



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

April 9, 2018

“ACT Now! Unite to End Racism”

I had an awesome experience in Washington D.C. last week. Earlier on February 6, I received an e-mail from Jean Hawxhurst who works for the United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB). She sent the COB's invitation to 20 Methodists to take part in upcoming national rally led by the National Council of Churches (NCC). It was clear to me that I was included in the list, because I have been leading Western North Carolina Conference's Dismantling Racism Task Force. I felt it an honor and accepted the invitation and made lodging and travel arrangements. Because COB asked us to take part in it, our expenses were covered by them.

After a few phone conferences with fellow Methodists and the NCC leaders of the rally over time, I drove to Washington D.C. on Tuesday, April 3. JoAnne Gunter travelled with me and she was a wonderful companion throughout the trip. After parking the car at the hotel, we took the Metrorail to go to United Methodist Building for UM's "Briefing on ACT Now Platform." After that, we went outside the building and had "UMC Prayer Witness with the Council of Bishops." COB's president, Bishop Bruce Ough, and several other bishops led powerful witnesses of how it is time for United Methodists and all Christians in America to unite to continue Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call to end racism.

Tuesday evening, we went to Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral to attend "Orthodox Christian Bridegroom Service of Holy Tuesday." The beautiful interior of the cathedral, deferential use of incense, unique chanting of the chorus throughout the service, and the ritualistic bowings of the priests, all added to the worship experience. It was immediately followed by "Then and Now: An Ecumenical Gathering to End Racism" right there in the sanctuary. World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches, and different denominations were represented in ensuing speeches. However different our traditions were, we were all in one voice in recognizing anew Christ's call for love, peace, and justice.

"ACT (Awaken, Confront, Transform) to End Racism Rally" happened on Wednesday, April 4 on the National Mall. This national rally was the main event and was happening on April 4 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. It was also a kick-off event of a several-year-long movement to end racism. So many Christians from all over the country gathered

on the National Mall and were greatly strengthened to hear numerous Christian leaders speak, helping us make commitment to work together toward the common goal. Jim Wallis was one of them. JoAnne and I volunteered as part of Hospitality Team that day.

In the morning of Thursday, April 5, people gathered at historic Ebenezer United Methodist Church to hear NCC's Briefing Overview/Training for action and advocacy. Outstanding national leaders spoke on different issues surrounding racism: voting rights, criminal justice, immigration, gun violence prevention, health care, environmental justice, and economic justice. I was amazed at those brilliant, articulate, and dedicated leaders, whose presentations were powerful and inspiring.

The group of United Methodists who were there through COB's invitation will continue our communication, so that we may stay connected to one another and to NCC's continuing work to dismantle racism. Please pray for these efforts, so that we may see a day that is free of racism in our midst.

In-Yong



– Dan & Kay Dumas and Louise Ward gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Bobbie DeViney**.

– Mitchell & Judy Hagler, Eric & Allison Hoffman and Herbert Loftin gave gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Bobbie DeViney**.

– Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Bobbie**

DeViney and Sandy Fowler.

– Mary Freeman gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Bobbie DeViney** and a gift to the Missions Fund in honor of **Tammy Gilmore**.



To the family of Bobbie DeViney who passed away March 29.

and

To the family of Sandy Fowler who passed away April 8.



♥Thanks to everyone who sent cards, phone calls, and prayers during my surgery. It is wonderful having such a caring family.

Love,
Mary Freeman

♥Thank you to everyone who helped with Easter Experience/Egg Hunt activities including church members who donated candy, Joan Gillis, Marta and Phil Cox, Steve Carter, Karen Lemmert, Ann and Sam Lake, all of our Outstanding Youth members, Sue Keene and her friend Anna, Sue Heafner, Bobbi Abele, Betsy Taylor, Judy Sims, Margie and Bill Mullis, Kristina and Greg Acosta, Circle Rachel and Sarah, and our charming Easter bunny, Lee. I am sincerely appreciative of your help and suggestions.

Thanks,
Tammy Gilmore

Listening Session

By Etta Woodall

Please join us after the Lunch Bunch on Sunday, April 15 for the Listening Session at 1:00 p.m. The panelists will include several of our senior citizens. We look forward to seeing you for this time of sharing and learning.

Prime Timers

Thursday, April 26 at 11:00 a.m.

By Kay Dumas

Mark your calendar and join the Prime Timers for a time of good fellowship and good food. Lunch is only \$6, no reservation necessary.

Save the Date

2018 Vacation Bible School

By Tammy Gilmore and Nicky Moran

We are excited to announce that Cokesbury UMC will be taking leadership role in partnering with the Urban Promise Summer Camp program for Vacation Bible School. Our VBS dates are July 9 through July 12. Our time together is from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The theme for 2018 is "Going Green for Jesus", which focuses on the many aspects of caring for and respecting God's creation and our environment. There will be many fun and worthwhile opportunities for all types of volunteers. Let's all learn together the new 3 r's (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle). More information to follow.