



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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Cokesbury Is My Family

After church last Sunday (September 24), I made two different visits to our church members. Around 4:00 p.m., my mother and I went to Ray and Karen Saito's house and collected chestnuts under their beautiful tree in the front yard. When I met Ray at the Fish Fry the previous day (Wasn't our Fish Fry the best ever? Oh, it was so delicious and there were so many people!), he in his ever gentle voice and signature smile, asked me if my mother would enjoy picking up chestnuts. I said yes!

When we got to their house, I looked around and said to Mom, "Ha, we are in the right place. Look! The miniature Japanese bridge over there!" Ray and Karen greeted us with kindness and brought tools and gloves for us to use. Due to prickly husks that held those nuts, we needed gloves for one thing. It was the very first time for both of us to pick up chestnuts. It was serene under the tree with sweet breezes, and we thoroughly enjoyed the time and the collection, part of which we boiled and ate at home right away.

The second visit that I made that evening was to Cynthia Djia, the young woman from the Ivory Coast in our congregation, even though she couldn't make it to church on recent Sundays because of her work. Her mother passed away last Saturday unexpectedly, and I had received a text message from her older sister in the Ivory Coast that morning, to be the one to relay the message to Cynthia. I agreed to do it and thought, "Oh, no, how do I tell it to her? She would be devastated!"

Etta and Buddy Woodall (at whose home Cynthia has lived for more than a year now), Flore Aman (Cynthia's dear friend here in Charlotte), and I, surrounded her Sunday evening and we delivered the sad news to her. She was so sad and heart-broken that we stayed around silently to comfort her. So far away from home and from her own family in this time of great distress and grief... Please keep Cynthia and her family in Africa in your prayers.

When I reflected on the two very different visits that happened in one evening, I thought, "Truly Cokesbury is my family. As a family sometimes experiences many different things at once, I experienced the peaceful chestnut-picking one moment and the deeply sad moment shortly afterwards. Yes, that's exactly who we are, a family. Whether we have an occasion for celebration or an occasion for grief, we gather together and share those moments. As long as we share one another's life events, our joy will increase and our sadness and distress will decrease. Thank God for my family at Cokesbury!"

In-Yong



- Dot Hailey gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Nancy Angel, Bob Burns, Gladys Grimes, Eleanor Hampton, and Norma Jean Spencer.**
- Chris & Shay Simmons gave a gift to the Prime Timers in memory of **Tom & Polly Shropshire.**



First Week of Urban Promise

By Erika Hernandez

The hallways of Cokesbury buzzed with excitement, laughter, and chatter last week as UrbanPromise launched its newest site in East Charlotte! I’m so happy to present... Camp Hope!

We welcomed 60 students from Idlewild Elementary – all came in with sparkling smiles, eager eyes, and hearts filled with joy. Leading our campers are 18 StreetLeaders coming from East Meck, Independence, and South Meck.

Our StreetLeaders leaned into their mission of making UrbanPromise a second home to our students and quickly set out to create bonds with our campers. By the end of the week, our campers made themselves at home – having nicknames for one another, claiming pride to their teams, and laughing freely at each other’s antics. On Thursday, our last day of program for the week, one of our campers told a StreetLeader, “I wish I could live at UrbanPromise. I would never leave.”

We ended our first week of camp with hearts filled with anticipation for the adventures in the year to come. I’m grateful that our campers have naturally developed a sense of home and trust with our StreetLeaders and staff. My prayer is that as they grow to love one another, they may also grow in HOPE – hope for their futures, their families, their friends, their community – as they are reminded everyday with our chant, “We have Hope!”

Thank you for your support, prayers, and excitement for UrbanPromise East! None of this could happen without you!



Many thanks to all of our Cokesbury family for your support and care given to the Hailey family. A donation has been made to the UMCOR Fund in your honor.

Thank you,
Dot, LeAnne, and Steve



By Sara Joines

The Youth will be making Blessing Bottles for Room in the Inn guests for the month of December. These will be reusable water bottles stuffed with the items below. We will have a collection box in the narthex for the next month. We will need enough items for 36 bottles. If you have any questions, please see me.

Items needed:

Hot Hands hand and body warmers, warm thermal socks, Band-aides and packets of pain relievers, Chap-stick, lotion, personal anti-bacterial wipes, soft foods like Nutra-grain type bars (Many homeless suffer from dental issues, so things like jerky may seem like a good idea, but they may not be able to use it.), hot instant drink mixes that only require hot water (They can often get this for free from gas stations.)

Listening Session

By Etta Woodall

You are invited to the Listening Session that will be held on **Thursday, September 28 at Idlewild Elementary School from 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

CMS personnel will be on the panel and ethnic minority parents will be in the audience. Previous sessions have included the police, young adults, and the Nepalese. Creating a safe space in which all of us can share our ideas and experiences by listening to one another, and understanding one another better through it, are the purposes of these sessions.

**Volunteer Interest Night for
Urban Promise**

By Etta Woodall

The newest site for Urban Promise located at Cokesbury, is called Camp Hope. The 60 campers and 18 StreetLeaders have a chant: "We have Hope". It serves as a daily reminder that they have hope for their future, their families, their friends, and their community.

Do you want to learn of ways to serve our campers and StreetLeaders? Please join us on **Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m.** for information.

United Methodist Men

By Ed Bolster

As president of the UMM, I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Fish Fry a success and what a good job was done. Also, thank you to the ladies for the lovely desserts they provided.

Again thanks for all the hard work to make this a success.

CROP Walk

By Jo Walters

The Charlotte CROP Walk will be held this year on a **Saturday, October 14!** Walkers will leave from Independence Park at 9:00 a.m. and will walk along the Greenway. Our walk is the largest one in the world, and since 1978, we have raised over 8.1 million dollars! Over two million dollars has helped local groups such as Crisis Assistance, Loaves & Fishes, and Second Harvest Food Bank.

I hope Cokesbury is looking forward to doing their part by donating and/or walking. A special box will be in the narthex for your gifts. Please mark checks for CROP Walk. See JoAnne Gunter if you plan to walk. She and Jo Walters have envelopes for collecting donations.