



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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

Reverend Jonathan Coppedge-Henley, Pastor

- jonathan@cokeburyumc.net
- www.cokesburyumc.net

Our Mission

To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.

Our Vision

Change lives, ours and others'.

Vol. DLXVIII 568

Through Cokesbury Windows

August 26, 2019

Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history.

Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?

I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Now that we've tabled the conversation about officially merging with Central UMC, we have to move forward. But it occurs to me that moving forward means letting go of much more than simply the possibility of merging. We also have to let go of the way things used to be. Once upon a time, it was assumed that most people were looking for a church and, at the very least, had a connection to church in some way or other. But now we face a challenge that our parents' generation did not face: within one mile of our church building, 65% of the people aren't connected at all to any community of faith.

When I grew up, I heard preachers yammer on about what a tragedy it was that fewer people went to church. They would go on and on about how bad the world was becoming. Then they would turn to those of us in attendance to blast us for not evangelizing hard enough – and we were the ones who showed up! That kind of bad preaching unintentionally taught me that our efforts to show up didn't matter as much as attendance numbers, but it also got me to thinking that God's best work might not be happening in church.

Wouldn't it be interesting if Christians started looking at the world around us to see what God is at work doing without us? I'm curious if it might not be a huge blessing and opportunity to be in a neighborhood with so many people who don't have any expectations of the church. We church folks carry our memories, nostalgia, and expectations with us. What if those aren't as beneficial to the kingdom of God as they are to us? I think our future depends not on asking God to bless and preserve what we've been doing, but instead asking God to include us in new things God is already doing without our help.

May we follow Christ into the world and wherever he leads.

Peace,
Jonathan



- Dan & Kay Dumas gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of the birthdays of **Dot Hailey** and **Mary Rast**.
- Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Pat Barnes**.



...To Rebecca King who mourns the loss of her father, Robert, who passed away August 18.



**Mark your calendars now for the
United Methodist Men's
18th annual Fish Fry**

**Saturday, September 21
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

in the Fellowship Hall

**Donation of: Adults - \$8.00
Children Ages 6-10 - \$5.00
Children under 6 eat FREE**

Tickets are available from any Methodist Men's member!



Collection of School Supplies for Idlewild Elementary

All school supplies will be appreciated. Especially needed are reams of colored copy paper, pencil holders, plastic two-pocket folders with inserts, dry erase markers, boxes of tissues, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. Please bring them to the church and leave them in the designated bin.

UMW News

By Tammy Gilmore

Sue Keene and Tammy Gilmore attended Mission U at Pfeiffer University on July 20 and studied 150 Years of United Methodist Women's History. Cokesbury UMW donated six school kits to UMCOR as part of its Hands on Mission Project.