



The Adventures in Faith Sunday School Class gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Larry Powell**.

Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater gave a gift to the Maintenance Fund in memory of **Larry Powell, Zelda Glovier, and Conrad Holmes**.

Jim & Carol Black gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Conrad Holmes and Zelda Glovier**.

Floyd & Irma Fike gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Conrad Holmes and Zelda Glovier**.

Dot Hailey gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Larry Powell and Conrad Holmes**.

Dot Hailey gave a gift to the Africa University Fund in memory of **Mary Sparling**.

Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Africa University Fund in memory of **Larry Powell and Lillian Saint Prix**.

Tom & Polly Shropshire gave a gift to the Prime Timers in memory of **Mary Sparling**.

C. W. & Martha Simpson gave a gift to the Discretionary Fund in memory of **Dot Fowler and Larry Powell**.

Harley & Sybil Smith gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Martha Young, Dot Fowler, and Conrad Holmes**.

Louise Ward gave a gift to the Africa University Fund in memory of **Conrad Holmes, Zelda Glovier, and Mildred Cannata**.

Buddy & Etta Woodall gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Conrad Holmes**.

Laity Banquet

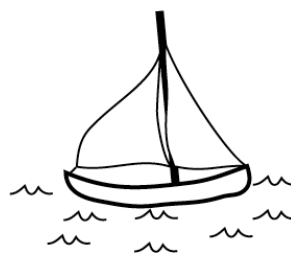
The Charlotte District hosted a laity banquet May 22 at Salem UMC in Denver, NC to honor individuals who have been recognized by their local churches. Max Carroll and Bruce Fowler received certificates from Mary Lou Roller, District Lay Leader. After a delicious meal, prepared by the men of the church, an all male Hymns of Praise Choir sang several uplifting gospel songs. Also attending from Cokesbury were Glenn and Janelle Carroll, Sandy Fowler, and Mitchell & Judy Hagler.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler

Young Adults is Now Called Exodus

At the last gathering of young adults, the group decided to be called Exodus. We are planning our next event to be on Saturday, July 12, at the Matthew's Summer Concert and Movie Night. Everyone bring a snack to share, beverage, and a chair. The movie is E.T. and the band is TBA. Come out and enjoy the evening and feel free to invite a friend.

– Submitted by Houston Hall



Beach Retreat Also Known as Vacation Bible School...

will be August 1-3. We will meet on Friday evening for a light supper and class, and then on Saturday have classes and lunch together, and wrap things up on Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour. We will have classes for all ages ... Yes, that means the Youth and Adults!

– Submitted by Houston Hall



Homecoming
Mark Your Calendars NOW
October 5, 2008
50 Year Anniversary Celebration

Did you know...

- ◆ That we will be celebrating Cokesbury's 50th Anniversary and Homecoming during the weekend of October 3 through October 5?
- ◆ Pat McKenzie served as Cokesbury's organist for 25 years from 1965-1990?
- ◆ In November 2001, Pastor Jacob Golden, Skip Hendrix, Ann Benoit, Lindwood Brooks, and Max Carroll visited Wings of Hope and St. Joseph's Home for Boys in Haiti?

Save the dates on your calendar for the 50th Anniversary and Homecoming events. And, watch for more interesting facts about activities and events that occurred in the last 50 years of serving God at Cokesbury.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

Survey for Extra Adult Bible Study

I am getting around to the different Adult Sunday School classes and surveying their needs for extra Adult Bible Study. If you are not in a class or maybe did not get a chance to fill one out, please see Houston and add your two cents.

– Submitted by Houston Hall

International Lunch

Our next adventure will be on **Sunday, June 22**. We will be trying Japanese at Shiki's, which is off North Sardis Road in the Wal-Mart shopping center.



Annual Conference Report

I appreciated the opportunity to be an at-large delegate from the Charlotte District to the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska. It was a particularly significant event because of the retirement of Bishop Lawrence McCleskey after 45 years of ministry and Secretary Denny White who has served as conference secretary for 25 years. In addition, a number of other staff members, clergy, and laypersons were also completing their tenure on councils and committees.

The agenda is a full one: worship services, committee reports, voting on proposals, honoring retirees, remembering deceased clergy, ordination of deacons and elders, and fixing of appointments are just a few of agenda items requiring major blocks of time and leaving little time for socializing.

Here are a few highlights and miscellaneous notes:

- Major plans for the future of the conference and retreat center include a new indoor gym, renovations to the Jones Cafeteria, new lodges and apartments, new tennis and aquatic center, and new hotels. A top priority is a 3,000 seat conference center. These improvements will be made only as funds are raised.
- Bishop McCleskey reported six signs of hope for the future: creation of a new Lake Norman District; a new Clergy Health Initiative to minister to the physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health of pastors; the Thriving Rural Churches Program; the African-American Initiative to help African-American congregations grow stronger both spiritually and numerically; a turnaround in financial stewardship. In 2005, the Conference had the largest decline in payment of General Church apportionments of any conference in the denomination. By 2007, the Conference had the fourth largest increase in payment of General Church apportionments; and increasingly able to supply our pulpits with pastors from within the WNCC.
- Negative statistics: Conference had net loss of 184 members in 2007; 603 fewer persons received into professing membership; worship attendance down; membership in UMM, UMW, UMYF down. While Sunday School attendance is down, other “non-Sunday School formation groups” showed an increase.
- North Carolina has one of the largest contingents of Boy Scouts in Methodism.
- The Methodist Social Creed is 100 years old this year.
- The late Rev. Dr. John Christy was recognized with an honorary membership in the United Methodist Rural Fellowship.

Anyone attending the Annual Conference will be reminded that we are a connectional church and that by pooling our time, our talents, our gifts, and our service, the Methodist Church does so much and responds to so many needs.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler

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

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Through Cokesbury Windows

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June 15, 2008

The Annual Conference Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church met at Lake Junaluska this past week. There were no momentous decisions made though this conference will mark the start of a new District at Lake Norman with Dr. Lillie Jones as the District Superintendent. This conference follows the meeting of the church's General Conference so there was no important legislation offered for passage. The Jurisdictional Conference will follow in a few weeks but the delegates for that conference have already been selected and we wait for their principle function of electing new bishops and assigning them to their stations. Hence, no new or outstanding elections or actions were taken at this conference.

There are however, significant features to every conference that seemed to stand out in this conference perhaps because there were no other outstanding issues. One was the pageantry of retiring clergy. There were more than a dozen retirees including Denny White the conference secretary, statistician, and registrar for the Board of Ordained Ministry and the presiding Bishop Lawrence McCleskey. These clergy have been itinerant pastors for an average of more than 40 years and have served the conference at many local churches giving their love and care that God's church might prosper and shed God's love abroad. Through times of joy and praise as well as times of hardship and grace, these leaders of the church have been faithful to the upward call of God so that God has blessed the church through them.

Along with the joy of seeing these retiring servants surrender their posts, there was the joy of seeing fresh faces walk across the stage of Stuart Auditorium for the sacred ritual of laying on of hands as deacons and elders were ordained for service in the church. These young men and women have begun their service among us but now have completed all the church's requirements of study and preparation that they can now be acknowledged as called of God and commissioned by the church. They remind some of us of the time when we were newcomers to pastoral ministry and the excitement and nervousness that came with trying to find our way at Lake Junaluska as well as in the local church in some Carolina town. For others, they represent a wave of newness, freshness, change, and hope for God's church in the coming future. One of them one day will pastor Gods' church at Cokesbury.

Finally, we all experienced the joy of hearing the gospel preached and proclaimed in the midst of worship, in bible study sessions, in reports from boards and agencies, and in what few petitions were offered. The simple experience of hearing God's word of love spoken by persons of different voices, ethnicity, gender, and color remind us of the depth of God's love that embraces all and points us to a time when every knee at last will bow and every tongue from every nation and people on earth at last will proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. We return home with this joy from the Annual Conference.

Peace,
 Pastor John