



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'.

Vol. DLXIX 569

Through Cokesbury Windows

September 23, 2019

This Sunday I preached about the two parables Jesus told about the lost sheep and the lost coin. I talked about what it means to be lost – the vulnerability, the lack of safety, and the disorientation that goes with not being in the right place. We all feel lost from time to time and we all know what it is to wonder if we even belong in the places we go. That gives us all some understanding that could serve us well for the future of Cokesbury.

As long as I've been at Cokesbury, I've felt richly welcomed by everyone. Believe me! I've appreciated it.

What I always appreciate the most is the stories that truly define folks. I'm not talking about the stories about gas prices or bad traffic. I'm talking about the stories you have to tell about who you are, maybe the stories that you don't usually tell out loud. Those are the ones I love to hear because they let me know about your heart and the heart of our congregation. The best stories are almost always lost and found stories, the kind where things weren't perfect or where things went sideways. The truth is that failure is a better teacher than success because it helps us grow. We all know what it is to be lost, to fail, to be on the outside. It gives us understanding.

I've been thinking about the people who feel lost in the world. Sometimes I'm lost. Sometimes my friends are. I think about the people who feel vulnerable and disoriented for whatever reasons, but I try to be quick to remember that because I know what it is to be lost, that means I'm called to connect with them at the very point where they feel lost. Among other things, the crucifixion of Jesus reminds us that God doesn't only connect with us at the moment when we feel like we belong, but at the place of our wounds, suffering, vulnerability, loneliness, and pain. The cross, then, challenges us to be the kind of people who empower people to be brave enough to face our lostness instead of avoiding it. That's what evangelism really is – good news and meaning for those who are seeking a place to belong and a purpose to belong to. We all know what it is to be lost – so we know what we need to for meeting people where it matters.

Grace,
Jonathan

(Pastor Jonathan is looking for people who can speak languages other than English for World Communion Sunday, October 6. He is also looking for writers, poets, story-tellers, testimonies, dramatists, artists, spoken-word artists, and anyone who can help give our worship a deeper connection to the people of Cokesbury.)



– Mary Freeman and Deanna Reed gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Beth Henry**.



To Betsy Taylor as she mourns the death of her daughter, Beth Henry, who passed away September 9.

ZOOM Into United Methodist Young Women

By Tammy Gilmore

As of January 27, the Young United Methodist Women leadership team has decided to form its own UMW unit. The unit will consist of women from all over the Western North Carolina Conference who are either not part of a local unit or looking for a way to connect with other young women passionate about UMW's ministry to children, youth, and women.

This unit only will meet on virtual meeting site ZOOM on a proposed monthly basis. It is also possible to be in an established unit and part of the Virtual group. The group plans on attending face to face conference events.

This is a wonderful way to keep our legacy alive for young women in school, who have hectic schedules, childcare responsibilities, or other considerations that make traditional meetings a challenge.

Contact person is Molly Welch 336 803-1214 or MollyWelch9311@gmail.com for input or questions.

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.



**October 20 at 2:00 p.m.
Volunteers Needed!**

UMW Sponsored

Hands on Mission Project

By Tammy Gilmore

Cokesbury UMW is sponsoring a Hands On event on Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will meet at the church and leave promptly at 9:00 and carpool to the Mission Response Center at 8973 Greenwood Road, Terrell. We will help sort and pack donations. Our goal is 8-10 volunteers with a maximum of 20. All church members are invited. Minimum age is 12 years old. Lunch will be at a restaurant in Mooresville. Drivers are needed. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex by Sunday, October 6.

Charge Conference

The Charge Conference will be October 14 at 6:00 p.m. The agenda will include regular charge conference items, leadership teams and structure, and authorizing the sale of the parsonage.



By Tom DeVries

Thank you for supporting the 18th Annual Methodist Men's Fish Fry that was held on Saturday, September 21. Thank you for coming to eat, making a donation, or working to make the dinner a success! We had great fish, fries, coleslaw, and hush puppies and used up all the fish by the end of the night. Marta, Pam, and the youth crew did a tremendous job keeping plates full and the tables cleared. Our profit was about \$1,000 and those monies will be used to support programs here at Cokesbury. Also, a BIG Thank You to the United Methodist Women's Circles for providing the delicious desserts. Yum! Yum! Praise the Lord and thanks again for your support