



# 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'.

## **Merry Christmas!**

Our youth members and a few counselors (15 total) went to the theater on Monroe Road on Wednesday, December 6 and saw the movie, "The Star", together. It was a beautiful animation, depicting the story of Jesus' birth from the viewpoint of animals. A donkey, a dove, a sheep, and other animals such as camels, cows, horses, and dogs, accompany the holy family throughout the movie. They not only observe what is happening there against the evil plot of King Herod but also actively participate in it. When baby Jesus finally arrives and the animals surround him lying in the manger and admire him in awe together with the three Magi, who have followed the star to worship the king with special gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the audience couldn't help but produce an exclamation of "Awwwww".

Yes, we are waiting again for the birth of Jesus, who left the heavenly throne and came into the humble abode among human beings, because he loved us so much that he couldn't leave us alone in our sins and misery. A few years ago, when I was the pastor of St. Paul's in Asheville, a member e-mailed me shortly before Christmas Eve with the link to a music video with the title, "Mary, Did You Know", written by Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry. Oh, how beautiful the song was! We showed the video during the Christmas Eve service. I'd like to quote its lyrics to share with you.

Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know  
That your Baby Boy has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you

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Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?  
Did you know  
That your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little Baby, you kissed the face of God?

Oh, Mary did you know, ooh

The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of The Lamb

Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know  
That your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know  
That your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
The sleeping Child you're holding is the great I AM

May God help us finish the year 2017 faithfully as God's church and bless Cokesbury in a way God has never done before in 2018! Merry Christmas to you and your families!

*In-Yong*



– Donna Garbarino gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Eleanor Hampton**.



## **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.

## **United Methodist Women Celebrate**

By Kay Dumas

The United Methodist Women celebrated the season with their annual Christmas luncheon. Tammy Gilmore was honored with a special membership recognition and pin. Pat and Linda led us with favorite Christmas music. Pastor In-Yong installed officers for 2018.

## **Bethlehem Birthday Party for Jesus Saturday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m.**

By Ed Bolster

Just a reminder that we could use a lot of help this Saturday, December 16 to take the kids shopping and also help with the wrapping of their gifts afterward. We look forward to seeing lots of you!

## **Thank You**

By Kay Dumas

The recent Bake Sale profit totaled almost \$500. Thanks to all who participated either by baking an item or purchasing a special treat. Also, your support of our annual Attic Sale by donating items or shopping made it possible for us to share our proceeds with the following charities: Share the Warmth, UMCOR, Epiphany, Second Harvest, Salvation Army, and Crisis Assistance.

## **Urban Promise**

By Etta Woodall

Urban Promise campers will celebrate the "Joy of Giving" by selecting and wrapping two gifts for their parents on Dec. 18. Then on Dec. 19 the parents will come in for a Christmas program and the campers will share their presents. Volunteers are needed on Monday from 5:00-6:15 p.m. to help wrap the presents. Come join us for the "Joy of Giving".

## **Soup, Chili, and Bluegrass at Third Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall**

**Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m.**

There will be delicious pots of soup, chili, and delicious Christmas cookies prepared by our members. Following our meal at 6:15, we will hear Bluegrass music by the band Southern Express. A love offering will be collected.

## **ATTENTION!**

### **Lunch Bunch Volunteers Needed**

By Deanna Long

Lunch Bunch Teams and a monthly schedule is now being set-up. We will have three teams of volunteers for: Set-Up, Cooking, and Clean-Up. We feel this will work best for those involved so every volunteer will not be expected to do everything for a meal. Also, each team will be responsible only three times per year. Everyone is invited to join one or more of these three teams.

**January 7**, following the worship service, we will be having lunch and training for all who are available. We anticipate simplifying each job and helping train those who have not performed any of these functions.

Please let me know by January 2 if you and/or your spouse will join us on January 7 so there will be sufficient food for all. You may call me at 704 535-3790 or email [dmlong@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmlong@bellsouth.net). Also, if you have any questions now, do not hesitate to contact me.