

The background of the top section is a photograph of a church interior, featuring several arched stained glass windows with intricate designs. The text is overlaid on this image.

# THE COCHRAN CHRONICLE OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Sports-wise, this is just about my favorite time of year: As of press time, Duke is still contending for the NCAA men's collegiate national basketball championship, and the Texas Rangers are about to begin a new season under their new manager. A significant part of sports is measured beverages: average points scored per game, batting averages, etc. Averages give athletes and teams a sense of their performance, how they are measuring up. Despite its utility as a standard of measure, not many people—and not many churches—aspire to beverage. "Let's go out there and be average" wouldn't inspire many teams or staffs or churches. And yet someone out there has to be average. The average congregation in the United States has 70 regular participants, including adults and children, and an average budget of \$85,000. That makes Cochran Chapel about average in the former category and above average in the latter. I've been a part of much larger churches, and I've been a part of somewhat smaller churches. There are advantages and disadvantages to each. The best part of being an average-size church like ours is that we tend to operate more like a family than a business: we know each others' names and we care for each other like we're family. Sometimes we disagree like families do or jostle with each other for position in the group. We lose some members of the family to death and we pick up some new ones along the way. Most of the time we get along well and go about the business of being the church. These days our family is experiencing some changes: In an attempt to be more mission-minded we are exploring a simplified governance structure and ways to welcome community groups to campus. A simplified governance structure would reduce the number of committees and meetings that we have, seeking to bring interrelated work together in one setting to review, plan, evaluate, and make decisions more quickly and efficiently. We are also working with groups like Studio Bella, whose art camps will be here this summer, to share our facilities and through this find a way to meet and serve our neighbors. New ways of doing things and new community partners can be disruptive to the average way of doing things. New is often hard. New requires me to think, respond, and act differently than average. That's what Easter is all about. By raising Jesus the Crucified One from the dead, God fundamentally disrupted average, everyday life. In the resurrection, God vindicated Jesus' kingdom-oriented life wherein he spoke the truth in love, challenged the powers that be, shared fellowship with those on the margins of human society, and generously helped those who were in need. When the Romans put him to death by their average means of capital punishment, they thought they had rid themselves of a potentially troublesome religious zealot. But the average law of death didn't hold. God raised Jesus from the dead, made Jesus alive again in glory and power, to give average people like you and me hope for living in this life and in the life to come. I hope you will join me for many of the services and worship opportunities that are detailed later in this newsletter. They are designed to bring us closer to the God who, in Christ Jesus, gave himself fully to us and for us so that we might be fully what we are: not average but beloved children of God

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

## What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, whose days commemorate distinct events in Jesus' last week of earthly life.

## How will we observe Holy Week?

*Sunday, April 14 – 10:15, Sanctuary*

**Palm Sunday** – A worship service featuring a procession with palms, combined children's and chancel choir, and guest soloist Jodi Crawford Wright.

*Tuesday, April 16 – 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

**Stations of the Cross** – A devotional experience of remembering Jesus' journey to the cross through guided readings, silence, and reflection.

*Thursday, April 18 – 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

**Maundy Thursday** – Worship with Communion to celebrate the meal and commandment Jesus gave. Featured soloist is Jodi Crawford Wright.

*Friday, April 19 – 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

**Good Friday** – A service of tenebrae (shadows), in which we tell the story of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trials, abuse, crucifixion, and death through darkness, candles, scripture readings, hymns, and prayers.

*Sunday, April 21*

**Easter Sunday** – 9:00 breakfast, Meaders Hall

9:30 Easter egg hunt on the lawn

10:15, worship including singing the Hallelujah Chorus

## Why should I come to church in Holy Week?

Because we are busy people, it can be easy to neglect coming to worship during the week or to wonder how much worship God expects of us. Holy Week reminds us that Jesus shared fully in our lives, which are sometimes painful, lonely, or bring endings. But God does some of his best work in the very midst of pain, loneliness, and apparent endings, work that culminates in the resurrection of Jesus. When we allow ourselves to experience the depth and darkness of the events of Holy Week, the joy of new life we experience at Easter is all the richer.

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

## Stations of the Cross



The Stations of the Cross is both a liturgical/devotional experience of Jesus' sufferings on the way to his crucifixion and a series of artistic depictions of the events associated with Jesus' Passion, which range from his condemnation to his burial. As devotional acts, early Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem retraced Jesus' route through the city as he carried his cross to his death. By the sixteenth century, the route this pilgrimage took came to be called the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrow. Along this way, certain points (stations) on the journey became associated with specific events recounted (or implied) in the Gospel accounts.

Since many people could not make the pilgrimage journey to Jerusalem, in the medieval period there developed the practice of using depictions of these stations (traditionally paintings, carvings, or sculptures) in local cathedrals to allow worshipers to make the same devotional journey. The number of stations can vary from eight (the events specifically mentioned in the Gospel accounts) to fifteen (fourteen traditional stations plus one for the resurrection). Most Protestants, especially in the West, are used to thinking of the crucifixion of Jesus as a historical event happening at a certain time and place. Of course, the crucifixion was such an event. But it is more than that. It is a truth about God and how God works in the world with human beings. It is that truth about God revealed in Jesus and his actions that provides us with an important touchstone for our own journey.

The Stations of the Cross is a liturgical way to reenact Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday as a meditation in worship, an act of devotion to God. Our journey of faith as modern Christians is not only a journey through history that can be marked by events in the past. It is also a journey of our own personal commitment to God, of our own growth as a community of faith, and as individuals maturing from self-centered children into faithful servants who seek to take up the cross in order to follow Jesus. We will experience the Stations of the Cross on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary using the Stations as they have been artistically rendered by current and former members of the congregation, including Gordon Fox. Participating in the Stations is a powerful way to experience the story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, suffering, and crucifixion.

# CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION



Join Us for

Music, Cooking Demonstrations and Homemade Dinner

including enchiladas, rice, beans, chips and salsa and a drink

Sunday, May 5th, 2019

6pm-8pm, come and go

Cochran Chapel UMC, 9027 Midway Rd, Dallas, TX 75209

\$10, all proceeds go to fund the ministries of Christ's Foundry Mission

Purchase Tickets In Advance: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christs-foundry-enchilada-dinner-tickets-59550341675>

Invite others and join us! We look forward to gathering at table with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Amy D. Spaur, Pastor/Missionary

Cell: 214-704-6628

# HONORING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

## *Save the Date!*

*Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>*

*Senior Recognition Service and Breakfast Honoring*



From left, the seniors include De'Witt, Manuel, Donovan, Jordan, Jordyn, and Anthony  
(Gabby is not pictured here.)

Join us at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall for breakfast tacos, fruit and juice,  
then worship together at 10:15 when we will recognize our graduating seniors!

RSVP to Sandra in the church office by April 29.

# INSIDE THE CHURCH

## Cochran Kitchen Update

In March, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 60 guests 170 plates of food
- Distributed 43 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 10 guests
- Gave 38 guests bus passes
- Offered dozens of bags of hygiene products and items of clothing.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Our Next Cochran Kitchen is Wednesday, April 24th

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)

## North Dallas Shared Ministries

April Need: Peanut Butter in Plastic Jars



Please leave your donations 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.

Thank you for helping those less fortunate.

# FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE – APRIL

Monday, April 1– **Widowed Persons Service Board Meeting** 2:00 Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – **Brown Bag lunch** 12:30 PM, **KnitWits** 1:00 – 3:00 PM – all are welcome (members and non-members, knitters and non-knitters, men and women), Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays, April 2 and 9 – **Let's Talk About Death** 6:30 Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 and May 1 – **Bible Study led by Pastor Jeff** 10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 and May 1– **Choir Rehearsal** 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 4 – **North Dallas Early Childhood PTA** 9:00 AM – Noon, Meaders Hall and Educational Building

Tuesday, April 16 – **Stations of the Cross** 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Thursday, April 18 – **Maundy Thursday** 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Friday, April 19 – **Good Friday Service** 7:00 PM, Sanctuary; CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday April 21 – **Easter Brunch with New Day** 9:00 AM Meaders Hall

**Easter Egg Hunt** 9:30, Cochran House Lawn

**Easter Service** 10:15 AM, Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 23 – **Church Council Meeting** 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 24 – **Cochran Kitchen** 5:30, Meaders Hall

Tuesday, April 30 – **Combined Finance and Trustees Meeting** 6:00, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 5 – **Cinco de Mayo Dinner with Christ's Foundry** 6:00 PM, Meaders Hall



DOLLY SMITH – APRIL 1

VICKYE CALDWELL- APRIL 2

ROYAL NICHOLS – APRIL 15

WILL SMITH – APRIL 21

MARGO CUMMINGS – APRIL 23

PEGGY VICKREY – APRIL 29

GLENDIA RICKETTS – APRIL 30

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES and BIBLE STUDIES**

**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 201: Led by Pastor Jeff. The class will embark on a journey of intentional faith formation in partnership with the youth of the congregation. Over the next several months, we will work to learn more about each other, form relationships, ask questions and explore what it means to follow Jesus as His disciples. All adults are welcome.

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Jeff. We are studying the Old Testament by following the Disciple Bible Study Fast Track series.