

Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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• 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 25, 2018

Members and Friends of the Western North Carolina Conference:

The national debate related to immigration, expressed in the “Zero Tolerance Policy” of separating children from their families is boiling over, fed by the flames of fear and anger. The outcry of the nation has been rapid and robust. As the Bishop of our Western North Carolina Conference, I wish to express my dismay at the way in which the current policy of our nation to address the issue of immigration is framing the conversation around the need to “follow the law” since we know that laws and policies can be passed which are not always moral or good.

There are too many who remember the states which passed laws directing persons of color and diversity to give up their seat or who were required to sit behind a “white line” on the bus to create separation. It was the law. It is not appropriate to thoughtlessly say, “We must follow the law”. This is simply a reminder that because it is the law or policy does not mean it is morally right. The Christian community must ask, “Where is the mercy in the law?” “How do we love God and neighbor?” It’s not that we don’t need laws; we do. Rather, it is the way in which laws are shaped and implemented, with respect toward others, acknowledging human dignity, that makes the difference. My mind is centered on Isaiah 55:1, “All you who are thirsty, who have no money, come, receive...eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink...” The “Zero Tolerance Policy” raises the question, “Have we lost our soul?”

Laity and clergy throughout the Church have joined our Christian sisters and brothers in expressing a profound request that the practices of separating children from parents immediately stop. As followers of Jesus we have long held a strong belief that acknowledges the sacred relationship between parent and child.

As faithful Christians, we hope that those who hold public office will reflect the goodness of God, who secures fairness, righteousness, and the right of the oppressed, even while addressing the difficult issues of our nation. I hope each of us will continue to express our desire that the current policy will be changed in a much more humane manner. Every nation recognizes the need for appropriate security of its borders, yet, this is not the way to go about it.

(Continued on next page)

For more context, go to <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/faith-leaders-statement-on-family-separation-11522793> for a statement by the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church along with faith leaders from diverse denominations and religious traditions from all across the U. S. While The President of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Ken Carter, signed on behalf of the COB, please know my strong support and appreciation of the statement. I strongly urge your attention to it and your reading of it.

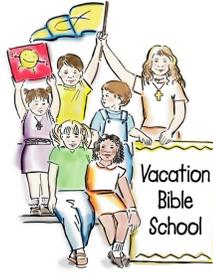
Yours in Christ,
Bishop Paul L. Leeland



– Floyd & Irma Fike gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Jeff Hargett** and **Kathy Cannon**.



The Dan & Joan Hargett family would like to thank the wonderful people at Cokesbury for the outpouring of love and sympathy in the passing of their precious son, Jeff.



By Tammy Gilmore

Going Green for Jesus is the theme of the 2018 Vacation Bible School. It is being held in collaboration with the Urban Promise Summer Camp. The Urban Promise campers will have a full day of activities and our VBS portion will be from 2:00-4:00 starting Monday, July 9 and ending Thursday, July 12. The VBS portion is open to all church members each day, but the last day was planned with activities all ages can enjoy.

On the first day, youth will be divided into small age appropriate groups with one church member and 1-2 Street Leaders for each group. Each day we will make a simple craft using recycled materials. We will be making bird feeders out of TP rolls, "litter bugs" out of plastic bottles, and earth pictures out of coffee filters. The Street Leaders will be in charge of outdoor activities that include recycle relay races and outdoor nature scavenger hunts, as well as a group bonding challenge.

Thank you for collecting all the recycled materials for our crafts. We NEED volunteers for decorating on Sunday, July 8 at noon. A light lunch will be available. Also, we need a few volunteers to help with the ice cream sundae social on Thursday, July 12. Please contact Tammy Gilmore at 704 488-5395 to volunteer. Thank you!



**Camp Tekoa
Family Camp**

August 31 - September 3

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

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