



Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in memory of **Nell Stegall**.

Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater and Judy Sims gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Julia Cawelti**.

Jim & Mary Ellen Atwater gave a gift to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in honor of the 80th birthday of **Wade Cox**.

Donna Bailey gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Gertrude Bailey**.

Mary Kale and Cathey Dale Andrews and David Kale gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Ray Kale**.

Judge & Katie Lane gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in honor of **Marty** and the **Choir**.

Bill & Pat McKenzie gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Nell Stegall**.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory/honor of **Grandparent's Day**.

Carrie Winkler gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Steve Nivens**.

Buddy & Etta Woodall gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in memory of **Steve Nivens, Nell Stegall, and Julia Cawelti**.

Rich & Mary Zumwalt gave a gift to the Homecoming Fund in honor of **Ida Mae Malloy** on her birthday.



Our Deepest Sympathy

...To Julia Cox and her family as they mourn the death of Julia's sister, Nell Stegall, who passed away September 2.

Recently In the Hospital

James Tiberg



We wish to express our gratitude to our Cokesbury family for the cards, prayers, and support during Larry's battle with cancer. Your outpouring of love is very much appreciated.

Etta & Buddy Woodall



Did you know...

- Our Financial Secretary, Louise Ward, was hired in 1982.
- In July 1997, the time for the 11:00 a.m. worship service was changed to 10:55 a.m. beginning with announcements.

Everyone should know by now... that we will be celebrating Cokesbury's 50th Anniversary and Homecoming during the weekend of October 4 through 5.

- Submitted by Donna Pharr



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



The Work Team would like to invite all men and women to be a part of Cokesbury's Work Team. Come see some exciting ways you can serve God. You may be surprised at how you can help.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Come and bring a friend!

- Submitted by Bill Coulter



The Trustees will have a Fall Work Day

on Friday, September 26

at 9:00 a.m.

We need your help!

ALL METHODIST MEN

We will gather on **Thursday, September 25 at 6:15 p.m.** for dinner and planning/setup for our September 27th Fish Fry. We have about 15-20 men each time we meet so if you were not able to be with us in the past, you will want to attend this month. Please join us on the 25th and feel free to bring guests or friends. Please let Tom DeVries know you will be attending by Tuesday, September 23 via a call at 704 566-9594 or email to tomdev@umich.edu.

- Submitted by Tom DeVries



I would like to share a very special show that happens at Triad Stage in Greensboro, called *Beautiful Star: An Appalachian Nativity*. Come and meet Reverend Roy Ledbetter and the Open Heart Community Fellowship congregation bring the Christmas story to life with down home laughter, toe-tapping music, and a tug at the heart. See why critics call this new holiday tradition “perfect family fare...[that] will lighten your heart and put a lump in your throat”, (Greensboro News & Record) and “the best show I’ve seen in this or any holiday season” (The Charlotte Observer). The plan is to go on **Saturday, December 6**. The show is at 2:00 p.m. and we would leave here at 10:00 a.m. and have lunch downtown and then go and see the show and head back. The tickets are \$22 for the section I have selected (plus the cost of lunch). If there is enough interest, we would look into renting a small bus for about \$30 extra per person. Otherwise, we will carpool up to GSO. The show does sell out and our section will also, so please sign-up by Monday, September 29.

– Submitted by Houston Hall

Sunday School

We had a great first Sunday and do encourage you, if you do not have a class, to go exploring and find a place for your Christian formation.

– Submitted by Houston Hall



Once again this year, the UMYF will be selling Yankee Candle products for their fall fundraiser. We once again thank you for your outstanding support last year and hope that this year we will be even more successful. Yankee Candle products are of outstanding quality and make great gifts. And remember that there are many non-candle items available in addition to the well-known and popular candle products. Sales will begin on September 14th!

– Submitted by Donna Pharr

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:
Isleña 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.
 6701 Idlewild Road
 Charlotte, NC 28212
 (704) 537-5818
 www.cokesburyumc.net

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Through Cokesbury Windows

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The Homecoming Challenge

Our Homecoming and 50th Anniversary celebration is quickly approaching on Sunday, October 5. We have two gatherings on Saturday, October 4 with the UMW brunch at 10:30 and a gathering of former members of the United Methodist Youth at 7. The following Sunday, October 12, our choir will present a program of their best work over the last several years at the 10:55 service. There is much to be proud of and excited about. Now is a perfect opportunity for us to practice hospitality evangelism. What? Right, hospitality evangelism. It is evangelism practiced through hospitality.

To understand this work, we simply dissect the terms. Evangelism is the word most Christians love to hate. It is frightening because most don't know exactly what it is, yet are certain they can't do it. Many believe it to be something you do to other people, but, it is not! Evangelism is spreading, or sharing, the gospel. It is to be noted that you don't spread other people, but rather the good news of God in Christ. It is not about inviting others to your church, a move sure to meet with enormous failure, because others don't know anything about your church and such invitations feel more like being accosted to join some fringe group of leftists. It is also not about quoting the bible lest you appear to be a fringe group on the right. It is sharing your faith in God's love cultivated by a lifetime of study in the gospel. It can be as simple as sharing with a friend something you recently learned about your faith that you find interesting or exciting. It is about living your faith before others and sharing with them why you live and act the way you do. Evangelism is more about faith enthusiasm that you feel compelled to talk about. If there is nothing about your faith you find exciting, please call me!

Hospitality is relationship toward a stranger making him/her equal to the host, offering protection, comfort, and care, and guiding the stranger on to his/her next destination. These perceptions come from the Greek etymological understanding of the word and is similar to near eastern perceptions, examples of which can be found in the bible. One Arab story tells that the bond between host and guest, sealed by eating salt together, was so strong that a thief, after tasting what appeared to be sugar in a home from which he was stealing, found it to be salt and he put back everything he had taken and left. Hospitality is making guests feel they belong, offering them our best, and doing it all as an expression of the gospel of God. It is more than just being friendly, for it requires that we state our reasons and motivations as having coming from God who welcomes all.

Hospitality evangelism is being active and intentional about drawing the stranger into fellowship with you and the Spirit of God. When done joyfully, you need not invite the stranger to your church, they will not be able to resist. It works both in the sanctuary and in your neck of the woods. Let's offer ourselves to our guests at Homecoming!

Peace!
 Pastor John