



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

August 12, 2019

A Message from the Pastor

The last month has been a whirlwind of getting to know people, learning how Cokesbury operates, getting up to speed on the discussions about possibly merging, and doing regular pastoral work like planning worship, attending fellowship events, and checking on folks in the hospital. It's been a whirlwind, but it's been really good. Cokesbury is a good congregation. I love our diversity. I love that we are "just folks". I love there are "old Charlotte" accents combined with accents from lots of other places around the country and even the world. I love that we have some true characters. I love the multi-ethnicity of our congregation. I love having a UMAR class. I love getting to know our youth. I love that we have great wisdom. I love that we have great compassion.

The reason I'm making sure to say those things is because I've also heard a lot of people tell me about what "we used to have". It's normal for us humans to be a little nostalgic and even sentimental. In my own spiritual journey, I am reminded again and again that my own spiritual health depends on letting go of that longing to recreate the past. Both the Old and New Testaments insist that we "think not on the former things" and they ask us to "behold, for God is doing a new thing". That is certainly not a challenge not to reminisce, but it is a challenge to accept the grace of the present with the wisdom to let go of the past. It seems to me that the history of Cokesbury is a good history – but I would also point out, the present is pretty good, too. The past got us this far, but now it's time to move forward.

My problem as your pastor is that I'm not entirely sure what that looks like, though I have some ideas. God always seems to present us with opportunities that, if we rise to the occasion, carry hints of God's vision for us. This usually means looking at what's going on all around us – who are our neighbors? Who is sitting next to us in the pews? What is happening in our city? What is happening in our world? If we can stop dwelling on our own wishes long enough to notice what's happening all around us, then we just might find a new vision for a new day. I'm trying to notice things, mostly trying to notice the work that God is already doing without me, so that I can hopefully, hitch a ride on that whirlwind adventure. I think God doesn't promise that the ride will be easy, but God does promise that it's worth it to hop on.

Grace,
Jonathan



- Joyce Dear gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Fairy Moore** and **Dot Gregory**.
- Dan & Kay Dumas gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Dot Gregory**.



...To James Barnes at the loss of his wife, Patricia, on August 2.



**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!



**Music at Cokesbury
Thursday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

By Kay Dumas

Enjoy the music of Scarlett Lemonade, music from the 60's to the present, on Thursday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy a hot dog supper for only \$4 prepared by our Methodist men at 6:00 p.m. Donations accepted, refreshments will be served.

**United Methodist Men Meeting
Thursday, August 22 at 6:15 p.m.**

By Ed Bolster

This is a reminder that the first meeting of the fall will be Thursday, August 22 at 6:15 p.m. with a program to follow. Looking forward to having a great year. See you there!



**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.

Save Your Coke Product Bottle Caps

By Etta Woodall

Ann Lake has students (who all have intellectual disabilities) who are working on various life, social, and vocational skills. The students learn to log in and then enter the code on the Coke product which also indicates the reward to go to the school.

The students are learning computer skills and data entry. They have to read the message to see if the code was accepted. If the code is not accepted due to a problem, then they must solve that problem.

Once a quarter (if at least \$25 has accumulated) the Coke Rewards program gives the school (Independence High School) a check for the amount. (If \$25 is not yet reached, the amount rolls over until the amount is reached so nothing is "lost".)

The funds received by the school are "reinvested" into the EC (Exceptional Children) program to go toward other expenses for training. The past couple of years, her students earned over \$200 for the school/program.

The caps can be given to Ann or placed in the mailbox for UMYF. So save the bottle caps from all Coke products!

