

February
2009
Volume 31, Issue 2

COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The COKER COURIER

www.coker.org

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Growing Beyond Today moves forward

The newly elected lay leadership of Coker UMC met for a training session on Saturday, January 10, facilitated by Mary Flanagan. The purpose for the day was to discern **“What must we do to assure effective, dynamic and accountable lay leadership for Coker United Methodist Church in the coming year?”** The members of the new Church Council started the day singing “Here I Am, Lord” and receiving Holy Communion.



The previous **Growing Beyond Today** goals were reviewed and reaffirmed or modified. **Goals for 2009** are:

1. Celebrate and capitalize on our strengths as we recommit ourselves to discipleship through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.
2. Enhance prayer life, worship opportunities & music ministries.
3. Build up small group ministries with emphasis on families, children & young people.
4. Expand and enhance mission outreach (locally & beyond) with every member in mission.
5. Continue to develop and communicate health & wellness ministries for the congregation & community and explore a partnership with Methodist Healthcare Ministries.
6. Intentionally reach out, increase Coker UMC's visibility, and strengthen communications to offer Christ to all.
7. Inspire all work area committees to embrace our vision, to effectively implement the new Church lay leadership structure, to set relevant and meaningful goals, and to implement work plans that help us to grow beyond today.



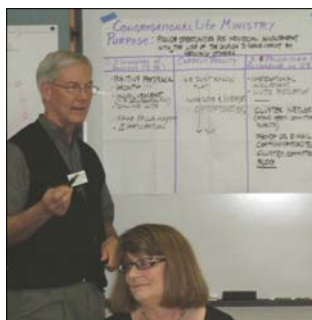
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Growing Beyond Today continued

Continued from page 1

The five ministry clusters established as part of the reorganization adopted at the annual Church Conference met to build consensus on the purpose of each ministry cluster.

- **Administrative Ministry Cluster:** As a team, enable the ministries of Coker UMC to function effectively through the support of means, people, infrastructure, and resources.
- **Outreach Ministry Cluster:** Coordinate our efforts to reach out to all of God's people with love.
- **Worship Ministry Cluster:** To create individual and/or group opportunities for sacred experiences in which people are drawn closer to God and others.
- **Education Ministry Cluster:** Create a Christ-centered environment to promote and facilitate the education and spiritual growth of all members of the church community, ensuring that people of all age groups, phases, and ability levels have appropriate activities/ programs to serve their needs.



- **Congregational Life Ministry Cluster:** Provide opportunities for individual involvement within the life of the Church to serve Christ by serving others.

What will it take to function effectively? Commitment, focus, follow through, patience, God, discernment of what to leave undone, prioritizing, "KISS", courage to act, willingness to "front load," creativity, excellent communication, communicating the vision, prayer and obedience, trust, willingness to take the long view, flexibility, broadened perspective, everybody buy in, respect the past and focus on the future.

God has blessed us. The time is now. We are ready

Can We Talk?

by Pat Taylor, Stewardship Chair

It is conventional wisdom that one should not talk about religion, money, or sex. Can we talk about two out of three - money and religion? If you have already made a financial pledge to Coker UMC, **thank you**. So far, your pledge along with others' has brought Coker's pledged income for 2009 to 97% of what was pledged last year.

Pledging makes a difference to the church. Even more important, pledging makes a difference to those who pledge. **Pledging puts God first** in your personal finances. Your financial pledge to Coker UMC is an estimate of your contributions for 2009. It is a leap of faith. It is not like signing a mortgage. It indicates your good faith intent to give to God's work through Coker UMC. There are no penalties or foreclosures. It can be adjusted at any time. Those who pledge report great blessings in their lives.

Your financial pledge supports Coker's growing ministries, vital outreach and on-going operations. There are many more ministry requests than the currently projected income can fully support. **Your generous support can make a difference.**

Here are the facts:

- For the 2009 budget, 506 pledges have been received from 1247 households.
- 40% of the households who are members or regularly attend Coker make a financial pledge to support the church.
- Pledged income amounts to 78% of the total income of Coker.
- The average pledge is \$3486 per year.
- This year, 77% of those who pledged kept their same pledge, increased it, or made a new pledge. 9% decreased their pledge. 14% who pledged for the 2008 budget have not yet made a pledge for Coker's 2009 budget.
- As United Methodists, every time we receive a member, we reaffirm our own membership vows. "As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT)

If you have not already done so, **it is not too late** to make a financial pledge to God's work through Coker UMC. If you have already pledged, **thank you!**

COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

231 E. North Loop Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78216-1896
(210) 494-3455

FAX: 494-8537 www.coker.org
DIAL-A-PRAYER: 979-2654

Coker Day School: 494-5061
Mother's Day Out: 494-4481

Ministers

Senior Pastor

Pastor Barbara R. Galloway
(on leave Dec. 1, 2008-March, 2009)

Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jim Mayfield
ext. 242

Associate Pastors

Rev. Sharon Stewart, ext. 226

Rev. Dave Felps, ext. 224

Rev. Dr. Roy Taylor, ext. 238

Minister of Music & Arts

Rev. Dave Collett, ext. 239

Program & Support Staff

Director of Adult Education & Fellowship

Gail Hatcher, ext. 230

Director of Children's Ministries

Cheryl Kendall, ext. 227

Director of Student Ministries

Mary Anne Waldrip, ext. 269

Church Business Administrator

Jodie Sell, ext. 231

Admin. Asst. / Campus Coordinator

Sheri Halford, ext. 262

Pastors' Secretary

Sue Osborn, ext. 261

Membership Coordinator

Donna Emery, ext. 232

Communications Coordinator

Betty Sheaffer, ext. 233

Media Director

Jason Roe, 380-2423

Financial Administrator

Janice Gentry, ext. 222

Nursery Supervisor

Lynn Fitch, ext. 245

For Children

1st Friday Kids' Klub

Come discover the good in everyone!



February 6 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Kinder - 5th grade Cost \$5/child

Drop off in the Gym; pick up in the Upper Room of the John Gibbs building.

Sign up on Sundays at the Children's Welcome Table or call Children's Ministries.

1st Friday Kiddie Co-Op

February 6 6:00 – 9:00 pm
6 months - 5 years
Cost ... parents, you volunteer your time for an upcoming 1st Friday night

Sign up early...limit of 10 for 6 months-2 years; limit of 10 for 3 years; limit of 20 for 4 & 5 years
You must register your child by Monday, Feb. 2; there will not be any drop-ins!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Silent Auction

February 24 6:00 - 7:30 pm
\$3 per person (3 and under free)

Proceeds from the supper and auction will benefit Heifer Project International, the 5th grade Mission Project.



What is Shrove Tuesday?

Preparation for Lent begins on Shrove Tuesday. The name "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the custom of ringing the "shriving bell" to summon people to church to be "shriven," that is, to confess their sins at the beginning of Lent.

Certain foods were given up for the duration of Lent. Those foods included eggs, milk, meat, and rich buttery dishes. On Shrove Tuesday, families ate up all the rich foods left in their pantries. One way to use up the eggs, milk and fats was to add flour to make pancakes. We eat pancakes together as a church family on Shrove Tuesday at Coker.



Registration begins in February for the 2009-2010 school year at Coker Day School. Call Judy Garrett at 494-5061 for specific registration dates and information on the Day School program. We offer a happy first departure from home, a secure, anxiety-free atmosphere, and an academically sound readiness program. Admittance is offered to Preschool and Kindergarten classes (3s, 4s, and 5s) based on the child's age as of September 1, 2009. We'd love for you to visit!



Wednesday Night Bible Adventure

6:30 – 7:30 pm...Upstairs
Rector every week
Kinder – 5th grade

Ever wanted to be a spy with a spy glass and all?
Come to Bible study and help us search for clues and discover Jesus.



Parents...



Sunday School this month ...

- **2 year olds** will continue to learn that Jesus loves them.
- **3 year olds – kinder** will hear the stories of The Sower, The Shape of Lent, The Leaven and Jesus and Zacchaeus.
- **1st-5th grades** will explore the Lord's Prayer.



Mark your calendar ...



- **Children's 2009 Summer Camps at Mount Wesley**
There are 2 dates offered this year for each age group.
- Entering 3rd - 4th grades ...
June 14-17 & July 12-15
- Entering 5th - 6th grades ...
June 21-25 & July 19-23

HeBrews Coffee Hour

Head on over to The HeBrews Coffee Shop to join other parents of young children! Join us for some coffee, visit with other parents, & pick up some new ideas.

Different topic each month.

Wednesday, February 25
9-10 am in Wesley 801

No fee, No fuss - Just a lot of fun!
Childcare available in Wesley 701

*Annie Viers, a Marriage and Family Therapist and member of Coker, will be on hand to answer parenting questions and share a great cup of coffee!

Sponsored by Day School & Mother's Day Out

For Adults



United Methodist Women

Meetings

- **JOY** - Tue., Feb. 3 at 9:30 am in Wesley 802
- **Sharing & Caring** - Tue., Feb. 3 at 10:00 am in Wesley 703
- **Executive Board** - Thu., Feb. 5 at 12:00 noon in Wesley 802
- **Monthly Gathering** - Tue., Feb. 10 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary (see information below)
- **Faith & Hope** - Tue., Feb. 10 at 6:30 pm in Wesley 802
- **Quilters** - Thu., Feb. 12 & 26 at 1:00 pm in Wesley 805
- **Reflections** - Thu., Feb. 19 at 9:30 am at the home of Ellen Alkire, 217 Fleetwood, 496-9615

Have you seen the Women's Ministries' page on the Coker web site? www.coker.org



SAF & CALLL in February



Wednesday, February 4, 11, & 18 ... 10:00-11:00 am in Wesley 703

We continue our History Channel study of "Moses and The 10 Commandments."

Thursday, February 5 ... 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Wesley 703

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP meets for their monthly Pot Luck Lunch. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a program by Mary Roberson, "Infatuation, Marriage, and Memories."

Sunday, February 15 ... 12:30 - 4:00 pm

Join CALLL for a tour at the Jewish Community Center on Wurzbach and NW Military. A display, "Anne Frank, A History for Today," from New York as well as the Holocaust Museum will be open for our enlightenment. There is no fee. Because of their schedule and our bus schedule, we will be car-pooling from the lower parking lot. Lunch, on your own, will be at Grady's BBQ. Our tour begins at 2:00 pm.

Friday, February 27 ... 10:00 am - 1:00 pm in Wesley 703

CALLL's Brown Bag Lunch/Games Day. Bring your lunch. Decaf coffee and water will be provided. We have a variety of games or bring your favorite. Sign up is not required.

You MUST make a reservation to go on tours or trips. Stop by the CALLL table on Sundays or call Margaret Griffin at 341-4080.

SAF-Senior Adult Fellowship

CALLL-Coker Adult Life-Long Learning

You are invited to ...

UMW Monthly Gathering MOTHER'S DAY OUT MUSICAL



Tuesday, February 10, 2009
10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Hostess Circle - J.O.Y.
Childcare available by reservation
494-3455, ext. 245



RENOVARÉ

•International Conference
June 21-24, 2009

Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio

THE JESUS WAY

recovering the lost content of
discipleship

featuring Eugene Peterson, Richard J. Foster, and others

Early Registration Feb. 2-May 15; forms are available in the church office or at www.renovare.org/2009ic.htm.



Road Cleanup

Spruce Up Day
Saturday,
February 21

Begins at
8:00 am

Bring your gloves and come help!
Primary emphasis will be trash pick-up on North Loop Road.

Coker Cookbook corrections:

- Page 37 - Orange Sherbet Jello Salad, add 1 pint orange sherbet to ingredient list
- Page 105 - Tomato & Beef, add 5 teaspoons sugar to ingredient list
- Page 182 - Chocolate Marshmallow Pie, 1st ingredient should be 2 cups miniature marshmallows

Spring Softball

Coker is forming a co-ed team and a men's team to play in a recreational softball league starting in March. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jason Roe at 380-2423 or jason.roe@coker.org. Both teams are open to anyone ages 16 and up. Come play!



Promoting Men's Ministry at Coker

Upcoming February Events and Opportunities

- Every Monday in February - UMM breakfast and Bible study; 6:30 am in Wesley 703/704. Tom Ellis at 490-5128 or tellsaia@aol.com
- Sundays - "Wild at Heart" study, 7:00 pm in Wesley 802. Mike Porter at 452-1770 or MikePorter@clearchannel.com or Joe Garza at joetrout1@yahoo.com
- Sunday, February 15 - Golf with the Guys at Silverhorn Golf Course; 12:30 pm. Tommy Waldrip at tommy@flatrockadvisors.com

•Wednesday, February 18 - Lunch with the Guys; 11:30 am at Luby's on 281 & Bitters. Ed Von Dran at 930-2834 or evondran@atei97.com

•Saturday, February 28 - Angel Food Ministries. Jack Collins at 408-1677 or [collins jack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:collinsjack@sbcglobal.net)

Reaching out ...

February Mission Moment

Summer Youth Mission Trips 2009

As a body of Christ we are called to live for Christ. That calling comes in living for His name, His purpose, and His glory. The mission trips that the youth go on every summer provide opportunities to live out this calling. Through service in the form of construction, working at food banks, serving children at community centers, and many other opportunities, the youth and adult sponsors work side by side as Christ's hands and feet.

Every year an opportunity to be a part of this trip through financial support is offered to the congregation. This month's mission moment will highlight the 2009 summer youth mission trips. The youth will also be sending personal letters in early February explaining why they go on mission trips and how God has worked through them on these trips.

This year the high school will be serving in New Orleans, and the middle school will be serving in Corpus Christi. Your prayers and/or financial support is very much appreciated.



Local Non-Profit Needs Volunteers

Our House San Antonio (*Our House*) needs volunteers to help run its weekly programs. *Our House* is a non-profit organization that provides a supportive place in which adults who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness can rediscover their self-respect, dignity, and abilities through the opportunity to perform productive work, to belong, and to develop meaningful relationships. *Our House* is located at 1530 N. Alamo behind the Pig Stand Restaurant. The organization is one of more than four hundred similar programs worldwide, based on the principle that meaningful work is critical in bringing positive change to the lives of those living with mental illness. *Our House* is not a residential center or a treatment facility and those who participate in our programs are considered "members" rather than patients or clients. The Missions Committee included Our House San Antonio (*Our House*) as one of the benefactors of Alternative Gift Market in December.

Our House needs people to volunteer to continue their daily programs. Volunteers can choose the day(s) they would like to volunteer and the program areas in which they would like to serve. The work is very rewarding as *Our House* members need to know they are loved and that people care for them. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents and would like to tour the *Our House* facility, please call Beth Smith at 731-9177 or 861-3959. Also visit the *Our House* website at www.ourhousesa.org.



Mission Opportunity (Free, except for your time!)

Carl and Marge Coppock are going to Luling to work on the P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transport) project on Feb. 2 & 16 and on March 16 & 30. For anyone interested in going, call Carl at 497-6346. A small group leaves from the HEB parking lot at 1604 and 281 at 8:00 am and returns around 3:00 pm. For information about this worthwhile charity, and mission opportunity, visit www.giftofmobility.org



Sign up on the Wesley porch between services on Sundays, Feb. 8 & 14

Distribution - Saturday, Feb. 28...8:30-10 am



Announcing Piedras Negras Mission Trips in 2009 - February 20-22; May 1-3; October 16-18.

Make plans to participate in the February mission trip. We will be working at the House of Mercy Orphanage, Casa Bethesda Orphanage, and the Alleluia UMC school. Cost is \$100/person. There will be some construction projects, but the primary purpose is to extend God's love to the children. For more information, contact Gary Reaves (494-0454) or Cathie Buxie (494-

0169) (email cebuxie@yahoo.com).

An **INFORMATIONAL MEETING** for the February trip will be on Sunday, February 1 at 12:30 pm in Wesley 804. Applications will be provided, and payment of \$100 trip fee can be made. No RSVP necessary.

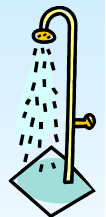
Aren't there times when a shower really feels good? If you're homeless, your personal care is often neglected because you don't have soap, shampoo, a razor, a toothbrush or toothpaste.

The Koinonia Sunday School class offers a mission opportunity for all of us to help the SAMP Shelter provide personal care items for their clients.

If you have been traveling over the holidays and collected any of those little bottles of shampoo and bars of soap, they are exactly what the SAMP Shelter needs.

Please remember Undie Sundays in June when you come across sales. Underwear will be collected every Sunday in June. The class is also collecting children's books for a library in Guyana. Books may be brought to the Koinonia classroom any Sunday.

Drop your donated items in the basket outside Wesley 802.



Thank you, Joan and Peggy!

When you look in the dictionary to define “servant leader,” you’ll find the picture of Joan Mitchell and Peggy Huntsman. For TWENTY+ YEARS they have worked behind the scenes to manage the church’s choral library and organize the Chancel Choir music folders on a weekly basis. This represents a gift of tens of thousands of volunteer hours to the church over the years. Joan and Peggy are passing the baton of choir librarian on to others, and we celebrate these two giving individuals on their retirement. The Chancel Choir will be honoring them at a choir gathering this month.

Alto Terry Ryan has assumed the responsibility of choir librarian.



Scout Sunday is February 8

On Scout Sunday, Troop 285 will be celebrating its 55th Anniversary. The troop will be conducting its 10th Expedition in the Big Bend region this Spring Break. The trip will include a 13-mile hike to the South Rim, historical stops at Langtry, Fort Leaton, and Fort Davis, plus the highlight of climbing Guadalupe Peak (8,749'). In addition to Summer Camp at Lost Pines and Camp Wehinahpay, the troop will conduct another Expedition at Philmont Scout Ranch this summer.

What is Lent?

It is forty days of stripping down to the living essentials;
It is forty days of facing truth about one’s self-indulgent evasions;
It is forty days of fellowshipping with Christ in the desert;
It is forty days of rejoicing in God’s mercy and forgiveness.



Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent commemorates Jesus’ fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord’s forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

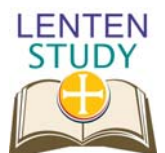
From *The NEWSLETTER Newsletter*, February, 2009

2009 Lenten Studies

Wednesdays, March 4 - April 8

We will be offering Lenten Studies at two different times:

- * 10:00-11:00 am in Wesley 703/704
- * 6:30-7:30 pm in Wesley 804



The study book has not yet been determined.
Daytime class will be led by Rich Simmons.
Evening class will be led by Rev. Becky Hamann.

Considering Others

Special Need Parking! Do You Really Want to Qualify?

by Vicki Hester



One Sunday after church, a friend offered me a ride to lunch. When we reached her car, parked in the “Special Need” area, I asked about her infirmity. She replied: “It’s cold; I was late, and there are so many spaces!” I gently pointed out the full “special need” parking lot; then told her that my rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia really kick in during cold and rainy weather. I have particular trouble parking in “special need” when I need it. After some discussion, I learned that she parked in this special lot only during miserable weather and only a few times a year.

I’m no math major, but I do understand this: if only half of the 1,000 active/healthy Coker members use these spaces several times each year during bad weather, well, those in need lose out.

While I can usually find a spot if I come early, twice last year I came during cold, rainy weather—too stiff to park in the lower section, and the golf carts were not running. So, I went home and watched “church TV.” (At least I was well dressed.)

Recently, I’ve heard similar stories of people driving home without getting out of their cars because they could not get a “special need” space. Plainly put, when people use these spots for convenience, others may not be able to go to church.

Message: Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Home Before Church

Knitting, Crocheting, and Blessing HANDS

As I knit a prayer shawl, God is here. He is the great I AM, and He is present in each stitch and every prayer for the one who will receive the shawl. I have also received a shawl for comfort. In my sadness, God wrapped me in His love through the love of the one who made the shawl – warm, comforting, soft, peaceful, blessed.

Do you know someone who needs to feel the warmth and comfort of a prayer shawl? We have just blessed 52 shawls made by the loving hands in this Coker ministry. Some will go to BAMC to comfort soldiers and their families, and some will go to Guyana. But many will remain here at Coker for you to give. You do not have to be a Coker member to give or receive a prayer shawl. Please come by the church office in the Rector building, and you may choose a shawl to share.



Memorials given from December 13, 2008 to January 14, 2009 in memory of

Bill Rogers (Joan Brannon’s brother)—Charlotte Logan

David Campbell (Beau Campbell’s brother)—Jim & Lynn Hurt, Charles & Cathy Johnson

David Parker (Nancy Corbitt’s brother)—Jim & June Schultz, Bob & Jerry Lou Scott

George Cosbohn—Charlotte Logan, Bob & Jerry Lou Scott, Reflections Circle

Harry A. Miller—Rose Miller

Hazel Stephens (Beth Hilburn’s mother)—Jim & Lynn Hurt, Charles & Cathy Johnson, Barbara Perdue, Kambi Deuel

Jackie Adams (Chris Christian’s sister)—Betty Ann Janert

Margaret Cobb—Richard & Judy Garrett, Norman Fournier & Cora Nell, Skip, Norma, Andrew & Gary, Ertis Rothschnitt, Betty Ann Janert

Mary Elizabeth Simmons (Rich Simmons’ mother)—Kambi Deuel

Ruth Cole (Margaret Griffin’s sister)—Bob & Jerry Lou Scott



Of Special Interest ...

From Northeast Counseling Ministry ...

5 Love Languages

By "speaking" these five languages of love to your spouse, children or any other significant person, you can help strengthen that relationship.

1. **Physical touch:** kisses, hugs, high fives, back rubs, wrestling, touch to the arm...
2. **Words of affirmation:** words of affection, encouragement, praise, positive guidance...
3. **Quality time:** quality time & conversations, undivided attention, eye contact...
4. **Gifts:** undeserved gift, present as expression of love, something meaningful...
5. **Acts of service:** freely & lovingly providing/helping... "give one's energy to others..."



To learn more about the 5 Love Languages and how to build a stronger relationship we **highly** recommend these books:

"The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman

"The Five Love Languages of Children" by Gary Chapman & Ross Campbell, M.D.

"The Five Love Languages of Teenagers" by Gary Chapman

For more information about our counseling services call:

Annie Viers, M.A., LMFT, LPC
210-490-4419

Celeste Inman, M.Ed., LPC
www.necministry.org

SAMMinistries and Methodist Healthcare Ministries invite you to an Educational Workshop that will increase your knowledge about the Culture of Poverty.

Guest Speaker: Bill Ehlig, Co-author of What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty



Date: February 28, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Place: University of Incarnate Word, Rosenberg Sky Room
(The McCombs Building at the corner of US-281 and Hildebrand)

**"To be effective, you have to know what poverty does to human beings.
What have they experienced? What are their real needs?"**

This event is free of charge and includes lunch & a copy of the book.

To register online please visit <http://www.samm.org/events/> or call DeeDee Lee at 210-979-6188, 8:00am-4:00pm Mon-Fri.

Information and Help about Digital TV Switch on February 17

If you have cable or satellite TV, the switch won't affect you at all. But if you use an outdoor antenna or "rabbit ears," you won't receive a signal after February 17, 2009. On that date, all television broadcast stations will convert from an analog signal to a digital signal. Your regular antenna won't work anymore without a converter box that makes the signal compatible with your television.

Converter boxes can be purchased at most places where electronics are sold, such as Best Buy, Circuit City, KMart, RadioShack, Sears, Target and Wal-Mart. Converter boxes generally cost \$40-70, but two \$40 coupons can be obtained from the government in one of three ways: by applying online at www.dtv2009.gov; calling 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009); or mailing an application to P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000. Coupons hold no cash value and cannot be sold or used to purchase items other than government-approved TV converter boxes. The deadline to request coupons is March 31. They expire 90 days after the date they were mailed.



FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

A Day of Discovery with
BISHOP ROBERT SCHNASE

Hosted by University United Methodist Church -
5084 DeZavala Road

February 21, 2009
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Full of theological insight, practical advice, and inspiring stories, this discovery event helps congregations become more effective in their ministry by repeating, deepening, and improving on **THE FIVE PRACTICES: Radical Hospitality; Passionate Worship; Intentional Faith Development; Risk-taking Mission and Service; and Extravagant Generosity**

There is no fee for this event, but registration is required. More information is available in the church office or on the Southwest Texas Conference website at www.umcswtx.org.

Worship

Saturday, January 31
Communion
 5:00 pm in Coker Chapel

Sunday, February 1
4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Communion

8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

Celebrate! 11:00 am in the Upper Room

NO Children's Church

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Saturday, February 7
 5:00 pm in Coker Chapel

Sunday, February 8
5th Sunday after the Epiphany
Boy Scout Sunday

8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

Celebrate! 11:00 am in the Upper Room

11:00 am - Children's Church

6:00 pm in the Sanctuary
 Emmaus-Led Worship

Saturday, February 14
 5:00 pm in Coker Chapel

Sunday, February 15
6th Sunday after the Epiphany

8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

Celebrate! 11:00 am in the Upper Room

11:00 am - Children's Church

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Saturday, February 21
 5:00 pm in Coker Chapel

Sunday, February 22
Last Sunday after the Epiphany

8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

Celebrate! 11:00 am in the Upper Room

11:00 am - Children's Church

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Weekday Communion

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Chapel
 (Not on Ash Wednesday, February 25)

January Prayer Focus

*Let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence.
 Let them be filled with joy.*
 Psalms 68:3

Monday

May I share my joy, O lord, with others to bring joy and laughter to their day.

Tuesday

O God, please give me a pure and cheerful heart as I work for you.

Wednesday

Dear Father, thank you for the happiness I feel when I'm in your presence.

Thursday

Loving God, thank you for the joyous gift of loving others and being loved in return.

Friday

Creator God, thank you for the joy I experience when surrounded by the beauty of your nature.

Saturday

Lord, your abiding love fills me with joy.

Sunday

Thank you, God, for the gift of joyful singing. Lift my spirits in song.

DIAL-A-PRAYER: 979-2654

Hear a new prayer of comfort and encouragement each day of the week.

Prayer Room in Sanctuary's Narthex open daily



Healing Service
 Monday, February 2,
 7:00 pm
 Historic Coker Chapel

Come ... watch ... sing ...
 be silent or participate ...
 pray ... be still and know ...
 share the sacrament of
 Holy Communion ...
 invite a friend ...
 pray for others ...
 witness and share
 the compassion of Christ.

Healing & Wholeness Ministry

Lent begins



February 25
7:00 am & 7:00 pm
Worship and Ashes
In Sanctuary

In Ash Wednesday services, churchgoers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality. The use of ashes, made by burning palm branches from previous Palm Sundays, is an ancient tradition and very symbolic.

Mark your calendar and join the Coker Emmaus Community on

SUNDAY, February 8, 2009



Emmaus Gathering ... 5:30 pm in Wesley 704

Emmaus-led Worship ... 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Fourth Day Speaker - Robyn Hensley will share her spiritual journey in creating the "Ezekiel Quilt."

Music led by the Northern Hills UMC praise band
 A brief meeting and Communion led by Pastor Sharon Stewart

Childcare is available in Wesley Hall.

ALL ARE WELCOME. YOU WILL BE BLESSED.

You do not have to have been on a Walk to Emmaus or Chrysalis Flight to participate.

Each Week:

SUNDAY

- 7:00-9:30 am - Breakfast
- 7:40 am - Agape Singers
- Worship - 8:15, 9:30 & 11 am in the Sanctuary; Celebrate! at 11 am in the Upper Room
- 8:15 am - Men's Breakfast Club
- 9:30 am - Catch the Spirit Membership Class
- 9:30 am - Sunday School for all
- 11 am - Children's Church (Not on 1st Sunday)
- 11 am - Prayer Group
- 4:30 pm - Sing For Christ Youth Choir
- 5:30 pm - Youth Dinner
- 6 pm - CSM Confirmation
- 6 pm - Middle & High School CSM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY

- 6:30 am - UMM Breakfast & Study
- 9 am - Co-ed Exercise

TUESDAY

- 6:30 pm - Rhythms of Praise
- 7 pm - Families of AA Group

WEDNESDAY

- 9 am - Co-ed Exercise
- Mid-Week Manna (not on Feb. 25)
- 5:00-6:30 pm - Dinner
- 5:30 pm - Coker Young Musicians
- 5:30 pm - Coker Children's Ensemble
- 6:00 pm - Worship in Chapel
- 6:30 pm - Kids' Bible Adventure
- 6:30 pm/7:00 pm - Classes for Adults
- 7:00 pm - CSM Youth Bible Studies
- 7 pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10 am - Hearts in Tune
- 6 pm - S-Anon Group (12-step program for families of sex addicts)
- 6 pm - Festival Bells Jubilee
- 7 pm - Celebrate! music rehearsal
- 7 pm - Al-Anon Group
- 7 pm - Moving Spirit Dancers rehearsal

FRIDAY

- 9 am - Co-ed Exercise
- 5 pm - Overeaters Anonymous Group

SATURDAY

- 10 am - Parents of Adult Children with Addictions group
- 5 pm - Worship Service

CSM - Catalyst Student Ministries

Please note that committee meetings are listed in the Sunday Connection calendar.

February 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Communion •12:15 pm-Freed Up Financial Living Orientation 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •7:00 pm-Healing Service in Chapel 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •6:30 pm-Down Syndrome Support 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mid-Week Manna 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •11:30 am-Senior Adult Fellowship 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •6:00 pm-Freed Up Financial Living Seminar •1st Friday Kids' Klub •1st Friday Kiddie Co-Op 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •9:00 am-Freed Up Financial Living Seminar
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mission Moment •Blood Drive •Angel Food sign up •5:00 pm-Emmaus Gathering •6:00 pm-Emmaus-Led Worship 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •10 am-UMW Monthly Gathering—Children's Music Program 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mid-Week Manna 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •8:00 am-CALLL outing <p>Pray for the mission trip to Guyana Feb. 12-21</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>High School Mid-Winter at Mt. Wesley Friday-Monday</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Angel Food sign up 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mid-Week Manna 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Mission Trip to Piedras Negras, Mexico Friday-Sunday</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Orchestra in 9:30 & 11:00 am worship 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •6:00 pm-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Silent Auction 	<p>25</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •7:00 am & 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship •NO Mid-Week Manna dinner or studies 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •10:00 am-CALLL Brown Bag Lunch/ Games Day 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •8:30-10 am-Angel Food Distribution 

Joys

Congratulations

- Carlton & Kristen Martindale on the baptism of Caden Saul, 12/17
- Brannon & Margaret Andrea Harris on the baptism of Sawyer Hayes, 12/28
- Michael & Amy McCabe on the baptism of William Michael, 12/28
- Clyde & Janie Tew on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophie Jane Noblin, 12/31
- Gregory Banks on his safe return from serving our country abroad

Thank You

- From Brad Cozens - Thank you to the youth who came by caroling. It was great to see young people coming out to visit old folks when they could have been having fun with their age kids.
- From Priscilla & David Freiburger - Coker members once again shared the Christmas spirit in grand style by providing hundreds of Christmas stockings to the Salvation Army's Christmas Stocking program. Thanks to each of you for continuing to support this important mission.

We want your news!

Deadline for articles for the MARCH Courier is **FEBRUARY 15**. Contact Betty Sheaffer at 494-3455, ext. 233 or e-mail betty.sheaffer@coker.org.



Sunday, February 8
7:30 am-1:00 pm
Mobile Unit in the parking lot

Gifts...as of Dec. 31, 2008

	2008	2007
Income	\$ 2,417,342	\$ 2,485,467
Expenses	- 2,399,882	- 2,316,374
Balance	\$ 17,460	\$ 169,093

Mission Moment

Wesley @ Columbia Heights - \$3,301
Christ Child Offering - \$40,235
(goal-\$45,000)

Church Office open
Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
494-3455

Emergencies after hours or on weekends:

- Pastor Sharon Stewart ... 507-2840
- Pastor Dave Felps ... 262-8465
- Pastor Roy Taylor ... 830-981-5747
- Rev. Dave Collett ... 493-1047

RECYCLE!

Recycling benefits both the environment and your church. Our two paper recycle bins are in the parking lot near the Annex. Remember - no cardboard. We earned \$530 in 2008.



www.coker.org

Presence

December 20 & 21

Worship-975 Sunday School-484

Christmas Eve - December 24

Worship-1,961

December 27 & 28

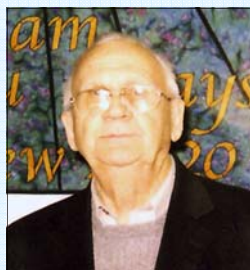
Worship-484 Sunday School-333

January 3 & 4

Worship-855 Sunday School-500

Sympathy

- Ed Ladendorff & family on the death of his sister, 12/19
- Larry Garrett & family on the death of his aunt, Nona Spradling, 12/20
- Joan Brannon & family on the death of her brother, Bill Rogers, 12/23
- Family of Carol Schafer, former member, upon her death 12/28
- Virginia Shearer & family on the death of her son-in-law, Chris Malik, 12/29
- Art Tyler & family on the death of his uncle, Bob Jones, 12/30
- Lila Cotton & family on the death of her sister, Beatrice Ries, 1/3
- Art Tyler & family on the death of his aunt, Sarah Wood, 1/3
- Ed Harding & family on the death of his brother, Jack Harding, 1/7
- Chris Christian & family on the death of her sister, Jackie Adams
- Mary Rutan & family on the death of her husband, Bill Rutan, 1/11
- Bob & Barbara Baker, former Coker members, on the death of their son, Gale Devin Newkirk, 1/13
- Laura Pettit & family on the death of her father, Howard Findley, 1/20
- John Angel & family on the death of his sister, Vernena Reed



Joe Glavan



Betty & Bob King



Patricia & Philip King Robert



Wednesday Night Bible Study

6:45-8:00 pm John Gibbs Building

Why would I want to be a part of a small group Bible study on Wednesday night? Many people would argue that small groups are the "life" of the church. In a large church like Coker, getting connected in a small setting helps to feel connected to the life of the church. The small group Bible study setting provides a great opportunity for students to get to know one another, to get to know their leaders and get a better understanding for the Word of God. Small group studies also provide the opportunity for accountability in your life, a more comfortable setting, and more opportunity for open discussion.

Our small group Bible study offerings for the spring semester are:



- **Middle School boys' and girls' group** - "Chew on this," a guided meditation along with scripture to help students learn to use their imagination in their spiritual lives.
- **High School girls' groups** - a study on the Book of Ruth.
- **High School guys' groups** - "Every Young Man's Battle" deals with the issue of purity in a young man's life. It shines a light on daily issues that adolescents go through and teaches them what the Bible says about how to be a man of God.

2009 Summer Mission Trip Information

Registration in progress ... \$100 deposit - forms on the student ministry tables in the John Gibbs Building

Middle School – Corpus Christi

June 21-26
\$275



High School - New Orleans

July 5-12
\$425



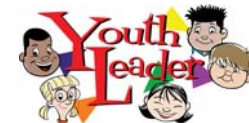
Mission Stock Fundraiser

Sunday, February 8

- 5:30 pm - Dinner \$3
- 6:00 pm – Stuff and address envelopes with personal letters from youth going on the mission trip

If you have not received an information letter about this fundraiser, call the student ministry office or pick up the information at the student ministry table in the lobby of the John Gibbs Building.

Would you like to become a better student leader? Do you think you have leadership skills but don't know for sure? **A free youth leadership training event will be held Friday, April 3 (evening) through Saturday, April 4 (evening).** This is a free workshop for any youth, 6th-12th grades, that would like to grow in the area of leadership. Mark your calendar and watch your mail for more information.



Sunday Night CSM

5:30 pm - Dinner \$3
6:00-7:30 pm - Youth Group

CONFIRMATION Dive In

February 1.....No Class-Super Bowl Sunday
February 8.....Who is Jesus and What Did He Do?
(confirmands going on mission trip will bring personal letters for the mission trip meeting)
February 15.....Who is the Holy Spirit?
February 22.....What is Sin?

Wednesday, February 25...Attend Ash Wednesday Service-7:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL

February 1.....Super Bowl Party at Kirbo home
February 8.....Mission Trip Fundraiser
February 15.....Becoming a Person of God
February 22.....Becoming a Person of God

HIGH SCHOOL

February 1.....Super Bowl Party at Kirbo home
February 8.....Mission Trip Fundraiser
February 15.....Midwinter Retreat-no high school meeting
February 22.....Accountability: what is it & why do we need it