

Life at Cokesbury

July 9, 2020

A Word from the Pastor

The Apostle Paul wrote about sin by saying that he just could not understand his own actions, that he sometimes marveled at how hard it was for him to do what he thought were the right things. In Romans 7 he wrote that it felt as if his life was a body with no mind to control it – just aimlessly moving around and breaking stuff, any stuff, around him. Sin just wants to make a puppet out of us. It's a funny image if it weren't so serious.

Paul was also aware that Christ makes a new creation out of us. The change starts on the inside so that, with practice, Christ begins to show up in the way we live our lives without us having to think about it. To Paul, being a new creation in Christ means that the Spirit of Christ takes over our lives so that without even knowing it our lives reveal the beauty of Christ.

We're all getting a little bit (maybe a lot!) tired of spending so much time at home and not being able to change our daily scenery. But some of you have made the most of it – tending your yards and gardens, healing and being healed, staying in touch with each other, helping hand out food. Perhaps without even knowing it, you were showing how Christ lives in you. You have made art out of this chaos instead of destruction. I know, however, that this time has been difficult for others of you.

Personally I relate to both – I feel constricted yet liberated, agitated but at peace. I guess a crisis reveals what's really going on in our hearts, both the grace and the rage, the wisdom and the fear. And we find ourselves at a crossroads as a society, a congregation, and as individual Christians. A crisis like this one gives us a chance to ask ourselves deeper questions about who we are – we have the time to do it as well as good reasons to do it. We owe it to our own spiritual health to ask whether we are puppets to our own sin and self-deception or if Christ lives in us. We'll know by looking at what we produce with our lives when we don't even realize it.

Grace,
Jonathan

Fresh Produce at Cokesbury

This past week, working a non-profit called The Bulb, we gave out enough fresh produce groceries for 198 people. Our outstanding volunteers (thank you!!!) learned a lot. Sooooo

This coming week, Monday, July 13 and Thursday, July 16, will begin our new routine of giving fresh produce to our neighbors. Working with both The Bulb and Uptown Farmers' Market, we are specifically targeting families from Urban Promise and Idlewild Elementary School while also getting the word out through Refugee Support Services about the availability of healthy fruit, vegetables, and occasional dairy foods. Donations are mildly solicited but we don't want to turn anyone away. So perhaps you need some fresh produce ... stop by between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please let the church office know so that we can get you into the rotation.

Summer Intern

God's intentions are mysterious and wonderful. For the remainder of the summer, Kathryn Vandiver will be serving as an intern with Cokesbury, helping us with a number of new and old projects. We were lucky to have Kathryn join us this summer, but it's better for her to introduce herself:



Hi Cokesbury! My name is Kathryn Vandiver and I am interning with the church this summer. I have been working alongside Jonathan to help put together a bilingual service that brings in more people from your community. A little bit about me: I just finished my freshman year at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA where I play on the women's basketball team. I am currently undecided on my major but am considering a double major in both Spanish and Sociology. I have always had a passion for service and am really excited about this opportunity to serve while also improving my Spanish! Thank you so much and I hope y'all have a great day!

Bible Study

If you are interested in joining a Bible study on Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, please let Pastor Jonathan know (jonathan@cokeburyumc.net) or by calling the church office (include number.....). It will take place via ZOOM on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. We hope you can join us!

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers

Serét Dinkler

Pam Betts

Dan Dumas

Deanna Long

Carol Davis (was tested for Covid)

The family of Leo Minervini, Jr. (Ann Dinkler's brother-in-law)