



Mrs. Blair Young gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Martha Young**.

Joyce Dear gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Beverly Kaufman, Bill Dear, and Ann Youngblood**.

Nancy Cottingham gave a gift to the Discretionary Fund in memory of **Dale & Walter Cottingham**.

Tom & Nancy DeVries gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in honor of the 40th anniversary of **Dan & Kay Dumas**.

Dot Hailey gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in honor of **Bobbie DeViney and Billie Caskey**.

Deanna Reed gave a gift to the UMAR Fund in memory of **Steve Nivens**.



Our Deepest Sympathy

...To Stephanie Nivenes as she mourns the death of her father, Steve Nivens, who passed away August 15.

...To Judy Hagler as she mourns the death of her mother, Julia Cawelti, who passed away August 26.



UMW at Cokesbury celebrates 50 years
Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m.

UMYF Reunion
Saturday, October 4 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Homecoming Worship Service
Sunday, October 5 at 10:30 a.m.
Dinner on the Grounds
Sunday, October 5 following worship service

(Be sure to get your reservation in by September 3rd!)



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

Saturday, September 27 from 4:30-7:00 p.m.
Adults: \$7; Ages 6-10 \$5; Under 6 Eat Free
(Our prices have not changed in 7 years!)

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

– Submitted by Tom De Vries



Breakfast at Cokesbury

On **Sunday, September 7th**, come early, have breakfast before church or before Sunday School. We will be serving breakfast between the hours of 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Breakfast, sponsored by Adult & Family Ministries, is a fundraiser for Homecoming. Donations of \$5+ for adults and \$2+ for children are suggested. Enjoy a delicious meal of breakfast casserole, grits, biscuits and gravy, muffins, fruit cup, jam & jelly, milk for the children, coffee and tea. Call the church office by Wednesday, September 3rd, to make a reservation.

– Submitted by Kay Dumas



<u>General Fund</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Contributions	\$21,784.32	\$201,710.84
Tower Rent	\$3,466.31	\$20,595.22
Disbursements	\$33,011.78	\$227,213.20

– Submitted by Jim Atwater



The Camp Tekoa Committee has planned a special weekend for Cokesbury members and friends, September 12-14.

If you have joined Cokesbury in the last couple of years or are a frequent visitor, we want to extend a special invitation to you. If you did not receive detailed information about this weekend, please call the church office.

Camp Tekoa is a Methodist retreat outside of Hendersonville, NC. It is a beautiful setting with heated cabins, dining hall, lake, ball fields, and walking trails. At Tekoa, you will get to know other members and visitors in a way that you wouldn't be able to do at church on Sunday, and you will soon realize why this has always been a special event in the life of our church.

The food is always plentiful and delicious. The activities can be either energetic (swimming, softball, horseshoes, canoeing, hiking) or laid back (rocking on the porch, card games, sleeping) depending on your mood. One of the highlights is a talent show where even the shyest can shine. The vesper services and the worship service on Sunday are especially meaningful.

We hope that you will join us this year. It will be a weekend you will remember.

– Submitted by Mitchell Hagler



The Cokesbury Men's Softball Team is playing in the HICKORY GROVE UMC MENS FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE. The season begins Thursday, September 4th. We will play on Monday and Thursday nights. All men (16 and older) interested in playing, should contact Randy Pitcock at 704 283-3074 or Jim Dinkler at 704 545-9652.

– Submitted by Randy Pitcock



Through Cokesbury Windows

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August 31, 2008

Stewardship: Sharing Possessions

For the next few weeks, we will be engaged in our annual stewardship campaign. Like previous years, materials for inspiration along with commitment cards will be sent out that each of us might say how we plan to support God's church with our gifts and energies so that our officers and leaders might be able to make ministry plans for next year. In recent years, both the number of commitments and the amount of gifts have been declining, so that we need to make a strong effort to reverse those trends and move Cokesbury forward in growth and development. I ask that you not prayerfully consider your gifts, but joyfully make your commitments. Those who are children of God need no longer consider whether or not to respond, but rather joyfully accomplish what we know to be our duty and privilege as servants of Christ.

In Luke's record of the gospel, Jesus tells an interesting story of a dishonest manager of his master's monies (St. Luke 16:1-9). When he knows that his master is about to audit accounts and that his dishonesty will be uncovered, he does an interesting thing. He calls many who are debtors to his master, takes their bills and decreases the amounts they owe, in some cases by as much as fifty percent. When his master discovers both his mismanagement and the way he sought to protect himself, he was commended, and probably promoted. I've always found this story peculiar and strange. Why would you commend someone for cheating you twice? Apparently the mystery of the story is not in the amounts of monies lost but in the behavior of the steward.

What appears first to be greed and incompetence becomes skillful foresight. The master might well have punished and removed an incompetent servant who would only have wasted his resources in greed. Jesus has told many stories of servants who were cast out of their posts for failing to produce and behave properly. The stories of the talents (St. Matthew 25:14-30) and the unforgiving servant (St. Matthew 18:23-35) are wonderful examples of Jesus' attitude toward incompetence. Yet, when this servant realized his dilemma he took action in a most decisive and creative way. He realized that both begging and digging ditches were not for him so he created indebtedness toward himself among his master's debtors so that after being thrown out by his master he would have somewhere to go. By so doing, his master discovers hidden abilities in his servant that will both enhance his standing in the community and ultimately increase his bottom line by creating a clientele that is more able to pay their debts.

Here, my friends, is the attitude of stewards of God's mysteries. By investing our monies in ministries that feed the poor, advocate for prisoners, make disciples, and proclaim the good news of God, we "make friends" among those for whom God's heart goes out. For God has a mission to save the lost, heal the sick, and bring salvation to all. When through our gifts we bring the world closer to that time when every knee bows and tongue confesses Christ as Lord, we prepare a place for ourselves in God's "eternal habitation" preserved for the righteous. Make your commitment today, do not delay!

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.

New Sunday School Year

Sunday, September 7, is the beginning of the new Sunday School year. We hope this will be a year of growth in size and learning.

Tween Class

Sunday, September 7, we will be kicking off a new class for 4th to 6th grades. We know the class will begin small, but our Children's Council thought it is important that we offer something that is more age appropriate. Houston and Cindy Springer will begin the class with some volunteers joining this team to help the group learn.

Adult Classes

The Harlot by the Side of the Road class will begin on **Tuesday night September 23 at 7:00 p.m.** We still have a few slots open for this class. The Life of the Beloved class will begin the next day, **September 24, at 10:30 a.m.** We have several more openings for this class and I will be ordering books to have at our first meeting. At this time, we do not have enough signed up for the doctrinal study to offer it and will seek out other offerings to make in the winter and spring.

College Students

We are gathering information on our students who will be in college, in town or away, so that we can recognize them each week throughout the school year. Please notify the church office or Houston with their name, address, and email address.

- Submitted by Houston Hall