

September
2009
Volume 31, Issue 9

COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The COKER COURIER

www.coker.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

Career Help Program
Columbarium Survey
page 2

For Children
page 3

For Adults
page 4

Reaching Out
page 5

Music Notes
page 6

Health & Wellness
page 7

Stewardship
page 8

Neighborhood Connections
Be Prepared
page 9

Recovery Month
Memorials
page 10

Worship & Prayer
Labyrinth & Emmaus
page 11

September Calendar
page 12

Church Life
New Members
page 13

Student Ministries
page 14

Wednesdays in September

Mid-Week Manna

begins Wednesday, September 9

- 5:00-6:30 pm.....Dinner in Gym, reservations requested
Adults-\$4.00 Children-\$2.00

Reservations are requested by 11:00 am the Tuesday before the dinner. Please place the yellow reservation form in the jar in the Gazebo on Sunday mornings, in the offering plate, or in Gail Hatcher's mail box. Phone reservations have the same deadline. Each week the cooks prepare a few extra meals which will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payment for meals will be made at the door.

September 9 Menu: Chicken Tenders, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Salad & Dessert

- 6:30 - 7:30 pmWorship in Coker Chapel

Mid-Week Manna worship this year will be a complete, but very informal worship service. Music, prayer, and communion will be offered, and the "preaching" section will be discussion of the text led by Pastor Barbara Galloway. The full service will be offered simultaneously with the other Mid-Week Manna course offerings, and will begin at 6:30 in the Coker Chapel. Come join us as we praise the Lord!

- 6:30 - 7:30 pmKids' Bible Adventure
- 6:30 - 7:30 pmAdult Studies:
Beginning September 9Unplug the Christmas Machine;
What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty;
Beginning September 16Divorce Care
- 7:00 - 8:00 pmMiddle School & High School Bible Studies
- 7:00 - 8:30 pm.....Chancel Choir Rehearsal

- September 2 ... Study of Job begins; 3:30 pm in Wesley 806
- September 9 ... To Live is Christ by Beth Moore begins; 9:30-11:30 am or 12:30-2:30 pm in Upstairs Wesley
- September 9... Movie in Upper Room - Young at Heart - 10:00 am, followed by a Hot Dog Lunch in the Gym (see details on page 4)
- September 16 ... Seizing the Moments by James Moore begins; 10:00-11:00 am in Wesley 703

Coker's Career Help Program



Are you unemployed or underemployed? Are you connected within the San Antonio business area to help those in need of employment?

Coker member Tom Canavera is organizing a UMC network to help those in need of a job. If you are currently unemployed or willing to help members find a job, please contact Tom Canavera at tcanavera@satx.rr.com or 421-5916.

Columbarium Project Interest Survey on September 26 & 27

The Coker Board of Trustees is considering a self-funded project to build a columbarium at Coker UMC and needs your input to determine the level of interest within the congregation. A survey will be distributed at the worship services on September 26 and 27. You may return the survey at the end of the service or return it to the church office. In addition, members of the Board of Trustees will be coming by Sunday School classes on September 27 to distribute the survey and answer questions. If you prefer, you may download the survey at www.coker.org, complete it, and return it to the church office.

A columbarium is a consecrated structure created for the inurnment of the deceased's ashes after cremation. Cremation is in accordance with the teachings of the United Methodist Church and has become increasingly widespread in recent years.

Historically, church properties were the resting place of faithful members. This trend changed early in the last century; however, it is re-emerging as more people choose cremation. A columbarium on church property provides a permanent link between the deceased and their place of worship, while enabling surviving family members, friends, and fellow worshippers to pay frequent respects during regular church visits. Although Coker UMC is adjacent to Coker Cemetery, Coker Cemetery is separate from Coker UMC, with burial limited to Joseph Coker's bloodline descendants and their spouses.

The proposed site for the Coker Columbarium is between Coker Cemetery and the lower parking lot, in the area where the wooden cross is currently located. The plan includes six columbarium walls, each of which houses 160 niches (80 per side). Each niche provides space for two urns. Preliminary estimates for the cost of a niche are \$2300 - \$2800. This cost includes the niche, two brass urns, an engraved faceplate, and perpetual maintenance.

Questions? Call Tom Ellis at 508-0813 or Carolyn Alley at 830-265-7767.

COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

231 E. North Loop Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78216-1812
(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
ext. 261

Associate Pastors

Rev. Damon Relder, ext. 226

Rev. Dave Felps, ext 224

Rev. Joe Ed Lamb - Pastor of
Visitation, 490-9299

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

Receptionist / 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

ext. 245

For Children



Wednesday Night Bible Adventure

begins September 9
6:30p -7:30pm in upstairs Rector
Kinder - 5th grade

"Painting God's Love"...children will use their imaginations while experiencing God's love through painting.

Parents in Prayer (P.I.P.)

Dear Lord,
As our summer slips away and we turn again to the busier schedules of the school year, help us not to forget our time with You. We ask You for Your guidance and protection of all the students, teachers and parents. We pray for every person to grow into a responsible, caring, and knowledgeable human being. The school year focuses on teaching and learning; however, we realize that we must strive every day to emulate Your Son Jesus Christ, the great Teacher. It is in Your name we pray. Amen.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"
Proverbs 22:6



Children's Church Volunteers

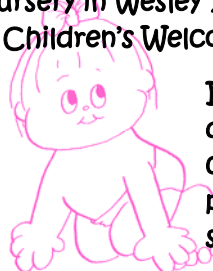
Children's Church resumes September 13. Volunteers still needed to continue Children's Church for our children. If you are interested in volunteering one Sunday each month (September – May), please call Cheryl Kendall, 494-3455, x227 or email cheryl.kendall@coker.org.



Coker Day School has preschool openings for fall for children ages 3, 4 & 5 years old. Call Judy Garrett at 494-5061 for more information.

Save **DIAPER COUPONS!**

Clip diaper coupons to share and put them in the collection box outside the nursery in Wesley 701 or bring them by the Children's Welcome Table on Sundays.



If you have a child in diapers or pull-ups, come by the nursery and pick up coupons to help save a few dollars.



Sunday School this month ...

- **2 year olds** will know how much Jesus loves them.
- **3 year olds – kinder** will hear the stories of The Lord's Prayer, Creation, The Flood and the Ark, and The Great Family.
- **1st-5th grades** will explore the story of Jacob and Esau.

No 1st Friday Kids' Klub/ Kiddie Co-Op in September due to the Labor Day holiday. Get ready for an awesome time on October 2 when 1st Friday resumes from 6:00 until 9:00 pm.



SAVE THESE DATES ...

- October 16-17 - **Family Campout**
 - October 25 - **Harvest Celebration**
- More details to come.



Check out **PARENT'S INFO** at coker.org Go to **Chi I dren' s Mini stries,** then **Parent I nformation**

For Adults



United Methodist Women

Meetings

- **J.O.Y.** - Tue., Sept. 1 at 9:30 am in Wesley 802
- **Sharing & Caring** - Tue., Sept. 1 at 10:00 am in Wesley 703
- **Executive Board** - Tue., Sept. 1 at 12 noon in Wesley 802
- **UMW Monthly Gathering** - Tue., Sept. 8 at 10:00 am in Wesley 703/704 ... see details below
- **Faith & Hope** - Tue., Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm in Wesley 806
- **UMW WEEKEND** - Sept. 12 & 13
- **Quilters** - Thu., Sept. 10 & 24 at 1:00 pm in Wesley 805
- **Reflections** - Thu., Sept. 17 at 9:30 am at the home of Robin Jenks, 15542 Dawn Crest, 492-1016



SAF & CALLL in September



Thursday, September 3 ... 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Wesley 703

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP meets for their monthly Pot Luck Luncheon. Bring a dish to share and meet our new associate pastor, Rev. Damon Relder. He will tell us about his multiple careers (3) and his family.

Wednesday, September 9 ... 10:00 am - 1:00 pm...Celebrating CALLL's new year

Movie in the "Upper Room Theater", Gibbs Building at 10:00 am

Young @ Heart

Followed by a Hot Dog Lunch in the Coker Community Building/Gym

Get ready to rock out with the most entertaining "golden oldies" you will ever meet, a fun loving senior citizen's choir called Young @ Heart.

To prepare for a show in their hometown that is only a few weeks away, the lovable seniors must learn a slate of new songs. The chorus' tireless musical director leads the group through a series of hilariously chaotic rehearsals, proving that hard rock can be hard work---especially when you are hard of hearing! Climaxing in a triumphant performance that will leave you cheering, their inspiring story celebrates the unbreakable bonds of friendship and the life affirming power of music!

Wednesdays, September 16, 23 & 30 ... 10:00-11:00 am in Wesley 703

NEW STUDY BEGINS: *Seizing The Moments* by James Moore will be led by Jim Alexander. Life is a series of crucial moments, but because of fear, timidity, or insecurity, we often let that moment slip by. We do nothing, miss the moment, and regret it. We know we have lost a special moment forever. This author shows how, through the miracle of God's grace, you can turn your golden opportunities into realized dreams. Each chapter includes a key passage of scripture and practical suggestions for better daily living. You are asked to read the introduction and the first chapter before class starts. Book - \$13.00.

Friday, September 25 ... 9:30 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. Just come and enjoy the fun.

No September trip planned

SAF-Senior Adult Fellowship

CALLL-Coker Adult Life-Long Learning

All Women are invited to



Scrapbook for Jesus— A Faith Journey

Tuesday, September 8
10:00 am in Wesley 703/704

Let's get acquainted! Learn about UMW Circles and enjoy a fun time of fellowship and hands on "glue and do."

A light lunch will be served by J.O.Y. Circle following our program.

Gathering of the Women

Dinner & Program
October 13, 2009
6:30 pm \$12

Dinner catered by **Apple Annie's Tea Room**
Program presented by **Rev. Michael W. Newman**

The Rev. Michael W. Newman was most recently on staff at Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio. He is now working within the local Lutheran District. He is the author of *Satan's Lies: Overcoming the Devil's Attempts to Stunt Your Spiritual Growth*. He has spoken at numerous MOPS gatherings (Mothers of PreSchoolers), where he covered topics pertinent to women today both young and old. We look forward to a timely message that will give new life to our Spiritual Journey.

Promoting Men's Ministry at Coker

Upcoming September Opportunities

• **NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR COKER MEN AND GUESTS** ... UMM - every Monday at 6:30 am in Wesley 703/704. **The United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be free (usually \$3) during the month of September** to encourage folks to attend and enjoy an excellent breakfast, fellowship, scripture, and singing old favorites. We end the morning at 7:30 am to allow most folks to get to work or to their early morning errands. Contact Tom Ellis at 490-5128 or tellisaia@aol.com for more information

• **SEPTEMBER 20 - COKER MEN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY** ... Learn more about the many opportunities for men.

• **Saturday, September 26 - Angel Food Distribution.** Contact Jack Collins at 408-1677 or collins_jack@sbcglobal.net.



Reaching out ...

September Mission Moment

One Great Hour of Sharing

Working through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), One Great Hour of Sharing gifts deliver hope that changes everything - hospitality to immigrants and refugees, recovery for survivors of natural disasters, relief for conditions contributing to hunger, poor health, and poverty. UMCOR is the hands and feet of United Methodists in 81 countries worldwide, including the United States. When United Methodists become partners in this offering, UMCOR can keep the promise to direct 100 percent of designated gifts to the intended program.

UMCOR is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. Their mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering - whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

Partnering with local organizations and survivors, UMCOR helps rebuild their livelihoods, health and homes. In times of acute crisis, they mobilize emergency supplies, fresh water, and temporary shelter to stricken areas, and then stay as long as it takes to implement long-term recovery. UMCOR workers are known all over the globe for their compassion, leadership, expertise, and guidance in recovery efforts.



Christian Homes Needed

SHARE! is looking for Christians - with or without children - willing to share their homes, love, and understanding with a young person for a school year or semester. The youth, ages 15-18, come from over 25 countries. Host families provide room, board, and a loving environment. For more information, please call Yvette Coffman at 800-941-3738 or visit www.sharesouthwest.org.

Let's Fill the CAM Van with Food And Men's Clothing

On September 19 & 20 grocery bags will be distributed for the Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) food drive. Their shelves are empty after the children's summer vacation. Due to rising food prices and the economy, many new CAM clients are struggling to feed their families. Coker's youth will prepare the bags and sort and box the donated food.



In addition we will be collecting gently used MEN'S jeans, dockers, belts, and shoes, especially tennis shoes. The CAM van will be at Coker on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27 to pick up the food and clothing.



Library Books Arrive at Capoey Village in Guyana

The books finally arrived at Capoey 2 months and 10 days after shipping. Many thanks to all that donated and helped pack and ship the books.

The book shelves are now complete, and the books have been moved into the library. The Peace Corps volunteer had a hard time keeping the children from the books until they were on the shelves! Blessings to all that made this happen.



Sign up in the Gazebo between services on Sundays, September 6 & 13

Distribution - Saturday, Sept. 26 8:00-9:30 am (TIME CHANGE)



Buy a Square Foot and Help a Family in Need.

For just \$50, you can help build Coker's 6th Habitat home and help a San Antonio family in need. Pick up a Habitat House bank and fill it to the roof!



\$ 50 = 1 SQ FT

Music Ministry Groups Gear Up for a Fabulous Fall!

Arise; shine for the fall has come!! All of the Coker ensembles, praise bands, orchestra and choirs start back in session the week of September 6-13. Here is a reminder of whom, where and when. If you need more information, contact Pastor Dave Collett or Music and Worship Administrative Assistants Nancy Canavera and Joan Whitehead at the church. Schedules are also on the Coker website at www.coker.org.

SUNDAY

- 7:40 am - Agape Singers (Choir Room)
- 10:30 am - Coker Young Musicians (upstairs Rector)
- 10:30 am - Coker Children's Choirs (upstairs Rector)
- 3:30 pm - Youth Praise Band (Upper Room)
- 4:00 pm - Sing For Christ Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:00 pm - Youth Handbells (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY

- 10:00 am - Hearts in Tune (Choir Room)
- 6:00 pm - Festival Bells Jubilee (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 pm - Moving Spirit Dancers (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY

- 9:00-12 noon- *Celebrate!* Band (Upper Room)



Calling Coker Men!

Fill the Choir Loft September 13

Our 2009 Men's Sing is happening in all three Sanctuary services as part of UMW Weekend, Sunday, September 13. It's our turn to sing

in worship honoring the women of Coker in the same way they honored us by singing on Father's Day in June. It's always inspirational and fun to get the men of Coker together and sing. As always we have chosen very familiar and accessible music for this year's Men's Sing, and the men of the Agape and Chancel choirs will be there to help "show you the ropes".

We've had great Men's Sings the past four years, but there are a few gentlemen who've not yet found their way to the loft! I challenge all the men of Coker to rise up, bring your voice to the choir room 30 minutes before each Sanctuary service (7:45, 9:00 and 10:30 am) or just come up to the choir loft during the prelude. We'll have everything you need and a warm welcome waiting for you!

- Rev. Dave Collett, Minister of Music



Celebrations from the Music Committee:

The Music Committee is pleased to announce that this fall we will be retiring the maroon robes and stoles that the Chancel Choir has been wearing for the past 25 years. They have served us well, but are near the end of their wear-ability.

The purchase of new adult robes has been a part of the music fund and was established in February 2008. In the current economic climate that exists, it's important to note that this purchase involves no budgeted funds nor have funds been requested from the congregation at large. The new robes should arrive before Thanksgiving. They will be purchased using funds raised over several years by the choir, memorial gifts designated for music ministry and other donations specified for new adult robes. It is anticipated that the robes now worn by the choir will be donated to smaller United Methodist churches either in the San Antonio area or within the SWTX Conference that may not be able to purchase robes.

A second celebration is that donations received during the recent July Pops Concert (less expenses) were distributed in August to the organization supporting the Center for the Intrepid and the Arts at Coker. Each recipient organization received \$2,089.

September begins the Coker Choral Scholars (CCS) program

You'll be seeing some new faces singing in worship beginning in September. Some of those faces will be 10th-12th graders and college students participating at Coker through the new Choral Scholars scholarship program. Modeled after the Coker Orchestra program, we will have student singers from area high schools and colleges, along with Coker youth, earning college scholarship funds while sharing their musical talents in worship with our choirs.

What is the CCS program?

A scholarship program for 10th-12th grade youth singers or college-age singers enrolled in a school choral program. There are up to sixteen positions available in the 2009-2010 school year.

The Coker Orchestra, now in its fifth year, is the very successful model for CCS. It was created to be a "win-win" for students, parents, and the church and, to our knowledge, is the only scholarship program like it in the United States. Over the past two years, scholarships totaling over \$27,000 have been awarded to graduating students by the Duane D. Hoff Charitable Trust, a private 501(c)3 foundation. **No budgeted or solicited funds are a part of CCS.** Please help us by supporting our CCS singers with true Coker hospitality!

News from Health & Wellness



Health & Wellness

Health Seminar Series continue
Sundays at 6:30 pm, Wesley 703/704

August 30 - Nutrition: Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes

...or call it Eating for Health. What diet or lifestyle changes can give you the greatest "bang for your buck"? We will look at eating for health, not dieting! "It is easier to maintain good health through proper exercise, diet and emotional balance than it is to regain it once it is lost," said Dr. Kenneth Cooper. Seminar leader, Denise C. Sprague has her M.S. in Nutrition and is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator.

She has worked at BAMC developing and teaching the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program since its inception and has 20+ years experience in teaching about nutrition for diabetes and heart disease.

October 4 - Nutrition: The Next Generation!

This seminar will look at preventing diabetes. If you are at risk or have a family history of diabetes (mother, father, sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, child) this is the class for you. Are you in danger of developing diabetes? If so, what can you do about it? Denise C. Sprague leads this seminar.

November 1 - Nutrition: How Safe Is Your Food?

An overview of food safety concerns including how to prepare and store food, how to protect your food, and how to prevent food-borne illness. Additionally participants will be introduced to microbes in food, pathogens, food additives, and current issues with our food supply. This seminar is lead by Anna Bustamante, B.S., M.Ed., PhD candidate working on her dissertation at Texas State University focusing on health-related fitness and chronic disease. She is currently Department Chair and Assistant Professor for the Department of Kinesiology & Health at Palo Alto College.

Did you know?

Maintaining your own **Personal Health Record** is one of the best ways to have constant access to your health information throughout the course of your lifetime. What should your PHR include? Your PHR should provide a comprehensive view of anything that impacts your health.

- Personal identification, including name and birth date
- Emergency contacts
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of your physicians, dentists, and specialists
- Health insurance information
- Living wills, advance directives, or medical power of attorney
- Dates of significant illnesses and surgical procedures
- Current medications and dosages
- Immunizations and dates received
- Allergies or sensitivities to drugs or materials
- Important events and hereditary conditions in your family history
- Opinions of specialists
- Important test results
- Eye and dental records
- Correspondence between you and your provider
- Permission forms

The important thing is to have a single source of your health information, whatever format you choose.

If you don't have access to a computer to keep a PHR, a simple file folder with copies of your health records can be a valuable tool in documenting your health.

Individuals can create their own PHR, or may be offered one by a variety of sources including:

- Healthcare providers
- Insurers
- Employers
- Commercial suppliers

A free public Web site, www.mypHR.com, is available where the public can find a wide range of helpful information and resources including:

- Information regarding your health information rights
- A step-by-step guide for creating a PHR
- A guided tour to help you learn more about how your health information is collected, where it goes, and how it's used

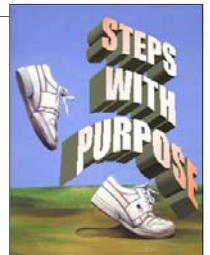
Would You Like to go for a Walk?

"Steps With Purpose" - a program to organize family-friendly walk opportunities for all age and ability levels to promote fitness, fellowship, and mission.

Next events:

- Sept. 4, Friday, 9:00 am - North Star Mall 1 mi., (inside/easy)
- Sept. 26, Saturday, 8:00 am - River Walk/Pearl Brewery, optional distance (outside/stairs)

If you are interested, please call Nancy Canavera at 865-0025 or email nancy.canavera@coker.org. For more detailed information, visit the Health & Wellness page under Groups & Ministries on our website www.coker.org.



Food Pantry

The Coker Food Pantry will be opening in September to serve hungry families in the zip codes around Coker.

We are proud to be a partner with the San Antonio Food Bank and will participate them as one of their

agencies distributing food to the needy. Next volunteer training class will be September 16th at 10:00 am at the SA Food Bank.

In order to ride from Coker, please make a reservation with Melissa Casey at mmpcasey@yahoo.com or 545-3837.

September Nutrition Hint

- Boost your **memory** and lower homocysteine levels by eating plenty of folate in meat, fish, eggs, dairy, spinach and lentils.
- Improve your **heart** health and fight dementia with omega-3 fatty acids found in fatty fish such as salmon, mackerel, and anchovies.
- Improve your **vision** with lutein found in green leafy vegetables, peas, broccoli and corn.
- Keep **bones** strong with vitamin D and calcium found in fortified milk and cereals, fish and eggs.

(Prevention.com by Veronika Ruff)

Stewardship - A Way of Life

Stewardship is a way of life. The membership vows of The United Methodist Church define the five aspects of stewardship:

- Prayers,
- Presence,
- Gifts,
- Service, and
- Witness.



In August and September, we are focusing on **PRESENCE** at Coker. During Kick-Off Weekend - August 22 & 23, those in attendance were given a stewardship wristband, inscribed with our theme: **Stewardship - A Way of Life @ Coker UMC**. If you did not receive one, Stewardship wristbands are available before and after worship services in the back of the Chapel, in the Narthex and outside the Upper Room. The Stewardship Committee hopes this will help us remember our membership vows.

A faithful church member facing personal problems stopped attending church. After several weeks of absence, the pastor decided to pay the member a visit. It was a cold and rainy evening. The member welcomed the pastor, suspecting the reason for his visit. He offered the pastor a comfortable chair by the fireplace and waited to be asked why he had not been to church. The pastor sat quietly watching the fire. After several minutes, the pastor took the fireplace tongs. Picking up one of the brightly glowing embers, he put it off to the side all by itself. Both men sat and watched the fire, saying nothing.

As they watched, the flame in the ember flickered and slowly began to diminish. There was a momentary glow; then its fire began to go out. Soon it was cold and dead. Neither man said a word.

The pastor picked up the cold, dead ember with the tongs and put it back in the middle of the fire. Quickly it began to glow again with the light and warmth of the other embers around it. As the pastor paused at the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you for your fiery sermon. I will be back in church Sunday."

Please prayerfully consider your commitment of presence and bring your **PRESENCE** Pledge Card for consecration in worship on September 19 or 20.

Stewardship – A Way of Life

Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness

Please prayerfully consider your commitment of **presence** and bring this record for consecration in worship September 19 or 20, 2009.

I / we pledge to support the work of God through Coker UMC by our:

- Presence** - I / we will be present in worship _____(times a year).
- I / we will be present at other church activities (Sunday school, Choir, Mid-Week Manna, Bible Study, UMW, UMM, CSM, etc.) _____
_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please prayerfully consider your commitment & bring this pledge to worship 9/19 or 9/20.

Neighborhood Connections update

Neighborhood Connections Going Strong!

The Congregational Life Cluster is happy to report that the Neighborhood Connection Socials are being well received; we have had six so far with three more scheduled and 12 plus hosts who will be scheduling in the near future.

Following are some of the comments we have gotten back:

“Enjoyed the evening; everyone stayed longer than the planned time.”

“We all had a great time; I would definitely host again.”

“Wonderful to have Pastors attend.”

“All in our group wanted to meet again and re-invite those who could not attend the first time.”

“We only knew two others in our group, and it was great to make new friends.”



Some who attended were inspired to host themselves and invite others they knew. We will be continuing the connections throughout the year, so if you missed the first go around, it is not too late to call Marian Fink at 826-4837 and find out more information about one in your neighborhood.

Be Prepared ...

In Case of Coker Campus Closure

As you are all aware, the hurricane season is here, and we are being told that El Niño will bring blessed rain in October. Both have the potential to send floods and tornadoes to the San Antonio area. Because Coker UMC lies in an area which floods easily, we want to get the word out as quickly as possible if the campus needs to close or if we lose power for an extended period.

We will contact our two local news radio stations, KTSA 550 AM and WOAI 1200 AM. We will also contact KENS, KABB, KSAT and WOAI television stations, and Time Warner cable. Information will also be posted on the Coker website (www.coker.org).

The children and staff from the weekday programs will be evacuated to higher ground. We will try to contact someone from each of our Sunday School classes to alert members if we need to shut down the campus on a weekend, and we will put a message on the phone system if we have power.

Our main concern is that no one be put in danger. NEVER attempt to go around any barricades. Call the church BEFORE driving out to verify that the campus is open. Safety of our members is our number one priority.



In September we observe Labor Day weekend — a time to rest from our labors. But this is also an opportunity to reflect on our daily work and discern whether our effort is thankless and uninteresting or something that gives us deep and lasting satisfaction. God intends for our work to be much more than a job, much more than a daily grind. It should be, instead, a vocation — which means, quite literally, a “calling.”

In Romans 12:2, Paul challenges us with the words: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The apostle’s advice, then, is to be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Paul says be transformed by discovering what the Lord God is calling you to do.

—Homiletics

September is Recovery Month

This September marks the 20th annual Recovery Month. Most people don't even know this is an annual event sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

This year's theme is **"Together We Learn, Together We Heal."** This is exactly the message the CARE Team at Coker UMC has tried to spread. There are many myths and untruths held about addictions and recovery.

So many view addiction as a sin, rather than the disease it is. There are books written that show how the brain's process is affected, the white matter, the synapses, and much more than I could explain here. (And truthfully, more than my brain can understand.) But the information is out there if you want to know more, some is even in our church library.

Recovery is truly a healing miracle. It is strange that even though addiction is a disease or health problem rather than a moral issue, the healing comes from a "spiritual" change. That is why it is so important that recovery becomes part of the church.

Alcoholics Anonymous is the most famous and original 12 Step program. Its founders, Bill W. and Dr. Bob, based their program on the Christian Oxford Group movement. The principles are right out of the new testament. And even though many still believe that 12 Step programs only use the word "higher power", God's name is used

much more often. 12 Step programs are not for every one, but a right relationship with God is absolutely necessary for recovery.

We Christians in recovery know that we have experienced the healing touch of Christ, just as he healed the sick in his early days of his earthly ministry. We have experienced God's mercy and grace, and our lives now witness to his power and love. So, it is important that we at Coker celebrate with those who have been reclaimed.

This year our Recovery Weekend at Coker is September 26th and 27th. It is a joyful time - freedom from bondage is always celebrated. We will have information available on various addictions, and CARE Team members will be available to answer questions and concerns.

The CARE Team members are also participating in the 3rd Annual 3K Recovery Walk sponsored by San Antonio Fighting Back on September 12th. We would love to have you join us.

Those of us who are in recovery have come to know joy that only comes from God, and we are anxious to share this joy with everyone. We are here to help. We hold out our hands to you. If you would like more information, please contact me, Cheryl Coltrin, at 945-2798.

(CARE Team - Coker Addiction Recovery and Education Team)



Memorials given from July 16 to August 14, 2009 in memory of

Bertha Alford—Joyce Hagle

Bob Walton—Nancy Cecil

Carl Hagle—Maxine Atkinson, Shirley Cosbohn, Jan Bielser

Ed James (Jay James' father)—Charles & Cathy Johnson, Mike & Sharon Ford, Joe & Molly Butcher, Becomers Class

Eva Harvey (Jan Harvey's mother-in-law)—O. D. & Elsie Lancaster

Evelyn McManus (Rick McManus' mother)—Jay & Grace James, David & JoAnna Hubin, Kathryn Sutton, Deac & Jean Davis, Questors Class, O. D. & Elsie Lancaster, Jim & Shirley Adamek

Frances Vordenbaum—Joan Brannon, Shirley Cosbohn

Joseph D. "Jody" Harris III & Joseph Graham Harris (Sara L. Harris' son & grandson)—Sara L. Harris

Kelley Sawyer (Tom & Betty Sawyer's daughter)—Tom & Betty Sawyer

Margaret Cheline (Bob Cheline's mother)—Charlotte Logan, Shirley Cosbohn, David & JoAnna Hubin

Marguerite Puck—Jan Bielser, Joyce Hagle

Marjorie Whitson (Brenda Venable's mother)—Charles & Cathy Johnson, Mike & Sharon Ford, Herb & Alice McDougall, Joe & Molly Butcher, Becomers Class, Joyce Hagle

Mary Jane Smallwood (Dennis Davis' mother)—Paul & Martha Mangum, Mike & Sharon Ford, Charles & Cathy Johnson, Joe & Molly Butcher, Becomers Class



Worship and Prayer

Saturday, September 5

Communion
5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, September 6

14th Sunday after Pentecost

8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 am Communion
Services in Sanctuary



9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

+++++

Saturday, September 12

5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, September 13

15th Sunday after Pentecost

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



9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

Saturday, September 19

5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, September 20

16th Sunday after Pentecost

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



9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

+++++

Saturday, September 26

5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, September 27

17th Sunday after Pentecost

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



9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

+++++

Wednesday Worship

6:30 pm in Chapel

(begins September 9)

September Prayers

*But you, O Lord, are a shield around me;
you are my glory, the one who holds my
head high. Psalm 3:3*

Monday

We come to you, O Lord, asking each
day for a hedge of protection. Thank
you for your faithfulness. Amen.

Tuesday

I present myself to you, Father, with eyes
cast down. Lift me up with your mercy
and love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Wednesday

God, my God, allow me to surround those
near me, so I can protect them as you
protect me. Amen.

Thursday

Lift me above my strife, O Merciful One.
Your love and mercy sustain me. In the
name of Your Son, Amen.

Friday

Abba, my soul craves your protection and
steadfast love. Surround me with your
Holy Spirit. Amen.

Saturday

Don't cast us aside, Omnipotent One. Let
us join together to praise your Holy
Name. Amen.

Sunday

You are the master, O King of Kings, let
us rejoice in your Majesty. Amen.

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**

YOU are Encouraged to Worship at an Emmaus-Sponsored Service Sunday, September 13



Whether you have ever been to an
Emmaus-sponsored worship service or not, **YOU are invited**
to **worship** with the Coker Emmaus Community **Sunday,**
September 13th. You do not have to have been on a Walk
to Emmaus to participate.

Refreshments at 5:30 in Wesley 703-704. **Music and worship** begin at 6:00 in the
Sanctuary. **New Star Shining** will provide the music. The **Speaker** will be **Beau**
Campbell. **Holy Communion** will be celebrated. Child care will be provided in the
Wesley Nursery. **Please join us in worship. We will all be blessed.**

Walk the Labyrinth on October 14

The Spiritual Enrichment Ministry team is sponsoring a labyrinth walk on **Wednesday,**
October 14 in Wesley 703/704 from 5:00 until 8:00 pm. No prior experience is needed;
resources will be available to enhance your walk. Most people take about 15 minutes to
walk the labyrinth, but you may take whatever time you need.

Coker members wrote the following comments after walking the labyrinth in April when 51
men and women of all ages chose to experience this prayer walk:

- Debbie Hardin: "This was my first walk. I felt the Holy Spirit. I knew that God has always been with me."
- Lil Manning: "This was my first walk. 'The Lord is in this place.' Glory to God!"
- Michelle Mullins: "What a calming experience—like being home!"
- Sara Ramirez: "This was my first walk. What took me so long to get to the labyrinth? I'm blessed. Thanks to God!"
- Carolyn Smith: "It's a new experience every time I walk it."
- Janet Waltman: "It was a 'centering' experience."



Save the date ...



Healing Service

Monday, October 5

7:00 pm

Historic Coker Chapel

Witness and share the compassion of
Christ. Invite a friend, pray for
others, be still and know.

Each Week:

SUNDAY

- 7:30-9:15 am - Breakfast
- 7:40 am - Agape Singers
- Worship - 8:15, 9:30 & 11 am in the Sanctuary; Celebrate! at 9:30 & 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
- 10:30 am - Coker Children Choirs (begin 9/13)
- 11 am - Children’s Church (Not on 1st Sunday)
- 11 am - Prayer Group
- 11 am - Adult Sunday School class Youth Music begins 9/13
- 3:30 pm - Youth Band
- 4 pm - Sing For Christ Youth Choir
- 5 pm - Youth Bells
- 5:30 pm - Youth Snack Supper
- 6 pm - Confirmation (begins 9/13)
- 6 pm - Middle & High School CSM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY

- 6:30 am – UMM Breakfast & Study
- 9 am – Co-ed Exercise
- 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Group

TUESDAY

- 7 pm – AA Group

WEDNESDAY

- 9 am – Co-ed Exercise
Mid-Week Manna BEGINS SEPT. 9
5:00-6:30 pm - Dinner
- 6:30 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 (begins 9/10)
- 6 pm - S-Anon Group
- 6 pm - Festival Bells Jubilee
- 7 pm - Al-Anon Group
- 7 pm - Moving Spirit Dancers

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

- 9 am - Celebrate! Band rehearsal
- 10 am - Parents of Adult Children with Addictions group
- 5 pm – Worship Service

CSM - Catalyst Student Ministries

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 •6:30 pm-Down Syndrome Support	2 •3:30 pm-Study of Job begins •7:00 pm-"Ignite" CSM Youth Bible Studies	3 •9:15 am-Women in the Word Bible Study •11:30 am-Senior Adult Fellowship •6:00 pm-Study of Job begins •6:30 pm-Day School & Mother's Day Out Orientations	4 •10:00 am-Day School Open House •10:00 am-Mother's Day Out Open House	5 •Communion
6 •Communion •Angel Food sign up •No evening youth activities	7 •Church Campus closed LABOR DAY ★	8 •Day School and Mother's Day Out begin •10:00 am-UMW Monthly Gathering •6:30 pm-Disciple Bible Study II begins	9 •9:30 am or 12:30 pm-Beth Moore Study begins •10:00 am-CALLL Young @ Heart Movie & Hot Dog Lunch •Mid-Week Manna begins Dinner; Worship; Classes for Adults, Youth & Children	10 •6:30 pm-Scrapbooking Bible Study begins	11	12 UMW Weekend •Mission Moment •Habitat Build begins
13 UMW Weekend •Mission Moment •Angel Food sign up •Coker Men's Sing at all Sanctuary services •5:30 pm-Emmaus Gathering •6:00 pm-Emmaus-Led Worship	14	15	16 •10:00 am-Seizing the Moments study begins •Mid-Week Manna Dinner; Worship; Classes for Adults, Youth & Children •6:30 pm-Divorce Care begins	17 •6:30 pm-Celebration of Discipline class begins	18 Confirmation Retreat Friday-Sunday	19 •Give out CAM Food Bags at worship
20 Men's Ministry Sunday •Give out CAM Food Bags •Blood Pressure checks	21	22	23 •Mid-Week Manna Dinner; Worship; Classes for Adults, Youth & Children	24	25 •9:30 am-CALLL Brown Bag Lunch/ Games Day	26 Recovery Weekend •8:00-9:30 am-Angel Food Distribution •Return filled CAM Food Bags
27 Recovery Weekend •Return filled CAM Food Bags •12:30-4:30 pm-Child and Youth Volunteer Training	28	29	30 •Mid-Week Manna Dinner; Worship; Classes for Adults, Youth & Children			

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

Joy

Congratulations

- Jo Lopez on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Adelina Beck, 7/23; parents are Brian & Tina Beck
- Tom & Barbara Ellis on the birth of their grandson, Asher Butcher, 8/11; parents are Abigail & Blaine Butcher
- Jim & Gloria Baker on the birth of their granddaughter, Avery Blaine Vinson, 8/13; parents are Matthew & Mary Ann Vinson

Congratulations to Mark Stenberg, Eagle Scout Candidate in Troop 285, for completion of his Eagle Scout Service Project through Church Connections at Manantial de Vida UMC. Mark's project involved the construction of a playground for the children and included a tower, fort, refurbished swing, monkey bars, half-dome climbing structure, and a wood deck with stairs. A total of 502 hours was spent on the project with expenses of \$3,544.73.

Baptisms

- Elizabeth Grace Moe - 7/25
- Matthew Randy Blattner - 7/26
- Hayden Claire Szary - 8/16



Church Campus
Closed
September 7

Hospitals & Rehab

- Methodist - Clyde Cox
- Sonterra Health Center - Ernestine "Brownie" Ivey
- Remington Medical Resort—Shirley L. Johnson

Sympathy

- Carol Blattner & family on the death of her mother, Mabel Alvin, 7/20
- Pat Burns & family on the death of her father, Jim Trott, 7/21
- Delia Rincon & family on the death of her uncle, Manuel Guzman, 7/22
- Rick McManus & family on the death of his mother, Evelyn McManus, 7/24
- Jan Harvey & family on the death of her mother-in-law, Eva Harvey, 7/28
- Linda Moore & Aline Harwell & family on the death of Linda's uncle & Aline's brother-in-law, Maurice Harwell, 8/5
- Family of Bertha Alford who died 8/6
- Family of Hazel Duke who died 8/10
- Patty Landacre & family on the death of her mother, 8/16

Presence

- July 18 & 19**
Worship-806 Sunday School-438
- July 25 & 26**
Worship-995 Sunday School-408
- August 1 & 2**
Worship-855 Sunday School-429
- August 8 & 9**
Worship-870 Sunday School-466

Gifts...as of July 30, 2009

	Month	YTD
Income	\$ 177,046	\$ 1,427,857
Expenses	- 202,261	- 1,414,416
Balance	\$ - 25,215	\$ 13,441

July Mission Moment
Habitat for Humanity ... \$6,714

Church Office open
Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
494-3455
DIAL-A-PRAYER ... 979-2654

Emergencies after hours or on weekends:

- Pastor Barbara R. Galloway...896-5085
- Pastor Damon Relder... 542-6068
- Pastor Dave Felps ... 262-8465
- Pastor Dave Collett ... 899-5903

If you are unable to reach one pastor in case of an emergency, please contact another pastor.

DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles
for Oct., due Sept. 15

Contact Betty Sheaffer at
494-3455, ext. 233 or e-mail
betty.sheaffer@coker.org.

As of August 30, we are no longer recycling ink or toner cartridges. Thank you for your past support of this program.

Welcome New Members



Santina Basham



Dan & Vicki Hester

Jeremy & Emily
Donovan
Gabriel & Brynli



Gary & Mary Anne Hicks



Joe & Diane Ness
Jesse, Victoria, Isaiah & Savannah



Wednesday Night Bible Studies

Looking for a small discipleship group to join in study and fellowship? Longing for a deeper Bible study? There is a place for you on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:00 pm in the John Gibbs Building. Come be a part of the movement to "Be the Church".



Youth Sunday Night Dinners changing to Sunday Night SNACK SUPPERS



Due to rising costs in food and smaller number of participants, Sunday night dinners will be scaled down for the fall semester. We will be offering a light snack supper (ex: pizza, hot dog, taco, etc. with drink and dessert). The cost is the same-\$3, and you will never leave hungry. If you are coming on Sunday evenings, try to support this ministry with your presence at 5:30-6:00 pm in the gym. We will be reevaluating in December as to whether to continue to offer dinners on Sunday evenings for the youth and their leaders.



CONFIRMATION Dive In
Registration packets are in the lobby of the John Gibbs Building
 September 13... Dinner at 5:30 pm in the gym (\$3); Parent/youth meet at 6:00 pm in the Chapel.
 September 18-20.... Retreat at Camp Champions

Sunday Night CSM
 5:30 pm - Snack Supper (\$3)
 6:00-7:30 pm - Confirmation/Youth Group

MIDDLE SCHOOL UMYF
 Theme for September - Living Out the Call to be a Disciple of Christ

HIGH SCHOOL UMYF
 Theme for September - Spiritual Disciplines

Fundraisers for the fall will be starting soon!
 These fundraisers are for 6th-12th graders and help offset the cost of summer 2010 mission trips. If you are planning on attending either the middle school or high school mission trip next summer, be sure to watch for the fall fundraisers:

- **Cookie Dough/Pie Sales** – Individual sales
- **Cokerfest Concession Stand** – November 7 (work a shift during the day)
- **Church Conference Dinner** – December 15 (help prepare and serve)

Sign-ups for the mission trips will be in late November/December or early January after locations of where to serve have been decided. Watch for information on the Student Ministry tables in the lobby of the John Gibbs building.

Important Dates for the Fall:

- **September 13**.....Youth Choir/Band/Handbells resume rehearsals
- **September 27**Youth to organize CAM (Christian Assistance Ministries) food donations in the evening
- **October 1**David Crowder Concert - 40 tickets available, \$23 each. Leave money/name in the black box by the elevator in the John Gibbs building.
- **October 25**Harvest Celebration – youth to work booths and participate in the church-wide event
- **November 20-21**YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT – at Coker; no cost; for all youth 7th-12th grades

Children/Youth Volunteer Training
Sunday, September 27 12:30-4:30 pm
 For all volunteers that serve in either ministry areas.
 Lunch, breakout sessions (specific to ministry areas) and worship.
 Led by Jim Booth, Cheryl Kendall, Wes Jones, Pastor Damon Relder, and Mary Anne Waldrip

Any paperwork/payments for events, retreats, mission trips are to be put in the black box by the elevator in the John Gibbs Building.

Parents ...
 Watch for your parent newsletter—coming in September.