of life and you're teetering on the edge of self-destruction and real ugly so that all you need is a tiny push, you'll get that push; the serpent.

Here then are the objects of Adam and Eve's fall, the things in the Garden of Eden besides Adam, Eve, and God: a tree and a serpent. They brought down Adam and Eve and they'll bring us down as well. The only thing that stands between our downfall and the love of God is Jesus' sacrifice that sin, evil, and death might be overcome, and the power of God's Holy Spirit to renew your life and discipleship daily. Lent is the time to make good on spiritual renewal.

Peace!
Pastor John