

Life at Cokesbury

November 11 - November 17, 2019

Calendar

- Storytelling is Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. on the 12th and 19th
- Joan will be out of the office on Tuesday.
- Administrative Board meets on the 18th at 6:30 p.m.

If anyone has found a church key in a cubby in the Work Room, please return it to the office.

UMW Bake Sale

Once again the UMW will sponsor a Thanksgiving Bake Sale. Once again the UMW will sponsor a Thanksgiving Bake Sale. Please sign up for your favorite baked item. The list can be found in the narthex. You can pick up your item on November 24.

November 12 & 19

If you've ever prayed, told a story, taken a picture, made a home movie, sung a song, been in a play, drawn a picture, organized a dinner party, cooked a meal, or even thought about doing any of those, then you are a story-teller. On November 12 and 19, Pastor Jonathan will lead a 2-session, hands-on "workshop" on the spirituality of story-telling. As Advent approaches and as we examine ways to vitalize the ministries of Cokesbury UMC, we need to have the best energies, wisdom, and creativity of our people involved. Our church life together will be transformed by those who are willing to share some part of who they are. Each session will last from 6-8 p.m. and everyone will be invited to have fun with the exercises and homework as we create together.

Financial Commitment for 2020

If you have been so far unable to present a "pledge card" with your anticipated giving amount for 2020, it's not too late. Simply get one from the ushers, fill it out, then either place it in the offering plate or on the altar rail when you come forward for communion.

Music at Cokesbury

Music at Cokesbury will be Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy music by Union Road. Hot Dog Supper will be at 6:00 for only \$4. Bring your friends.

Methodist Men - by Ed Bolster

The UMM will meet **Thursday, November 21**. They will have a hot dog supper and then a short meeting and then attend the Music at Cokesbury. Remember the Birthday Party for Jesus will be December 14. Hope to see you all soon!

UMAR Arts Holiday Sale

Shop canvases, pottery, plants, quilts, jewelry, scarves, and more – all handmade by UMAR artists. The sale is **November 22** from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Myers Park UMC, 1501 Queens Road.

From the Pastor

The other day I threw away an old shirt. It didn't fit anymore. It was faded, full of holes and frayed fabric. It was time, but it was hard to move past all of the stuff that had happened while wearing that shirt. It was difficult to hold the good memories, while letting go of the possibility of wearing that shirt again (as if it held some magic to reignite the past). This is one thing that makes getting older difficult – things change and the past is over. It was time to give it away.

Cokesbury UMC is a unique congregation. Our history includes a bold launch with courageous choices about location. It includes a passionate desire to meet real needs in the community, while being fully committed to the United Methodist connection. There have been times when we were busting at the seams with people and programs and struggles for one reason or another, but there have been remarkable experiences of God's presence, too. At every step, the people of the congregation have been the strength of the church and its witness in East Charlotte. You deserve praise for that past.

Of course, with a strong history, one of the challenges over time happens when we try to "put new wine into old wineskins" – when we try to do what we always did expecting the same positive results. Things don't work that way, I guess. Our context is different now from what we've ever faced. Few things are the same now as they were when the congregation first moved to Idlewild Road almost 50 years ago.

While Charlotte changes and our generation faces challenges and opportunities unimagined in the 1970's, some things remain the same. Sure we've aged, but older members have wisdom to share. Sure we don't speak the languages or know the cultures of new people in the neighborhood, but people of all ages and ethnicities long for belonging. Cokesbury's history is about being a sincerely open presence for the kingdom of God in East Charlotte. We have all kinds of resources that don't have monetary value and that can't be summarized in a year-end report. When we all bring our best to discerning what God wants for the church, our best resources are the wisdom, compassion, commitment, and faith of our members.

Christ calls his people to meet real needs. God always shows up. God always calls us to take the next step. The love of Christ still changes the world towards God's intention. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus always have the power to make us whole – and the love of Christ is surely something worth offering to the world. It's time to give it away.

Peace,
Jonathan

The following Memorials were given in the month of October:

Memorials in memory of **Beth Henry** were given by: Pat McKenzie, Mitchell & Judy Hagler, Circle Sarah, Ina Davenport.

Memorials in memory of **Leo Long** were given by:

Jim & Carol Black, Mary Freeman, Mitchell & Judy Hagler, Tom & Mickey Helms, Deanna Long, Judy Sims, Pat McKenzie.

The following Memorial was given in memory of **Bill Hodge** by:

Mitchell & Judy Hagler.

The following Memorial was given in memory of **Rev. Tommy Gilmore** by:

Tammy Gilmore

An Honorarium was given in honor of **Jim & Carol Black's 61st anniversary** by Jim & Carol Black.

An Honorarium was given in honor of **Flo Sowell's birthday** by Flo Sowell.