



# THE COCHRAN CHRONICLE OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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## FROM OUR PASTOR, THE ABC'S OF THE HOLIDAYS

A is for Advent, the season of four weeks prior to Christmas that proclaims the comings of Christ: first as the child of Bethlehem and later as ruler and judge of all things.

B is for Bethlehem, the small town five miles south of Jerusalem where Jesus was born.

C is for Christmas, the twelve-day season lasting from Christmas Eve to the Day of Epiphany that celebrates the birth of Jesus as Emmanuel, God with us.

D is for David, the king of ancient Israel. God promised that one of David's descendants would always rule over Israel, and God has given to Jesus David's throne (Lk. 1:32).

E is for Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 6th as the manifestation or appearing of Jesus to all the world, as symbolized in the visit of the magi, or wise men (Mt. 2:1-12).

F is for frankincense, one of the gifts of the magi presented to Jesus to honor him as a king in fulfillment of Isa. 60:6. It is an aromatic resin used in incense and perfume.

G is for God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are all present and active in different ways throughout Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

H is for Herod, the king of the Jews at the time of Jesus' birth. Paranoia over competitors to his throne led him to kill some members of his family and all boys about Jesus' age.

I is for incarnation, the holy mystery of God coming to us as a human being in Jesus (Jn. 1:14). We believe that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine, both God and a person.

J is for Jesus, the Latin form of the Greek translation of a Hebrew name that means 'He whose salvation is YHWH,'—God's name that he revealed at the burning bush.

K is for king. Jesus was born to be Israel's—and the world's—true king. "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk. 1:33).

# ABC'S OF THE HOLIDAYS

L is for love, which motivated God to send Jesus to us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes ... may have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16).

M is for magnificat, the song Jesus' mother, Mary, sang to praise God for saving the lowly and oppressed, turning away the wealthy and powerful. It is found in Luke 1:46-55.

N is for noel, originally from Latin by way of Middle French and Middle English, a word that has to do with birth or origins. "The First Noel" refers to the birth of Jesus.

O is for the O Antiphons, a series of short sentences using biblical images to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones also.

P is for peace, the gift of God that the angels celebrated when they sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among all..." (Lk. 2:14).

Q is for Quirinius, the Roman governor of Syria, who, according to Luke, ordered a census to be taken. Though its date is debated, it brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

R is for redeemer. Paul says, "[W]hen the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, ... born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law" (Gal. 4:4-5a).

S is for star, the celestial event rising in the east that guided the magi from their homes to the place where Jesus lay (Mt. 2:2, 7, 9-10).

T is for tree. A Christmas tree decorated with symbols related to Jesus (chrismons) can remind us of the cross/tree upon which Jesus died in order to give us life.

U is for universal, which is the scope of God's saving intent. Jesus' birth is "good news of great joy for all the people" (Lk. 2:10); God seeks to save all who believe in Jesus.

V is for the Virgin Mary. Both Mt. 1:18 and Lk. 1:35 tell us that Jesus was conceived not by a human partner, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

W is for wonderful. Isa. 9:6 tells us that "a child has been born for us, ... and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

X is for the Greek letter X (chi), the first letter in Christ, which means anointed. Jesus is God's anointed savior, the man God chose to be Savior and Lord.

Y is for 'yes,' Mary's answer to the angel Gabriel, when he announced that God had chosen her to bear Jesus (Lk. 1:38).

Z is for Zechariah, the husband of Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, and father of John the Baptist. Like Mary, he sings a song of praise to God found in Luke 1:68-79.

Peace,

Jeff

# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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Did you ever have an Advent calendar, the cardboard kind with a festive Christmas scene dotted with dated, perforated doors that you opened each day in Advent, hoping to find a treat or surprise lurking behind those doors? If you did have that kind of Advent calendar, you no doubt remember the anticipation of waiting to discover what lay in store for you. That's what attracted my younger self to Advent calendars: what's in it for me? A now older me has begun to wonder if there's something that I can do for others. I happened upon this suggestion for a "reverse" Advent calendar the other day and appreciated its simplicity and directness in allowing me to do something for others, in this case, for food insecure families. We meet some of these neighbors at Cochran Kitchen; others are served by North Dallas Shared Ministries. I wonder how many families in our congregation would like to join my family in assembling a reverse Advent calendar and making a transformative gift to NDSM to help neighbors in need?

# CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church

Presents

## Let The Whole World Sing!



Sunday, December 16, 2018, 10:15 AM

*Come celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through the gift of song with the*

*CCUMC Chancel Choir and Orchestra*

*Special Guests to Include:*

*Lancaster High School Chanson Varsity Mixed Choir*

*Barron Coleman, Operatic Tenor, Dallas Opera*

*Anthony Dixon, Operatic Baritone, Dallas Opera*

*Please join us for a catered, old fashioned, Southern cooked meal immediately to follow the cantata!*

## ELFA SHELVING



Thanks to the kindness of two of our congregants, Cochran Chapel is becoming more organized! And boy do we need it!! Cheryl and Thurman Mayne recently provided a generous gift of their time and a wonderful donation of ELFA shelving from the Container Store. Several locations around

the campus received a much needed upgrade to our limited storage space making these areas accessible and more efficient for all of the stuff stored there.

Cheryl Mayne and David Ricketts installed the first round of shelving in the Fellowship Hall kitchen pantry and in the Meaders Hall storage closet used by the Cochran Kitchen ministry. Through trial and error and with no formal training, they did a great job installing the shelving. According to David, they only had to redo the shelving twice to get it perfect! Thanks David for all your help.

A second round of shelving was to be installed in the janitor's closet on the lower level of the sanctuary and on the second floor of the education building in the Stephen Ministry room storage closet. During her walk through to finalize the design, Cheryl noticed the walls where the shelving was to be attached were concrete and brick. Knowing what she and Dave Ricketts had gone through during the first installation, she thoughtfully arranged to have those shelves professionally installed.

And what a great product we ended up with. These new shelves are making a big difference in the professional appearance of our church and our ability to properly and safely organize, store and retrieve various items.

A big thank you to Cheryl and Thurman Mayne for their wonderful and caring gift.



## Cochran House

## Christmas Party

December 14<sup>th</sup>

6:30–9:00 PM

The residents of the Cochran House look forward to this time every year, as a chance to share good fellowship and holiday cheer. This year is even more special, as we have a living reminder of the Advent season in our darling baby, Angus. We sincerely hope all of the Cochran Chapel family can join us to share in the festivities.

Cochran house will provide a few treats to eat, but we encourage all those attending to bring their own treat (sweet or savory) to share.

Many blessings and with the most profound season's greetings,

Rev Justin Hancock

214-418-8035

Co-Founder, The Julian Way

<https://www.facebook.com/TheJulWay>

<https://twitter.com/TheJulWay>

# INSIDE THE CHURCH

## Cochran Kitchen Update

In October, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 62 guests 160 plates of food
- Distributed 45 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 9 guests
- Gave 35 guests bus passes
- Offered dozens of bags of hygiene products and items of clothing.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Our Next Cochran Kitchen is November 28

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

December Need: Canned Sweet Potatoes



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 – DECEMBER

Monday, December 3 – **Widowed Persons Service Board Meeting** 10:00 Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays, December 4, 11, 18 – **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

Tuesday, December 4 – **Choir Rehearsal** this week only! 7:00 PM

Wednesdays, December 5, 19 – **Bible Study led by Pastor Jeff** 10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 11 – **Finance Committee** 6:30; **Trustee Committee** 6:45, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, December 12, 19 - **Chancel Choir rehearsals**

Sunday, December 16 – **Christmas Cantata** 10:15, Sanctuary; **Christmas Cantata Luncheon**, Meaders Hall

Wednesday, December 19 – **Cochran Kitchen**, 5:30, Meaders Hall

Monday, December 24 – **Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service**, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday December 26 - **Merry Christmas!** Church office will be closed

Thursday, December 27 and Friday, December 28 – Church office will be closed



### December Birthdays

6 -- Daniel Knight

11 -- Bill Near

16 -- Christopher Cain

16 -- Rhonda Norris

18 - Chris Lindhart

19 – Melinda Matise Gilliam

22 – Jerry Norris

23 - Fran Obar

28 – George Hendrix

28 – Andrea Kline

28 – Robin Phelan

30 – George Purvis

## ANGELS AMONG US

**Linda Rolan** gave the gift that has enabled the renovation of the fellowship hall, kitchen, and hallway.

An **anonymous angel** gave a large gift in support of the choir for outreach to young singers.

Another **anonymous angel** gave a major gift to the church's operating budget.

Two **anonymous angels** gave new furniture for the church office.

**Scott Foster** analyzed proposals for new copiers and oversaw the installation of the new office Canon printer/copier. He also cleaned out over 100 cans of paint from throughout the campus!

**Suzette Foster** cleaned communion juice stains out of the sanctuary carpet.

**Thurman** and **Cheryl Mayne** gave a number of Elfa shelving units and installed them in the fellowship hall and Meaders kitchens with the help of **Scott Foster** and **David Ricketts**.

**Peggy Vickrey** planned and coordinated this year's record-breaking Missions Market. Many thanks to all the angels who staffed tables, brought food to share, served as cashiers, and helped in other ways. Special thanks go to everyone who supported our missions with their gifts.

The church has been decorated for Advent and Christmas by **George Hendrix, Martha and Jim Dempsey, David Ricketts, Dick Kirby, Karen Watts, Eddie Victorino, and Fran Obar**.

**Chris Tuveng** continues to volunteer countless hours of work setting up chairs and tables, unlocking the building, and otherwise maintaining the facilities.

**Mark Wesley and Martin Wesley** have planted the winter flowers in the front beds.

**Fran Obar** and **LaJuana Garrison** organized and re-filed over 900 anthem titles in the music library.

**Yvonne Wesley and Kay Mahoney** have served as secretary for church council and charge conference meetings.

### 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 is 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 young adults and youth 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.