

# 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 Windows

December 12, 2016

## **Looking Backward and Forward**

When I visit our elderly members at their homes or nursing homes, they say the older they get, the faster time flies. Isn't it strange? I remember as a young child wishing that I grew up faster. Back then, it seemed time went very slowly. Anyway, I cannot believe we have only three weeks left of this year. I look back at what we have experienced anew as a church family this year with thanksgiving. It has been a good year!

The new things we have had this year are not limited to but include Cokesbury Café, Worship Planning Team (and therefore, videos, skits, and other new elements in worship services), Thursday Music Night, Friday Movie/Game Night, active collaboration with the police, Listening Sessions, welcoming the Nepalese congregation (whose membership has grown from 85 to 130 since April), and others. So many existing ministries, such as Prime Timers, Starfish Ministry, Room in the Inn, and small groups, have been going on faithfully. Thank you.

New projects are brewing at the moment for the new year. You will have ample opportunities to hear about them. One of them you already know is the newly structured leadership team, GO Team. With a smaller number of leaders than the current Ad Council, GO Team's primary task will be making sure everything committees or ministry projects are doing is aligned to our church's mission and vision, which I share with you again here. Please take time to memorize them:

**Our Mission (goal): To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ**

**Our Vision (what our attainment of the goal would look like): Changed lives, ours and others'**

GO Team members are pastor, staff liaison (Sara Joines), GO Team chair (Bobbi Abele), GO Team secretary (Deanna Long), Lay Leader (Steve Carter), Finance chair (Don Abele), Trustees chair (to be elected by Trustees), SPRC chair (Chris Betts), Communications chair (John Bean), Education Council chair (Ray Cabaniss), Growth Team chair (Etta Woodall), Congregational Care chair (LeAnne Craig), Missions chair (Bill Coulter), and Worship chair (Jo Walters). All the committees and ministry teams will continue their work

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as before. The Team will seek to empower them and the whole congregation by supporting and encouraging innovative service of each. The retreat for the Team members will be held on Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Bella Sera Villas Clubhouse in Matthews.

We are in the middle of praying for the church, the pastor, and her family for three months. Please continue to pray. Exciting things are already happening at Cokesbury. By praying and serving, we are taking part in what God is doing in our midst. I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

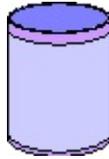
*In-Yong*



- Jim Atwater gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of Mary Ellen Atwater.
- Mary Freeman gave gifts to the Budget Fund in honor of Marta Cox and Dan & Kay Dumas.
- The Prime Timers gave a gift to the UMCOR Fund in honor of Pat McKenzie, Linda Horne, and Jo Walters.



This coming Sunday, December 18,  
Cokesbury's Chancel Choir  
will present a Christmas concert.  
Seven of Marty's students from CATA  
will be joining the choir as soloists for the event.  
Don't miss it!



### Coffee Cans

By Bobbi Abele  
Chair of the GO Team

Please save your empty coffee cans with lids or nut containers with lids of similar size. Only plastic or metal please. These will be used for a future project to be announced at a later date. There will be a box labeled for this purpose back by the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your help with this project!

### Lay Servant Training 2017

Registration limited to first 18 persons to sign up for each class!

#### Lay Servant Ministry Classes 2017

Monday nights, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

April 3, 10, 17, 24 at St. Mark's UMC

Graduation - April 30

Saturday & Sunday - April 1 & 2 at Central UMC, Charlotte

April 1 (9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.)

April 2 (2:00 p.m. until 6:45 p.m.)

Graduation - April 2

Cost \$30 for all courses

\*One Basic Class offered at each location.

\*One Advanced Class of each course offered at both locations.

\*\*Youth Basic Course offered ONLY April 1 & 2

**Basic Course** (encourages people to recognize and use their spiritual gifts for work in the church, helping each congregation to become an outpost for mission and transformation. Individual sessions guide participants through thoughtful reflection on the areas of leading,

caring, communicating, and spreading the love of Christ into the world...)

#### Advanced Courses being offered:

(1) **God's Mission ...Our Journey** (is a study to help gain a better understanding of and a more holistic approach to participation in God's mission to the world. This course will help equip lay servants for more effective missional engagement in their communities and beyond as well as provide the theological and foundational training for mission volunteers. UMVIM teams and leaders, and individuals.)

(2) **Justice in Everyday Life** (takes an in-depth look at the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church - the church's attempt to speak on the contemporary issues with which it is confronted today...)

### Cokesbury Prayer Blast

by Bill Coulter

#### Learn a Simple Pocket Prayer

Lord, you are good

I need help

They need help

Thanks

In Jesus' name, Amen.