



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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

Reverend Dr. In-Yong Lee, Pastor • ilee@wnccumc.net

• 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

April 8, 2019

Picking Up from Where We Were

You will not be able to imagine how relieved and thankful I was on Sunday, March 31, my first Sunday worship after the long, arduous trips. I could see happiness, vibrancy, and joy in the congregation. I am thankful to all of you, Cokesbury family, for your goodness and love for the church and to Nancy Cottingham and Jenny Cox particularly, for preaching in my absence.

While I was traveling, I kept praying for Cokesbury. I calculated the time difference and when it got close to Cokesbury's worship time, I prayed harder. The very next day after I arrived, I called Chris Betts and asked how things had been. He gave me a brief report and we talked about our next steps. Because the leadership said to you that we would keep things transparent to the congregation, I am giving you an update.

After the survey was taken on Sunday, March 10, about your preferences as to day/time/place/format of the small group gatherings, the scheduling has not happened yet. It will happen soon, but something else will happen before that.

Right before I traveled, our leadership team made a unanimous decision on March 5 to work with the consultant, Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne, for further conversations with Central. That decision was reached, after the leadership teams from both churches had met her and received her presentation on February 17. Her knowledge on church vitality in general, and on the best and worst practices for church merger conversations in particular, was striking.

After I came back, I learned that Central's leadership also had made the same decision. On April 4, an agreement form with Karen was signed by the pastors of both churches for a year-long collaboration. Karen is the one who earlier advised us to take time and not to push this effort. She said that the congregations need time to digest, reflect on, give voice to, and ask questions about the whole process. Also, she emphasized that she would not make the decisions for us and it is totally up to the congregations themselves to make the decisions.

Karen will meet the two pastors first – Rev. Pam Blackstock and myself – on Monday, April 15. One of the things we will do that day is to find the date for the two congregations to receive her presentation all together. You will hear what she has to say directly and will be able to ask her questions. After that, small group gatherings for Cokesbury people will be scheduled. At those gatherings, you will have ample opportunities to voice your opinions and to ask questions.

I hope this helps you understand where we are in this regard. Please feel free to contact me, Chris,

or any of the leadership team members, if you have any questions. In the meantime, please keep praying for the church and ask God for guidance for all of us. Thank you.

In-Yong



- Tom & Nancy DeVries gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **William Bartlett**, father of Steve Bartlett.
- Dan & Kay Dumas gave a gift to the UMCOR Fund in memory of **Steve Hailey**.



Easter Egg Hunt

By Bruce Fowler

The Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m.**, rain or shine, for children (toddlers to 5th grade). Please bring bags of small candy to the church and place in the box in the narthex. These will be used to fill eggs for the hunt.



Easter Meditation

By Tammy Gilmore

Join us Easter weekend in the International Classroom for an Easter Experience. There will be self-guided interactive prayer stations that depict some of the major events of Holy Week. You can visit Good Friday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. (before the Tenebrae Service and Easter Sunday from 8:15-10:30 a.m.)

The Easter Sunrise Service will be 7:00 a.m., Breakfast at 7:45 a.m., Sunday School at 9:00 a.m., and worship at 10:45 a.m. Enjoy the Easter experience before or after these Easter Day events.