



# 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

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## **Where Have You Been?**

Well, actually nobody has asked me this about my off and on series of trips in recent weeks. But I want to tell you. The first trip was from Monday, January 30 through Friday, February 3. I went to Duke and stayed in Durham for a study week. Four clergy friends had our fourth annual study week together. This year's study topic was racial justice. Two of us gave presentations on books – Jim Wallis' *America's Original Sin* and Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Carlton Abrams' *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*.

We also sat in Dr. J. Kameron Carter's class "James Cone (or, Christianity in the Age of Black Lives Matter)" one day, and had a one-hour conversation with Dr. Christena Cleveland. Actually, Dr. Cleveland visited Charlotte on Sunday, February 26 and Monday, February 27 preaching and teaching at Myers Park Baptist Church and Myers Park United Methodist Church. I went to lunch with Dr. Cleveland at Myers Park UMC on Monday. It was a very inspiring and productive week of learning, discussing, and contemplating on the issue of racial justice.

The following week, from Tuesday, February 7 through Thursday, February 9, I was at First UMC in Gastonia, interviewing candidates for ordination. There are seven discernment teams and each team (with about 8 members) reads the written work of a candidate, before they interview him/her in the areas of Call and Disciplined Life, Theology, and Proclamation. After each candidate is interviewed, the entire board meets for the plenary discussion and vote. The care for the consideration of the well-being of churches and the pastors are very telling in the whole process. I serve as the team leader of Team 6.

After I came back home that Thursday, I packed again for a longer trip, this time to Atlanta, GA for the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. It lasted from Friday, February 10 through Wednesday, February 15 at the new headquarters of General Board of Global Ministries. It has 44 voting members: 3 representatives (1 bishop, 1 pastor, and 1 lay person) from each of the five Jurisdictional Conferences in the U.S. and of the seven Central Conferences outside the U.S., plus 3 from GBGM and a few additional members.

(Continued on next page)

Following the last quadrennium (4 years between two General Conferences), Standing Committee continued its work of creating the *General Book of Discipline*. General Conference gave the committee the daunting task to sort out the essential portions of the *Book of Discipline* that are applicable to the entire United Methodist churches from the non-essential portions that are subject to and adaptable to different political situations, cultures, legal climates, etc. to help the worldwide denomination to be better equipped to carry out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our work is halfway done and the other half will be done by 2020 General Conference, at which the completed draft of the *General Book of Discipline* will be voted on for adoption. For its work, members have been divided into four teams. I was elected to serve as the vice chair of Team 1, with Bishop Patrick Streiff from Switzerland as our chair. He is the former chairperson of the Standing Committee in the last quadrennium, and he is the actual leader in this endeavor. During the latter half of our stay in Atlanta, general secretaries of all the general agencies, including the new General Secretary of General Conference, Gary Graves, came and joined us for the work. Also, members of Faith and Order and Connectional Table also were present, aiding the committee's work.

Hahaha, I said a lot of mouthful words, didn't I? Don't worry. I just wanted to share these with you, because these are what your pastor is doing. Many people are working hard to fulfill the Church's mission, and the most significant unit in all its efforts is a local church, such as Cokesbury! May God bless and stir up all the local churches with God's Spirit, so that we can faithfully do God's will!

*In-Yong*



- Jim & Carol Black and Judy Sims gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Garrett Rivers** and in honor of **Eleanor Hampton's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**.
- Ed & Diane Bolster, Phil & Marta Cox, Tom & Nancy DeVries, Floyd & Irma Fike, Tammy Gilmore, Sue Keene, Eleanor Hampton, gave gifts to the Budget Fund in honor of **Eleanor Hampton's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**.
- Pat McKenzie and Deanna Reed gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Vera Long**, mother of Leo Long, and in honor of **Eleanor Hampton's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**.
- Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Garrett Rivers**.



Easter lilies and pink and red geraniums are for sale. They will be displayed in the sanctuary for Easter. You may purchase flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones. The geraniums are \$8.50 and lilies \$10.25. Please see the order forms in your bulletins. All orders are due March 5.

## **Are You Retired?**

### **If you are, The Prime Timers Want You**

By Kay Dumas

Join the largest and most active group in our church (40 members) and enjoy the things we do!

We recently enjoyed a 4-week series of outstanding speakers – Reverend Virginia Herron, Director of Opportunity House; Retired SIM Missionary, Bill Harding; plus two of our own, Sue Keene spoke of her military career “Private to Lieutenant Colonel” and Ray Saito, “Coming to America”. Each session was followed by a delicious lunch and fellowship.

Another thing we enjoyed recently was hosting Eleanor’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for over 80 people by providing lunch for family, friends, neighbors, and church members.

We had a recent visit from “Minnie Pearl” or Penny Pearl, who plans to bring her line-dancers from Matthews Methodist to entertain us. Jo Walters is planning a couple of interesting programs for us – the history and origin of hymns and her mission trip to Haiti with Myers Park UMC, scheduled soon.

See what you have missed? Come join us! No, you’re not too young. I joined when I retired at 55.

## **Note from Financial Secretary**

By Louise Ward

When writing checks, please be sure to note which fund you would like your contribution to be applied to by using the memo line.

## **Give a Ride! Need a Ride!**

By Kay Dumas

Some of our members can no longer drive at night, but would still like to participate in church activities and worship. (Example: Music at Cokesbury and scheduled meetings.)

If you can provide a ride for a church friend in the evening, please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. If you need a ride and would like a church friend to provide it, please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex.

## **Urban Promise**

God has given Cokesbury an awesome opportunity to serve the community as God’s people. Please check Urban Promise’s website at <http://www.urbanpromisecharlotte.org/> and mark your calendar for a tour at the South Boulevard site on Monday, March 6 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. It’s located at 6210 Old Pineville Road, Charlotte, 28217. You can either meet us there at 4:30 or come to Cokesbury by 3:45 and carpool. If you want to carpool, please let In-Yong know in advance.