



Jim & Carol Black gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Bill Campbell, Sr.**

Nancy Cottingham, Dot Hailey, and Bill & Pat McKenzie gave gifts to the Music Fund in memory of **Bill Campbell, Sr.**

Carol & Dianne Holmes gave a gift to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Bill Campbell, Sr., Larry Powell, and Zelda Glovier.**

Bill & Pat McKenzie gave a gift to the Carolina Cross Connection Fund in memory of **Mary Sparling, Conrad Holmes, Larry Powell, and Zelda Glovier.**

Jim & Connie Short gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Conrad Holmes and Larry Powell.**



Our Deepest Sympathy

...To Bill Campbell and his family as they mourn the death of his father, Bill Campbell, Sr., who passed away June 14.

...To Harley Smith and his family as they mourn the death of his brother, Boyd Smith, who passed away June 22.

Thank you!



♥Thank you for your many acts of kindness to us at the death of our sister, Zelda Glovier. For your kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy, your prayers, your cards, and your gifts to Cokesbury in Zelda's memory, we thank you. Your caring, kindness, and expressions of sympathy are sincerely appreciated.

Kay & Dan Dumas
Sybil & Harley Smith

♥Thank you to everyone for all the sweet/funny cards that you guys have been sending to C.W. and myself during this time of his illness. He has loved all of them so much – they have definitely helped to perk him up each day. Also, we appreciate the meals, desserts, and various other acts of kindness at this time. I am still writing individual sympathy thank you notes (from mama's death), plus get well notes for C.W., but in case I have overlooked anyone, wanted to be sure and send out a "master thank you note". Everyone has been like an "angel" to both of us and we want you to know how very grateful we are to all of you and this wonderful church with its ministry. Thanks again for everything!

Martha & C.W. Simpson



Cokesbury Feeds

...he has filled the hungry with good things... Luke 1:53a

As God feeds us, let us feed those in need! Each week this summer, we ask that everyone, young and old, bring a food item to help fill our local food banks.

- July 6th – Toilet Paper or Paper Towels
- July 13th – Soups or Stews
- July 20th – Juices
- July 27th – Peanut Butter
- Aug. 3rd – Canned meats
- Aug. 10th – Rice or Pasta
- Aug. 17th – Toilet Paper or Paper Towels
- Aug. 24th – Soup or Stews
- Aug. 31st – Juices

– Submitted by Marta Cox

EXODUS GATHERING

We will meet on **Saturday, July 13**, at the Matthews Concert and Movie in the Park (Stumptown Park at 120 S. Trade Street). The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and the movie, E.T., begins after dark. Please bring a lawn chair or blankets, beverage, and a snack to share. Feel free to invite any and all your friends.

– Submitted by Houston Hall

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

A party is in the works for our children on **Sunday, August 17**, after church. Save the date and more information later.

– Submitted by Houston Hall

CAROLINA CROSS CONNECTION

As we go to press, 10 of our young adults and two adults will be working on your behalf to help the people around Wikesboro, NC. Pray for our safe work and return to home. Those attending are: Jim Atwater, Wilson Brooks, Melissa Chappell, Jakelyn Connell, Karsen Dyer, Dylan Fesmire, Zach Fowler, Emily Hagler, Houston Hall, Brett Howie, Christian Noble, Jonathan Wembo.

– Submitted by Houston Hall



Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol. CCCVXIII 313

June 30, 2008

A Song of Thanksgiving

For the present season, we are Praying the Psalms and I encourage you to spend time in the psalmody. If you do not already have a favorite psalm, endeavor to find one that you can memorize and carry with you all day, everyday. If you have a favorite psalm, now is a good time to develop another favorite. I would like to offer a delightful song of thanksgiving for your consideration and contemplation, Psalm 30.

The psalm begins with a declaration that gives its intent right away, "I will extol you, O Lord, because you have drawn me up". The psalmist has been liberated from some foe or disease and is therefore determined to praise God for his deliverance. Verses two and three continue the declaration of deliverance as the psalmist rejoices in his good fortune saying that he cried for help and God healed him, and God has brought his soul up from Sheol, that vast place of nothingness. The psalm continues with a back and forth of unrestrained praise laced with witnesses of what God has done. This is the psalm that contains the well-known verse, "For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5). What a wonderful way and wonderful images to use in expressing the emotional journey from sadness to joy. There is the juxtaposition of time as moment and lifetime as well as the use of night and morning. The images portray clearly the change in fortune of the psalmist and his growing devotion to God.

The challenge for us as those who pray to a real God for the wonder of his real deliverance in our lives is to infuse our prayers with this kind of freshness and wonder. Remember, there is a waiting audience for your prayers, the Lord God himself. He hears you in the quietness of joy and in the imagination of your mind as you attempt to say what it is that God has done and how it makes you feel. The best advice I ever received about prayer came from a now deceased friend who said simply that you pray to God as if you're talking to a real person. We are being instructed by the psalmists that this real God relishes these wonderful and delightful expressions. I believe the more we share with God in these ways, the more God will become real to us which will in turn inspire us to pray all the more.

The final feature worth our attention is this, "that my soul may praise you and not be silent" (Psalm 30:12). We have inherited a puritanical, European tradition of being an audience (a group of people characterized by the ear and hearing) and we loath audible expressions in the sanctuary that break our well-made silence. Yet, I believe our Jewish ancestors have a thing or two to teach us. There is a need for times when we can break our silence and make a vocal witness to God. It can be in the sanctuary, but also in our homes. Perhaps in a calculated moment with a stranger or a friend we can utter a word of praise and thanksgiving. Find your place and time to break your silence!

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
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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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Join us and ride the wave of God's love!
August 1 – 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
August 2 – 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

In the Good Old Summertime

In the summertime, we can practice learning how to listen to God all around us in creation.

- "Hear His love in the beauty of the setting sun.*
- "Hear His joy with you in the power of an evening thunderstorm booming around your house.*
- "Hear His forgiveness in the smile of a lost-found friend.*
- "What does God long to hear from us?*
- "Obedience, surrender, gratitude of spirit.*
- "Practice praising God this summer.*
- "His smile is overwhelming to your heart."*

– Pastor Edward H. Slate
in Parish, the Thought
newsletter of Evart (MI) UMC



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