

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

Do you ever get a certain song stuck in your head? Lately, the song running through my mind is "Try to Remember" from "The Fantasticks," first sung by Jerry Orbach and later covered by Andy Williams, Perry Como, Patti Page, and Liza Minelli. It's a melancholy song, wistful for "the kind of September / when life was slow and oh, so mellow." (So it isn't great poetry, but what do you expect from lyrics by Tom Jones?) It's a song that's nostalgic for a time when "life was so tender" and "love was an ember about to billow."

There's a danger to nostalgia, however, and particularly for churches. As a church we often "try to remember the kind of September / when grass was green and grain was yellow," which for us meant that the pews were packed just because the doors were open or Rev. So-and-So was pastor and the church enjoyed a Golden Era. As someone else has noted, there are three dangers to this kind of thinking: First, nostalgia is a highlight reel of the past, filtering out the bad things that happened and amplifying the good things. Second, nostalgia leads us to think that the way things were back then is the way things should be now, despite very real social and cultural changes that make the present different from the past. Third, nostalgia limits our perspective on how God will work. Dr. John Oswalt says, "God wants us to learn things about his character and nature from the past but not to enshrine the methods of the past."

Now that September is here, I am already looking back across the year and realizing that we have experienced the loss of many saints to death or to (impending) moves out of town or to other churches. In the midst of our grief over these losses, there is a strong temptation to grow nostalgic. But Isaiah 43:18 calls us to "Stop dwelling on past events and brooding over times gone by" (Complete Jewish Bible). That doesn't mean don't remember your history, for remembering God's mighty acts of salvation was integral to Jewish faith. It does mean that we can dwell on the past in such a way that we neglect to pay attention to what God is doing now and hoping for what God will do in the future, which is what God expresses in v. 19: "Look! I'm doing a new thing; ... don't you recognize it?" (Contemporary English Bible).

With September upon us, we're entering a new season of congregational life. Yes, fall will soon be here, and yes, school has started back. But another season will soon arrive. On August 30th, the all-church conference agreed to sell our half-interest in the property at Preston Road and Royal Lane for \$8 million. Frankly, that's a lot of money, and the conference agreed to an outline of spending, saving, and investing the \$500,000 down payment will we receive upon closing. If we are to grow spiritually and numerically as the result of this financial infusion, we are going to have to avoid nostalgia. What worked in the past will not necessarily work now or in the future. Yesteryear's tried and true methods may no longer be valid or viable. Previous models of church (e.g., "If you build it, they will come") have passed their sell-by date.

It's a new day. We have some incredible new resources at our disposal. God is doing a new thing. Maybe Brian Wren put it best in a hymn when he wrote: "This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone." In this new day, we are going to explore new ways to govern ourselves, new ministry partnerships, new neighbors to serve, and new ways of being the church. I hope it will be a September to remember.

Peace,

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.

After church we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our usual pot-luck lunch. Bring a dish to enjoy and share, then stay for a delicious lunch and a chance to make new friends while you visit with old friends.

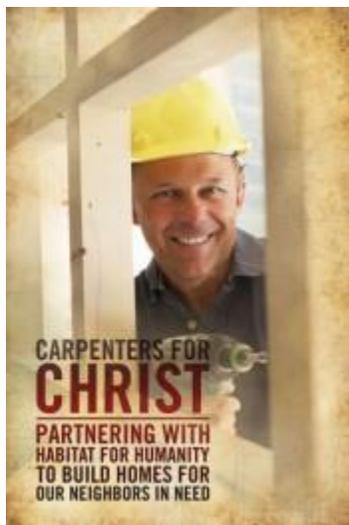
If you're not sure how to invite a friend, try this: "My church is having a special service on September 9th, and I would love for you to join me. Why don't I pick you up at 9:45, we'll get coffee in the atrium, and I can show you around before the service?"

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.

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

## Habitat for Humanity/Carpenters for Christ Home Build Starts



Do you like to express your faith by swinging a hammer to build homes for people in need? This opportunity is for you! Carpenters for Christ, a home-building ministry at Highland Park UMC in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, will start its fall homebuilding campaign this month. It begins on Saturday, September 29th at 2723 Silkwood in southern Dallas and will be building each Saturday after that through November 17th. Volunteer opportunities are pretty wide open at this time.

To find out more about how to participate in the home builds, visit <http://www.hpumc.org/carpenters> and click on "Build With Us." The site has all the information for signing up online, the work schedule, driving directions etc. We hope you will consider signing up for an 8:00-2:30 (when clean-up begins) workday, which includes lunch, because Habitat has shortened its work days. This makes the shorter, stand-alone PM shifts harder to fill. The options for separate AM and for PM shifts will continue to remain open while spots last. If you are part of a group with more than a dozen volunteers, please be in touch with me to see if we need to reserve your positions with a group number. If you have any questions about how to get involved, please contact Joe B. Fortson at 214-523-2297 or Brian Powell at [stickboy@stickboyproductions.biz](mailto:stickboy@stickboyproductions.biz).

# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

For many years, the United Methodist Church has been wrestling with the role and status of homosexual men and women, particularly with respect to issues of marriage and ordination. At present, our denomination affirms that all people are "of sacred worth," but declares that homosexual practice is "incompatible with Christian teaching." On that basis, the church does not ordain openly homosexual persons and forbids same-sex marriages by its ministers and in its churches. Efforts to change this status have fallen short over several general conferences. But especially with the legalization of same-sex marriages in 2015, the question presses itself upon us as never before.

To attempt a resolution of the ongoing conflict, the bishops of the United Methodist Church appointed a special task force to suggest solutions in what is termed A Way Forward. The work of this task force will be considered at a specially called general conference that will meet next February. To prepare and inform members of the congregation concerning the conference, the Rev. Dr. Ted Campbell kindly agreed to share an analysis he prepared for Lovers Lane UMC. A section of that analysis is reproduced, without alteration, below. More information and analysis will appear in future issues of the newsletter. If you are interested in obtaining Dr. Campbell's full analysis, please see Pastor Jeff.

## **What's Likely to Happen to the UMC in 2019-2020 and Beyond: Some Scenarios**

**Ted A. Campbell, Perkins School of Theology, SMU Aldersgate Day, 2017**

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has called a special general conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) to meet February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri, to deal with long-disputed issues about ordination of gay and lesbian people and clergy authorization to bless marriages or unions of gay and lesbian people. The Council of Bishops has also appointed a Task Force on a Way Forward to consider options for the UMC in dealing with these issues. They are working hard, but their task is a grave and difficult one. They need our prayers.

The Wesleyan and Methodist way of being Christian will survive beyond this conference, but many believe that this conference will be a decisive turning point in the life of the UMC that will lead to some forms of separation within the denomination or division into separate denominations resulting from the 2019 conference and then the regularly scheduled general conference to meet in the next year, 2020.

Although it's always dangerous for a historian to comment on the future, I'll try to assess some of the more likely scenarios for unity as well as separation based on our histories and on the current developments I'm aware of. In particular, I want to show that separation could take a number of forms, some more and some less dramatic.

What follows presupposes some knowledge of United Methodist life and history and polity (how the denomination works), but I invite lay as well as clergy United Methodists and others to join in creative thinking about the issues and the possibilities that face us now.

And I pray: Christ, have mercy on us.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## North Dallas Shared Ministries



Our NDSM need for the month of September is hearty canned soup or stew!

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 August, Cochran Kitchen:

- Served 72 guests 170 plates of food
- Distributed 52 Bags of Grace (non-perishable food items) to guests
- Provided showers for 9 guests
- Gave 42 guests bus passes
- Offered dozens of bags of hygiene products and items of clothing.
- Many Thanks to our volunteers!

Sudie Williams

Talented and Gifted Academy

On August 20, 2018, 190 students eagerly poured into the new Sudie L. Williams Talented and Gifted Academy. One of Dallas ISD's newest magnet schools, Sudie Williams now serves academically talented and gifted students in the fourth through sixth grades. With the new students come many new teachers and staff members, who serve under the energetic and visionary leadership of Principal Michael Jackson. The new student population brings a noticeable demographic change and with it a lessened need for school supplies for the students. Mr. Jackson notes, however, that the need to support and encourage teachers and staff remains the same. As our partner school in the One + One program of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, we have committed to supporting Sudie Williams in whatever way we can. Your financial gift enables the church to provide small monthly payday treats that are accompanied by notes of encouragement, birthday cards for each teacher, start- and end-of-year celebrations for the teachers, and special supplies that the teachers might need. Mr. Jackson reports that our support and interest have been invaluable to the school and that he and the faculty and staff are grateful for Cochran Chapel.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**Our Next Cochran Kitchen is September 26**

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 – SEPTEMBER 2018

Monday, September 3 – **LABOR DAY** – Church Office Closed

Tuesdays September 4,11,18,25 - **Brown Bag Lunch** – 12:30 PM; **KnitWits** – 1:00 – 3:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 4 – **Widowed Persons Service Board Meeting** – 2:00 PPM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26- **Bible Study Led By Rev. Hall** – 10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26 - **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00 PM

Thursday, September 6 – **North Dallas Early Learning PTA** – 9:00 AM – 12 Noon, Meaders Hall and Education Bldg

Sunday, September 9 – **Worship and Community Pot Luck Luncheon** – 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 18 – **Finance Committee Meeting** – 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall  
**Trustee Committee Meeting**, 6:45 PM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 26 – **Cochran Kitchen** – 5:30 PM Meaders Hall

Thursday, September 27 – **Reading Circle** – 2:00 PM, Fellowship Hall



September 6 Louise Smith

September 8 William Knight

September 9 Eveyln Goldman

September 11 Dawn Anders

September 19 McKaleb Stone - 14 years old

September 21 Julie Lowrey

September 22 Carnell Hall

September 28 David Sutcliffe

# FINAL THOUGHTS



## ANGELS AMONG US



### Many Thanks to:

- LaJuana Garrison and Fran Obar** for reorganizing the church's music library, including cataloging and filing over 800 titles' worth of choral music.
- Mark Wesley and Martin Wesley** for removing a large, dead tree from the creek bank and cleaning up that area.
- Louise Smith** for coordinating the care ministry that keeps up with ill and homebound members.
- Jim Caldwell and Neil Bickley** for the negotiations and legal work that led to passage of the proposed contract for the Preston Royal property.
- Robin Phelan** for providing analysis of the proposal and an evaluation of some of the church's investments.
- David Ricketts and Dick Kirby** for reinstalling the hanging rod in the closet for choir robes.
- Dirk Anders** for reviewing all of the leases held by the organizations who rent space from the church and preparing a resource document.
- Scott Foster and Beth Knight** for doing research related to obtaining a new photocopier for the church office.

### In Memory of Margaret Lake

We extend our sympathy to the family of Margaret Lake, who died on September 5.

In her short time at Cochran Chapel, Margaret started the Knit Wits knitting group, joined the Seekers Sunday school class, served faithfully at Cochran Kitchen, instigated and edited this newsletter, and showed leadership in numerous ways, large and small. We dedicate this edition of the Cochran Chronicle to Margaret's memory in gratitude for the life we shared together.

Please join us in celebrating her life

Saturday, September 8, 2018

1:00 PM

Cochran Chapel UMC Sanctuary

### 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 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. By reading the stories of couples in the Old Testament, we are discussing what it means to be God's covenant people.