



A Savior Is Born

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
14806 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA

December 2006
Volume 45, No. 12

A COKESBURY ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Christmas is celebrated around the world, usually in a beautiful setting. Nevertheless, there are many who do not have the privilege of a brightly lit church with colored lights and nativity sets as reminders of the blessed event. Since we are privileged to experience these things, we have a number of wonderful occasions to share and rejoice in the miracle of Christmas.

Beginning on Wednesday, November 29, at 10 a.m., and Sunday, December 3, at 9:45, the pastor will lead an Advent Study entitled "The Miracle of Christmas." This 4-week study will help you maintain a spiritual focus during the Advent season.

The Hanging of the Greens on December 2nd will be the first event of the season. Come to the church at 9 a.m. and help ready the church for the holidays. On December 3rd, Helping Hands will capture the Christmas spirit with their potluck and annual Christmas party. There will be a gift exchange and other surprises.

Everybody looks forward to the annual Christmas cookie sale being held on Saturday, December 9th. There will be many different kinds of cookies and other goodies to purchase. You can save yourself a lot of baking time. After you have spent the day shopping for cookies and other Christmas gifts, you can come back to the fellowship hall and enjoy the "Stress Buster" holiday ham dinner put on by the



Finance Committee. It is a delicious occasion for fellowship from 5-7 p.m. The cost is \$7 for those 12 and older, \$3 for children 3-11, and free for children under 3.

On Monday evening, December 11th, the United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women will host their annual Christmas party. The meal will be catered by Carrabas Restaurant for only \$10 per person. The fellowship hall will be decorated, as will the ladies in their holiday finery. A really fun ornament exchange will be

the highlight of the evening, along with the singing of Christmas carols.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ... ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

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>

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ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

It wouldn't be Christmas without a children's program and a visit from Santa. On Saturday, December 16th, at 6 p.m., the children's choir will present a Christmas program. Immediately following the program, the United Methodist Men will host a Christmas party for all children. To further celebrate the season, the Chancel Choir will delight us with the Christmas Cantata at both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, December 17th.

Christmas Eve, December 24th, falls on Sunday. There will be no 8:30 worship service, but there will be Sunday School and the last Advent study of the season at 9:45. There will be the regular worship service at 11 a.m. and the inspiring Christmas Eve candlelight and communion services at 7 and 11 p.m.

Last, but certainly not least, there will be a Christmas Vespers service on Christmas day from 7-8 p.m. The vespers service will be a meditative time after the rush and excitement of Christmas day to reflect God's love and grace.

Let us be ever mindful of the blessed gift we all received on Christmas – the gift of our Savior!

Carrabba's, Carols, And Christmas Ornaments!

*By Gayle Urban
Secretary, United Methodist Women*

It promises to be a festive night on December 11, when the Cokesbury United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women and guests have their Christmas Party. The party will be held at the church, with the meal being provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill. There will be chicken, pastas, salad, bread, and desserts from UMW. Cost is \$10 per person. Fellowship begins at 6:30, and dinner at 7 p.m. Following the meal, we plan to sing some Christmas carols and have a short exchange of Christmas ornaments. To participate in the ornament exchange, bring a wrapped ornament (\$5 or less).

Payment can be given to Jack Jewell, UMM president (703-494-5208) or Donna Sapp, UMW president (703-494-0397). Payments need to be made in advance of the party.

*Merry Christmas! Jesus is the
reason for the season!*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 29 a.m.-1 p.m. – Hanging of the Greens
December 39:45 – Advent Study, “Miracle of Christmas” (each Wed. at 10 a.m. and Sunday at 9:45)
December 312:15 p.m. – Helping Hands Christmas Party
December 99 a.m. – Annual Cookie Sale
December 95-7 p.m. – Annual Ham Dinner
December 11 ...6:30 p.m. – UMM/UMW Christmas Party
December 16 ...6:00 p.m. – Children's Program and Christmas Party
December 17 ...8:30 & 11 a.m. – Christmas Cantata by Chancel Choir
December 24 ...(no 8:30 a.m. worship service)
 9:45 – Advent study
 9:45 – Sunday School
 11 a.m. - Worship Service
 7 & 11 p.m.- Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service
December 25 ...7 p.m. – Christmas Vespers Service

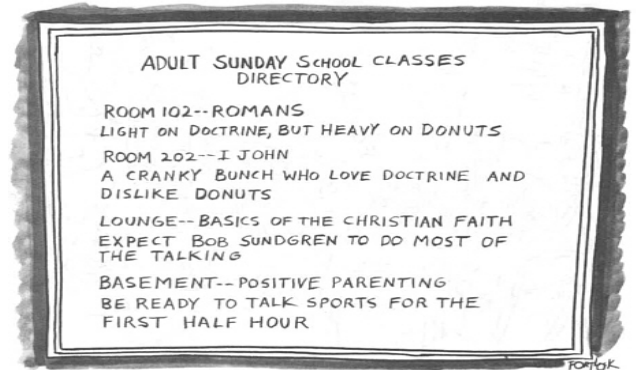
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 1 Dorothy Cooper
Lawrence Kotei
- 4 Bernadette Baiden-Amissah
- 5 Karen Glass
Casey Commerce
- 8 Thomas Lewis
- 13 Martin Atta
Kenneth Stoudt
- 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
Michael Gribik
- 30 Richard Lamb
Robert Schaver

December

- 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



Following Pastor Wilkin's sermon on honesty,
nothing at First Church remained the same.

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Annual Ham Dinner

Saturday, December 9
5:00pm-7:00pm
\$3.00 ages 3-11
\$7.00 12 & up



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



Cokesbury United Methodist Church
14806 Blackburn Rd - Woodbridge, VA
www.cokesburyumc.us/dinner/

Money Matters

By Walter Blair, Finance Committee

*** The table below shows Cokesbury's financial picture as of November 12, 2006.
2006 Annual Budget = \$212,107**

Month	Month-to-Date		Year-to-Date Income			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	\$14,130	\$16,510	\$14,130	\$16,510	128.5%	\$13,416	123.1%
February	\$14,130	\$14,167	\$28,260	\$30,677	108.6%	\$27,214	112.7%
March	\$19,381	\$16,148	\$47,641	\$46,825	98.3%	\$40,425	115.8%
April	\$19,531	\$18,231	\$67,172	\$65,056	96.9%	\$65,056	100.0%
May	\$21,519	\$16,514	\$88,691	\$81,570	92.0%	\$81,570	100.0%
June	\$17,230	\$16,893	\$105,921	\$98,464	93.0%	\$93,328	105.5%
July	\$17,230	\$18,616	\$123,151	\$117,080	95.1%	\$119,176	98.2%
August	\$17,230	\$15,993	\$140,381	\$133,073	94.8%	\$132,704	100.3%
September	\$22,381	\$16,535	\$162,762	\$149,608	91.9%	\$149,604	100.0%
October	\$20,881	\$17,954	\$183,643	\$167,562	91.2%	\$166,675	100.5%
November*	\$14,230	\$9,216	\$190,758	\$176,778	92.7%	\$172,473	102.5%

***** As of November 12, we have paid back \$13,932 toward our \$28,638 debt, leaving \$14,706 *****

- **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 received to expenses received.

The Colonnade Staff

Editors: Linda Ennis and John Derickson

Church Mailbox #3

Send Articles to: lindaennis@verison.net

Send Complaints to: johnderickson@comcast.net

Church email: office@cokeburyumc.us

Calendar: Bunny Mahar

Postal Coordinator: Melissa Clark

Church Office: 703-494-5400

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

Get Out Of Debt

As of October 8th

we have paid back to ourselves

\$13,932

toward our debt of

\$28,638!

That is

48.6%

Of the total!

Just think of it! This time next month we
MIGHT be over the 50% mark.

Do you think you can donate the cost of a
Hamburger or two? Give it a try. ☺

Cokesbury's 2007 Budget

By Walter Blair

Cokesbury's 2007 Budget was formally adopted by the Administrative Council on November 21st. The operating budget for 2007 totals \$234,297, which represents an increase of 10.5% from 2006's \$212,107. In the process of compiling the budget the Finance Committee worked toward reconciling our projected expenses and revenues for 2007 to create the final, balanced budget. Our projected revenues for 2007 totaled \$210,400 and to finalize the balanced budget we split the projected expenses into two categories: funded and unfunded. Going forward into 2007 there are budgeted items which will begin the year fully funded, partially funded, and unfunded. The partially funded and unfunded items will be funded as our budgeted offerings and other revenues exceed our budget projections. The full funding of the budget will allow Cokesbury to continue to advance its mission and ministries, and support, in the coming year.

Among other things, the 2007 budget provides:

- \$13,790 (\$10,250 funded/\$3,540 unfunded) for 'Program Expenses' which includes most committee budgets, Annual Conference, education and youth programs, the church library, and technology. This is an **increase** of 15.3% from 2006,
- \$86,232 (\$68,275 funded/\$17,957 unfunded) 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 14.9% over 2006,
- \$87,752 (\$85,352 funded/\$2,400 unfunded) for 'Ministerial Support' which includes the Pastor's salary and benefits, housing allowance, pension fund contributions for past and current Methodist Pastors, the pastor's continuing education fund, and pastor moving expenses. This is an **increase** of 7.8% over 2006,
- \$46,523 (\$46,523 funded/\$0 unfunded) for 'Benevolences/Connectional' which includes our District & Conference Apportionments and other benevolent contributions. These funds in combination with the connectional apportionments of all other United Methodist churches, provides the Church with the funding necessary to reach out and help those in need locally and globally. Over the past few years we have committed to and paid 100% of our apportionments. For 2007 we are again committed to paying **100%** of our apportionments. This is an **increase** of 6.6% over 2006.

We are committed to operating under a balanced budget and we have come a long way over these 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 2007 Budget are available on request

Methodist Men's Corner Chat

*By Emmett Wright
Secretary, United Methodist Men*

The United Methodist Men (UMM) met for their monthly meeting on Monday, November 13th. We opened with prayer, shared our joys and concerns and had an inspirational music time as we normally do.

If you would like to share with us, participate and fellowship with the UMM, then come on the second Monday of every month at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The UMM and United Methodist Women will have their annual Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, December 11th. The meal will be catered at a cost of \$10.00 each, paid in advance. All monies should be paid by December 1st. Please see Donna Sapp if you plan to attend. This event is always one of fellowship and fun.

Saturday, December 16th, will be the annual Kids Christmas Party. The UMM will provide a Santa, gifts for the kids and orange juice.

The second "Pumpkin Patch" fund raiser went well again this year. There were fewer pumpkins than last year, but the profits were still about the same. This may turn out to be an annual event.

The 30th annual fruit program is underway. The fruit will be arriving on Saturday, November 18th. To place fruit orders call 703-347-3542. Pick up will be on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Work on the "French drain" by the parking lot is now complete and the problem we were having with the plumbing in the church has been cured.

We ask the congregation to continue to support and pray for the United Methodist Men as we strive daily to be Disciples of Christ.

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

By Joe BeMiller

With all of the sales, advertisements, and political correctness, it's easy to get drawn away from the "reason for the season". Over the years, the birth of our Savior has been over-shadowed by the commercialism of the Christmas season.

It is important to enjoy the spirit of season but also to remember that if it were not for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, this season would be just another day. It's important to share with our family the "reason for the season" by taking them to nativity scenes, Christian Christmas programs or reading to them

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the story of Jesus' birth from Luke, chapter 2 (**see Page 10**). While you are in the spirit, get involved in service projects here at our church, other local churches or Prince William County. There are nursing homes to visit, homeless shelters that need volunteers, children who need mentors. The list is endless. As the saying goes...Just do it!!! Remember though, these programs don't go away when the holiday ends. Get involved and be a part of something special. You don't have to wait until the New Year to make a resolution.

The Cokesbury United Methodist Men want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Stewardship

By John Derickson

Chairman, Stewardship Committee

It looks like we've come close to bringing the year 2006 to an end, and to be honest with you, I just don't know where the time has gone! I want to tell you that it has been a pleasure serving you, my Brothers and Sisters in Christ, for the past year as chairman of the Stewardship Committee. I pray that you will give your new Stewardship Chairman, Joe Burnette, the same support in 2007.

One thing I would like to mention before I depart as your stewardship chairman is the stewardship pledge card campaign. As always, those who pledged this year have been so gracious and generous with their giving. By providing us with your generous pledges, you have enabled the Cokesbury United Methodist Church (CUMC) Finance Committee to plan for and fund many of the programs that we are involved with throughout the year. This is not an easy task, but the Lord has been so good to us and always shows us the way. If you have read Walter Blair's article, "Cokesbury's 2007 Budget" on page 5, you will notice that the Finance Committee was able to totally budget for all of our "Benevolences", which is an important part of our very being. Many larger churches have a difficult time meeting this goal. Thank you so much, for your support!

I am taking this last opportunity to make a request to those of you who have not filled out a pledge card this year. In Walter's article mentioned above, you will notice that we were unable to totally budget for several items, such as Ministerial Support, Operating Expenses and Program Expenses. I am making this last request of you concerning the annual pledge drive. If you had planned on giving, but just never got around to filling out the card, please take the time to do so. I know from personal experience that I seem to drag my feet forever! Yes, I ... the Stewardship Chairman, confess to waiting until the last minute! It just seems that time flies SO fast and the next thing I know is that the deadline has come and gone. Yes, I'm guilty. But I want to tell you that it's never too late to get that

pledge in. By doing so, we can fund a few more of those unfunded items in the budget. By the way, PLEASE contact the Finance Chairman and ask for YOUR copy of the 2007 Annual Budget, so that you'll know where your money is being spent. You have every right to know and we want you to know.

One last thing about those pledges. CUMC will not take you to court if you can not meet your pledge. ☺ We all know that things occasionally happen in our lives that affect our ability to meet our pledges and goals. We would only ask that if you were unable to meet your pledge, because of circumstances beyond your control, that you talk to Pastor Russ or the current Finance Chairman and let them know, so that some items could be re-budgeted. Your conversation with either Pastor Russ or the Finance Chairman would remain confidential. If you'd like to pledge \$50 a week, but are not sure you could meet that amount, then pledge only \$25 a week. This is just an example, but either way, it will help us to budget for some of those items that remain unbudgeted. If you feel that you can give a little extra, up and above that \$25 on a particular Sunday, well ... we would all consider it a blessing.

Think it over and pray about it to our Father. Then, if you feel it in your heart, fill out a pledge card and drop it in the offering on Sunday. Any Sunday. It's never too late.

Pledge cards are available from the church web site or the front office. If need be, just write on a piece of paper the amount you would like to pledge (weekly, monthly or annually), sign it, stuff it in an envelope and as above, drop it in the offering on Sunday or turn it in to the front office.

Oh, how could I forget! We are still making headway in the "Get Out of Debt" drive. Once again, I am in awe as to how our Lord works in the hearts of my Cokesbury family. Remember that giving up that pizza or café latte for the church could also help you take those inches off the mid section. God is just TOO good to us, isn't He?

May this Christmas season be a blessing to you and your loved ones, as we give thanks to the Lord for all He has provided.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Bunny Mahar

Cokesbury UMC has provided Christmas for 115 children around the world. What a wonderful response to our request for gift-filled shoe boxes.

An army of dedicated workers wrapped shoe boxes every week during October and November to provide them to the congregation. That was no small task. Then the members of the congregation picked them up and filled them with toys, candy, and hygiene articles to the forthcoming joy of many disadvantaged children in the world.

We can't thank you enough for the hard work and generosity in the support you provide this program every year. In addition to the boxes, we were also able to contribute over \$700 toward the postage in getting these gifts to the children.

What a marvelous way to share the gift of our savior's birth.



TO MY FRIENDS AT COKESBURY

You have honored me by having me serve as the Chair of the Administrative Council for these past four years. I have served to the best of my ability and thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord on your behalf.

Now, as I leave the position, I must express my heartfelt thanks to the chairpersons of the various committees, their members, and the support I received from them. Without the support of the members of the Council, I could not have accomplished anything.

Thank you for your trust and understanding during these four years.

Your Servant,

Doug Phelps



Recipe Server

By Walter Blair

New this month on the web site, just in time for the holiday season, is the Cokesbury UMC Recipes bulletin board. Here you can post your

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favorite recipes, get new ideas, and comment on others.

A simple registration is required for you to begin posting, but give it a look and share your favorite recipes!

You can find this new feature at:
recipes.cokesburyumc.us



Dinner and Dancing

The United Methodist men would like to invite you and your spouse to a night of dinner and dancing. The cost for the seafood buffet is \$30.00 per person. It will be held on Ft Belvoir and we will be picking a Friday evening (6:00pm) after the holidays in January. For more information, please Jack Jewell.



Committee Expenditures

By Walter Blair

With the end of year approaching, the Finance Committee calls on all committees to try and get all expenditures for 2006 on the books by December 31 to allow them to be properly accounted for and to not spill over into 2007.



Youth Events for December and January

Dec 1 – 3 Sr. High Youth Retreat

Dec 3 – No youth meeting

Dec 9 – Serving at Ham Dinner

Dec 10 – Youth Meeting

Dec 17 – Christmas Party

Dec 24 – 25 Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Jan 19 – 20 Bowling lock in

Chili Cook off



Counter Call

By Walter Blair

We are in a critical need to refill the rolls of Offering Counters. If you can help out once a month, or act as standby, please lend a hand. It only requires about an hour after the second service to verify and record the weekly offerings and you only need to
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 ... COUNTER CALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 ...

Counter Call

have basic math and organizational skills.

This is a crucial ongoing task in the life of our church. We are required by United Methodist guidelines, and common sense, to maintain certain standards for the handling of church funds and it is in our near future to be unable to meet the criteria if more church members do not step forward to help. If you are willing and able to help out, please contact Walter Blair at (703)878-7443 or the church office.

Annual Ham Dinner

By Walter Blair

The Finance Committee will host Cokesbury's Annual Ham Dinner on December 9th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

This will be another wonderful opportunity for you to enjoy an evening out for fellowship and good food. The menu will include ham, corn, green beans, scalloped potatoes, rolls, beverages, and dessert pies.

The cost for this **ALL-U-CAN-EAT** dinner will be \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 3-11. Children under three will be admitted free.

You can find the latest information at:
<http://www.CokesburyUMC.us/dinner/>

A Coming into Being

By Beth Richardson from "Child of the Light: Walking through Advent and Christmas", Copyright 2006

The Christmas season - the high point of the year for many people around the world. The preparation for Christmas, the decorating, the celebrations, the music and worship observances, the giving of gifts and gathering of families - all these rituals mark this important event in the life of our faith.

Often during this time of year, I find myself saying, "It doesn't feel like it's time to get ready for Christmas." My insides are not ready for this. The demands of the culture and of my own expectations overwhelm me at a time when I want to be more and more focused on God and the sacred events of Christmas.

That's why I really like Advent, the season of the church year that includes the four Sundays before Christmas during which we Christians prepare our hearts, minds and spirits for the Advent of the Christ Child.

Webster's Dictionary defines advent as "a coming into being" (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition).

I need this time of Advent to bring me into being. I need to slow down, to live in the moment, to appreciate the small things - the warmth and light of a candle flame, the tiny fingers of a newborn baby, the enthusiastic smiles of children. I need to prepare my heart, to make my spirit ready for the birth of the Messiah.

Advent invites us to slow down, to open our ears to God's quiet voice in the midst of the chaos of the consumerist culture that Christmas has become. As we make our way through this busy season, let us allow God to shape our minds and hearts - to become a part of God's "coming into being" in Jesus' birth.

The thought of adding space for spiritual reflection during the Advent season often seems overwhelming. There are so many tasks that need to be done, so many expectations to meet. How could I possibly add one more thing to my life?

Take time for God: that's exactly the challenge God gives us during this season of preparation. Advent invites taking time out from our busyness to be with God. We make time for meditation, prayer, scripture study or journaling. We nurture our spiritual self, that sometimes fragile part of us that longs for a connection with God.

Even in our frantic culture, in our busy lives, and during this hectic season of the year, we can learn to spend time with God. Regular people like us can accomplish setting aside a little time each day to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child.

Reprinted from INTERPRETER MAGAZINE, a publication of United Methodist Communications, November/December 2006

Luke 2 (NIV)

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord", 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

32 A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

41 Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. 43 After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

December 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Disciple II (Member's Home) 7:00-9:30 COGP Sr. High Retreat, Lynchburg (12/1-3)	2 9:00-1:00 Hanging of the Greens 10-12 Recovery Inc
3 8:30/11:00 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Advent Study 12:15 HH Christmas Party 1:30-5:00 COGP	4 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Prayer Group 7:00-8:15 Girl Scouts 7:00-9:30 Choraliers	5 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Family Care	6 10:00 Advent Study 7:30 Choir 7:30 Book Club	7 7:00 Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7:00-9:30 COGP	8 7:00 Disciple II (Member's Home) 7:00-9:30 COGP	9 9:00-12:00 Annual Cookie Sale 10-12 Recovery Inc. 5-7:00 Ham Dinner
10 8:30/11:00 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Advent Study 1:30-5:00 COGP 5:30 UMY	11 6:00 Prayer Group 6:30 – UMM/UMW Christmas Party	12 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Finance	13 10:00 Advent Study 7:30 Choir	14 7:00 Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7:00-9:30 COGP	15 7:00 Disciple II (Member's Home) 7:00-9:30 COGP	16 10-12 Recovery Inc. 6:00 Children's Christmas Program & Christmas Party
17 8:30/11:00 Cantata 1:30-7:00 COGP (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 UMY	18 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Prayer Group 7:00-8:15 Girl Scouts 7:00-9:30 Choraliers	19 6:30 Girl Scouts	20 10:00 Advent Study 7:30 Choir	21 7:00 Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7:00-9:30 COGP	22 7:00 Disciple II (Member's Home) 7:00-9:30 COGP	23 10-12 Recovery Inc.
24 9:45 Advent Study 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services	25 6:00 Prayer Group 7:00-8:00 Christmas Vespers Christmas Day	26 6:30 Girl Scouts	27 7:30 Choir	28 7:00 Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7:00-9:30 COGP	29 7:00 Disciple II (Member's Home) 7:00-9:30 COGP	30 10-12 Recovery Inc.
31 8:30/11:00 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 1:30-5:00 COGP 5:30 UMY 9:00 HH New Year's Eve Party	Happy New Year					

Loving others... as Christ first loved us!

Cokesbury United Methodist Men

30th Annual Fruit Sales

Fruit	Availability	Cost per Box	Cost per Half Box
Pink Grapefruit	Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb	\$23.00	\$12.00
Tangerines	Nov, Dec, Feb	\$20.00	Not Available
▼ Oranges ▼			
Navels	Nov and Dec	\$25.00	\$13.00
Tangelos	Jan	\$33.00	\$17.00
Temples	Feb	\$25.00	\$13.00

ORDER BY	PICK UP
Nov 8, 2006	Nov 20, 21
Dec 6, 2006	Dec 18, 19
Jan 10, 2007	Jan 22, 23
Feb 7, 2007	Feb 19, 20

To Order: Call 703-347-3524 by 6 p.m. on or before December 6th.

Pick up times are on Monday (Dec 18) and Tuesday (Dec 19) between 6-8 p.m.

Extra fruit will be available for sale on Wednesdays between 6-8 p.m.

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Woodbridge, VA
Permit #20

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
14806 Blackburn Road
Woodbridge, VA 22191
Return Service Requested
