

Life at Cokesbury

October 14 - October 20, 2019

Calendar

- Charge Conference is Monday at 6:00 p.m. (More details below)
- Joan will be out of the office on Tuesday.
- Prime Timers meet Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Enjoy a time together and have lunch for \$6.
- Hot Dog Supper is Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and Music at Cokesbury at 7:00 p.m.
Enjoy Mitch Hayes in Concert (singer/songwriter).
- Blessing of the Animals is Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (More details below)

Birth Announcement

Mae Annabelle Rudisill was born August 21 to parents, Tyler & Mary Rudisill and grandfather, Tom Rudisill.

Charge Conference - October 14, 6:00 p.m.

With the air (finally!) getting appropriately crisp for fall, also comes the annual meeting of United Methodist congregations that we call a Charge Conference. Typically, the business of that meeting is boringly administrative.

This year we will have those traditional bits of business, but we will also have two other items that are noteworthy: we will make the final decision about selling Cokesbury's parsonage (home offered to the pastor) and we will vote on a new organizational model (often called "Single Board Governance") of Cokesbury's administrative committees.

It should be noted that a Charge Conference is different from a Church Conference. Everyone in the church family is encouraged to attend a Charge Conference, but the *Book of Discipline* restricts voting only to members of the church's administrative leadership council (in our case, the GO Team), along with any clergy who hold their connection to the denomination through our Charge Conference – this is what we will have on October 14. A Church Conference allows all church members and clergy to vote – this is NOT what we will do on October 14.

Blessing of the Animals

On October 20, we will host a Blessing of the Animals in the courtyard of the church. Bring your furry friends to receive a blessing as part of God's creation. Invite your neighbors and your friends, sure, but don't be afraid to invite strangers, post flyers, bring your vet, or anyone who loves animals. We will begin gathering at 2:00 p.m. We will have a short service then we will say a prayer for every animal that people bring.

Missions Report - October 2018-October 2019 – By Judy Sims

As chairperson of the Mission Team at Cokesbury, I would like to thank each of you for your service and gifts to mission projects this past year. This past year the Mission Committee has given funds to the following: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) \$830, Metropolitan Music Ministries for Scholarships \$100, Second Harvest Food Bank \$100, Zihua Roofs Society \$550, Agape Dental Ministry \$50, Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte \$50, Heifer International \$200 with matching funds, the Salvation Army \$150, Crisis Assistance Ministry \$400, Sarcoidosis of NC \$100,

Loaves & Fishes \$200, Central UMC \$150 for purchasing food for their pantry, Charlotte Rescue Mission \$545, Youth Summer Mission Camp \$250, Epiphany Ministries \$100.

Cokesbury Church has been blessed to have many individuals, United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women and other groups and committees who have given their prayers, time, talents, experiences, financial gifts and resources to help others in our community, county, state, and world.

Stewardship Sunday

We will have our traditional “Stewardship Sunday” on October 27. This year we will keep this process simple: pledge what you feel called to give to the church in 2020. As we determine our congregation’s call in this pivotal season in Cokesbury’s life and how boldly we can pursue that call, the most important factor will be what God is calling our people to. Some may not typically make formal pledges. That’s ok, but, please let someone in leadership know about your intentions for the coming year. Without knowing individuals’ level of commitment, it’s hard to budget resources, true, but it is more importantly more difficult to discern where God is leading us as a congregation. Please be clear about our approach this year: what is God calling us to? What is God calling you to?

From the Pastor

Healing can be challenging. Perhaps we have a tendency not to admit that we even need healing. We might not even know. So much of the time we don’t even realize the trajectory we’re on. That’s the case in any number of encounters Jesus has in the Gospels – for varying reasons, someone asks Jesus a question that they think will highlight something about him, but instead he tells them something about themselves. We’re all capable of being like those people Jesus encounters who were blinded to the truth about themselves.

Perhaps we know we need healing, but we aren’t willing to do what is necessary to be whole again. Jesus often encounters people who know that something is wrong but they struggle to accept what Jesus offers because it simply asks too much of them. Perhaps connections to wealth, obligations, nostalgia, or power get in the way. Perhaps fear causes people to avoid the grace that Jesus offers. We’re all capable of rejecting the healing Jesus might give us because we’re afraid or because we aren’t willing to give ourselves over to him.

Sometimes, though, we know we are hurting and know that something has to change. Transitions can be difficult to face up to. Jesus has a way of meeting us where we are and inviting us to follow. In all four Gospels, the disciples seek a new meaning for life after the crucifixion of Jesus. He always meets them in resurrection and invites them to the much bigger picture he has opened. Then he asks them to follow him – and they do it. We are all capable of trusting where Jesus would lead us and following him to a kind of healing that is so much more amazing that we ever could have imagined.

Peace,
Jonathan

We hope you enjoyed the new Life at Cokesbury/Newsletter. We invite your comments or suggestions. This will be emailed each Thursday. Those who don’t receive email, can pick up a copy on Sunday.