



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. DXXVII 527

Through Cokesbury Windows

October 23, 2017

Because We Are Thankful

One of my favorite Bible passages is John 15:1-2, in which Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." Sometimes we see that only those who are doing things right already are there to hear the encouragement to do them well. And we think, "Why are those who don't do them at all not here? We are doing all of them faithfully already." Yes, it is almost always the case. Whoever you regard as your target audience, those who show up are the people who don't have to listen to you. Why? It is because God prunes the branch that bears fruit, not the branch that bears no fruit, and because "to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away" (Matthew 25:29).

As Don Abele, our Finance Committee Chair, said so well in his letter to us that was enclosed with the pledge cards, "You have proven time and again that you do what you say you will and more." And we are thankful. Thank you! Precisely because we want to move ahead every day and try to grow in faith, let us talk with God and contemplate on all the blessings in life we have received, even when we didn't deserve them. Let us consider doing a little bit better next year than this year, because we know that as our faith grows our gratitude grows, too.

Yes, let us go to our Heavenly Father in prayer, as we make up our minds concerning what we will do to enhance God's kingdom in the new year. However hard it is, however daunting our situation is, we will not give up. We will keep thinking outside the box. We will stand up in courage and in faith, saying, "Lord, here we are. Use us for your kingdom!"

On Sunday, November 5, we will all bring our pledge cards to the front during the communion/offering time after the sermon. Please remember that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). When we place our pledge cards in the basket, we are actually putting our hearts and our lives there. How wonderful that moment will be! Those of you who haven't picked up your pledge cards, please do so next Sunday. If you can't make it that day either, we will mail it to you. Thank you so much in advance!

In-Yong



- Jim & Carol Black and Ray & Karen Saito gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Merle Taylor**.
- Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Richard Lowndes**.
- Judy Sims gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Merle Taylor**.
- Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **her 66th birthday**.



To Ann Lake and her family as they mourn the death of her father, Richard Lowndes, who passed away October 13..



To Our Cokesbury Family,

Thank you for your loving support of hugs, prayers, and cards during our time of grief (and celebration of life).

Buddy & Etta Woodall

Thank You

I would like to thank you all for helping make my ministry what it is today. I will cherish the time I have spent with each of you and Michael, Corey, and I, think of all of you as family. Remember this is not good-bye, just see you later.

Sara Joines



If you would like to order a red poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete an order form that can be found in your church bulletin or on the table in the narthex. You can also call or email the church office. The cost is \$8 and they will be displayed in the sanctuary on December 10, 17, & 24.

CROP Walk Donations

By Jo Walters

We had a team of CROP Walk walkers, and some of you were “spirit walkers”, by donating to a walker or by putting checks/money in the box. We will continue to accept donations through November 5. Checks should be marked “CROP Walk”. Thank you for helping provide food for our local and world-wide friends in need.



Knitting & Crochet Group

By Sara Joines

Cokesbury has a very active Knitting Group that meets on Monday afternoons at 1:30. If you would like to come by and see what is happening or if you have a project you are working on and would like to spend some time away from home, you are more than welcome to join us. Hope to see you next Monday.

United Methodist Men

By Ed Bolster

Calling all men to join us this Thursday at 6:15 p.m. for our meeting and dinner. Don't forget that your wife is also invited. There will be a special program.

Prime Timers Annual Coat Drive

By Kay Dumas

During the month of November, bring your new or gently worn coats to be given to Crisis Assistance for the needy and homeless

in our community. Leave them in the box in the narthex.

Mission Fair

By Bill Coulter

Sunday, October 29
in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Snacks will be provided!

Sunday School Classes
will be from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.



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-aids 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.)