



# Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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## **Our Mission**

*To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.*

## **Our Vision**

Change lives, ours and others'.

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Through Cokesbury Window

February 28, 2019

## **Q & A and Vote of Confidence**

Thank you very much for your questions that were well thought through and that came out of your deep love for the church. Our Q & A session last Sunday, which followed the worship service, was a rich experience for all of us because of the thoughtfulness with which each question was forged and because of the respectfulness with which each was delivered. I am proud of the Cokesbury family, because you showed calmness and maturity in the midst of what I called “the whirlwind of changes” in my sermon.

We are going through a crucial period in the Church’s history, not just Cokesbury’s, in which keeping the status quo equals dying and in which the only way to avoid dying is to move forward. However foggy the road ahead looks, we have to put one foot in front of the other. However uncertain we are about the journey we are setting out to, there is no going back, there is no standing still, but only moving forward one step at a time. We can do it, because God is guiding in front of us, because God is walking beside us, and because God is protecting behind us. That’s why we can do it.

I shared with you in the last issue of the church newsletter the three ways to participate in the Vote of Confidence. Most of all, please remember that it is not the final vote for a church merger. It is asking the congregations, both Cokesbury and Central, to show your support for the merger efforts. When empowered by the positive votes, the leadership team from both churches will be able to explore more detailed possibilities that will lead to a very bright, successful, and joy-filled life of the new combined church. When we are ready with specifics that are promising, both churches will hold much more official Church Conferences presided by the District Superintendent, Rev. David Hockett.

For your information, I repeat the three ways for you to vote. Remember that only members can vote.

- 1) Vote in person: those who attend the worship service on Sunday, February 10, will vote in person. It will be a secret ballot.
- 2) Absentee vote by mail: If you are not able to attend that Sunday and would like to vote,

please call the church office. Then, we will send you an absentee ballot and it needs to be returned in a sealed envelope to the church by Friday, February 8. All absentee votes must be signed.

- 3) Absentee vote by email: If you would like to vote by email, please email Joan ([jgillis@cokesburyumc.net](mailto:jgillis@cokesburyumc.net)) "Yes" or "No" to: Vote of Confidence for the Cokesbury UMC leadership team to proceed with merger discussions with Central UMC. Please add your name. Joan will print each ballot out and seal them in one envelope and hand it to me Thursday that week. Therefore, the deadline for email ballot is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 8.

Please do not lose this opportunity to step up and take part in what God is doing on this side of Charlotte. Use your abilities to think, feel, dream, plan, and act fully for God's work in our midst. Overcome all the negative thoughts that keep you from taking the step forward. Join me in dreaming for Cokesbury's brighter future for our younger generations. Let's focus on their days, not ours.

May God strengthen each and every one of you, as you approach the future with resolute commitment and courage!

*In-Yong*



– Pat McKenzie gave a gift to the Prime Timers in honor of **Dan & Kay Dumas**.

### **Kitchen Clean-up Request**

By Tammy Gilmore

The UMW requests that all parties using the kitchen to please go through the refrigerator and freezer and discard all items that are unwanted or out of date. Once you or your representative has done so, please send Joan an email or leave a message of your completion. Please also mark with name and date items you are keeping. After March 1, all unclaimed items will be considered garbage. It is getting difficult for current projects to utilize this equipment in an appropriate fashion due to the overcrowding. In advance, thank you for your prompt response to this request.

### **2018 Report for Education**

By Tammy Gilmore

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Education Chairperson during the last year. It was a year of discovery, challenges, and countless joys and special moments. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make The Easter Experience, Easter Egg Hunt, Teddy Bear Breakfast, Children's Prayer Bears, Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Sunday, Graduation Sunday, and Vacation Bible School a success. During the year, Sunday School attendance yielded eight classes with a total attendance of 2012. We wish Bruce Fowler much success as he undertakes the duties for the next year.