



Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Mary Jane Meredith, Fennie E. Burnette** (sister of Elsie Reed), **Mary Purvis** (sister to Faye Chewning), and **Rachel Edwards** (sister to Al Forrest).

Dot Hailey gave a gift to the Discretionary Fund in memory of **Harry Theiling** (brother-in-law to Kay Dumas and Sybil Smith).

Mary Kale gave a gift to the Discretionary Fund in memory of **Mary Jane Meredith**.

Judy Sims and Buddy & Etta Woodall gave gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Mary Purvis**.

Carrie Winkler gave a gift to the Choir Fund in memory of **Mary Jane Meredith**.

Earl & Joan Wolfe gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Lisa Ann Wolfe**.

Jewell Garrison gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of his parents, **Thomas & Myrtle Garrison**.

Dot Hailey gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Letha Ganus**.

Dot Hailey gave a gift to the UMW in honor of **Joan Gillis**.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Letha Ganus**.

Louise Ward gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in honor of **Pastor John Moore, Bill & Pat McKenzie, Dottie Burns, Joan Gillis, and the women who took care of the Ganus meal.**

Thank you!



I would like to thank all the women and Bill Coulter for preparing and serving the delicious meal for Letha Ganus' family. It is nice to know we have such a great church family. Again, thanks for everything.

Peace to all,
Louise Ward

Thank you for your condolences at the death of my sister, Mary Douglas Purvis.

Faye Chewning



Cokesbury Work Team's Annual BBQ

March 7th

11:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall.

Cost is \$7 – Eat In or Take Out.

International Lunch

Sunday, March 9th

following the 10:55 worship service

Restaurant (to be announced later)



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



Letters have been sent to the youth who are of age for confirmation and we will begin classes in the next few weeks. If for some reason you did not get information about confirmation and you would like to know more, please contact the church office.

– Submitted by Houston Hall

Gathering of the Young Adults



Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol. CCCV 305

February 29, 2008

Questions for Lent

We are addressing the questions Jesus poses in John's Gospel for the Lenten meditations for our noon services. A prolific writer, Maxie Dunnam, proposed their use as a series of studies for the season. Other questions have been, "Are you a teacher of the Jews and do not understand these things?" and "Do you want to be made well?" The question for you and I to struggle with is this, "Will you lay down your life for me?" It is indeed a startling question and Maxie proposes that it asks the question of commitment.

As we allow the question to have its way in our thoughts we recognize very quickly that the question is about laying down one's life for Jesus. Yet, it was Jesus who came to lay down his life for us, for you and me that we might have life and have it abundantly. Yet, Jesus is asking if we can lay down our lives for him. I seem to detect a note of aloneness in this question. It seems to say that the work of salvation is not just for the savior of the world to wrestle with, but salvation is something in which all participate. It seems to say that Jesus knows that the cross is coming and that it will be a lonely time for him and that the one thing that would ease his pain is knowing that someone is willing to lay down their life for Jesus; that someone loves Jesus as much as he loves us.

The question Jesus asks is in the context of Jesus' forecast that Peter will deny him three times. Peter has said that he is willing to lay his life down for Jesus and so Jesus repeats the question for effect as he says to Peter that he will deny him three times. That is, Jesus questions the commitments we make. Will you indeed lay down your life for me when you can barely make it to worship to celebrate my joy, when you can barely give for my ministries because you have so many other priorities, or when you can barely make yourself available to learn and understand my word to make yourself a stronger witness. I think what Jesus is doing is questioning the commitments we have made thus far as the world continues to shift around us and adjusting to changing times becomes harder and harder for each of us. I think Jesus is trying to let us know that harder more challenging times are coming and if we can't be secure now in our commitments, the time will come when we will cast our commitments to the wind and flee for our lives. As God would say to the prophet Jeremiah, "And if in a safe land you fall down, how will you fare in the thickets of the Jordan?" (Jeremiah 12:5) As we mature in our lives, the challenges become greater, the hurdles are higher, the sacrifice required, more intense.

Yet, when was the last time you upgraded your commitment? Can you really see yourself doing more than you do now? How will we go about the task of inspiring the next generation of Christians to commit their lives to God? If we can't inspire them, what does that say about this generation of Christians? Peter was bold enough to imagine himself being spent for Christ. Can we imagine that for ourselves?

Peace!
Pastor John

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

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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.

A special reception will be given for our Young Adults after the Good Friday Service here at our church. Our Chancel Choir and other singers will present John Reuter's Requiem at 7:00 in the evening and the reception will begin around 8:15 p.m. It will be a time to see old friends and talk about what our Young Adult ministry can look like. Call Houston Hall at 704 537-5818 or email hhall-cumc@carolina.rr.com to let us know you will be attending so we can make plans.

- Submitted by Houston Hall



If you are looking for a camp for your child or youth, please look what our Western North Carolina Conference has to offer. If you go to the web site www.wnccumc.org and look in the youth area for summer camps, you will see a great list of camps at Mount Shepherd Retreat Center or Camp Tekoa.

- Submitted by Houston Hall

Lenten Offering for Africa University

The 2005 Western North Carolina Annual Conference voted to embark on a campaign to raise \$2 million for a dormitory and to endow scholarships at Africa University (AU) located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey asked each local church to make a commitment of \$24, \$36, or \$48 per person, based on worship attendance. In February 2007, the WNCC e-NEWS showed donations of \$500,000. This money has provided four \$125,000 scholarships. Bishop McCleskey is continuing to work with this initiative to meet the remaining \$1.5 million goal.

In May 2007, Cokesbury's Mission Committee brought this continued initiative before the Administrative Council. It was decided that Cokesbury would promote an effort to participate and use the 2008 Lenten offerings for this wonderful cause. You are asked now to prayerfully consider making a special Lenten offering to Africa University. Your contribution will make a difference in the future of Africa. Please make checks to Cokesbury United Methodist Church for a gift to Africa University.

- Submitted by Judy Sims