



# THE COCHRAN CHRONICLE OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

In her poem, "August," Edith Nesbit writes, "Leave me alone, for August's sleepy charm / Is on me, and I will not break the spell." It's a plea that many of us share as the month's fiery hot days drain us of our energy, and we dream of going to cooler climes for a break from the relentless heat. The temptation is to do as little as possible every day—and to do that indoors, where the air conditioning supplies blessed relief.

It is not only the outside temperatures that are heating up around the church, however; excitement is as well. As an accompanying article explains in greater detail, August presents our congregation with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a major step forward to do remarkable ministry and provide in perpetuity for future generations of people who will worship at Cochran Chapel. Throughout August we will be considering the possibility of selling our share of the property on the southwest corner of Preston Road and Royal Lane: in the Seeker Sunday school class on August 5, in a combined Sunday school class (open to all interested persons) on August 19, and in an all-church conference on August 30.

For years, the rent that we have collected from the businesses in that quadrant has helped fund the work that we do as a church from supporting missionaries to paying salaries. Recently we have received a proposal to sell our share in that property. After much analysis, consultation, discussion, and debate among congregational leaders, lawyers, and real estate and financial professionals, it is widely agreed that the proposed sale is a unique opportunity that should not be passed up.

There are sound reasons for selling at this time and for the amount negotiated. The terms of the proposal will allow Cochran Chapel to make substantial investments not only in ministries and programs, but also the physical plant. But because divesting ourselves of this major real estate holding is a significant move, it will require more conversation, questions, and discussion. I strongly encourage you to attend either of the presentations in Sunday school classes outlined above as well as to be present and participate in the meeting on August 30.

To prepare for that congregational meeting, I hope that you will join me in a month of praying and reflecting on the parable of the talents, which is related in Matthew 25:14-30. In this well-known story, a landlord prepares to leave for a long journey by entrusting his holdings to three subordinates, dividing his property thus among the three: to one he entrusted five talents (a talent was a large sum of money), to the second two talents, and to the third one talent. Then he went away. While the landlord was away, the first and second servants actively traded the monies entrusted to them, and each doubled his money. The third, however, hid the money entrusted to him in the safest place imaginable.

When the landlord returned and asked each subordinate about his activities, the first two replied that they had doubled what had been given to them, and they received further reward. The third, however, returned to his master only what had been given to him, which his master summarily seized and gave to the first subordinate. What impresses me about this story is that bold and daring moves are commended, while avoiding risk based on unreasonable fears is condemned. What impresses you? What "moral" or lesson do you find here? How is the landlord's (perceived) character integral to this story? What, if anything, might we be called to do as a consequence of this parable?

Looking forward to praying and reading and talking and dreaming with you,

Jeff

### Bring a Friend to Church

Sunday, September 9

Everyone in the congregation is invited (and challenged!) to bring a friend with them to worship on Sunday, September 9 in order to show and share with them the incredible Christian community that is Cochran Chapel UMC.

If you're not sure how to invite a friend, try this: "My church is having a special service on September 9th, and I would love for you to join me. Why don't I pick you up at 9:45, we'll get coffee in the atrium, and I can show you around before the service?"

If you are too shy to invite someone in person, you can send them an email—or even a printed invitation!—with the same message.

Remember Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." It is an honor to share our church and relationship with God with our friends in our time of need or in celebration of our blessings.

# WORSHIP AND POT LUCK LUNCH

## Special Worship with Pastor Leonard Lyons

Sunday, August 5, 2018



Cochran Chapel UMC welcomes Pastor Leonard Lyons and the Lion of Judah Faith Ministry to the 10:15 am service on Sunday August 5th. This is a chance for believers from different denominations to worship together as Christ has called us to do. Pastor Lyons will bring the message, and there will be special music. After the service, we will share a community potluck with Lion of Judah Faith Ministry in Meaders Hall, so please bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. (Accordingly, there will be no second Sunday potluck on August 12.) You may drop your dish off at Meaders starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be a form for you to fill out so that we may warm your dish the correct way. Please invite your family and friends to this highly-anticipated service.

Leonard L. Lyons was born August 22, 1965 in Dallas. He is the fifth of eight children born to Louis and Mary Lyons. Leonard received his formal education in the Dallas Independent School District. At an early age Leonard received Christ, yet God had greater works for him to do. In 2000, he responded to God's call on his life. It was also at that time that God gave Minister Lyons the vision for Lion of Judah Ministry, but the vision tarried. However, at New Life Ministry he was licensed under the leadership of Bishop Eric B. Henderson. Then he would accept his call to the five-fold ministry and served in the ministry of praise and worship until 2004. Minister Lyons united with Word of Life Restoration Ministries under the Leadership of Pastor Timothy L. Sexton. He served on the praise and worship team, as an associate minister and was later elevated to Pastor, becoming ordained in April, 2009. Despite working twelve hour shifts at his place of employment of 23 years, he still manages to preach two morning services each Sunday. Pastor Lyons married the love of his life, Jeanette Lee, on December 28, 2013. This union brings together five beautiful children: Nikita, Leyanna, Jordan, Leonard II, and Cori.

It is written in Habakkuk 2:3, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Pastor Lyons waited on God for the manifestation of the vision that had been conceived in him. Fourteen years later, in its season, the vision has given birth. Lion of Judah Ministry is here now. It is a place for the brokenhearted to be healed and delivered and for humankind to be restored to God's original purpose by the teaching of the Word of God with simplicity. The ministry is a multicultural body of believers, designed to develop and truly manifest the image of Christ and set the captives free in these last days.

# ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

## Important All-Church Conference

Thursday, August 30, 2018

6:00 PM

The District Superintendent of the Metro District has called an all-church conference for Thursday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Cochran Chapel UMC. The conference will meet to consider selling the congregation's interest in the office and retail property on the southwest corner of Preston Road and Royal Lane, and, if approved, how to deploy proceeds from said sale.

Our church had joint ownership with First Baptist Church of Dallas in a significant portion of the ground for many years. First Baptist earlier in 2017 sold its 50% interest. Various parties have continued to express interest in the church's share of the property, and through negotiations carried out on behalf of the church—and with the support of the church council, the board of trustees, and the finance committee—one party proffered a deal whose terms merited serious consideration.

### **The basic proposal presented to and approved by the aforementioned committees includes:**

- a) Sale price of eight million dollars (\$8,000,000.00).
- b) Down payment of \$500,000.00.
- c) A ten year note carried by the church secured by the property interest.
- d) Interest only would be paid for the term of the note with a balloon payment for the principal at the end of the term, except in the seventh year 20% of the outstanding principal would be paid – presumably \$1.5 million.
- e) Interest would be adjusted every two years starting at 4% per year, then it would be based on the prime interest rate to be not less than 4% nor more than 7%.
- f) Interest payments are to be monthly.

### **The church conference, then, will have three purposes:**

1. Present the contract to the church for consideration and a vote on the same.
2. Approval of authorized representative for church contracts.
3. Out line the general plan for use of funds for the near future.

All members of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend with the right to voice and vote; non-members also may attend but may not vote.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## North Dallas Shared Ministries



Most of us can remember eating these during college and even after. They are filling, nourishing and cheap. They are the perfect food to give.

Please leave your donations of *Ramen Noodles* 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.

## Cochran Kitchen Update

In July, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 68 guests 175 plates of food
- Distributed 48 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 13 guests
- Gave 36 guests bus passes
- Offered dozens of bags of hygiene products and items of clothing.
- Many Thanks to our volunteers!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**Our Next Cochran Kitchen is August 29**

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)



Youth Group from the New Albany United Methodist Church of New Albany, Ohio, who stayed in Meaders on July 14 and 22 on their way to and from mission work along the Texas coast doing Hurricane Harvey relief.

# IMPORTANT DATES

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE – AUGUST 2018

Wednesday, August 1 – **No Bible Study. No Choir Rehearsal.**

Sunday, August 5 – **Special Worship and Pot Luck Luncheon** – 10:15 AM

Monday, August 6 - **Widowed Persons Service Board Meeting** – 2:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays, August 7, 14, 21, 28 - **Brown Bag Lunch** – 12:30 PM; **KnitWits** – 1:00 – 3:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 8 - **NO Bible Study**

Wednesday, August 8 - **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00 PM

Wednesdays, August 15, 22, 29 - **Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Hall**, 10:00 AM Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, August 15, 22, 29 - **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00 PM

Sunday August 19 – **Combined Sunday School Classes** – 9:00 AM

Thursday, August 23 – **Reading Circle** – 2:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 29 – **Cochran Kitchen** – 5:30 PM Meaders Hall

Thursday, August 30 - **All-Church Conference** - 6:30 PM Fellowship Hall



August 1	Susan Hamilton	August 18	Virginia Rounthwaite
August 1	Margaret Lake	August 27	Anne Gilliam
August 14	Melinda Phelan	August 30	Kristin Malmberg
August 16	Makayla Murphy	August 30	Yvonne Wesley
August 17	Mark Mankey		



## ANGELS AMONG US



### Many Thanks to:

**Dick Kirby**, who is one of the people who counts the weekly offering. Dick's name was inadvertently omitted from last month's list of counters, and the editor apologizes profusely for this oversight. In addition to his commitment to being a counter, Dick regularly attends both the Open Door Sunday school class and the Wednesday morning Bible study. What many members may not be aware of is that Dick is also the lay leader of our congregation, and in that role he attends a number of committee meetings, serving as the voice of the congregation.

**Dick Kirby, along with David Ricketts**, distribute fliers throughout the north Dallas area to invite interested neighbors to join us for Cochran Kitchen. These two men often perform maintenance functions around the church.

**Chris Tuveng**, who was on campus late on a Saturday and Sunday night to unlock Meaders Hall and welcome a visiting youth group from Ohio, who stayed on campus on their way to and from mission work along the Texas Gulf coast.

**Lynn Bickley**, who spent countless hours during June and July coordinating with local charities to pick up items that were not sold during the garage sale.

**Linda Rolen** for creating the beautiful bulletin boards in the children's ministry area.

An **anonymous donor** who made a large gift to the church that enabled us to purchase a much-needed air conditioning unit.

### Joint Sunday School Class Sunday, August 19

The two adult Sunday school classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 19th in order to discuss the proposed sale of the Preston Royal property. All members of the Cochran Chapel community are invited to come learn more about the history of the property, the outline of the proposed contract, and why the sale will enable Cochran Chapel to expand its ministry and mission.

### 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 203: Led by Pastor Jeff. The class is currently preparing to undertake a wide-ranging exploration of questions of faith as we seek to know what it means to be a follower of Jesus. All adults are welcome.

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Jeff. By reading the stories of couples in the Old Testament, we are discussing what it means to be God's covenant people.