



# THE COCHRAN CHRONICLE

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

9027 Midway, Dallas 75209 \* 214-352-4889 \* [www.cochranchapel.org](http://www.cochranchapel.org) \* [office@cochranchapel.org](mailto:office@cochranchapel.org) \* April 2018

### FROM OUR PASTOR

For any and all who, like me, are concerned about such things, the lectionary (the calendar or plan of assigned readings in worship) is about to take a noticeable turn. Whereas normally the lectionary calls for one reading from the Old Testament and a reading from the Gospel of Mark (in addition to a psalm and a New Testament letter), in the season of Easter we will read from the Book of Acts and the Gospel of John.

Although I doubt that anyone is going to lose sleep over this change, it is an important one. The Book of Acts is the companion volume to the Gospel of Luke, and it tells the story of how the early church grew in the days and weeks and months after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. And in that sense, Acts is a church growth manual.

Church growth became something of an obsession among mainline Protestant churches starting at least in the 1970s and 80s as those same churches began to notice a steady decline in their memberships. Studies were commissioned, experts were consulted, reports (and entire books) were written, seminars were offered. And very little changed, least of all the membership figures.

I confess that I've become a bit obsessed with church growth myself. I'm probably not the only person who has noticed that there aren't just loads of people younger than I am running around our church. I often get to wondering about what our church will look like in five or ten or fifteen years if we don't grow as a congregation.

And then I re-read Acts, and I realize that the apostles weren't concerned about membership figures. (Of course there are reports like the one from Pentecost when 3000 people joined First Church Jerusalem at the same time, but that kind of explosive church growth was the exception.) Mostly the apostles were concerned with following Jesus and his way. They not only told their neighbors about how Jesus had changed their lives, they actually lived changed lives: "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). They "distributed [money] to each as any had need" (4:35). They healed those who were sick (3:1-10). The apostles "gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all" (4:33).

That may be the real secret to church growth: when we live lives manifestly changed by God's grace that we experience in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. When the church—any church—commits itself to studying the scriptures and praying and sharing in worship and fellowship, when the church makes sure that it is meeting the needs of its neighbors, when the church shares in ministries of healing and making whole, and, most of all, when the church gives testimony to the resurrection of Jesus, then it is likely to grow!

Peace,

Jeff

# COCHRAN HOUSE

## AN INVITATION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MINISTRY AT COCHRAN HOUSE



The residents of the Cochran House are excited to invite you to an afternoon of Intentional Community 101, on Sunday April 15th. Come explore just exactly what it is we do over here! We want to have a conversation about the history of intentional community within the long life of the church, and how the Cochran House seeks to live into that history in order to live into God's Kingdom here on earth.

We also want to give you, the people at Cochran Chapel UMC, a chance to get to know the Epworth Project and the Missional Wisdom Foundation a bit better, as well as a clearer picture of the Cochran House ministries.

The conversation around intentional community will begin at 3:00 p.m. and conclude between 4:30 and 5:00. After this, we will prepare a community meal so that the evening can end with the joy of table fellowship. We hope that all who are interested would stay for dinner, and we invite you to bring a side dish or dessert to contribute to the bounty of the table that we will share. The residents of Cochran House are humbled to get to share the beautiful property of Cochran Chapel with you, and we are sincerely hopeful that this conversation may lead to further conversation and collaboration. From this, the kingdom of God might be brought closer through our partnership.

Please Join Us

Sunday, April 15

3:00 PM Conversation

5:00 PM Community Dinner

Justin Hancock



## A Word About Apportionments

by Pastor Jeff

You know how Jeff Foxworthy says, "You might be a redneck if..."? Well, you might be a United Methodist if you know what apportionments are. The main way we as a congregation support the ministries of the worldwide church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches. Through apportionments, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work.

Apportionments support ministries like the World Service Fund, which underwrites Christian mission around the globe; the Ministerial Education Fund, which helps United Methodist students pay to attend seminary; and the General Administration Fund, the fund that underwrites and finances general church activities that are administrative in nature, rather than program-related—like General Conference, the legislative branch of the church.

In 2017, Cochran Chapel UMC paid 100% of its apportionments to the North Texas Annual Conference, giving that has been recognized and appreciated by Bishop Mike McKee and our District Superintendent, the Rev. Cammy Gaston. You should be proud of this achievement because by paying our apportionment in full, we have faithfully supported the mission of the United Methodist Church. Your continued generosity in paying your tithes and offerings will enable us to pay our apportionment in full again this year.

## SUMMARY OF MARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Board of Trustees** – Voted to approve a \$10,000 contribution to the church’s operating budget and to end negotiations with a local childcare group that had been interested in renting our facilities. Agreed to pursue negotiations with the recovery ministry at Lovers Lane UMC for use of the facilities throughout the week for approximately one year. Reviewed proposals for a new lease on a photocopier; action was deferred until April. Agreed to investigate emergency/disaster preparedness plans and a walk-through of all campus buildings to determine the state of the physical plant. Noted that some air conditioning units and the awning at the front door will require significant work this year.

**Finance Committee** – Received a report from the church treasurer, who noted with concern that overall giving to the church is down noticeably. While pledged giving remains on track, freewill offerings are dramatically lower than last year. Received an encouraging report on the pending sale of the west end property; there are no developments of note relating to the Preston Royal property.

### THE MAGIC OF SPRING

by Laura Sue Perrenot (April, 2001)

A sorceress wearing a gown of green,  
a phantom presence out of a dream,  
she dances in on tiny feet  
with invisible hands the world to greet.  
Bestows her magic on all living things;  
this vernal Goddess, her name is Spring.  
Inspiration of artists, creator of song,  
transforming the Earth as she goes along.  
She is the smile on the lover’s face,  
the sunshine and flowers in every place.  
Nature’s rebirth, resurrection of the spirit;  
symphony of Springtime, listen and hear it.  
This fickle lady who’s not here to stay,  
delivers her presents and goes on her way.  
She leaves us enchanted, inspired and stirred  
with her music of Springtime so briefly heard.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## North Dallas Shared Ministries

April Need: Canned Fruit



Please leave your donations of canned fruit under the North Dallas Shared Ministries sign in our atrium or, if you prefer not to shop, checks can be made out to CCUMC, noted for NDSM or donations can be made online.

In 2017 Cochran Chapel UMC supported North Dallas Shared Ministries in these ways:

\$3600 in congregational giving

\$1385 in individual giving

128 volunteer hours given

32 bags of food given

Your Generosity Is Making A  
Difference!  
Thank You!

## Cochran Kitchen Update

In February, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 47 guests 130 plates of food
- Distributed 40 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 8 guests
- Gave 45 guests bus passes
- Offered dozens of bags of hygiene products and items of clothing.
- Welcomed 3 students from Sudie Williams Elementary School who helped nearly a dozen CCUMC volunteers serve meals and host guests.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Our Next Cochran Kitchen is April 25

3:00 to 4:00 PM – “dress” tables, place condiments

4:00 to 5:00 PM – set up stations (shower, clothing, drinks, greeting); wash fruit, wrap flatware with napkins

5:00 to 5:30 PM – Greet, talk with and listen to guests

5:30 to 7:00 PM (or until food runs out) – serve meals, listen to/talk with guests

6:30 PM until Meaders has been cleaned up

For more information, please contact the church office at 214-352-4889 or email [office@cochranchapel.org](mailto:office@cochranchapel.org)

# FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE – APRIL

Knitwits – meets Tuesdays, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM; Brown Bag lunch 12:30 – all are welcome (members and non-members, knitters and non-knitters, men and women), Fellowship Hall: April 3, 10, 17, 24.

Chancel Choir rehearsals – meets every Wednesday, 7:00 PM in Choir Room. April 4, 11, 18, 25.

2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch – offered second Sunday of the month, meets in Fellowship Hall right after Worship Service, April 8.

Finance Committee – meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:00 PM. April 17.

Board of Trustees – meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:45 PM. April 17.

Deadline for The Cochran Chronicle: Our Life Together – April 20 is the last day information can be submitted to be included in our May newsletter. Either email [office@cochranchapel.org](mailto:office@cochranchapel.org) with your information or leave a hardcopy of your text in the church office with contact information should there be questions. Thank you.

Reading Group – meets fourth Thursday of the month, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome. April 26.

Cochran Kitchen – meets on the last Wednesday of the month in Meaders Hall. Doors opens 4:00 PM. Volunteers always welcome (see Volunteer Opportunities). April 25.



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY



### April Birthdays

1 – Dolly Smith  
2 – Vickye Caldwell  
15 – Royal Nichols  
19 – Dale Gilliam

21 – Will Smith  
23 – Margo Cummings  
29 – Peggy Vickrey  
30 – Glenda Ricketts

### From Bonnie Goodwyn

I have discovered a great resale store on South Padre Island, where Tom and I live part of the time. It's called "Whiskers" and accepts clothing and household items in good shape. Donations are sold and the proceeds are given to the Laguna Madre Humane Society for the benefit of stray animals. If you would like to donate, please let me know, and I will make the donation for you.

Thank you, in advance!

Bonnie Goodwyn

[twogoodfridays@yahoo.com](mailto:twogoodfridays@yahoo.com)

972-754-0987



## ANGELS AMONG US



A BIG Cochran Chapel thank you to:

- **Mark Wesley and Martin Wesley** for planting the beautiful flowers around the sign in front of the sanctuary.
- **Jim and Martha Dempsey, Margaret Lake, David Ricketts, Dick Kirby and Pastor Jeff** for setting up the stations of the cross.
- **Martha Dempsey and Judy Smith** for making the black draperies as backdrop for the stations of the cross.
- **David Ricketts and Chris Tuveng** for cleaning the leaves out of the Meaders Hall gutters. David also took on the cleaning of several vents and removed lots of debris!
- **Will Smith** for faithfully tending to the Clark Garden every weekend and watering the flowers throughout the campus.
- **David Ricketts and Dick Kirby** for setting up the banners for Holy Week and Easter.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**Nursery:** 9:00 AM; RM 100 for children 3 years of age and younger.

**Children's Sunday School:** 9:00 AM: Class meets on 1st floor of Education Building for children ages 4 years of age and older.

**Open Door:** 9:00 AM in RM 201: Led by Neil Bickley. All adults are welcome.

**Seekers:** 9:00 AM in RM 203: Led by Pastor Jeff. Class is beginning a study of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk. All adults are welcome.



### FACEBOOK

#### **Cochran Chapel UMC is on Facebook!**

One easy way to spread the good news about God's love and our welcoming church is to "friend" CCUMC on Facebook, then "share" when there is a posting.

Thanks to Brian Powell, who suggested, then implemented live streaming of Pastor Jeff's sermons, those who "friend" CCUMC can watch Sunday sermons as they are being preached and/or can click on them at a more convenient time.

Please always share these posts so that our good news can be spread to many more.