



A Savior is Born

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
14806 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA

December 2005
Volume 44, No. 12

2006 Budget Formally Adopted

By Walter Blair

Cokesbury's 2006 Budget was formally adopted by the Administrative Council on November 15th. The operating budget for 2006 totals \$212,107, which represents a reduction of 0.3% from 2005's \$212,764. In the process of compiling the budget the Finance Committee reconciled our projected expenses and revenues for 2006 to create the final, balanced budget. The full funding of this budget will allow Cokesbury to continue to advance its mission and ministries in the coming year.

Among other things, the 2006 budget provides:

- \$11,960 for 'Program Expenses' which includes most committee budgets, Annual Conference, Colonnade expenses, education and youth programs, the church library, and technology. This is a **decrease** of 4% from 2005,
- \$75,060 for 'Operating Expenses' which includes staff salaries and benefits, costs of operating the church office (copier lease, utilities, etc), and church building & grounds maintenance. This is an **increase** of 2% over 2005,
- \$81,424 for 'Ministerial Support' which includes the Pastor's salary and benefits, housing allowance, pension fund contributions for past and current United Methodist Pastors, and the District Superintendent Fund. This is an **increase** of 3.3% over 2005.
- \$43,663 for 'Benevolences/Connectional' which includes our District & Conference Apportionments and other benevolent contributions. This category, when combined with the connectional apportionments of all other United Methodist churches, provides the United

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Annual Ham Dinner

Saturday, December 10th
5:00pm-7:00pm
\$3.00 ages 3-11
\$6.00 12 & up



Menu:
Ham, beans, potatoes, rolls, beverages, and dessert pie



Cokesbury United Methodist Church
14806 Blackburn Rd - Woodbridge, VA
www.CokesburyUMC.us

Worship Services

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Nursery available both services
The 11am worship service features a children's worship for 4-9 year olds.
On months with 5 Sundays, Service begins at 10 AM on the 5th Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 AM
(For children, youth, and adults)

Cokesbury UMC Web Site:
<http://www.CokesburyUMC.us>

Advent -- A Reason for Waiting

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:25

Samantha loved pumpkin pie. Every year she could count on her grandmother to bring pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving dinner. But as her grandma aged, it became more and more difficult for her to bake the pies by herself. So this year would be different. Samantha would help.

When it came time to bake the pies, Samantha had no idea what she was doing. Following her grandmother's instructions, she carefully mixed all of the ingredients together while her grandmother prepared the pie crusts. Together they poured the pumpkin filling into the pie shells and placed them in the oven. Samantha's grandmother told her to set the timer for an hour.

"An hour," Samantha cried. "Why does it take so long? Can't we just nuke the pies in the microwave?"

"Be patient, my child" Samantha's grandmother said. "When I was a young girl and helped my grandmother do the cooking, she told me stories of the days she was your age when they didn't even have an electric oven. Before they did any cooking, they had to bring in the wood from outside, start a fire, and wait for it to get hot."

"You mean, they didn't have microwaves?" Samantha was shocked. She couldn't imagine how anyone could have such patience when all she had to do was push a button.

A waiting people

One of the benefits of technological advancement is that tasks that formerly required time or effort are now quickly and easily accomplished. It used to be that if you wanted to send someone a message, say a pen pal, you had to take out paper and pen, write the message, address the envelope, stamp and mail it, and then wait days for a reply. Now, thanks to the Internet, a message can be delivered within seconds, and a reply is often received in less than a day.

With each new advance comes greater convenience. But frequently it also results in less and less patience. As a society, we are forgetting how to wait. Of course, most of us wouldn't want to trade in the modern conveniences that we've learned to take for granted. Still, it doesn't hurt once in a while to be reminded that waiting is part of our human experience and isn't necessarily all bad.

In fact, a quick survey of how God has acted in human history reveals that, as far as God is concerned, we are very much a waiting people. Throughout the scriptures we find the people of God waiting. Adam and Eve, Abraham, Job, David, Isaiah. These and many others drew their last breath waiting for God to fulfill his promise and send the Messiah.

A season for waiting

If there is one word that best captures the meaning of the season of Advent, it is probably waiting. And yet, with all of the hustle and bustle leading up to Christmas, about the last thing we're interested in is waiting. And that includes waiting for Christmas! And so the Christmas tree goes up right after Thanksgiving, and Christmas carols are played and sung all through the month of December. And once the sun sets on December 25, all signs of Christmas quickly vanish.

So what do we mean when we speak of Advent as a season for waiting? In a sense, the weeks leading up to Christmas are intended as a training ground. Yes, we are preparing for another

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commemoration of our Savior's birth. But it's much more than that. In one sense, we join with the ancient Israelites who waited for centuries for God's light to shine forth in the person of God's Son (Isaiah 9:2; Luke 1:78-79). But our waiting also focuses on Christ's promise that Jesus will return. Our Lord gives us neither the day nor the hour, but only his sure and certain promise. And he commands us to be watchful and ready.

In a sense, we need the training ground of Advent so that we don't forget how to wait. With so little patience for waiting in our society, how easy it becomes for us to forget that we are a people living in anticipation of Jesus' immanent return. We need to learn again and again how to greet each morning with the vivid expectation that today could be the Last Day!

A season of hope

When speaking of Advent as a season for waiting, we should not think that our waiting is some virtue we are trying to perfect. Our waiting is for Jesus! And what sustains us in that waiting is *hope*, hope in God's certain promise. This is the season to learn how to *listen* to God's promises and to *believe* what God has said, despite all evidence to the contrary.

Of course, all of God's promises ultimately focus on the One who was born in Bethlehem. So Advent does help prepare us for Christmas. After all, the King is on his way! But not just to Bethlehem where he arrived unawares 2,000 years ago. The King comes even now, in Word and Sacrament, bringing fullness and life. And the King will come again. God has promised.

Advent is . . .

- Advent is the church's way of saying, "Not yet, but very soon."
- Advent is a season of longing, of waiting in expectation of God's promises.
- Advent is the opposite of our culture's incessant demand for instant gratification.
- Advent is like the little child who watches the beautifully wrapped gifts accumulate under the tree, sneaking close by to see who has the largest box and to shake it a little and imagine what might be inside.
- Advent is our wake-up call to the fact that the Messiah who came is also coming, and is already here!

2,000 years after his birth, Jesus is still our Emmanuel. What we celebrate is not a past event, but a present reality: the incarnation of the Son of God. Advent wraps up all of these mysteries and beckons us to wait, to anticipate, and to prepare.

Grace and peace,

Russ

I wish to acknowledge LCMS Commission on Worship as the source of this Advent message.

Bible Quiz - Book Titles

The Bible has been an inspiration to many authors who have chosen biblical personalities or phrases as topics or titles for their books. Can you match author and title in the lists given below? Take extra credit if you can also identify the verse or passage being cited.

1. Pearl Buck	a. Joseph and His Brothers (1933-44)
2. William Faulkner	b. Absalom, Absalom (1936)
3. Marcus Goodrich	c. Men and Angels (1985)
4. Mary Gordon	d. Barabbas (1951)
5. Graham Green	e. Blessed Are the Meek (1944)
6. Sofia Kossuk	f. Delilah (1941)
7. Par Lagerkvist	g. The Violent Bear It Away (1955)
8. Thomas Mann	h. The Blood of the Lamb (1961)
9. Flannery O'Connor	i. The Power and the Glory (1940)
10. Peter De Vries	j. A House Divided (1935)

Answers on page 5.



2006 Budget Adopted

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Methodist Church with the funding necessary to reach out and help those in need around the world. Over the past few years we have committed to and paid 100% of our apportionments. For 2006 we are again committed to paying **100%** of our apportionments. This is an **increase** of 1.4% over 2005.

Again, we are committed to operating under a balanced budget and we have come a long way over the past several years, but in order to carry out all our intended programs, ministries, outreach, maintenance, and Faith in Action will require the concerted and continuing efforts of all our groups, committees, and

especially, the support of you, the congregation.

Copies of Cokesbury's 2006 Budget are available on request.



Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

Saturday December 10, 2005

Mark your calendar and start gathering your favorite recipes so you will be ready when you're called to help bake. The Family Care Committee and The Worship Committee will be having their Annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday December 10th between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.



Fall Craft Show

By Cheryl Petitt

Many, many thanks to all of you that donated your time and energy to help make the Fall Craft Show a great success!! It would not have been possible without the donations received from the Flea Market Committee, and those individuals that made donations of handmade craft items and baked goods.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all of those special people that helped with the preparing and selling of the breakfast and lunch items, making signs, manning of the craft/bake table and cleanup of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall afterwards.



Prayer Group Continues To Meet

There's a group of Cokesbury prayer warriors who meet every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. and YOU are invited. It is not a "club" and no special invitation is required.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 1 Dorothy Cooper
- 4 Bernadette Baiden-Amissah
- 5 Karen Glass
- Casey Commerce
- 7 Laurie Mowrey
- 13 Martin Atta
- 15 Jesse Simmons
- Rebecca Ash
- 16 Suzette Fulton
- Wanda Lawson
- 18 Michael Pettitt
- 19 Elaine Forry
- 20 Andrew Yoho
- Russ Urban
- 21 Judith McCain
- 22 Debbie Clark
- John Dvorscak
- 23 Terry Edmonds
- Denise Ritenour
- 24 Marian Gherke
- Bill Mahan
- 26 Christopher Jeffries
- Michael DeRose
- 27 Pam Herin
- Jason Owen
- 28 Barbara Saleiro
- 29 Kasey Cox
- 30 Richard Lamb
- Robert Schaver

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- 2 Suzie and Ronnie Hawes
- 5 Marsha and Mike Eland
- Blanch and Jerry Wade
- 14 Lori and Mark Butman
- 19 Betty and Joe Greene
- 22 Cheryl and Michael Pettitt
- 27 Monica and Roy Arredondo
- 29 Virginia and Richard Lamb



"I think the Potluck Committee should have been more specific about what to bring."

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Answers to Bible Quiz on Page 4

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1-j | Mark 3:23 | 6-e | Matthew 5:5 |
| 2-b | 2 Samuel 19:4 | 7-d | Matthew 27-20 |
| 3-f | Judges 16 | 8-a | Genesis 37:50 |
| 4-c | 1 Corinthians 13:1 | 9-g | Matthew 11:12 |
| 5-i | Matthew 24:30 | 10-h | Revelation 7:14 |

Money Matters

By Walter Blair, Finance Committee

***The table below shows Cokesbury's financial picture as of November 20, 2005.**

2005 Annual Budget = \$212,764

Month	Month-to-Date		Year-to-Date			Year-to-Date Expenses	
	Required to meet the Budget	Budgeted Income Received	Required to meet the Budget	Budgeted Income Received	Percentage of the Budget Funded	Budgeted Expenses	Income to Expenses
January	\$16,572	\$13,062	\$16,572	\$13,062	78.8%	\$15,954	81.9%
February	\$17,572	\$15,616	\$34,144	\$28,679	84.0%	\$32,367	88.6%
March	\$18,672	\$13,406	\$52,516	\$42,084	80.1%	\$48,905	86.1%
April	\$18,072	\$14,482	\$70,888	\$56,566	79.8%	\$65,267	86.7%
May	\$22,572	\$18,626	\$93,460	\$75,840	81.1%	\$82,360	92.1%
June	\$14,672	\$16,115	\$108,132	\$91,956	85.0%	\$102,679	89.6%
July	\$13,572	\$16,656	\$121,704	\$108,612	89.2%	\$123,790	87.7%
August	\$19,572	\$14,172	\$141,276	\$122,784	86.9%	\$142,561	86.1%
September	\$20,172	\$14,235	\$161,448	\$137,512	85.2%	\$159,834	86.0%
October	\$17,072	\$20,376	\$178,520	\$157,888	88.4%	\$175,392	90.0%
November*	\$16,572	\$13,250	\$190,949	\$171,137	89.6%	N/A	N/A
December	\$17,672						

- **Month to Date: Required to meet the Budget** – Amount the church needs to meet its projected funding. These figures are based on the projected monthly revenues based on offering history and projected fundraisers.
- **Month to Date: Budgeted Income Received** - Amount the church has received toward the budget for the month indicated.
- **Year to Date: Required to meet the Budget** - Cumulative budget needs to date.
- **Year to Date: Budgeted Income Received** – Cumulative amount the church has received toward the budget.
- **Year to Date: Percentage of the Budget Funded** - Comparison of budgeted offerings received vs budget needs.
- **Year to Date: Budgeted Expenses** - Year-to-Date amount the church has spent against the budget. 'N/A' indicates that expenditures have not been updated since the last end-of-month period.
- **Year to Date: Budgeted Income vs Budgeted Expenses** – Percent of income to expenses received.

The Colonnade Staff

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Articles for *The Colonnade* are due by the 15th of each month for the next months edition.

Youth Choir News

Mark Your Calendars ...

Saturday

December 17

5:00 p.m.

*There will be a Christmas Program
with*

*cookies, Santa and fellowship in the
Fellowship Hall afterwards.*

Family and Friends are Invited!

Christmas Party & Ornament Exchange

Cokesbury United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women will hold their annual joint "Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange" on December 12, at the church. The menu will be provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill, and we will serve it at the church. Fellowship time at 6:30 p.m., and dinner served at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Checks can be payable to "Cokesbury UMM" or "Cokesbury UMW", and needs to be turned in to Jack Jewell, Donna Sapp, or Gayle Urban, before the day of the party, if possible.

For the Ornament Exchange, each person is asked to bring a Christmas ornament (\$5 or less), that is gift-wrapped. The fun is in finding out which ornament you will take home, when all the exchanges have happened! Will it be the lovely angel, or the frog on a motorcycle?? Come and enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and fun as we celebrate together at the annual UMM/UMW Christmas Party!

(The manager at Carrabba's Grill is happy to have given us a discount for this event, and they would like you to know that they are now taking holiday reservations for private luncheons for groups, at the Grill, and also have holiday gift cards available at the Grill.)



SAME OLD CHRISTMAS STUFF

The department store Santas are at it again, saying "Ho, ho, ho" to the children and patting them gently on their little heads.

Go shopping in some people-to-people-covered store, and get stuck with some inexperienced clerk who never heard of sizes and doesn't know how to wrap a package.

Then come home to the same old tree. Turn on the radio or television and hear the same old

carols. Hide the gifts in the same old places. Send Christmas cards to the same old people.

Honestly, it's the same old stuff allover again --- the same kind of hints from the family, the same childish stockings hung up, the same kind of candy, the same mistletoe jokes, the same colored lights strung on the porch, the same wreath in the window, the same fuss and bother visiting relatives and friends.

Yes, it's the same old stuff.

At last the waiting is over; the gifts are opened; the oh's and ah's are expressed; the wrappings are gathered up and put in the garbage. Then the misty-eyed thank-you's start, and every- one begins reminiscing about past Christmas get-togethers.

When the sentimental nonsense stops and there are a few seconds of silence, somebody is sure to pop up again with "Merry Christmas" or "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

Same old stuff.

Same old WONDERFUL, MARVELOUS stuff!



The Colonnade Now On *The Internet!*

***Yes folks, it's true! The Colonnade is just
A Click Away!***

Just go to the Cokesbury UMC web site at <http://www.cokesburyumc.us/> and on the front page you will see the link to *The Colonnade*. It's as easy as pie. You will also be able to look at some of your FAVORITE issues from the past, as we plan on starting a Colonnade archive.

So, don't fret if you accidentally used *The Colonnade* for the bird cage. Just head to your friendly CUMC Web Site.

*I know you wouldn't use our beloved newsletter
in such a despicable way, but just in case*



ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city.

He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away.

He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. After He died, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All

The Colonnade

the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.



A CHRISTIAN

- A Christian is slow to lose patience and quick to be gracious.
- A Christian looks for a way to be constructive, even when provoked.
- A Christian refrains from trying to impress others with his own importance.
 - A Christian practices good manners.
- A Christian is not "touchy," even when insulted.
- A Christian thinks the best, not the worst, of others. He is wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove in dealing with others.
- A Christian does not gloat over the wickedness of other people.
- Above all else, a Christian exhibits the love of Christ in his heart and life.

Cokesbury UMC, December 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:30&11:00 Worship 9:45 Advent St. & S.S. 12:15 H.H. Christ. Pry. 1:30-5:00 COGP 4:30 CMG	5 6:00 Handbell Reh. 7:00 Prayer Group 7-9:30 Choralliers	6 7:00 Family Care	7 10:00 Advent Study 7:00 Book Club 7:30 Choir Reh.	1 7:00 Advent Sty. 7:00-9:30 COGP	2 7-9:30 COGP	3 10-12 Recovery Inc. P.M. – UMYF to Manassas, St. Thomas
11 8:30&11:00 Worship 9:45 Advent St. & S.S. 1:30-5:00 COGP 4:30 CMG; 6 - UMYF	12 6:00 Handbell Reh. 6:30 UMM/UMW Christmas Dinner 7:00 Prayer Group	13	14 10:00 Advent Study 7:30 Choir Reh.	15 7:00 Advent Study 7-9:30 COGP	16 7-9:30 COGP	17 10-12 Recovery Inc. 5:00 Family Christmas Program and Party
18 8:30 & 11:00 Worship & Christmas Cantata 9:45 Advent St. & S.S. 1:30-5:00 COGP 5:30 COGP Dinner	19 6:00 Handbell Reh. 7:00 Prayer Group	20	21 10:00 Advent Study 7:30 Choir Reh.	22 7:00 Advent Study 7-9:30 COGP	23 7-9:30 COGP	24 Christmas Eve 7:00& 11:00 P.M. Candlelight/ Communion Svc.
25 Christmas 10:00 Worship Svc. 1:30-5:00 COGP 7:00 Christmas Vespers Service	26 6:00 Handbell Reh. 7:00 Prayer Group	27	28 7:30 Choir Reh.	29 7-9:30 COGP	30 7-9:30 COGP	31 H.H. New Years Eve Party

Cokesbury United Methodist Men's 29th Annual Fruit Sale

Fruit	Availability	Cost per Box	Cost per Half Box
Pink Grapefruit	Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar	\$21.00	\$11.00
Tangerines	Dec, Feb, Mar	\$18.00	Not Available
▼ Oranges ▼			
Navels	Dec	\$23.00	\$12.00
Tangelos	Jan	\$32.00	\$17.00
Temples	Feb and Mar	\$23.00	\$12.00
Valencias	Mar	\$23.00	\$12.00
ORDER BY		PICK UP	
Dec 7, 2004		Dec 19, 20, 21	
Jan 4, 2005		Jan 16, 17, 18	
Feb 1, 2005		Feb 13, 14, 15	
Mar 1, 2005		Mar 13, 14, 15	

Pick up times are Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 6-8 p.m. Extra sales are on Thursdays: 6-8 p.m.

To Order: Call 703-492-9743 By 6:00 p.m. On "Order By" Date

Pick up times are Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 6-8 p.m.

Extra sales are on Thursdays: 6-8 p.m.

Cokesbury United Methodist
Church
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Woodbridge, VA 22191

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