



# THE COCHRAN CHRONICLE OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

If you were around last month, you'll recall that on May 18th and 19th we hosted a big garage sale. Thanks to all who donated, sorted, cleaned, priced, and moved items, the sale realized some \$4200, which will be applied toward buying some much-needed new air conditioning units.

Speaking of garage sales, the late Rev. Mark Dyer, an Episcopal bishop and professor of theology, often said that about every 500 years the world-wide church feels compelled to hold a giant rummage sale. He and others have noted that we are living in and through one of those 500-year sales in which we go through our ecclesial (i.e., church) house, take stock of what we need and what we can usefully discard, and rearrange the household contents to make room for new items. Such a thoroughgoing clean-out is necessary in order for renewal and new growth to occur.

Several things happen as the result of these rummage sales: One is that a new, more vital form of Christianity emerges (think, for example, of the Protestant Reformation that birthed entirely new churches). Second, the organized expression of Christianity that up until then had been the dominant one is changed by the clean-out, becoming more pure and less ossified in moribund structures and habits. Finally, writes Phyllis Tickle in her book, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*, "every time the incrustations of an overly established Christianity have been broken open, the faith has spread – and been spread – dramatically into new geographic and demographic areas, thereby increasing exponentially the range and depth of Christianity's reach as a result of its time of unease and distress."

I'd like to think that Cochran Chapel is having a rummage sale of our own—and not just the sort that we have had in Meaders Hall. I'd like to think that we are going through a time in our history where a new and more vital form of Christianity is emerging. Sure, we'll continue to do some of the things we have always done, like worship and Sunday school and Cochran Kitchen. But I hope that through these we are finding a new or renewed vitality, that by worshiping or studying in Sunday school or serving at Cochran Kitchen we are (re-)discovering what it means to be followers of Jesus.

I'd like to believe that we can begin to think differently about some of the structures and habits and patterns (think: committees and work areas) that have helped us in the past but may have outlived their usefulness. Sometimes churches keep forcing the mission (what we're supposed to do in Jesus' name) to fit the model (how we're supposed to be structured), when in fact the model needs to be built to serve the mission.

Finally, I'd like to hope that a good rummage sale will help us to spread God's message and mission to new geographic and demographic areas. Who are our neighbors? What are their needs? Where is God calling us to serve? These are the questions we need to ask ourselves if we are going to be a vibrant and vital congregation doing God's work in God's world.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## The Holy Spirit You Never Knew

June 24 – 26

6:00 pm Supper in Meaders Hall

6:30 pm Worship in Cox Chapel

7:00-8:30 pm Study and Crafts

Building on the success of last year's event, VBS for Adults returns to Cochran Chapel from June 24-26. This year's theme is "The Holy Spirit You Never Knew," an exploration of the person, role, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the holy Trinity. The teaching leader will be Dr. Jack Levison, the W.J.A. Power Professor of Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Hebrew at Perkins School of Theology.



If you look up Jack's bio on SMU's website (<https://www.smu.edu/Perkins/FacultyAcademics/DirectoryList/Levison>), you'll notice that his top teaching specialty and research interest is something called "pneumatology," which is the branch of Christian theology concerned with the Holy Spirit. His books include Inspired: The Holy Spirit and the Mind of Faith, Fresh Air: The Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life, and Filled with the Spirit.

Each evening begins at 6:00 in Meaders Hall with a simple supper. By 6:30 we will gather in Cox Chapel for a time of worship and praise. At 7:00 the large group will divide into two smaller groups: one will remain in the chapel to hear Jack's presentation while the other will return to Meaders to work on crafts; at 7:45, the groups change places, and the evening comes to an end at 8:30.

The fee for VBS for Adults is \$10. Please register online by June 18 at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GMNQPVT>

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters (3), registrars (2), kitchen helpers (2), and members of the clean-up/lockup crew (4) during VBS. Please call the church office at 214-352-4889 or email [office@cochranchapel.org](mailto:office@cochranchapel.org).



*In God. Nothing Is Too Extreme*

COCHRAN CHAPEL  
WELCOMES  
IGNITE YOUTH CHOIR  
OF THE  
FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
SPRINGFIELD, TN

Sunday, June 3, 2018

10:15 Worship Service

We will welcome the Ignite Youth Choir of First United Methodist Church in Springfield, Tennessee.

This small choir of eleven youth and four adults presents a program of contemporary Christian music and dramatic interpretation.

They have performed in ministry settings in Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Chicago, and we are glad to welcome them to Dallas.

## SUMMARY OF MAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees did meet, and a summary will follow.

### NEW ABC'S OF CHARITABLE GIVING

BY LOUISE SMITH

Here is some tax advice you might be interested in!

---Wait---what is an article about taxes doing in a church newsletter?

Trust me, there is a connection.

Have you heard of IRAs, RMDs? If so, you are probably the audience I want to reach. As you know, tax law requires people who have Traditional IRAs to start taking at least a minimum distribution (RMD) from their Traditional IRA in the year they turn 70½. These distributions from Traditional IRAs are taxable.

Have you heard of QCDs?

Qualified Charitable Distributions are a little-known benefit for older people with Traditional IRAs. The tax benefit is this: if the distribution is sent to directly from the custodian of the IRA to a charity, then the distribution is not taxable. Plus, it is counted toward the RMD. That is like being able to "itemize" the donation without having to use the Schedule A. With the increase of the standard deduction, fewer people will be itemizing.

Some people fear that "not being able to itemize donations" will cause people to give less to charities (personally, I think, surely not). For those who are of the mindset (or heartset) to give to charitable organizations, and are taking distributions from a Traditional IRA, and are over 70½, this is way to get the best of both. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## North Dallas Shared Ministries

June Need: Canned Tuna



Please leave your donations of *canned tuna* 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.



## Share the Gift of Reading

June 18 – 21

9:15 – 12:15

Cockrell Hill United Methodist Church

4031 W. Clarendon, Oak Cliff

The Newbery-medal winner writer of children's fiction, Kate DiCamillo says, "Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift."

This year, Cochran Chapel will continue our tradition of sharing the gift of reading with children by participating in Project Transformation at Cockrell Hill UMC. Volunteers either read to a child or listen to the child read to augment reading and learning comprehension skills. Those who are interested can carpool from Cochran Chapel.

Several volunteers have agreed to make a meal and serve it to the PT interns (college students who staff the reading sites and serve as mentors and program directors) who are staying at SMU. We will make the meal in Fellowship Hall.

Please let Louise Smith know if you would like to participate by reading and/or with making the meal. You can reach Louise at 214-358-1361 or [msmith02@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msmith02@sbcglobal.net).

## Cochran Kitchen Update

In May, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 52 guests 150 plates of food
- Distributed 35 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 10 guests
- Gave 30 guests bus passes
- Offered dozens of bags of hygiene products and items of clothing.
- Welcomed 3 Sudie Williams Volunteers

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**Our Next Cochran Kitchen is June 27**

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)

# IMPORTANT DATES

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE – JUNE

**Knitwits** – meets Tuesdays, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM; Brown Bag lunch 12:30 noon – all are welcome (members and non-members, knitters and non-knitters, men and women), Fellowship Hall: June 5, 12, 19, 26.

**Chancel Choir rehearsals** – meets every Wednesday, 7:00 PM in Choir Room. June 6, 13, 20, 27.

**2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch** – offered second Sunday of the month, meets in Fellowship Hall right after Worship Service, June 10.

**Vacation Bible School for Adults** - deadline to register is June 18.

**Finance Committee** – meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:00 PM. June 19.

**Board of Trustees** – meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:45 PM. June 19.

**Deadline for The Cochran Chronicle: Our Life Together** – June 22 is the last day information can be submitted to be included in our July 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.

**Vacation Bible School for Adults**- June 24 – 26, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

**Cochran Kitchen** – meets on the last Wednesday of the month in Meaders Hall. Doors opens 4:00 PM. Volunteers always welcome. June 27.

**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. June 28.



Ella Erwin – June 6

Alex Calo – June 22

Faith Hall – June 7

Isabella Lowry – June 25

Cheryl Clark – June 9

David Ricketts – June 25

Lynn Bickley – June 10

# FINAL THOUGHTS



## ANGELS AMONG US



Many Thanks to:

**Melinda Gilliam** for the wonderful job she does every month of formatting the church newsletter.

**Martha Dempsey** for taking over the Sudie Williams project of getting goodies for the teachers each month.

**Margaret Lake** for coming up with and implementing the ideas of the KnitWits who meet every Tuesday in Fellowship Hall (All Welcome) AND implementing the getting of clothes for the ladies who come to Cochran Kitchen.

**Mark Wesley and Beth Knight** for taking care of the church's recyclable materials.

**Mark and Yvonne Wesley and Martin Wesley** for being the Communion stewards every week. They prepare the elements and clean the paten and chalices every week. **George Hendrix** washes and presses the Communion linens weekly.

**Fran Obar** for laundering and ironing all of the choir robes and stoles.

**Neil Bickley and Jim Caldwell** for conducting negotiations concerning the sale of our interest in the Preston Royal property over the past several months.



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.

### 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. Continuing a study of the prophet Habakkuk to try to understand how God is still working in a world that often seems unfair. All adults are welcome.

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Jeff. Beginning June 6 we will be learning about couples in the Old Testament. Far from being perfect, these families were often dysfunctional but still teach us about the nature of faith.