



Al & Margie Forrest gave a gift to the Choir Fund in honor of **Buddy Woodall**.

Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **all veterans**.

Henry & Bonnie Springer gave a gift to the Room in the Inn in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Jim & Carol Black**.

Recently In the Hospital

Lynne Rankin Crum



We have ordered 30 red, 10 white, and 20 marbled poinsettias. If you would like to purchase one in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call the church office or fill-out an order form before December 8th. The price is \$7.50 (no bow). They will be sold on a first come first serve basis.



Our Checkbook is Out of Balance

At the end of October, our deposits (contributions, including tower rent) for the year, were just over \$295,000 and the check we wrote were almost \$310,000. And...in November our check writing has also been higher than our deposits.

Please help us get our checkbook back in balance by prayerfully considering additional contributions during the month of December.

- Submitted by Tom DeVries

<u>General Budget</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Contributions	\$18,061.91	\$266,351.86
Tower Rent	\$2,944.74	\$28,828.01
Disbursements	\$26,396.78	\$309,817.67

- Submitted by Jim Atwater



Part of the Come to Christmas event is our congregation reaching out to the ministries that are an extension of our local work. Following is a list of things that you may want to donate that can be used by the following: **Adult Care & Share:** A Wii System, which has a sports game that can be helpful to the clients, will be purchased by the UMW. Extra items will cost about \$200. If you would like to help purchase this, please make a check payable to Cokesbury UMC and add a note for "Come to Christmas". Any extra money will be used to purchase other needed items. Also needed: paper towels, paper cups & plates, plastic cutlery, hand lotion, hand soap and sanitizer, disposable razors, toothbrush, toothpaste, and adult Depends. For our **Room in the Inn** (multiples of 12) items needed are: hand lotion, hand soap and sanitizer, disposable razors, toothbrush & toothpaste, cards & stamps, crackers, hard candy, gloves, stocking hats, and gift cards for McDonalds (no more than \$5). For our **Shut-Ins** (we have 12) items needed are: apples, oranges, sugar-free hard candy, and muffins. Also, if you have any small baskets to donate to use for the fruit baskets.

There will be a variety of crafts and activities for you to enjoy after the meal.

- Submitted by Houston Hall



On **Saturday, December 13**, we will be hosting the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for about 25 children. Over the next few Sunday's we will be handing out envelopes for donations. (OR, simply write a check to United Methodist Men, and note Bethlehem Center Party and place in the offering plate or send to the church office and we will make sure your gift is used on December 13.)

This is a wonderful mission project that is a **JOY** for Cokesbury and the children and staff from Bethlehem Center. UMW Circle Lydia will be making up the "goodie" bags for the Bethlehem children this year. This year we are again giving the children a quality stuffed animal/toy so please continue to give generously.

Thank you,
United Methodist Men



"Student Away" for November 30:

Justin Moore: 2618 Vanstory Street, Apartment 1C, Greensboro, NC 27407



Children's Time in Worship
 November 30, December 7, 14, and 21
 Share the children's book
The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey

A Service of Light
 Wednesday, December 17

This service is a quiet, reflective Christmas worship service. Scripture, music, and meditations will focus on the comfort God offers during dark times. This is a community worship service. Please bring a friend, neighbor, or family member who needs the comfort of God's healing hand during this advent season.



Nativity Sets
 Come to Bethlehem in Classroom 107
 on display from December 18 until January 4.

Lessons and Carols
 Sunday, December 21 at 10:55 worship service



Christmas Eve Services
 7:00 p.m. – Family oriented with a Nativity pageant
 and Holy Communion
 11:00 p.m. – Traditional Service with Holy Communion

Young Adult Christmas Gathering
 Saturday, December 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Houston's Home

Young Adult Led Worship
 Sunday, December 28 at 10:55 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday
 January 4, 2009
 Kings Cake served at Morning Worship

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.



Through Cokesbury Windows

Vol. CCCXXIII 323 November 30, 2008

Straight Talk on Our Financial Future

We are in the midst of one of the most challenging economic times in this country and world since the Great Depression of the early twentieth century. We have all watched with amazement as financial institutions have collapsed and companies of all sizes and types have written off debt, laid off workers, and declared bankruptcy. The problems have infected Wall Street as well as Main Street and have caused people of many different economic strata to be deeply concerned for their economic security. These problems will also affect the church as members question their ability to be faithful in such times as these.

The financial future of Cokesbury is also in peril. For most of the months this year, we have spent more in expenses than we have raised through our pledges and commitments. As we close out this year, we will need to draw from our reserve funds to honor all our commitments. Yet, we will get through this year in fair shape; however, next year already looks grim. For the past few years, our pledges and commitments have diminished and our commitment dollars have fluctuated while our budget has had modest increases, and we know why. As a church, we have accepted 100% of our share of the Western North Carolina Conference budget for the last few years as we try to be faithful to the church's missions throughout the world and region. We have been good stewards of this great facility that God has enabled us to build and we have kept it in good shape. We have provided for the leadership of this church's ministries with pastor, staff, equipment, and materials. All these things cost. Meanwhile, our membership has diminished with deaths and members moving to other locations. We have not grown in an era in which the population is becoming increasingly older. Our worship attendance is declining and so are our gifts. Well there you have it!

Cokesbury is a vibrant and vital congregation! We suffer of the ills of the larger population but we still worship God with joy and proclaim the gospel with power; we are engaged in mission and touch many souls in this and other regions throughout the county; we nurture our own and offer the joy of salvation to others beyond us. So how do we emerge from the morass around us? We continue to be faithful to who we are and what we do: making disciples. We draw others to ourselves through our faith for there are many looking for the strength we have to offer the world: our faith and hope in God. The church was made for these times and we must now step up to the plate of the gospel. We dig deep! If you have not made a pledge to the ministries of this church, now is the time to demonstrate your faith in God by doing so. Get yourself to Church every chance you have and urge your fellows to do the same. I believe God will guide our future, but you have to be present to receive God's gift.

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

COKEsbURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.

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