

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

May 23, 2016

General Conference and a Korean Mother’s Changed Heart

(This is the article that I wrote for Love Your Neighbor Coalition’s daily magazine during the General Conference. As I said during worship last Sunday, I submit it to my church family in humility and trust. I would welcome any kind of conversation and respect different opinions.)

Who would have known? I went to Tampa, Florida in 2012 as a first-time General Conference clergy delegate with one mindset on the issue of human sexuality and came back home with another.

Prior to the General Conference, I heard stories of the LGBTQI people – a DS with wife and children who killed himself because he couldn’t live with the conflict between his sexual identity and the church’s expectation, teenagers who couldn’t take it any more in a society where they were ostracized, shunned, and attacked and who killed themselves, and more. I thought, “If it leads to a life and death situation, it is serious.”

There came an eye-opening moment at the General Conference. A white, male clergy delegate in the same legislative committee all of a sudden changed his attitude towards me after a vote on a petition that had to do with same-sex wedding and ordination of gay people. I happened to be the only person in the subcommittee who voted for the petition. Immediately after that, his kindness and friendliness was all gone and he stopped looking me in the eye. I couldn’t understand it, and I thought, “Hello, what happened? I thought we were friends. If you do that to me because of just one vote, what would you do to gay people themselves?”

Then there were the silent demonstrations by the LGBTQI community, which struck me with glimpses of their pain and suffering. I was compelled to hug an Asian young man with his eyes closed and crying while he stood among those who lined up outside the plenary room. I sat beside a young adult delegate who was devastated and cried throughout a long break, when the petition to get rid of the phrase, “Homosexuality is incompatible to Christian teaching” was defeated, and I comforted him.

(Continued on page 2)

One afternoon during a lunch break after heated discussion on this very petition and before its vote, a seminary professor and fellow delegate asked me, “What is your opinion on this petition?” He knew that I had just defended successfully my Ph.D. dissertation in Christian Ethics at Duke. I thought for a while and answered, “Homosexuality might be incompatible to Christian teaching, BUT I would rather be theologically wrong than not loving.”

One afternoon in early August, my husband and I were talking casually in our room at home. Our sons came in and joined us. Our older son, 21 back then, said calmly, “Mom, Dad, I have something to tell you.” We said, “OK. What is it?” He said, “I’m gay.” ...Gosh, hadn’t I been prepared for that moment? I said, “It doesn’t change anything, baby. You are a wonderful person, a wonderful son. We love you.” He shed tears of relief, and we hugged him. Praise God, who had prepared my heart in time! Praise the Lord, who had helped me to be there for my son in time!

In-Yong



In-Yong with Joey Lopez, the young adult delegate whom she comforted in 2012.



- Jim Atwater gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Henry Justice**.
- Carrie Winkler gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Henry Justice**.



By Sara Joines

June 5 will be Graduation Sunday. We will recognize our two graduates, Ryan Springer and Mateus Azevedo, during the worship service. Everyone is invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Youth Mission Trip

By Sara Joines

The UMYF will be going on their Summer Mission Trip June 26 through July 2. If you would like to make a donation towards the trip, it would be greatly appreciated. All donations should be turned in by June 12 to Sara Joines.

Vacation Bible School

By Sara Joines

Preparation for Workshop of Wonders is in full swing. If you would like to help with VBS in any capacity, please fill out a volunteer sheet that can be found on the table in the Narthex. Vacation Bible School will be **June 13-17 from 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

UMM

By Ed Bolster

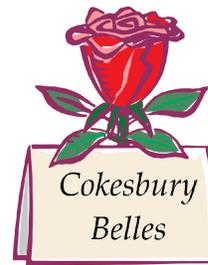
Just a reminder that the Methodist Men will meet Thursday, May 26 at 6:15 p.m. for dinner and meeting afterwards. This will be the last meeting before our summer break.

Prime Timers

By Kay Dumas

The Prime Timers will meet Thursday, May 26 at 11:00 a.m. Please join them for fellowship and lunch, only \$6. No reservation necessary.

The Prime Timers will tour Mint Historical Site, shop at the Farmers Market, and enjoy music and lunch in Mint Hill on **Saturday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m.** We will carpool from the church.



By Margie Forrest

The Cokesbury Belles will meet **Monday, June 6 at 11:30 a.m.** at the Sunrise Restaurant, 6416 Albemarle Road for their next monthly luncheon. All widows in Cokesbury UMC's fellowship are invited to come and enjoy this time of sharing good food and fellowship.



*Welcome new member,
Carl Chewning, to Cokesbury!*



By Sara Joines

Camp Tekoa September 2-5

Our rates are changing for the first time in three years. This change allows us to continue to use Camp Tekoa staff to handle Saturday and Sunday night meals, maintain our scheduled Tekoa-led programming, and offer the reduced rate two-night option.

Registration after May 1	
Three nights	\$110
Two nights	\$90
Day Camper	\$20

We will no longer offer a family maximum for those with more than four family members.

Register early! Early-bird payment plans are available with the final payment by August 15. Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, pick up a Camp Tekoa information packet and registration form found on the table in the Narthex.



By Deanna Long

January 1-March 31 General Budget

Income	\$94,980.14
Expenses	(\$82,452.40)
Net Income	\$12,527.74 Year-to-Date

Month of April General Budget

Income	\$21,726.27
Expenses	(\$24,931.81)
Net Loss	(\$3,205.54)

In keeping with our discipline, several new procedures for finances have been initiated. One of these is the need for receipts attached to the request form when reimbursements are required. If there are any questions, please contact us.