



# THE COCHRAN CHRONICLE

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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### FROM OUR PASTOR

It is May now, and, as you might suspect if you are a regular reader of this column, that fact has sparked a certain idea in my mind. Nothing so droll as "April showers bring May flowers" (which themselves bring Pilgrims, as the old joke goes), nor as cheery as the Stephen Foster song, "The Merry, Merry Month of May." No, that it is now May reminds me of just how important a theological word "maybe" is. Which might strike you as peculiar.

There are more august, more robust theological words, words like 'atonement' and 'eschatological,' which have the virtue of containing multiple syllables and making their speaker or author sound perspicacious. But even one-syllable words like 'God' and 'love' and 'hope' are weighty theological words. 'Maybe' seems light or wispy by comparison, a bit uncertain, hesitant, even. Surely not a sturdy enough word to carry much theological weight. And to that end, one online search suggests that 'maybe' never appears in the Bible, though depending on the translation you read, it shows up a handful of times.

I have been thinking about 'maybe' recently because I happen to have been teaching one of the biblical books in which the word does pop up, namely Jonah. Jonah is a reluctant religious professional, a prophet commissioned by God to go to enemy territory to preach a message of repentance in the face of imminent destruction. Jonah declines the commission and sets sail for the other end of the world, only to encounter a perilous storm at sea. The sailors strive desperately to save the ship, each praying to his own god and collectively throwing the cargo overboard, to no avail. So the ship's captain, the master of the craft, goes below decks, rouses the slumbering prophet, and says to him, "Get up, call on your god! Maybe the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish" (Jonah 1:6).

Maybe. Perhaps. Who knows? It just might happen that... If the gods of the sailors have not heeded their cries for help, maybe Jonah's god will hear and answer. Why not? It's worth a shot. It can't hurt. 'Maybe' sees possibilities that could not previously be discerned and ventures the hope that things could turn out differently. 'Maybe' envisions an alternative outcome.

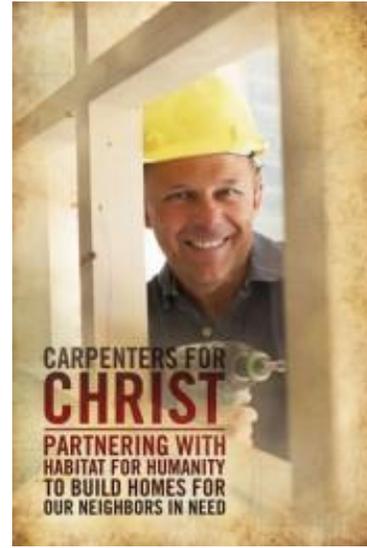
We live in a world that tends to offer us strict dichotomies and stark either/or choices. Sometimes we feel the same way about the church: Either we find some young families or we'll end up closing the church. Into our stark choices strides a prophet, often in disguise as someone we'd never expect, who says, "Maybe." Maybe we'll find a new way of being church with people our own age. Perhaps God will lead us to discover neighbors we had not known before. Who knows, but maybe meeting the needs of neighbors will show us a different way to serve. It just might happen that God brings about resurrection after all.

Peace,

Jeff

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

## HELP BUILD A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE



With spring in full force, several of us enjoy getting outside and getting together for a couple of weekends to help a family with their home repairs. That's right, it is Amigos Days time. But last year, People Helping People, the main sponsor of Amigos Days, decided to stop funding the project, so this leaves a hole in our hands-on, home repair missions.

With a few phone calls and emails, this hole was filled by Habitat for Humanity. Some of you may remember how a Habitat for Humanity "build" works: It is an 8-week build that happens on Saturdays. The first week begins with only a slab foundation, but by the last week, volunteers are laying the grass and dedicating the house with its new owner.

Because of how the volunteer system is done, Cochran Chapel will be assisting Highland Park UMC with their houses. Highland Park UMC's Carpenters for Christ has built more than 100 houses in the Dallas area. Each year Carpenters builds four houses. Currently, they need 80 people a day to work on their houses, and to get these houses built, we need you!

The building hours are 8:00 - 3:30. The building happens every Saturday from now till May 19th. Water, snacks, and lunch are provided. The ages that are allowed are 16 years old and up.

What to bring? If you have your favorite hammer and nail belt bring them, otherwise Habitat for Humanity supplies them. The leader of Carpenters for Christ did say that a nice set of your own work gloves is a big plus. Habitat has work gloves, but it's one size fits all. Your own gloves will be more comfortable.

How do you get involved in this? You need to go to <http://www.hpumc.org/outreach-carpenters/> and click the "Find out more information" under the "Build with us" title. On the following page, click the "Sign-up to Build" link and make a Habitat for Humanity account and pick your days. Please contact Cochran Chapel's, Brian Powell at (972)365-7401 or [Stickboy@StickboyProductions.biz](mailto:Stickboy@StickboyProductions.biz) before signing up to make sure all your questions are answered and so that we may get a count of how many volunteers to expect at the work site.

# COCHRAN CHAPEL GARDEN



## COCHRAN CHAPEL GARDEN SPRINGS TO NEW LIFE

After years of laying fallow, the vegetable garden behind the Cochran House is being resurrected in support of Cochran Kitchen ministry, a ministry of feeding homeless and hungry neighbors.

The 30 ft. by 60 ft. plot has been tilled and prepared for planting. To date, two varieties of onions have been planted. Once the soil temperatures and weather conditions are favorable, beans, chard, cucumbers, okra, peas, peppers and tomatoes are to be planted.

The produce harvested will be offered for purchase by donations from the congregation on Sundays in the Atrium area.

The donations will go to the Cochran Kitchen Fund. 90% of your donation will go directly to Cochran Kitchen and 10% for garden maintenance (seeds, tools and transplants, etc.).

The current garden team includes Will Smith, David Ricketts, Mark Wesley and Martin Wesley, with Jim Dempsey consulting. Besides your generous donations for produce, we can use your help with maintenance of the garden as needed.

Please contact Will Smith at 214-352-4476 or email [judwillsmith@att.net](mailto:judwillsmith@att.net) to help!

# INSIDE THE CHURCH

## SUMMARY OF APRIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees both received reports from Neil Bickley and Jim Caldwell, who provided an update on the Preston Royal property. We are currently in a conversation with a group that is interested in purchasing our (half) share in this property. With the approval of both committees, a proposal for the sale of this share will be drawn up and submitted to the church council for consideration. Further discussion and approval by a church conference would be necessary for any sale to proceed.

The Finance Committee received a report from the church's treasurer who indicated that the gift of \$10,000 from the Trustees has placed the operating budget on a firmer footing. Pledged giving remains on target, though giving through the general collection is significantly under projected levels. Lower utility costs and administrative expenses have helped to make up the shortfall.

The Trustees received a report on certain aspects of campus safety, particularly those related to fire control. Many elements are satisfactory, while others require updating or modification. We anticipate having to replace two air conditioning units in the education building, and bids are being sought. Action on procuring a new photocopier was deferred until next month. A garage sale will be held on May 18th and 19th, with collections in Meaders Hall beginning May 6th. A church-wide clean up/fix up day will be on Saturday, May 5th. Any items stored at or otherwise unclaimed at the church should be cleared in advance of this date.

## STUDY WITH A SMALL GROUP

A college in North Texas has been advertising its small classes, with a 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio. The obvious implication is that students will have a different learning experience than they would get at a larger school. That tends to be true in church as well: There are things to be learned and experienced in worship and fellowship, but there is an entirely different experience possible for those who share in small groups.

Cochran Chapel offers four different small group possibilities:

- The Open Door Class, led by Neil Bickley, meets in room 201 on Sunday mornings at 9:00. The class discusses topics of interest such as how Easter is related in each of the Gospels, how Christianity grew in the first three centuries, and what it means 'to remember'—from God's perspective and from ours. All are welcome.
- The Seekers class is led by Pastor Jeff and meets on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in room 203. The class is currently studying the book of the prophet Habakkuk, seeking to understand how God is active and involved in a world where so much seems to be going wrong.
- Tuesday Night small group meets in the home of Carol and Chris Lindhart at 4241 Allencrest, except for the third Tuesday of the month (Trustees and Finance meeting nights). We have been following Rob Bell's "Nooma" series. Each one of the 24 studies cover a specific topic relating to real life experiences from a Christian perspective. Each study has a 10 to 14 minute video and a booklet with Bible verses and discussion questions. We spend about 90 minutes on each lesson. We end the session with a prayer and a trivial fact about the making of the video we just watched. Call or text Dirk if you have any questions or need any additional information at (214) 350-1341.
- The Wednesday Morning Bible Class is taught by Pastor Jeff. The group alternates between studying books of the Bible and using books/topics of interest like the last 24 hours of Jesus' earthly life. At present the class is studying the book of Jonah, the story of God's scandalous mercy. The group meets in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 each Wednesday.

For more information on any of these groups, please call Sandra at (214) 352-4889.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## North Dallas Shared Ministries

May Need: Pudding Snack Cups



Please leave your donations of *pudding or gelatin snack cups* 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.



Do you recall the joy of discovery as you learned to read? You can share that joy with young children by serving as a volunteer with Project Transformation this summer.

PT (as it is lovingly known) was founded in 1998 as a summer day camp for 250 inner city children supervised by 22 college interns at five local churches. Twenty years later, PT is serving at 11 site churches, with 135 PT Corps Members providing after-school and summer programs for approximately 1,200 children and youth, grades 1-12 annually in partnership with 90 congregations, who supply 2000 volunteers.

This summer we have the chance to partner with PT by providing one-on-one reading help to children participating in a summer literacy program at one of ten high-needs neighborhoods in Dallas. The commitment involves listening to children read grade-appropriate books and evaluating their progress for 2-3 hours a day, Monday through Thursday, for one week. We also support PT by providing meals for the college interns.

If you would be interested in volunteering with PT either by reading or helping prepare a meal, please contact Louise Smith at (214) 358-1361 or [msmith02@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msmith02@sbcglobal.net).

## Cochran Kitchen Update

In April, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 62 guests 150 plates of food
- Distributed 49 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 9 guests
- Gave 38 guests bus passes
- Offered dozens of bags of hygiene products and items of clothing.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Our Next Cochran Kitchen is May 30

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 – MAY

**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: May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

**Chancel Choir** rehearsals – meets every Wednesday, 7:00 PM in Choir Room. May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

**Church-wide Clean Up Day** – Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m. Help clean out the Education Building; usable items will be donated to the garage sale.

**Finance Committee** – meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:00 PM. May 15.

**Board of Trustees** – meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:45 PM. May 15.

**Garage Sale** – items will be collected, sorted, and priced every day of the week (except Sundays) from 9:00 a.m. – noon, beginning May 6. The sale itself will be Friday, May 18 from 8:00 – 5:00 and Saturday, May 19 from 8:00 – 3:00.

**Graduation Celebration** – Sunday, May 20, after church.

**Deadline for The Cochran Chronicle: Our Life Together** – May 23 is the last day information can be submitted to be included in our February 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 Hill. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome. May 24.

**Cochran Kitchen** – meets on the last Wednesday of the month in Meaders Hall. Doors open at 4:00 PM. Volunteers are always welcome. May 30.



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY



### May Birthdays

3 – Virginia Cain  
11 – Mac Smith  
12 – Bonnie Goodwyn  
12 – Carol Lindhart  
18 – Doretha Stone

20 – Mark Wesley  
20 – Martin Wesley  
21 – Ben Lowrey  
24 – Dave Clark  
31 – Beth Knight

*Please Remember*

*in Your Prayers*

Kristin Malmberg, whose husband,  
Walter Duncan, died on March 24th.

Linda Rolen, whose husband,  
Phil, died on March 28th.

Scott and Suzette Foster; Scott's father,  
Thomas K. Foster, died on March 30th.

Sara Akers and Rebecca Egelston Caso,  
whose father,  
James Russell Egelston, died on April 7th.

# FINAL THOUGHTS



## ANGELS AMONG US



A BIG Cochran Chapel THANK YOU to:

**Jeri Cerwinske**, who has provided comfort and care to various members of the congregation throughout illnesses, surgeries, hospitalizations, and deaths.

**Lynn Bickley and an array of volunteers** who coordinated, hosted, and cleaned up a fabulous Easter brunch and egg hunt.

**Martha and Jim Dempsey, Judy and Will Smith, and Fran Obar and a team of friends** who set up for and cleaned up after the reception for Phil Rolen's memorial service.

**Fran Obar** who brought beautiful flowers from Vickye and Jim Caldwell's yard to decorate the chancel at Easter and for Phil's service.

**Judy and Will Smith** who arranged Easter lilies and provide continual care for the plants and flowers throughout the church buildings.

**Joe Vickrey and Chris Tuveng** who greet members and visitors alike every Sunday.

## You Are Cordially Invited

The Reverend Dr. Maria Dixon Hall  
Carnell, Harmony, and Faith Hall

Invite you to Celebrate the Graduation of

**Reverend Jeff Hall**

Doctor of Ministry from Perkins School of Theology

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Breakfast Reception, Fellowship Hall

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Cochran Chapel UMC Vacation Bible School for Adults!

Due to its astounding popularity, Vacation Bible School (VBS) for Adults will be returning this summer!

Mark your calendars for June 24-27 as we gather with newcomers and neighbors for evenings of fellowship over simple suppers, worship, learning, and crafts. This year's learning leader will be Dr. Jack Levison, the W. J. A. Power Professor of Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Hebrew at Perkins School of Theology at SMU. Dr. Levison is a popular professor whose creative and energetic teaching style encourages students to dive deeply into any subject of study. Watch our website, the newsletter, and the bulletin in the coming weeks for more information and to register.