



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Reverend Jonathan Coppedge-Henley, Pastor

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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

September 9, 2019

Sunday I preached on Jeremiah 18:1-11 where God is depicted as a pottery artist. Getting ready for the sermon, I couldn't help but notice the pottery all around me. Some of it was very clearly only for display purposes. Other pieces, though, had found the beauty of form and function being perfectly combined.

For potters in Jeremiah's time, form had to follow function because most folks didn't have space or time for mere set-about art, especially when the Hebrew people were facing their utter destruction as a country, a religion, and a people, when the Babylonians invaded Judah around 587 BCE. When Jeremiah watched the potter at work, he saw an artist whose work had to be sustainably functional, which simultaneously created its beauty. Each work of clay had to be shaped according to its anticipated use. We call this design thinking.

Jeremiah 18:4 shows the potter reworking the clay he was forming "into another vessel as seemed good to him". The potter completely started over with the clay he was forming, he created something totally different from what the recent past indicated. He changed the design according to the necessary function and merely changing the paint colors or decorative elements wasn't going to fix whatever it was that "spoiled" the clay. The potter didn't seem to spend much time dwelling on mistakes, nor did he simply resolve to work harder at what he'd started to do. Instead, he just scraped the clay and started over. To be able to make a whole-scale change like that, the potter had to be committed and the clay had to be capable of surrender to the potter.

Every organization is perfectly designed for the results it gets. Cokesbury is perfectly designed for the results we are getting. If we are happy with the results we are getting right now (opposed to some point in our past), then we shouldn't change anything. If, however, we are not satisfied with the fruit we are bearing, then we have to change our design. Cosmetic changes won't be sufficient for changing the results – only radical design change can do that. We are always perfectly designed for the results we are getting. Only redesign creates change, not merely a new pastor or change of worship style. In design, we function only as well as we are formed. If something has spoiled the clay, we don't need to burn precious time dwelling on past mistakes or successes or simply by working harder at the same things we've always done. But redesign is not hard, in and of itself. The hardest part of redesign (whether for a congregation, a family, a company, or any one person) is always the resolve and commitment to the overhaul and the surrender to the God who is the potter of our lives.

Grace and peace,
Jonathan



– Deanna Reed gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Robert King**.

Prime Timers
Thursday, September 19
11:00 a.m.

By Kay Dumas

The Prime Timers will meet a week early, Thursday, September 19. Our cooks will be on vacation on the 26th. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship and a meal together after our summer break. We will spend some time making plans for the month ahead. All retirees are invited. Lunch is only \$6 and no reservations are necessary.



Music at Cokesbury
Thursday, September 19
7:00 p.m.

By Kay Dumas

Enjoy the music of Nelson McSwain for country and other selections at our monthly music event. Come early and enjoy our hot dog supper for only \$4, prepared by our Methodist Men. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you.



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!

Metropolitan Music Ministries, Inc.
A Service of Sacred Music
Sunday, September 29
6:00 p.m.

At Providence Baptist Church
4921 Randolph Road

For more information, visit MMM's website: www.metromusicministries.org or call 704 449-3709.