



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Mission Statement

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-

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Through Cokesbury Windows

February 8, 2016

What We Learned in Cincinnati

It was so good to be back to church and worship together last Sunday, (February 7). I felt quite uneasy not to be at Cokesbury two consecutive Sundays, on January 24 because of the cancellation for weather/road situation and on January 31 because of the Cincinnati trip. I was planning to ask the congregation to pray for the trip during the January 24 worship service, but couldn't. I am very thankful to Tommy Pharr for preaching and to Chris Betts for leading the worship in my absence. I hear that it was a wonderful service. Thank you.

What a delightful service we had at our Brazilian/American joint worship service! Thank you for opening yourselves up to the discomfort of worshiping in different languages. It was beautiful to look at you all from the front, all different ethnic people trying to reach out to one another and worship one God in Jesus Christ. We welcomed Andre and Wilma (Sorry for misspelling her name in the bulletin. It is pronounced Vilma, but it spells Wilma, I learned Sunday morning.) as our new members. Wasn't Wilma's baptism special in the video? The joint choir, Lucia who led the praise songs, Emily who sang solo, Vanusa who translated, Tammy and Andre who read the Scripture, Brazilian and American ushers, Fernando who preached, Pat McKenzie who played the piano in Marty's absence, those who prepared and served lunch, and those who cleaned up afterwards, thank you. Please give your feedback, so that we can do a better job next time.

During the service, I said, “Be comfortable with the discomfort”. Actually, it is what I learned at People's Church in Cincinnati, OH. Sara Joines, Marta Cox, Nicky Moran, and I visited that church together with nine other people from our annual conference as part of the second year multi-ethnic cohort training. People's Church is 110 years old, an Assembly of God congregation. It used to be 98% Caucasians, before they started integrating as a multi-ethnic church in 2001 under the leadership of the current pastor, Chris Beard (a white man). He tells his congregation, “Everybody, get comfortable with the uncomfortable”. By 2004, they had 8-9% diversity. Now they have 25% African Americans and 20% Ethiopians among other ethnic groups.

Then what did they do?

Pastor Chris heard God telling him in the spring of 1995, “Chris, forge a relationship with Pastor Christ Immanuel (an African American pastor in the city),” which he obeyed. In 1996, he started feeling strongly about the connection between personal salvation and the societal inclusion. Ever since, he has tried to shed his Republican, white, evangelical, conservative nationalism and to work for racial healing. They changed the church’s name into “People’s Church” in 2012 to have it reflect the reality. Along the way, they experienced crises, challenges, and resistance, and Pastor Chris said, “There is cost in leading the church with biblical justice”.

What moved me most is the pastor’s “art” of knowing when to move on and when to slow down according to the climate of the congregation, but always with firm conviction. Some of the other things they have done are changing the worship music (which has been a 15-year process for them), hiring ethnic minority persons as staff members, having “Listening Team” who listens to diverse groups of people asking them “What are you excited about the church? What would you want to see happen?”, and so on. We worshiped at People’s Church on Sunday, learned from Mark DeYmaz and Oneya Okuwobi (co-authors of *The Multi-ethnic Christian Life Primer* that our small groups use), met the staff members of the church, had the campus tour, and met with “Mosaic Cinci” (pastors in the city who meet monthly to share ideas about the multi-ethnic ministry).

The four of us who were on the trip will share what we learned with the rest of the multi-ethnic ministry team on February 19, so that we can come up with some possible action items. And on Sunday, February 21, we will have the second Town Hall meeting over lunch after the worship service. Please plan to be there and to ask questions. As I said earlier, we are all in it together. I cannot do it alone. The multi-ethnic ministry team cannot do it alone. It takes the entire congregation. So it is essential that you understand and get on board with these efforts. And, most of all, please pray for the church and for the pastor. Together, may we be found faithful to God’s call at such a time as this. Thank you.

In-Yong



- Wayne & Jane Chappell gave a gift to the UMYF in honor of **Michael Chappell’s 29th birthday.**
- Nancy Cottingham gave a gift to the Music Fund in honor of **Marty Gregory** and to the Budget Fund in honor of **Pastor In-Yong Lee.**
- Floyd & Irma Fike gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Ward Moyers.**
- Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor/memory of **George Harpootlian.**
- Chris & Shay Simmons gave a gift to the Prime Timers in memory of **Tom & Polly Shropshire.**



By Sara Joines

The UMYF will meet on February 17 and 24 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. On February 10, the UMYF will be hosting a Pancake Supper from 5:30-6:30 p.m. with all proceeds going to their summer mission trip.



By Bobbi Abele

Our next *Town Hall Meeting* will be **Sunday, February 21**. It will follow a complimentary light lunch right after worship that is being prepared by our Prime Timers. Meeting should start approximately 12:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to bring all your questions and concerns about the life of our church.

Bible Study

By Kay Dumas

Pastor In-Yong will be teaching *Making of the Creeds* at the Prime Timer Bible Study being held at 11:00 a.m. on February 11, 18, 25, and March 10. Everyone is invited to join us and enjoy a complimentary lunch and a time of fellowship following our study.

Prime Timers Lunch Bunch

By Kay Dumas

The Prime Timers will host a Lunch Bunch on **Sunday, February 21**, following worship. Join them for a complimentary lunch consisting of a variety of homemade soups, including:

Chicken Noodle

Navy Bean with Ham

Broccoli

Brunswick Stew

Plus: Veggie Tray w/dip

Cornbread Muffins and Cheese Biscuits

Bread Pudding and Chocolate Delight

No Reservations Necessary!



Prime Timers

Telephone Reassurance Program

By Kay Dumas

The Prime Timers Telephone Reassurance Program has been established for our members who live alone. Once a day, a Cokesbury member will call a church friend to check on them. If you would like to be a caller or if you would like to receive a call, complete the insert in our church bulletin, pick up a form from the table in the narthex, or call Kay Dumas at 704 814-4567.



Dinner with Friends

By Sara Joines

Dinner with Friends will be **Wednesday, February 17 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Please come and enjoy an evening with our friends from the community.



Knitting & Crochet Group

By Sara Joines

We meet on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room and we are making hats for Room in the Inn. Please come join us for an hour of fun and fellowship.



Prayers
FOR THE PASTOR

**Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
in the Prayer Room**