



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

6701 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28212 • 704 537-5818

Reverend Dr. In-Yong Lee, Pastor • ilee@wnccumc.net

• www.cokesburyumc.net

Our Mission

To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.

Our Vision

Change lives, ours and others'.

Vol. DVI 506

Through Cokesbury Windows

November 28, 2016



Safety Pin Solidarity

Those of you who were at church on Sunday, November 20, heard my sermon, during which I introduced the practice of wearing simple safety pins. I first read about it in an article in “United Methodist insight: written by Cynthia Astle, its founder and editor. “United Methodist Insight” is “A Forum to Discern God’s Will for the United Methodist Church.”

I have been talking about creating a safe space for those who are hurting and those who are lost for a while now at Cokesbury. The essential characteristic of a safe space would be its people being non-judgmental, alongside of being loving, welcoming, accepting, encouraging, inviting, etc. In a culture in which those who are marginalized have felt shunned, judged, and oppressed constantly, providing a welcoming environment for them would be so desired and at the same time so daunting. It would be a task that none of us are experts of doing. We will all learn how better to do it as we do it. Again, walking on a bridge while building it.

The week after “Brexit” (Britain + exit) vote on June 23 in the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, the country saw a staggering 57% increase in reported incidents of xenophobic abuse. People from other countries of EU, living in England constantly heard, “Go home. We don’t want you here.” One concerned citizen suggested wearing a safety pin as a gesture of solidarity for immigrants, and others followed immediately.

Seeing the similar uproar in the US after the recent presidential election, Cynthia Astle suggested that we, too, wear a safety pin to show solidarity for those who’ve been targets of violence, oppression, discrimination, and abuse. As I quoted during the sermon, though, Astle adds, “A safety pin is a sign that says: ‘You’re safe with me. I’ll go with you through danger.’ Here’s the kicker: Don’t put the pin on unless you’re really willing to follow it up with concrete action. Be prepared to put yourself on the line for another, or the safety pin is meaningless.”¹

¹Cynthia B. Astle, “Pin Up the ‘Trump Effect,’” United Methodist Insight, <http://um-insight.net/perspectives/views-from-a-ridge/de-escalate-trump-effect-before-it-s-too-late/> accessed November 20, 2016. (Article continued on next page.)

Thank you, those of you at Cokesbury who are already wearing a pin. Please don't forget to wear it every morning you leave home. Those who aren't wearing it yet, think about it, and when you're ready, pick one up from your home and start wearing it, telling those who see the pin on you that they are indeed safe with you.

In-Yong



– Mary Freeman gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Charles Jones**.

Come to Christmas a Great Success

By Judy Sims, Education Council

It is with great appreciation to all who made Come to Christmas a great success. The projects went so well. The beautiful miniature Christmas trees are being delivered to our homebound members by church friends who look forward to a visit with them. The beautiful ornaments will be given to those who come to Adult Care & Share. The treats are being delivered to the Idlewild School staff. The wonderful fruit baskets are being given to the Starfish Ministry families. The Christmas cards will be given to our veterans during the month of December. To In-Yong and everyone who made this special day possible, thank you!



By Sara Joines

The UMYF will meet November 30 and December 7 at 6:00 p.m. We will have our youth Christmas outing to Mellow Mushroom and bowling on December 9. Please meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. and bring a \$10 gift to exchange. December 17 the UMYF will help with the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus. Please be at the church at 9:45 a.m.

Children's Advent Workshop

By Sara Joines

We will be holding our second annual Advent Workshop for Children on Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Please bring your children, grandchildren, or neighbors, for a time of making crafts and of course a snack!

UMW Bake Sale

By Kay Dumas

Our Thanksgiving Bake Sale raised \$550, plus! Thanks to all of the great Cokesbury bakers and to all of you who purchased the delicious baked goodies and enjoyed them at your Thanksgiving dinner.

Prime Timers Reach Out

By Kay Dumas

The Prime Timers responded to the needs in our church and community and provided the following:

Coat Drive for Crisis Assistance was a tremendous success! Thanks for your help and support. We delivered 95 coats (32 from our neighbors) to Crisis Assistance. Thank you to all of you who donated your new and gently worn coats!

We provided **four complete Thanksgiving dinners** to the Rescue Mission for the needy in our community.

Twelve Christmas gift bags will be ready for our Room in the Inn guests.



By Tom DeVries

On **Saturday, December 17**, we will be hosting the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for 36 children. Over the next few Sundays, we will be handing out envelopes for donations or you can simply write a check to the United Methodist Men and note Bethlehem Center Party on the memo line and place in the offering plate or get it to the church office and we will make sure your gift is used on December 17.

This is a wonderful mission project that is a joy for Cokesbury and the children and staff from the Bethlehem Center. We will be making up the goodie bags for the children this year and also giving a quality stuffed animal/toy, so please continue to be generous with your donation.