



Jerry & Patty Smith gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Bill Campbell, Sr.**

Tom & Nancy DeVries gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Bill Campbell, Sr.**

Tim & Mary Freeman gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Conrad Holmes** and **Bill Campbell, Sr.**

Mitchell & Judy Hagler gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Bill Campbell, Sr.**

Carol & Dianne Holmes gave a gift to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Boyd Smith.**

Judy Sims gave a gift to the Habitat Fund in memory of **Conrad Holmes, Larry Powell, and Bill Campbell, Sr.**



### Our Deepest Sympathy

...To Nancy Cottingham and her family as they mourn the death of her father, Walter, who passed away July 2.



Dear Cokesbury Members and Friends,

We would like to thank everyone for their phone calls, cards, and especially your prayers during Lynne's cancer treatments. We will not know the outcome of her treatments until around September 1. Please keep us in your prayers each day as this is where we get our strength to carry on from day to day.

God Bless,  
Earl & Agnes Rankin  
Joe & Lynne Crum



...Spencer Haworth Angel was born June 21 to parents, Chris & Meredith Angel, and big brother, Cooper, and grandparents, Bill & Jane Swenty.

### Hot Dogs \* Watermelon \* Bingo

Join the Prime Timers on **Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>** when they will enjoy Bingo, with lots of "dollar store" prizes, a delicious "charcoaled" hot dog" lunch and a summertime favorite – watermelon.

They begin at 11:00 a.m. with Bingo. Cokesbury members and friends are invited. IT'S FREE!!!!

– Submitted by Kay Dumas



### Did you know...

- ◆ UMAR male residents began worshipping at Cokesbury in February 1996.
- ◆ Cokesbury participated in 40 Days of Purpose from September 25 through November 7, 2004 with over 100 members and visitors participating in small groups to study The Purpose Driven Life. Bill and Gwen Coulter chaired this initiative.

*Hopefully you know...* that we will be celebrating Cokesbury's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Homecoming during the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to save the dates on your calendar for a time of fellowship, worship, and spiritual renewal.

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

### Come Experience Camp Tekoa September 12-14

Albert Camus called it "a second spring when every leaf's a flower". George Lichtenberg called it "A season which repays the earth the leaves which summer lent it". Most people call it fall or autumn. But at Cokesbury, we call it "time for Tekoa".

September 12-14 Cokesbury members, former members, friends, and relatives will leave the hustle and bustle of the city and head to Camp Tekoa, a quiet lakeside Methodist retreat just outside Hendersonville, NC. If you can come for only a day, that will be fine too.

A committee is already working hard to make sure that the "Tekoa experience" is one that will become a tradition for you and your family.

*Tekoa is the place for you if you like...*

- ▶ to retreat to a beautiful spot in the woods
- ▶ the mix of intergenerational fellowship
- ▶ food and plenty of it
- ▶ swimming, canoeing, hiking, playing ball, talent show, camp fire, worship
- ▶ doing nothing
- ▶ good, clean fun
- ▶ if you need a spiritual renewal weekend

Registration information will be sent shortly, but save this date. As soon as we know who will be going, we will assign you to a cabin and a work task. Youth must have an adult sponsor.

Come to Camp Tekoa and plan to experience, in a different way, God's presence with us.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler



Mark you calendars now for the United Methodist Men's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fish Fry!

**Saturday, September 27 from 4:30-7:00 p.m.**

Proceeds will be used to support our Youth programs and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration here at Cokesbury. (Last year we raised over \$1,000.) Tickets will be available in August from any Methodist Men's member.

– Submitted by Tom De Vries

## Carolina Cross Connection Summer Celebration

On **Sunday, August 3**, there will be a summer celebration in Lincolnton, NC. We will take the church van and drive over for the celebration. We will meet at 3:45 p.m. and leave at 4:00. We should be back at the church no later than 9 p.m. Sign up with Houston

– Submitted by Houston Hall

## International Lunch

On **Sunday, July 27**, we will be enjoying food from Peru at Pollo Inka Restaurant at 3210 Sharon Amity Road (past Albemarle, going out). The sign up sheet is in the narthex.

– Submitted by Houston Hall

## Some Loose Thoughts from Houston

### *From Sea Level to 12,090 Feet Above and Things Between:*

These past three weeks, I have spent a lot of time with our Youth at different altitudes. The week at the beach was amazing. The early morning tea and special pound cake with Dot and Mary and then my four mile walk on the beach were truly special. It was fun being enticed into the Atlantic Ocean to play. Thanks to Bruce and Sandy Fowler for leading a great retreat and Jenny for helping out.

After getting back, I repacked and headed to Denver, CO. I have been out there several times to teach, but had never really seen anything. So this year, I went a bit early and explored the wonderful city of Denver. I rode their light rail and saw the state capital, the wonderful Catholic cathedral, and the Art museum which was really a great experience. The next day I was taken to the Rocky National Park and rode up to “Knock at Heavens Door” which was as high as 12,090 feet above sea level. Above the trees I saw the beauty of God’s creation. My favorite moment was when we stopped and I got to walk into a rushing mountain stream and watch the water flow over the great boulders. My heart sang the doxology while I watched thousands of gallons of water spill over the massive rocks. Friday and Saturday were full of teaching and then at Midnight Rocky time, I left the Denver airport and arrived in Philadelphia at 5:30 and then on to Greensboro, getting there around 8:50, and then off to meet our team for our CCC week.

Thanks to Wayne Chappell for driving my car back to Charlotte. I cannot express enough thanks to Jim Atwater, for going as one of the adults for CCC. If you could have seen him on Friday night at the Talent Show... he did us proud. The whole camp experience was great and it was fun to watch the team I led come together and work really hard. I know all of our Youth worked hard and helped many people in the area. Thank you for your support of our Youth and their many endeavors.

**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

**Vol.CCCVXIV 314**

**July 15, 2008**

## Praying the Psalms: A Corporate Lament

Consider with me again the praying of the psalms. From Psalm 44 we hear a corporate lament, or for Israel a national lament. The lament is a grieving and complaining because of pain and abandonment by God. As modern petitioners of God, we have become far too soft and civil in our prayers as if it was a sin to speak candidly or if afraid that God might strike us for being too direct. The ancient form of lament threw caution to the wind as the psalmist spoke with sharp clear images of the travail being experienced by an individual or community because of the hand of God against them or because of God’s absence from them. In this psalm, the psalmist pleads for help from a God who seems to be absent.

The psalmist begins by reciting the testimony of past generations of God’s blessing and deliverance as an assurance that God is real and present. The psalmist also declares that this experience is his witness God has been just as faithful with him and others. Yet, the psalmist proceeds to plead his case that for the present trouble God seems strangely absent. He says that God has “rejected us” and given us up as “sheep for slaughter” and that God has sold his people for a “trifle”. What incredible images! They are very clear and stark especially for a prayer before God. The psalmist is confounded by something that may be a problem for us: the feeling of being punished without knowing why. Nowhere in the psalm does the psalmist state or even guess at why they are being forsaken by God. He only knows the incredible torment of being outside God’s graces. Something else absent from the psalm is any suggestion of a malevolent being (Satan/devil) being the culprit of the present turmoil, the problem is between them and God.

There seems to be a kind of divine red tape eliminator at work in our prayers. Like Job, we can contest the harshness of life and plead a case for innocence or we can simply say, “Lord I don’t know what I’ve done, but we need your presence and help.” It seems a counter-productive ploy to insert any other party into our prayers with God, but to simply stand naked and broken before God is our strongest prayer. There are many issues and concerns for which we need God’s help as a community of people and we need members of the community seeking God’s help for those corporate issues. Where we are not growing or prospering as a church, where there is conflict among us, or lack of vision for God’s purposes, we can pray a prayer that features our brokenness and ask for God to end his boycott against us.

Such corporate and public prayers are often very difficult for us because we don’t want others (visitors, guests, and family) to see us in such a wretched condition with such problems being displayed as dirty laundry. Perhaps our most basic problem is our unwillingness to be truly naked before God. It’s a problem as old as Adam and Eve and just as perplexing as sin. Let’s try to find the courage to ask God to help us.

Peace!  
Pastor John