



The Colonnade

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
14806 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA

January 2007
Volume 46, No. 1

ACTS

Action in Community Through Service

Recently we received a letter from the Director of the ACTS Helpline. She wanted us to share with our congregation the programs and services that ACTS Helpline can offer. In hopes that you will never need their services, but in the event you do, these are some of the services available to you.

Helpline is a 24-hour service offering confidential listening, information and referrals, crisis intervention for suicide, rape, substance abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and surviving after suicide of a loved one. There is also a crisis line, Ayuda Con Ternura, for Spanish-speaking callers.

A Senior Link program is also available, which is a daily phone connection with a live, caring person for someone who is housebound or has disabilities. Even dedicated church members may appreciate this service. For example, "Gloria" belongs to an active and caring congregation, yet feels the anonymity and confidentiality offered by a Helpline call invaluable in helping her share her problems.

To get in touch with the Helpline Crisis Hotline, you can call 703-368-4141. You will find a caring ear and heart, and they will refer you to other services if necessary.

Happy
New Year
2007

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>

The Gift Continues

Christmas day is past. In most places, you will no longer see anything that reminds you of the extravagance of gift-giving that was such a part of our society just a short time ago. There are some stores that are still relatively busy with customers returning gifts or trying to use up a gift card, but for most, the excitement of giving and receiving gifts has faded away.

If we relied upon the world to inform us of eternal truths, our secular experience of Christmas would tell us that nothing lasts for very long, and certainly nothing lasts forever. But, thank God, we have a different measuring stick.

The Christian message of Christmas is that God has given an eternal gift to the world. In Jesus Christ, God has given to the world — a gift for every person, a gift of infinite value, and a gift that lasts for all of eternity.

The Apostle Paul describes it this way:

Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. (*Romans 3:23-24*)

Because of God's love for humankind, God sent the gift of a Savior to redeem the world. Through Jesus, sins are forgiven, and the way was established for a life-long (as in eternal life) relationship with God.

In my Christmas Eve sermon message, I spoke about God giving us a "gift within a gift." One way to understand this idea of a "gift within a gift" is that even though Jesus came as a gift of salvation for all humankind, he is, at the same time, your Savior. A plan of salvation is global, but the gift of a Savior is personal. Salvation redeems the whole world; a Savior touches you personally. A Savior takes God's gift of new life and molds it and shapes it just for you.

Another way in which God's gift of a Savior is a "gift within a gift" is that the gift continues. Having been given the gift of new life, Jesus takes and tailors the gift specifically for us. We are given certain talents, abilities, and strengths in order to live fully the life that we have been given. The Apostle Paul tells us:

"But each has a particular gift from God, one having one kind and another a different kind." (*1 Corinthians 7:7*)

Now I realize that life has many hardships, and for some life can even be a life-long struggle, but that does not mean that God's gift has been withheld. Instead, our Christmas message is "Emmanuel – God with us." God enters into a relationship with us, to lead us through this present life into a fuller and richer eternal life.

As Paul says, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (*2 Corinthians 9:15*)

Grace and peace, *Russ*

On a personal note, my wife Gayle and I want to thank all of you for your generous and kind financial Christmas gift that we received from the congregation, as well as the many cards, food-stuff, and personal gifts that we received during this Christmas season. Add to that my gratefulness for all the birthday well-wishes that I received, and it is very clear that God has blessed us through the wonderful people of Cokesbury. Thank you, very much.

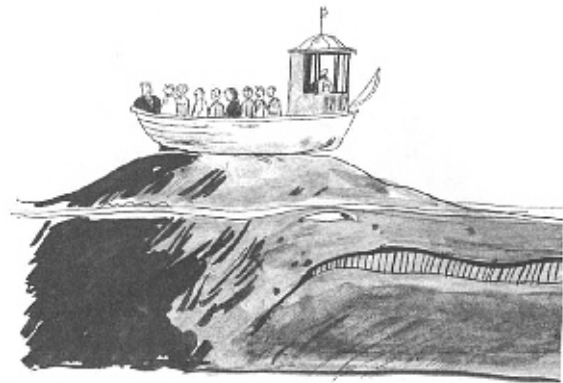
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 2 Oless Gherke
Mark Young
JJ Baiden-Amissah
- 4 Jacqueline Elliott
- 5 Terence Quaye
- 6 Doreen Johnson
Naomi Shaw
Tanya Vance
- 7 Mark Bailey
- 8 Pamela Metzger
- 9 Melanie Irby
- 11 Rita Johnson
- 12 Eileen Moore
Kathryn Nelson
- 14 Joseph Elliott
- 15 Laura Ash
Derek DeRose
- 18 Roberta Deahl
Hunter Wertz
- 19 Glenda Lawson
Richard Derr
- 20 Katherine Rose
- 22 Diane Haggart
Beatrice Quartey
- 23 Victoria Rose
- 24 Peggy Dorton
- 25 Victoria Rodriguez
- 26 Heather Johnson
- 27 Michael Gribik
- 28 Doreen Addison
- 29 Jim Lawson
Brent Fortenberry
Eric BeMiller
- 30 Kimora Fabien

J
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- 12 Naomi and James Shaw
- 13 Bunny and Glen Wirick
- 19 Winnie and Chuck Hogan
- 21 Donna and Roshier Bailey
- 30 Mary and Jack Jewell



"Most pastors would've been satisfied just to preach about Jonah and the whale."

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A Word from the Ham Master Walter Blair

Thanks to everyone who was able to make it out to Cokesbury's Annual Ham Dinner on December 9th. The gross proceeds for the 2-hour dinner came to \$421 and went toward helping close the shortfall in the Church Operations and Ministry revenues.

Special thanks to the Finance Committee members for their continued hard work and dedication to Cokesbury; the Youth, who did another AWESOME job in livening up the evening while keeping the food and beverages flowing; to the Youth leaders, Linda, Monica, and Mike, for helping out where needed; and, of course, to the diners who took time out of their busy day to provide the company and fun.

Money Matters

By Walter Blair, Finance Committee

*** The table below shows Cokesbury's financial picture as of December 10, 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	\$13,868	\$197,873	\$181,430	91.7%	\$182,630	99.3%
December*	\$14,234	\$11,218	\$203,567	\$192,648	94.6%	\$186,791	103.1%

- **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

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

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

By Walter Blair

The Finance Committee will host Cokesbury's 21st Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 10th, 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 spaghetti with a variety of specialty (homemade) sauces, salad, rolls, beverages, and dessert. 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/>

MISSION/OUTREACH NEWS

By Robin BeMiller

God, open our hearts, our minds and our doors to the people around us. Help us to mirror the loving spirit of your Son. In your name we pray. Amen.

YOUR SERVICES ARE NEEDED IN THE NEW YEAR

The Mission Commission of Cokesbury UMC plans on an active year of reaching out to those in our community, our state, our country and our world. In order to fulfill all our goals, we need your support. Please look below for ways in which you can be an active part of Cokesbury's mission team.

- Help with Holiday cards from Cokesbury to Missionaries of the Virginia Conference
- Help planning and preparing the Pancake Dinner Fundraiser on Shrove Tuesday
- Help with organizing Cokesbury's service at The Lord's Table
- Help with organizing support for families
- Help planning one of our mission trips
- Help organizing prayer support for missionaries
- Help to plan a special mission event for the church

The opportunities for service are endless and you would be spreading Christ's love for all peoples while serving with other brothers and sisters of Christ. Please contact Robin BeMiller at **rbemiller@comcast.net** or (703) 494-0088. You can make a difference in the world.

A Message from the VA Conference Mission Office
(<http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/534.htm>)

All day long, God is at work for good in the world and God invites us to be a part of God's mission. The United Methodist Church is a mission church. Through the work of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), the official mission agency of our church, we are reaching out to a world in need to share the love of Jesus Christ.

There are many ways you can use this material. Study about the variety of ministries we are about as United Methodists. Use the children's activities during Sunday school or after-school programs. Begin to educate our children in mission! Plan a Fall Mission Program, including a church mealtime experience from another country (you will find that under IOH to the left). Learn how your senior adults can take a mission trip. Select mission sites throughout Virginia where your youth can be involved (you will find those under Virginia Conference). These are just a few of the ways you can use this site.

Share it with your Sunday school classes and your mission/outreach committee. As your church begins planning this fall, why not include in your budget the support of a missionary, or add another missionary to the one you are already supporting? It's a great way to be personally involved and help mission come alive for your congregation.

We ARE mission people! – Get involved!!!!

From the Administrative Council

By Walter Blair

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Doug Phelps for his valuable and robust leadership of the Administrative Council these past four years. A wide array of issues has come before the Council, not always particularly pleasant, and his singular focus on our fundamental purpose – to make Christian Disciples – sustained us well through each issue in its turn. His stabilizing influence will be sorely missed, but leaves us with a wonderful model we can only hope to emulate.

As we open the books on 2007 there are several committees and groups that are changing hands and membership, and I know we can count on the congregation as a whole to continue your critical support of our ongoing missions and ministries. As you know, the life of the church continues throughout the week and it takes the commitment of many members to ensure we remain effective in our various tasks. Many times it is the same people spreading themselves thin, even joyfully so, to be sure everything that needs doing, gets done. I encourage you to lend a hand when you next see an opportunity so the front line volunteers can stay refreshed for the long haul. This will allow us to continue the good stewardship of the gifts and talents that God has bestowed on us.

I wish you all the very best of what 2007 has in store for you, and for Cokesbury.



WEB FEATURES

By Walter Blair

The Cokesbury UMC web site offers up a variety of features for newcomers and regular visitors alike. You can: hear recent sermons on the Sermon Server, view upcoming events on the calendar in 'Coming Up...', see upcoming anniversaries and birthdays, read the latest Colonnade and peruse previous editions, get the daily devotion from the Upper Room, follow the Common Lectionary and read commentary on the Lectionary, visit an array of Christian centered web sites and streaming media through the 'Gateway', hear UMC 'Audio Faith Stories' and read video, audio, and movie reviews from 'Daily Updates', provide online donations from 'Distance Giving', and more.

When you finish those, visit the 'Game Room' to unwind before visiting the interactive 'Recipes' bulletin board to share the best from your cookbook.

The Colonnade

You can access it all at: <http://www.CokesburyUMC.us/>

If you have a group or committee and would like to take advantage of our web technology to help get the word out to the community or your committee members we can set up mailing lists, bulletin boards, web logs (blogs), dedicated calendars and web pages, and sub domains for easy access. It is your web site for your use.

Contact us at: techcenter@cokeburyumc.us for additional information



United Methodist Women

By Gayle Urban

Greetings and a Happy 2007 to all! Cokesbury UMW looks forward to a new year of serving God and serving others, and we invite all women of the church to join. Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., in room 4. We have program, business, spiritual growth, fellowship, reading books, prayers, and refreshments...you are welcome to attend!

Newly elected UMW officers for 2007 are: president, Mary Wright; vice president, Norma Burnette; secretary, Gayle Urban; treasurer, Peggy Dorton. The UMW theme for 2007 is "Rise! Shine! Glorify God!" and we have the program books.

Officers and members can attend training for UMW positions, at the District UMW Training Day on January 20, at Aldersgate UMC (1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308). This will be from about 9:30-11:30.

In December, several Cokesbury members participated in a wonderful Advent Breakfast with our UMW sub-district churches. We met at Old Bridge UMC, and there were about 55 women in attendance for a scrumptious breakfast buffet (Breakfast casseroles provided from our own Cokesbury ladies! Thanks to all the good cooks!), Christmas carols and fellowship, and a program with guest speaker Jean Reynolds who shared Christmas memories and the story of her children's book. Attending from Cokesbury were Mary Wright, Norma Burnette, Peggy Dorton, Olga Fraser, Marian Gherke, Naomi Shaw, Anita Yount, and Gayle Urban. The UMW Woodbridge Sub-District Advent Breakfast is a well-loved tradition which has been held annually for well over 20 years.

Mark your calendars for next month's UMW District Ash Wednesday service which will be held at Cranford UMC on February 21.

God is great, God is good! "We know not what tomorrow holds, but we know WHO HOLDS TOMORROW."

January 2007 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7pm Prayer Group 7 - 8:15pm Girl Scout	2 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Family Care	3 7:30pm Choir 7:30pm Book Club	4 7pm Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7-9:30pm COGP	5 7pm Disciple II (BeMiller Home) 7 - 9:30 pm COGP	6 8am-2pm Bi-Dist. Training 10am - 12pm Recovery Inc
7 8:30am/11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 12:15pm HH Meeting/ Potluck 1:30pm-5pm COGP 5:30pm UMY	8 6pm Handbells 7pm Prayer Group 7:30 pm UMM/UMW	9 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Finance Mtg	10 7:30pm Choir	11 7:00 pm Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7-9:30 pm COGP	12 7 pm Disciple II (BeMiller Home) 7-9:30 pm COGP	13 10am - 12pm Recovery Inc
14 8:30am/11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 1:30pm-5:00pm COGP 5:30pm UMY	15 6pm Handbells 7pm Prayer Group 7-8:15pm Girl Scouts	16 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Admin Council	17 7:30pm Choir	18 7:00 pm Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7-9:30 pm COGP	19 7 pm Disciple II (BeMiller Home) 7-9:30 pm COGP	20 10am - 12pm Recovery Inc 4:30pm-8:30pm Loudoun Valley Emmaus
21 8:30am/11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 1:30pm-5pm COGP 5:30pm UMY	22 6pm Handbells 7pm Prayer Group 7pm - 9:30pm Choraliers	23 6:30pm Girl Scouts	24 7:30pm Choir	25 7:00 pm Disciple II (Fellowship Hall) 7-9:30 pm COGP	26 7 pm Disciple II (BeMiller Home) 7-9:30 pm COGP	27 10am - 12pm Recovery Inc
28 8:30am/11am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 12:15am Chili Cookoff 1:30pm-5pm COGP 5:30pm UMY	29 6pm Handbells 7pm Prayer Group 7pm - 9:30pm Choraliers	30 6:30pm Girl Scouts	31 7:30pm Choir			

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 January 10th.

Pick up times are on Monday (Jan 22) and Tuesday (Jan 23) between 6-8 p.m.

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit #20

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