



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

6701 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28212 • 704 537-5818

Reverend Dr. In-Yong Lee, Pastor • ilee@wncumc.net

• www.cokesburyumc.net

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

June 11, 2018

Cultural Celebration Blasts

What would we say? What did you feel, when you saw women and men donned with colorful African attires processing in, one after another, like an unending stream of river? The sheer number was so moving of Liberian friends who came to Cokesbury to celebrate Liberia's history and culture during the worship service on Sunday, June 10. Sando's wonderful leadership as Worship Leader (she coordinated the entire service with me and invited all her friends), Alvin's service as an acolyte, the video with an outstanding summary of the country's history and facts, powerful a cappella singing several times during the service, beautiful praise dance, Teta's apt Children's Moment, Deborah's Scripture reading, eloquent preaching by Pastor Kwiagaye on David and Goliath, all Liberian usher team, ... our sanctuary was filled with joy and thankfulness to God!

Of them all, if you ask me what was most moving to me, I would say, "When I saw Sando weep quietly". As you may have seen, I sat between the guest preacher and Sando. When we were watching the video, I saw in my periphery vision that Sando was wiping her eyes with a tissue. When I turned to her, she reached and touched my arm, saying, "Thank you, pastor". I handed her the tissue box, just in case she needed more tissues. What was she thankful for? For the opportunity to celebrate her native culture at Cokesbury, she said.

That reminded me of my own experience not too long before. While we had the Korean Cultural Celebration on April 29, upon Marty's suggestion, we showed a Korean choir's video. They sang "The Tribute" in Korean. There were only about 12 people in the choir, but they sounded like a choir of 100 people! I personally wondered whether most of them were voice majors, particularly because they were choir members of a church in Rome. Anyway, while we listened to their song, I became emotional and wept. There was something very moving in sharing with my church family what is very close to me. Etta's words afterwards confirmed it. She said that she had noticed my weeping and that Cynthia had wept, too, earlier when we showed on Sunday, February 18, a part of the worship service at a UM Church in Ivory Coast that I had videotaped while I was there.

I am thankful to our congregation for giving these opportunities to celebrate different cultures during worship services. I am thankful to Don and Dan, our chefs, who filled in last Sunday for LeRoy who had surgeries. I am thankful to all the chefs and those who helped with clean-up afterwards at every Lunch Bunch. I am thankful to Marta who beautifully decorates our altar table, bulletin board, and other areas in the church according to the liturgical calendar. I am thankful to Bruce and others who help with the

sound system (Now he has new apprentices, Sam and Nathania!). I am thankful to Ken and Dan for ushering. I am thankful to all the greeters who are faces of Cokesbury on Sunday mornings. I am thankful to all the Sunday School teachers and nursery keepers. I am thankful to Marty for wonderful music that is so fitting to every Sunday's theme and for loaning her great collection of African musical instruments last Sunday. I am thankful to our Worship Planning Team for their faithful and creative service. I am thankful to all of you, my church family. Thank you!

In-Yong



- Jim & Carol Black gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Kathy Cannon** and **Jong Jin Kim**.
- Mary Freeman and Mitchell & Judy Hagler, gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Jeff Hargett**.
- Theresa Hall have a gift to the Honorarium Fund in honer of the **UMAR Sunday School Teachers**.
- Pat McKenzie gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Jong Jin Kim**.
- Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Jeff Hargett, LyKenya Thomas, and Jong Jin Kim**.
- The International Sunday School Class gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **Ray Cabaniss**.



By Tammy Gilmore

Items currently needed for the 2018 Vacation Bible School are: newspapers, yarn for hair, plastic and metal caps and lids of all sizes, ANY size plastic bottles, empty cardboard paper rolls from toilet paper, paper towels, and wrapping paper. Please take off labels, if possible. Also needed are gently used plastic tablecloths to be used as drop cloths for painting projects.

On **Thursday, July 12 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for the final day of Cokesbury's *Going Green for Jesus Vacation Bible School*. We will start with a short skit "In Gods Name" followed by a speaker from the Reedy Creek Nature Museum. Tracy, a naturalist, will share on Woodland Critters. Then we will have a delicious Ice Cream Sundae Bar. Volunteers are needed for the skit and clean-up. To volunteer, contact Tammy Gilmore at 704 488-5395 or email dhuwary@gmail.com.



Music at Cokesbury

By Kay Dumas

Two years ago, Cokesbury began its Music at Cokesbury on the third Thursday of each month. It began as a result of input from the United Methodist Men and a number of church members. We are fortunate to have Michael Benton in our church, who has a true love for music. Luckily, he has a lot of contacts and has brought some outstanding talent to entertain us. Other members pitched in and have worked at getting the word out into the community, including churches, neighborhood groups, retirement communities, and of course, our own congregation.

In September, 2016, the UMM began offering a complete hot dog supper and members volunteered to prepare homemade chili, slaw, onions, and desserts – plus cookies for our guests. This has been a tremendous success and has provided additional funding. All of this has been provided with no cost to our church.

If you have not experienced the wonderful music and been entertained by Michael and Southern Express, Harold the Golden Oldie, the High Ridge Pickers, and the outstanding Queen City Ringers, just to name a few, you will have other opportunities. Harold will be here in June, Southern Express and the High Ridge Pickers will be scheduled later, and the Queen City Ringers will return in December for their third appearance.

Those of us directly involved and those who attend each month, feel that this is such a good thing for our church, not only for our members, but our neighbors. We are continually working to reach our neighbors and what better way than with music. We truly feel, once they come through our doors, it has been proven they might come back. Let's not miss this opportunity.



By Ed & Diane Bolster

The Starfish Ministry is in need for the following items for this month's food distribution: toilet paper, paper towels, canned soup, bar soap, oatmeal, laundry detergent, dish liquid, canned meat, jelly, and bagged rice. We know that you have helped in the past, but we need your support again. Thank you in advance!



Thank you for the opportunity to participate in worship and a special thank you for the paper products you donated to us.

*Myers Park UMAR Home
Hall UMAR Home*

Idlewild Elementary would like to thank you for the recent donations of Box Tops for Education and Little Bites packages. Box Tops for Education can be found on these products: Cheerios, Green Giant, Nature Valley, Reynolds Wrap, Hefty, and Scott. Thank you again for supporting Idlewild School.

Submitted by Etta Woodall



**Camp Tekoa
Family Camp**

August 31 - September 3

For registration, contact Bruce Fowler at Church on Sundays or call 704 578-4466 or email brucefowler@gmail.com.

*Do not miss this time of fellowship at
Camp Tekoa!*