

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

THE COCHRAN CHRONICLE OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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FROM OUR PASTOR

As I write this column, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, a clinical and research psychologist, is testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding her allegation that as a teenager in suburban Washington D.C. she was sexually assaulted by Brett Kavanaugh, whom President Trump has nominated to the United States Supreme Court. Judge Kavanaugh's defenders have questioned whether memories of an event alleged to have taken place more than 35 years ago are reliable, why the incident was not reported to authorities, and whether the alleged incident can have been all that bad, suggesting that this was a case of "boys being boys." The allegation, they suggest, is part of a smear campaign, an effort to impugn the character or derail the career of a respected jurist.

The allegation is a serious one, and it has been treated as such. Dr. Ford has been given the opportunity to tell her story before the Senate, and Judge Kavanaugh has been given the opportunity to respond in the same venue. I do not envy the members of the committee who must decide which version of events is the more credible. While our system of jurisprudence affords Judge Kavanaugh the presumption of innocence, Dr. Ford's story, as I listened to it, had about it the ring of truth.

Whatever else this situation has done, it has forced Americans to have uncomfortable conversations about the lived experience of many women who are victims of sexual harassment and assault. These conversations are important not only in light of the #MeToo movement but also in October, which is National Domestic Violence Awareness month. Although they are different phenomena, both sexual assault and domestic violence victimize and traumatize too many women in our society. Reliable estimates indicate that 1 in 3 women—and 1 in 4 men—has been the victim of some form of physical violence in her or his lifetime. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.

Domestic violence is best understood as "a pattern of abusive behaviors—including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks as well as economic coercion—used by one intimate partner against another (adult or adolescent) to gain, maintain, or regain power and control in the relationship." (From the National Domestic Violence Resource Center, <https://nrcdv.org/dvam/about-dv>) The latter is the important point: abuse is about power and control, which can be exerted through a number of means: sexual, physical, emotional, monetary, etc. Abusive people believe they have the right to control and restrict their partners, and they may enjoy the feeling

that exerting power gives them.

Regrettably, God's people are not immune from the temptation to exert power through violent, coercive, and manipulative means to satisfy their own desires. King David infamously saw Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, bathing on her roof, desired her, and "took her" for himself to have intercourse with her (2 Samuel 11:4). David's son, Amnon, "fell in love" with his half-sister, Tamar, and because he could not have her for himself legitimately, deceived her, seized her, and raped her (2 Sam. 13:1-14). These were powerful men who misused their power.

As the church, it is critically important to assert that no matter why it happens, abuse is not okay and it is never justified. It does not matter where the person is, whether or not he or she is intoxicated, if he or she is flirtatious, or what the person is wearing. No one invites abuse or assault. Abuse is never acceptable because it constitutes a violation of a person's body and spirit—the body and spirit of a person who is made in the image of God. Because all people are made in the image of God, all people are precious in God's sight and entitled to be both secure and honored in their bodies and spirits. No one is justified in causing injury or harm to another through abusive behaviors to gain or maintain power whether those people are related through marriage, partnership, work, or friendship. As United Methodists, we believe that human sexuality is God's good gift to us. As such, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and sexual assault are wrong, and we reject all sexual expressions that damage the humanity that God has given us as a birthright. However Dr. Ford's allegations are addressed, they call us to be aware of those among us who have suffered, to listen to their stories, and to create the kind of faith community where all are honored, safe, respected, and treated with dignity.

Peace,

Jeff

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 7 @ 2:00 p.m.

Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church

9027 Midway Road (SW corner of NW Hwy)

214.352.4889 + www.cochranchapel.org

All manner of pets are welcome

(with appropriate leashes or carriers!)



MISSIONS MARKET



CCUMC 5th Annual

Missions Market

Who? YOU! (Cochran Chapel UMC members & friends)

What? Missions Market (formerly Alternative Gift Market)

When? Sunday, November 11, 2018 9:15-10:00 + 11:30-12:15

Where? Fellowship Hall

Why? to learn about, celebrate, and support the missions that define CCUMC:

Cochran Kitchen

North Dallas Shared Ministries

Project Transformation

Sudie L. Williams Talented and Gifted Academy

It's a come-and-go affair, where we can gather with friends, gnosh on goodies, and find out about these missions, what they offer our community, the role Cochran Chapel UMC plays in them, and how we can support the missions that make our church a special place in our community.

Added incentives: Cheryl will sell her home-made jams and jellies benefiting Cochran Kitchen, and the Open Door Class Bakers will deliver their pre-ordered buttermilk pies benefiting all four missions.

We're Methodists; we'll want food. Please be thinking about the special dish you'll bring to share with friends at this year's Missions Market. Dishes needed for both morning and after church sessions.

The Mission Team hopes to see you at this year's Missions Market on November 11, 2018!

This article is a continuation of the series begun last month to explore and explain the issue(s) that threaten to divide the United Methodist Church and which have occasioned a special General Conference in 2019 as A Way Forward. The analysis is that of Dr. Ted Campbell, an ordained elder and professor at Perkins School of Theology.

What Divides Us?

A. “The practice of homosexuality.”

The overarching issue that most consistently divides us today has to do with one statement and two related prohibitions in the United Methodist Book of Discipline referring to homosexual practice:

1. The statement added to the Social Principles in 1972 that, “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching” (in the 2016 Discipline, ¶ 161G, p. 113).
2. The statement added to the chapter on “The Ministry of the Ordained” between 1980 and 1984 that, “self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church” (in the 2016 Discipline, ¶ 304.3, p. 226)¹ and the related chargeable offense for clergy, “being a self-avowed, practicing homosexual” (2016 Discipline, ¶ 2702.1, p. 788).
3. The statement added to the same chapter in 1996 that “Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches” (in the 2016 Discipline, ¶ 341.6, p. 278) and the related chargeable offense for clergy, “conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies” (2016 Discipline, ¶ 2702.1, p. 788).

Roughly stated, this overarching issue comes down to whether churches want to affirm these existing prohibitions, or whether they want to remove these prohibitions and allow fuller affirmation and inclusion of “self-avowed and practicing homosexuals” in the life and leadership of the denomination. This issue is tied to a wide range of other theological and cultural issues, including liberality and conservatism in the churches, the meaning of our doctrinal standards on the authority of the scriptures, the calling and experience of gay and lesbian Christians, scientific issues about whether homosexuality is a choice or a genetically- or socially-influenced orientation, and the changes in broader cultures with respect to acceptance and affirmation of homosexual people. It’s beyond the scope of this paper to elaborate the Biblical and moral and scientific issues that are involved here concerning homosexual practice.

United Methodist general conferences from 1976 through 2008 voted fairly consistently against changing this statement and these prohibitions with majorities typically in the range of 600 delegates voting to retain the 1972 statement and to add the prohibitions, and about 300 delegates opposing the statement in the Social Principles and the added prohibitions related to it. The 2016 General conference voted to delay voting on these issues, setting up the called general conference that will occur in 2019.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

North Dallas Shared Ministries



Our NDSM need for the month of October is

Spaghetti Sauce and Dried Pasta!

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.

Cochran Kitchen Update

In September, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 60 guests 165 plates of food
- Distributed 45 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 9 guests
- Gave 31 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 October 24

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

IMPORTANT DATES

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER 2018

Tuesday, October 2: **Staff Parish Relations Committee** – 6:30 PM Conference Room

Tuesdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **Brown Bag** Lunch at 12:30 and **KnitWits** from 1:00 – 3:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Hall** - 10:00 AM Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 4: **North Dallas Early Learning PTA** – 9:00 – 12:00 NOON Meaders Hall & Education Building

Monday, October 8: **Widowed Persons Service Board Meeting** – 2:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Friday, October 12: **Private Wedding Reception** – 7:00 – 11:00 PM Meaders Hall

Tuesday, October 16: **Finance Committee Meeting** – 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall and

Trustee Committee Meeting – 6:45 PM Fellowship Hall

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

Thursday, October 25: **Reading Circle** – 2:00 PM Fellowship Hall



October 2 Joe Vickrey

October 4 Linda Rolan

October 11 Laura Sue Perrenot

October 11 Judy Smith

October 26 Neil Bickley

October 30 Dorothy Bickley

FINAL THOUGHTS



ANGELS AMONG US



Many Thanks to:

Karen Watts, Lynn Bickley, Suzette Foster, Cheryl Mayne and Mark Wesley who so graciously offered up a day of their own to work in the church office so Sandra could take a week of vacation.

A Host of Cochran Kitchen Volunteers who coordinated and supplied the reception after the memorial service for Margaret Lake.

Karen Watts for making coffee on Sunday morning and **Joe Vickrey** for bringing doughnuts.



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 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.