



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

November 27, 2017

Moving Forward

I don't know whether I told you this or not. Many different devotionals come my way and I save them all for future use. So when I use those entries for my morning devotion, their dates don't match the actual dates. From time to time, I come across an entry that speaks to me strongly. I want to share one of them that I read recently with you. It was *The Upper Room* devotion for July 21 this year written by Linda Jett in Oregon entitled "Backward or Forward?"

"Driving through a lush, green forest, I rounded a curve to see hundreds of white cylinders studding a bare hillside. The scene resembled a cemetery marked with rows of tombstones. Then I looked closer. Each white cylinder surrounded a tiny hand-planted sapling, protecting it from nibbling deer and harsh winds. In a few decades a forest would again cover this hill. I meditated on the larger truth of this picture: with loss comes space for new growth. Then I thought, *How often have I experienced the loss of possessions, people, or jobs from my life?* Each time, my immediate response had been anger and frustration. I had wasted energy looking backward when I could have been looking forward to the new life God could plant in that now-empty space."

"Rather than fighting change, we can instead consider how much sooner something new and beautiful could grow if we would only hand over our pride and control to God who longs to bless us. Contrary to the 'me first' attitude that the world encourages, God tells us that if we die to our selfish desires, we will see doors opening to new growth – 'far more than all we can ask or imagine.'"

Isn't it so true? How often do we find ourselves gripped by the past failures, loss, and mistakes, and cannot move forward? How do we focus our vision on the new room instead that has been created by that very loss, and work on something new in that very space? How do we as a church exercise the same? I pray every day to God to bless Cokesbury for the rest of this year and particularly for the coming new year. O Lord, please be with us and inspire us, so that we may experience new life at Cokesbury!

In-Yong



– Jim & Carol Black, Mary Freeman, Sue Keene, and Deanna Reed gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Russ Anys**.

– Donna Kay Garbarino gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Russ Anys**.

– Tom & Mickey Helms gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Richard Lowndes, Russ Anys, and Merle Taylor**.



♥Ann and Sam Lake would like to express their thanks for all of the love, understanding, cards, and memorials since the death of Richard Lowndes. Your love and support has been greatly appreciated!

♥I wish to extend my thanks to my Cokesbury family for their support, love, prayers, and cards for the loss of my mother.

Cynthia Djia



December 16

By Tom DeVries

On Saturday, December 16, we will be hosting the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for 25-30 children. Over the next few Sundays, we will be handing out envelopes for donations. You can simply write a check to the United Methodist Men and note for the Bethlehem Center Party and place it in the offering plate or send your check to the church office and we will make sure your gift is used on December 16.

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 and giving a quality stuffed animal/toy so please continue to give generously.

**Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon with
Rev. Dr. Sarah Kalish**

By Kay Dumas

We are in for a treat at our Christmas Luncheon on **December 7 at 11:00 a.m.** when Pastor Sarah joins us to share a Christmas message. Joining Sarah, and to lead us with Christmas music, will be First United Methodist, Wadesboro's Director of Music, Gail Litaker, and organist, Gus Farmer. We'll enjoy a complimentary lunch following our program.

REMINDER:

Prime Timers Annual Coat Drive

By Kay Dumas

The coat drive for Crisis Assistance has been extended to next Sunday. Bring your coats to the church no later than Sunday, December 3. Thanks for helping to keep someone warm this winter.

Prime Timers Share

By Kay Dumas

The Prime Timers again remembered a needy family with a complete Thanksgiving dinner. For Christmas, we are giving Adult Care & Share holiday table decorations and a large gift box. Miniature decorated trees will be delivered to needy and/or lonely nursing home residents. The Prime Timers are reminded to bring items for 12 Room in the Inn guests' Christmas gift bags.



**United Methodist Women
Annual Christmas Banquet
Saturday, December 2 at 12:30 p.m.**

By Kay Dumas

Prepare your favorite dish and join our United Methodist Women at our annual Christmas Banquet on Saturday, December 2 at 12:30 p.m. We'll enjoy good food and fellowship, honor a special UMW member, enjoy singing our favorite Christmas carols, and have our installation of officers for 2018. In keeping with our tradition, we will place donations on our Charlie Brown Tree to be given to the Minister's Discretionary Fund



**Music at Cokesbury
December 21
7:00 p.m.**

By Kay Dumas

If you have not been to one of these music events, this is one you will not want to miss! We welcome back one of our favorites – the Queen City Ringers. Remember our objective is to provide entertaining music for all of you and to also reach our neighbors and invite them to Cokesbury. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you. Donations will be accepted – we'll pass the hat. Refreshments will be served.