

January
2010
Volume 32, Issue 1

COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The COKER COURIER

www.coker.org

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Study Opportunities to begin in 2010

Did your New Year's resolutions include learning more about God's word? If so, have we got a deal for you! Starting in January, there will be Bible study offerings of every shape and type to fit your needs. Some will be long-term, while others are just a few weeks. Some will be topic-oriented, while others focus on a specific book of the Bible. There will be classes in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Men's and women's studies, others for families and individuals. You just can't miss this opportunity to enrich your faith journey. Check out the offerings below and sign up soon. Please register by calling the church office at 494-3455.



SUNDAY

Men's Study "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer - led by Pastor Dave Felps

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian and pastor. His work examines how Christ pulls us (the church) into the world to act in Christ-like ways. His views led him to the underground in Germany during World II. He started an illegal seminary which became the stimulus to write "Life Together". In this book, he uses his experiences in opposition of the German government to look at the importance of the Christian community. Study begins Sunday, January 3 for 5 weeks, 6:00-7:00 pm in Wesley 802. Please read the first chapter before the first class. Cost \$14.00.

MONDAY

"Cokernet Bible Study" - led by Pastor Damon Relder

Would you like an interactive Bible study that you can participate in from anywhere in the world? Beginning January 4, Pastor Damon will offer this study on the church's web site. Every Monday, Pastor Damon will offer up a topic for spiritual conversation along with a few relevant scriptures and a question or two. You will then be able to add your comments throughout the week in a "blog-style" conversation (just remember the purpose is to draw us deeper into God's word, not deeper into an argument). On Sunday, Pastor Damon will then add his comments about the subject before moving on to the next topic. You can participate at your own leisure without attending another meeting. Just go to www.coker.org and click on the CBS icon.

Contagious Christian Class - led by Paula Fredrickson

Follow the 6-week sermon series on *Becoming a Contagious Christian* with practical application. Without gimmicks or scripts, learn to talk as naturally about Christ as any other topic, to people you already know. Let God use you to make a difference in the lives of your family and friends. All are welcome. There is no charge for the workbook.

Mondays, January 11 - February 15, 7:00-8:15 pm in Wesley 703/704. Also offered as a one-time class on Saturday, February 20 from 9:00 am-3:30 pm.

Class offerings continued on page 2

Study Opportunities continued

TUESDAY



Encountering the Healing Jesus - led by Erwin Keller

This study is designed to help you explore the healing stories of Jesus as found in the Gospels. You will embark on a wonderful journey toward spiritual healing and wholeness. Class is January 12-February 23, 6:30-8:00 pm in Wesley 801.

WEDNESDAY



"Yes Lord, I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses" by Jim Moore - led by Jim Alexander

Why do we always try to justify our behavior? We are good at blaming other people and circumstances. What does the Christian faith have to say about this? Come learn how God encourages us to seek forgiveness. After all, we are justified by the grace of a loving, caring and forgiving God. Read Chapters 1 and 2 before first class. Class is January 6-February 10, 10:00-11:00 am in Wesley 703/704. Cost of book is \$14.00.

"When Godly People do Ungodly Things" by Beth Moore - various leaders

This 7-week study, based on 1 Samuel 12:20-25, shows Christians how to arm themselves against temptation and learn how to help fallen believers. It examines how the lives, ministry and joy of Christians can be disrupted or destroyed. It will open your eyes to the pitfalls, help prepare for attacks, and will compassionately point the way back to God.

Class is January 13-February 24. Morning session - 9:30-11:30 am in Wesley 802; Afternoon session - 12:30-2:30 pm in Wesley 703/704. Cost of book is \$13.00.

"How to Have A New Kid By Friday" by Dr. Kevin Leman - facilitated by Leigh Ann Cecil

This class is geared to parents and/or grandparents with children infant through 11 years of age. Find out how you can change your child's **Attitude, Behavior, and Character** in 5 days. Class is January 6-February 10, 6:30-7:45 pm in Rector 607/608. Cost is \$8.00 for workbook.

Parenting Your Teenager DVD series - facilitated by Elaine Hitzfelder

Help your teen overcome hurts, become less rebellious, and discover their true identity. This study will equip moms and dads to recognize common patterns, plan effective strategies, and build character. If you have teenagers in your home, come join this class and learn more about the teenage world and how to have effective communication and strong relationships with them. Class is January 6 - February 10, 6:30-8:00 pm in Wesley 802. No cost.

Letter of James - led by Pastor Damon Relder

This nine-week study is open to anyone, novice or veteran to Bible study, and will explore not only the meaning of the text when it was written, but also its application in our daily lives. This study is offered twice each week beginning Wednesday, January 13, 3:30-5:00 pm and Thursday, January 14, 6:00-7:30 pm in Wesley 806. Study will end March 10 and 11. No cost, just bring your Bible.

Disciple Bible Study I - led by Pastor Barbara Galloway

This is a comprehensive study of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. It is a 34-week study that we will break into four quarters with a 3-week break in between each 8 weeks of class. The first session will begin Wednesday, January 6 and run through February 24, 6:30-8:30 pm in Wesley 804. Cost is \$40.00 for workbook.

THURSDAY



Our Heritage of Hymns: Singing the Faith Today - led by Pastor Dave Collett

This is a six-week journey through the hymns that have been part of Christian worship and life for generations. Study material will include the book *Hymns: A Congregational Study* by James Sydnor and also 6 free CDs by English hymn teacher, lecturer, and author Eric Routley, who at his death in 1982 was considered the world authority on hymnody. We will pay special attention to the hymns of Charles and John Wesley, especially those connected to the Methodist singing tradition. Ability to sing is NOT a requirement for this fun and lively class. Class is January 7-February 11, 6:00-7:30 pm in Wesley 804. Cost of materials is \$15.00.



Please register by calling the church office at 494-3455.

COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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, ext. 234

Financial Administrator

Janice Gentry, ext. 222

Nursery Supervisor

Becky Porter, ext. 245

For Children



For 3rd graders and their friends ...

3rd Grade Retreat January 22 - 23, 2010

Spend a fun-filled, activity-laden night at the church. All the fun starts Friday at 6:00 pm and continues until Saturday at 8:00 am. Cost is \$10 - covers all activities, meals and t-shirt. Deadline to register is January 20. If you did not receive a registration form, forms are available in the Church office or at the Children's Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

Parents, while your children are attending Bible study on Wednesday nights, we have something for you ...

How to Have a New Kid by Friday, Dr. Kevin Leman Wednesdays, January 6 – February 10, 2010 6:30 - 7:45 pm in upstairs Rector 607/608

This class is geared to parents and/or grandparents with children infant – 11 years old. Find out how you can change your child's **Attitude, Behavior, and Character** in 5 days! Facilitated by Leigh Ann Cecil. Cost is \$8 for work book.

Family Challenge... "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6 Choose one weekday to begin your morning with Jesus...before you do anything else. Pray together or do one thing that honors Jesus. Talk about the days that you begin with Jesus and the days you don't.

DID YOU KNOW? The Coker Nursery is available for ALL worships services, including Wednesday evening, Saturday evening, and Emmaus services. In addition, nursery care is always available for any church event with 48 hours advance request. Please call Becky Porter at 241-9352 to make nursery reservations or submit a form online at www.coker.org. We love to shepherd the littlest ones of our flock!



Coker UMC offers two weekday programs - Mother's Day Out and Day School

Visit both programs to see which one fits your needs and contact the directors for more information and to pick up a registration form.

- Mother's Day Out office is in Epworth 307 or call Terry Ueckert at 494-4481
- Coker Day School office is in Bertha Jones 101 or call Judy Garrett at 494-5061

For the 2010-11 school year, registration for both programs will be:

- February 1-5 ... Families currently enrolled in either program
- February 8-12 ... Coker UMC church families
- February 16 ... "Open" registration begins



Sunday School this month ...

- **2 year olds** will know that Jesus loves them and that they can show that love to others.
- **3 year olds – kinder** will hear the stories about Epiphany, Holy Baptism, The Boy Jesus in the Temple, Jesus is Baptized, and Jesus and Zacchaeus.
- **1st-5th grades** will hear the story of the Samaritan Woman—a story of exclusion and inclusion, outsider and insider, reconciliation and transformation.



Wednesday Night Bible Adventure

6:30pm - 7:45pm
in upstairs Rector 601/603
Kinder - 5th grade

We will have FUN building young disciples through interaction with Bible truth and with each other for the next six weeks.

No 1st Friday Kids' Klub or Kiddie Co-Op this month. We will meet again February 5 as we focus on God's love and promises.



Check out PARENT'S INFO at coker.org Go to Children's Ministries, then Parent Information

For Adults



United Methodist Women

Meetings

- **J.O.Y.** - Tue., Jan. 5 at 9:30 am in Wesley 802
- **Sharing & Caring** - Tue., Jan. 5 at 10:00 am in Wesley 703
- **Executive Board** - Tue., Jan. 5 at 12 noon in Wesley 802
- **UMW Monthly Gathering** - Tue., Jan. 12 at 10:00 am in the Upper Room, Gibbs Building



Refreshments by Executive Board

- **Faith & Hope** - Tue., Jan. 12 at 6:30 pm in Wesley 806
- **Quilters** - Thu., Jan. 14 & 28 at 1:00 pm in Wesley 805
- **Reflections** - Thu., Jan. 21 at 9:30 am in Wesley 703/704



WOMEN IN THE WORD

A monthly stand-alone Bible Study. Bring your Bible and enjoy discovering more about THE WORD!

9:30-10:30 am (9:15 for coffee) in Wesley 802; the first Thursday of each month
Sponsored by UMW, led by Pastor Barbara



SAF & CALLL in January



Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20 & 27 ... 10:00 - 11:00 am in Wesley 703
New six-week study - "Lord, I Have Sinned But I Have Several Good Excuses" - led by Jim Alexander. Join us any Wednesday. Book-\$14. Please read Chapters 1 & 2 before the first class. Register in the Gazebo on Sunday or call the church office.

Thursday, January 7 ... 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Wesley 703/704
SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP meets for their monthly Pot Luck Luncheon. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship. Our program will be a PowerPoint presentation from the new Recycling Plant. Questions will be expected!

Friday, January 22 ... 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
CALLL's destination is the Buckhorn Museum/The Texas Ranger Museum. There are 33,000 square feet of exhibits with chairs available for resting scattered throughout. The Curio Store is known as "the world's oddest store." Tickets-\$11; bus/parking-\$3 = \$14. Lunch on your own at the Buckhorn Saloon.

Friday, January 29 ... 9:30 am - 1:00 pm in Wesley 703/704
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. The game-of-the-day is Mexican Train. Sign up is not required. Just come and enjoy the fun.

SAF-Senior Adult Fellowship

CALLL-Coker Adult Life-Long Learning



Coker is sending Valentine Boxes to our soldiers.

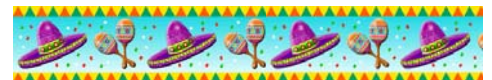
Please call Gladys Watson at 481-5411 or email her gladysmpwatson@yahoo.com by January 31 with current addresses/APOs.

Fiesta Parade Tickets on sale now!

- Friday, April 23 - Battle of Flowers
- Saturday, April 24 - Fiesta Flambeau

\$10 per ticket for each parade
Seats are on Broadway, between Brooklyn & 6th

Contact Jennie at 954-7999 or email T285Fiesta@sbcglobal.net.



Promoting Men's Ministry at Coker

Upcoming January Opportunities

• **UMM - every Monday** at 6:30 am in Wesley 703/704. Come and enjoy an excellent breakfast, fellowship, scripture, and the singing of old favorites. We end the morning at 7:30 am to allow folks to get to work or to their early morning errands. Contact Tom Ellis at 490-5128 or email tellsaia@aol.com for more information.

• **Beginning Sunday, January 3 for five weeks** - Men's study ... "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, led by Pastor Dave Felps (see details on page 1)

• **Saturday, January 23** - Angel Food Distribution. Contact Jack Collins at 408-1677 or collins_jack@sbcglobal.net.



Reaching out ...

January Mission Moment ...

Pastor's Benevolence Fund

When assisting people in need, often an argument ensues about whether we should help our own people first or reach out to the greater community around us. Here at Coker the answer is...we can do both. Oftentimes we do have members of our own congregation who find themselves in need of help because of an unforeseen crisis such as a medical emergency or loss of employment. In such cases, your pastors meet with those in need in such a way as to get them through the difficulties while also tending to their spiritual needs.

But we also reach out to the community around us as well. Through the help of CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry), we are able to help anyone looking for help with needs that range from food to utilities or from rent to gasoline. In this way we obey the command of Christ to offer ourselves to our brothers and sisters.

On behalf of the pastoral staff, we wish to thank you ahead of time for your generosity to the Pastor's Benevolence Fund. Your blessings to others will be multiplied by God's blessings as well.

UMM Golf Tournament proceeds report in February

Angel
Food
Ministries



Sign up in the Gazebo between
services on Sundays,
January 3 & 10

Distribution - Saturday, January 23
8:30-10:00 am



Don't miss the FUN!

**IRON CHEF Angel Food
Competition**
Wednesday, January 27

Competing will be Pastor Dave
Felps and Kathleen Hurren
Watch for more details!

Thank you for your generous support of our United Methodist Women's Cokerfest Arts & Crafts Fair. We distributed funds to the following:

COKER:

Mothers Day Out - \$350
Coker Day School - \$350
Vacation Bible School - \$350
Boy Scout Troop 285 - \$350
Coker Youth Mission Trip - \$1,000
Coker - tables & partitions - \$1,000
UMW Scholarship - \$750
UMW Scholarship plate - \$10

COMMUNITY:

Warrior & Family Support Center - \$500
SAMM - \$500
Woman at the Well - \$500
Youth Alternatives - \$500
San Antonio Rescue Mission - \$500
Coker Food Pantry food (Health & Wellness) - \$700
Methodist Mission Home - \$1,000

MISSIONS:

Ruimveldt Children's Home - \$400
Crossway International - \$400
House of Mercy Orphanage, Mexico - \$400
The P.E.T. Project - \$250

This represents a total giving of \$9,810.

Coker Food Pantry

What is the San Antonio Food Bank?

The San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) was founded in 1980 and is one of the largest food banks in the Feeding America national network. It is a non-profit organization that serves as a clearinghouse by receiving food and distributing food to southwest Texas agencies. They serve 16 counties and have 440 service agencies that help people in need.

What is the Coker Food Pantry?

The Coker Food Pantry came about through the Health and Wellness Committee, formed in January of 2009. It strongly felt the Lord leading it to serve our community in a variety of ways. The food pantry was one of the first projects and God definitely had His hand in this becoming a reality. It has happened faster than anyone anticipated and has been an amazing journey. We were certified as an official food pantry of the SAFB in August 2009 and opened our doors soon after. We serve zip codes 78213, 78216, 78230, 78232, 78247, 78248.

Why is it needed?

Nearly one out of every three children and one out of every five adults in Southwest Texas live in poverty and have difficulty meeting basic nutritional needs. Sixty-five percent of the people requesting emergency food have children. Senior citizens and those living on fixed incomes often have limited funds for a consistent grocery budget. The SAFB's 16-county area is affected by high rates of hunger, poor nutrition, and related health problems. Every week the SAFB provides emergency food assistance to more than 25,000 people facing emergency or financial calamity.

How does it work?

The SAFB does not serve individuals at the Food Bank. They refer individuals to the agencies that serve their zip code. That is where Coker comes in. As an agency, we are able to purchase food from the SAFB for an average of 0.15 cents per pound. That means \$20 will buy 133 cans of food! The SAFB encourages food drives and individual donations.

How can I help?

We can accept food or monetary donations at anytime. Sunday school classes and small groups are asked to consider collecting specific items to donate, to sponsor a fundraising activity, to pledge a monthly donation, to answer the call for specific needs, to remember the pantry when making a memorial gift, to volunteer or to pray for the pantry or with the patrons. Items can be dropped off at the Pantry on Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. or email mmpcasey@yahoo.com to make other arrangements.

"I will bless you...so you can be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2-3)



Food
Pantry



Dong-Il Shin, organ

Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary

"One of the leading organists of the world ... a breathtaking experience." Summorsposten, Aalesund, Norway

An organ virtuoso, his playing garners rave reviews from around the world. Dong-Il Shin has been the winner of many international organ competitions, including the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance in 2004 and the Chartres International Organ Competition in 2006.



Announcing:

Coker Has Talent Dinner and Show

Saturday, February 27, 2010
DINNER at 6:00 pm and SHOW at 7:00 pm



It is time to sign up to share your talent with the Coker congregation. Grab your instrument, warm up your voice, get your juggling act together, or any other talent act you might have. Sign-up sheet is available in the lobby of the Gibbs building. The

show will be open to the first 40 acts that sign up; each act is to be 3 minutes or less in length.

You will need to have your act reviewed on either January 30 from 10:00 am-12:00 noon or on February 6, 1:00-3:00 pm in the Upper Room of the Gibbs building.

Proceeds will benefit the 2010 Youth9 Summer Mission Trips.



The Cello Choir from MacArthur High School will share their talents during worship on Sunday, January 31 at the 9:30 and 11:00 am services in the Sanctuary. This award-winning ensemble will be performing at the national American String Teachers Association conference in Santa Clara, California in February, 2010.

Memorials given from November 15 to December 14, 2009 in memory of

Bill Thornton— Charles & Dorothy Greinke

Burnell Dietrich—Charles & Dorothy Greinke, Herb & Alice McDougall

Carl Hagle—Charles & Dorothy Greinke

Ed Ladendorff--Luis de la Garza & Sherry Hatcher

Ellen Hutchings—John Wesley Sunday School Class

James Stull—Jan Stull

Jeff Fink (Rick & Marion Fink's son)—Bill & Jill McCalister, Jim & Shirley Adamek

Jon Delafosse (Jodie Sell's brother)—Joe & Molly Butcher, Rick & Sue McManus, Colette Miley, O.D. & Elsie Lancaster, Bill & Jill McCalister, Herb & Alice McDougall

Marie Osborn (Don Osborn's mother)—Joe & Molly Butcher, Jim & Lynn Hurt, Charles & Dorothy Greinke, Ed & Joyce Henry, Herb & Alice McDougall

Paul Philippus—Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Barrow, Joe & Molly Butcher, Jan Stull, Charles & Dorothy Greinke, Ingrid Horne, William & Betty Locke, Chris & Janet Buckingham, Jack & Colleen Barrier, Alvin & Josephine Feuerbacher, Carl & Vida Tindle, Tee's Music House, Marvin & Barbara Philippus, Steve & Charlene Smoot, Mr. & Mrs. William Menking, Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Philippus, Mr. & Mrs. James Harmon, Mrs. Ruth Foerster, Walton Olson, Kay Layer, June Rehmann, Bob & Judy Howen, V. Frank & Eleanor Perry, Barbara Perdue, Doris & Verl Green, Larry & Kathy Stull, Mary Johns, Bruce & Emma Miller, Jody & Susan O'Quinn & family



Gift Planning Seminar

The Best Way to Face Life

Teach us how short our lives really are so that we may be wise. Psalm 90:12 (New Century Version)

We may have doctor appointments, dentist appointments, hair appointments, car repair appointments, school appointments, and social appointments. But there is one appointment that none of us will miss - the appointment with death. *"Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God."* (Hebrews 9:27 Good News Translation) We might want to change that appointment, but that is not God's plan. In God's plan everyone must die, even those who eat right and take their vitamins. The best way to face life is to be honest about death. Once we acknowledge that we will all die, we can make plans.

It is good stewardship and a loving act to make plans - a will, an estate plan, a health care plan, a funeral and burial plan. A plan made now can spare one's family from that burden later. Coker's Gift Planning Committee is offering a seminar on **"Estate Planning and Wills"** on **Thursday, January 28** from **6:30 to 8:30 pm** in Wesley 703/704. Taylor Boone will lead the seminar. The seminar is free, but your **RSVP** is appreciated so we can have enough hand outs. Please stop by the Gift Planning table between services in the Gazebo on **Sundays, 1/17 and 1/24, to sign up**. Child care will be provided.

Taylor Boone is a lawyer, CPA and ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church. In addition to his work as a trust and estate planning attorney, Taylor is Associate Pastor at Travis Park UMC. Named for more than 10 years in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Taylor has been recognized by *Texas Monthly* magazine and *Law & Politics* magazine as a "Texas Super Lawyer" in the area of Estate Planning and Probate (2003-2008). *Scene in SA* magazine listed Taylor as one of San Antonio's Best Trust and Estate Planning Attorneys (2005-2007, 2009). In addition to his exceptional professional qualifications, Taylor is uniquely qualified as a man of faith to help seminar participants express their faith through advance estate planning. You are never too young or too old to make an estate plan. **Plan now to attend** this valuable seminar on **Thursday, January 28**.



From Pastor Barbara ...



Dear Ones:

I don't want to argue with anyone, but I want to tell you that I am the most blessed person in the world! Here's a look at why I feel this way: I am confident in God's love for me, I know the sacrifice Jesus made for me, and I believe that the Spirit has filled me to overflowing. I have a great family, true friends, and a church family unequalled by any. I have enough challenges to exercise my faith until the only way I can stand is to bow in awe. I am confident that there is potential in every problem; assurance in every mistake; hope in the face of doubt; excitement that lifts boredom; life in every unexpected ending.

Come to think of it ... maybe you can count these blessings as yours too. It may be possible that your list would be longer than mine! I dare you - give listing your blessings a try. We'll compare our lists.

Wouldn't it be a great thing if all of us counted everything as a blessing? Sometimes in the midst of life it is downright impossible to think of some things as blessings, but then, looking back, they have been.

"Attitude is altitude." "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it." "When a dream fails you, look up and dream again." "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Those are just a few of the phrases that come to mind to get or keep me in sync with my blessings. I'm resolving in 2010 to use them often, collect others, and begin again to look at all of life expecting to be blessed. Just so you'll know, I'm starting with how blessed I am to be with you!



Happy New Year!



Pastor Barbara

Stewardship - A Way of Life by Jeanne Lovett

My name is Jeanne Lovett. I've been asked to discuss stewardship. Yet, how does one discuss their entire life in three minutes? Stewardship is managing our lives and resources to provide glory to God and for God's purposes. It is everything we do with our lives for God and for His people. It is a way of life.

How do we practice stewardship? We practice stewardship by utilizing all God has given us for the purpose of glorifying Him and doing His work of helping others. In the Methodist church, we often speak of stewardship in the areas of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

As the lucky mom of this miraculous child, I want to relate stewardship to my responsibility as a mother. I first **prayed** that God would bring a child into my life. Now I pray for guidance in raising him. For how can I know how God would have me utilize my resources for Paul (His child) if I do not ask? And how can we raise Paul without prayers asking for help?



Managing my time since Paul was born is probably the hardest area for me (and one that repeatedly reverts back to the need for more prayer). To be able to raise Paul with the essentials he needs, I must spend time working, shopping, cleaning and cooking. Yet, the most important time I spend with him is in church every Sunday when I show him with my actions that our **presence** in church is a priority and that I must manage my time to allow us to worship and praise God and lay aside all other things for the time to be in His presence.

The next area of stewardship can be the easiest for some and the hardest for others. It's probably the hardest to talk about for most people. Our **gifts**. Yes, we have opportunities to bring non-

monetary gifts such as coats, shoes, and food for the needy. For me, financial gifts is the easiest and most concrete area. My husband Dennis and I give at least 10 percent of everything we receive. For a math geek like me, that's easy – just move the decimal point over one to the left and give that amount. Maybe it is easiest for me because it is the only way of life I have known. I was taught to tithe as a young child. We have already started teaching this to Paul. Paul has 2 piggy banks – one big brown pig with blue spots and one little baby shoe with a cross on it. Every time he gets money as a gift or from Daddy's pockets, we put most of it in the big brown pig for him to keep and a smaller portion in the little shoe to save and bring to church. He doesn't have to know math and percents, he just knows that everything he receives is thankfully acknowledged and that he gives back a portion.

Next there is **service**. Service involves doing something for someone in God's name. As a parent, my service is taking care of Paul. I am privileged to get to change several diapers a day. In changing Paul's diaper, I am taking care of his needs that he cannot take care of himself. We can provide service in our immediate family, in our circle of friends, in our community, and in our world. Do God's work with a humble and thankful heart and you have given yourself in service.

Which brings us to the last area. Our **witness**. Occasionally, our witness is a formal statement of our beliefs and our story. More often and more importantly, our witness is everything people see us do. Children do not learn by what we simply say. Children learn and repeat what they see. Our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are all God's children, also learn from what they see. Our actions are the loudest witness of all.

So there you have what stewardship means to me as a mother and as a Christian. It is managing all of my life, including prayers, time and presence, monetary and non-monetary gifts, service for God's people, and living in such a way that God will be pleased and others will see that I am a Christian.



Stewardship - A Way of Life

Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness

An easier way to give:

Never have cash? Don't carry a checkbook? Coker can set up an automatic withdrawal from your bank account each month for your church contributions. Contact Janice Gentry (janice.gentry@coker.org) to get started. You just fill out one authorization form and give us a voided check. Then you don't have to remember your checkbook again!

Worship and Prayer

Saturday, January 2

Communion
5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, January 3 Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Celebrate! 9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

No Children's Church

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Saturday, January 9

5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, January 10

1st Sunday after the Epiphany
2 Corinthians 5:11-6:1

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

Celebrate! 9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

11:00 am-Children's Church

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Saturday, January 16

5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, January 17

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Luke 14:15-24

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

Celebrate! 9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

11:00 am-Children's Church

Saturday, January 23

5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, January 24

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
Luke 5:27-32

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

Celebrate! 9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

11:00 am-Children's Church

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Saturday, January 30

5:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, January 31

4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Acts 26:4-18

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

Celebrate! 9:30 & 11:00 am
in Upper Room

11:00 am-Children's Church

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Wednesday Worship

6:30 pm in Chapel



January Prayers

Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 (ASV)

Monday

Father, help us to seek you in this new year. Amen.

Tuesday

O Mighty One, you are a sovereign King. Guide us to see your presence in everything. Thank You.

Wednesday

Please, Merciful One, grant us the desire to be born again in you. Amen.

Thursday

Dear Lord, remind me of Thy Will, not my will. In your Holy name I pray.

Friday

Almighty Father, in this new year, wash away the old, so we can be "new" in you. Amen.

Saturday

God, please guide me in your ways, that I may serve my neighbor as you serve me. Thank you.

Sunday

Lord, as we seek you and your kingdom, show us your ways. Forever, 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, January 10



Whether you have ever been to an Emmaus-sponsored worship service or not, **YOU are invited to worship & share Holy Communion** with the Coker Emmaus Community **Sunday, January 10**. 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 (music by the **Grace Notes** of Universal City UMC). The **Speaker** will be **Neil Elliott**. **Holy Communion** will be celebrated.

Child care will be provided in the Wesley Nursery.

Please join us in worship. We will all be blessed.

Save the date ...



Healing Service

Monday, February 1

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 (resumes Jan. 10)
- 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 - Connecting at Coker Membership Class
- 9:30 am - Sunday School for all
- 10:30 am - Coker Children's Music
- 11 am - Children's Church (Not on 1st Sunday)
- 11 am - Adult Sunday School
11 am - Prayer Group
Youth music & activities resume Jan. 10
- 3 pm - Youth Band
- 4 pm - Sing For Christ Youth Choir
- 5 pm - Youth Bells
- 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
- 7 pm - Youth Education on Addictions
- 7 pm - Al-Anon Group
- 7 pm - LAA-12 Step Program

TUESDAY

- 7 pm - AA Group

WEDNESDAY

- 9 am - Co-ed Exercise
Mid-Week Manna—begins Jan. 6
5:00-6:30 pm - Dinner
- 6:30 pm - Music, Prayer, Communion, Teaching in the Chapel
6:30 pm - Kids' Bible Adventure
6:30 pm - Classes for Adults
6:45 pm - CSM Youth Bible Studies
- 7 pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10 am - Hearts in Tune
- 12 noon - Lunchtime Bible Study
- 6 pm - S-Anon Group
- 6 pm - Festival Bells Jubilee
- 6:30 pm - Celebrate! Band 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

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 ●Church Campus closed	2 ●9:00 am-Undecorate the Campus ●5:00 pm-Communion
3 ●Communion ●Angel Food sign up ●6:00 pm-Life Together Men's study begins	4	5 ●6:30 pm-Down Syndrome Support	6 ●10:00 am-CALLL Study begins ●Mid-Week Manna begins; evening studies begin	7 ●9:15 am-Women in the Word Study ●11:30 am-Senior Adult Fellowship ●6:00 pm-Our Heritage of Hymns class begins	8 ●Coker Night at the Spurs	9 ●Mission Moment	
10 ●Mission Moment ●Angel Food sign up ●Breakfast resumes ●5:30 pm-Emmaus Gathering ●6:00 pm-Emmaus-Led Worship ●6:00 pm-Confirmation Parent class	11 ●7:00 pm-Contagious Christian class begins	12 ●10:00 am-UMW Monthly Gathering ●6:30 pm-Encountering the Healing Jesus begins	13 ●9:30 am & 12:30 pm-Beth Moore Study begins ●3:30 pm-Study of James begins ●Mid-Week Manna	14 ●6:00 pm-Study of James begins	15	16	
17 ●Blood Pressure checks	18 ●Church Campus closed 	19 ●7:00 pm-Rhythms of Praise Drum Circle	20 ●Mid-Week Manna	21	22 ●9:30 am-CALLL outing 3 rd Grade Bible Retreat	23 ●8:30-10 am -Angel Food Distribution	
24	25	26	27 ●Mid-Week Manna - Iron Chef Competition	28 ●6:30 pm-Estate Planning Seminar	29 ●9:30 am-CALLL Brown Bag Lunch/ Games Day Adult Choral Workshop in Kerrville Middle School Mid-Winter Fri.-Sun. at Mt. Wesley	30 ●10:00 am-Coker has Talent Show Screening	
31 ●9:30 & 11:00 am-MacArthur Cello Choir in Sanctuary ●3:00 pm-The Arts at Coker presents Dong-Il Shin, organ ●6:00 pm-Mission Trip 2010 meeting for parents & youth							

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

Joys

Congratulations

- Wanda Cecil on the birth of her grandson, Campbell Cecil, 10/27
- Lauretta & Barry Dortch on the birth of their grandson, Reagan Ryan, 11/7; parents are Chris & Brittney Thomas
- Lisa & Cole Webb on the birth of their daughter, Kendall Draper, 11/20; grandparents are Donna & John Wright
- Xochitl & Michael Davis on the birth of their grandson, Noah Michael Spearman, 11/24; parents are Xochitl Carmen & Darren Spearman
- Members of Coker UMC for volunteer work with families at Harmony Hills Elementary School for which they were recognized as one of the recipients of the NEISD Superintendent's Award on 12/15

Baptisms

- Phoebe Florence Hanon - 11/15
Cameron Hill - 12/5
Sienna Brooke Williams - 12/6



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles
for Feb., due Jan. 15

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

Hospitals & Rehab

- Methodist Specialty & Transplant – Charles Greinke, Hayward Halford
- St. Luke's Baptist – Margaret Vest
- Sonterra Health Center – Rose Miller

Sympathy

- Family of Dolores R. Splichal who died 11/12
- Family of Oliver P. Stipp who died 11/18
- Helen Anderson & family on the death of her mother, Sarah Cooke, 11/28
- Mary Beth Ladendorff & family on the death of her husband, Ed Ladendorff, 12/1
- Morris Hutchings & family on the death of his wife, Ellen Hutchings, 12/5
- Dorothy Morton & family on the death of her brother, John Janak, 12/10
- Rachel Chapman & family on the death of her grandmother, Alice Seargeant, 12/11
- Steve Elyea & family on the death of his father, David Elyea, 12/12
- Cathie Buxie & family on the death of her father, Walter Kleffner, 12/15
- Georganne Leonard & family on the death of her uncle, John Gregory
- Wanda Cecil & family on the death of her brother, Randy Yeagan

Church Campus closed
January 1 and January 18

Presence

November 14 & 15

Worship-1,104 Sunday School-469

November 21 & 22

Worship-871 Sunday School-458

November 28 & 29

Worship-887 Sunday School-467

December 5 & 6

Worship-935 Sunday School-468

December 12 & 13

Worship-910 Sunday School-480

Gifts...as of Nov. 30, 2009

	Month	YTD
Income	\$ 189,903	\$ 2,134,378
Expenses	- 189,417	- 2,201,982
Balance	\$ 486	\$ - 67,604

November Mission Moment
Coker Food Pantry ... \$6,879

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 ... 889-5903

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

Welcome New Members



David Anderson

Mel & Sharon
Kemp



Leslie & Sam McCrary



Ian Walters & Carol Walters



Sunday Night CSM

5:30 pm - Snack Supper (\$3)

6:00-7:30 pm - 6th & 7th Graders

CONFIRMATION

Dive In

January 10..... Who is the God We Worship?
 January 17..... Worship/Hymnal
 January 24..... Who is Jesus and What Did He Do?
 January 31..... Mission Trip Meeting for parents & youth

Remember to get a Sermon Note sheet before you go into worship each week.

Confirmation Parent Class ... led by Pastor Barbara, on Sunday, January 10, 6:00-7:30 pm in Wesley 801

6:00-7:30 pm - MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL UMYE

January 3..... No youth group
 January 10..... Game Night for both Middle & High School
 January 17..... 7th-12th Grades—



A Night of Worship with the Museum Band
 6:00 pm in the Upper Room

January 24..... Dangers of Addiction
 In coordination with the CARE Team, the Student Ministry will have a candid and open forum to hear about the dangers of alcohol, drugs and other addictions. Pertinent information will be presented by a recovering addict. Opportunity for the youth and parents/family will be provided in different forums. A representative from the CARE Team will be there to talk about a new support group forming (YEA - Youth Education on Addiction) for youth dealing with friends and families in addictive lifestyles.

January 31..... Mission Trip 2010 meeting for parents and youth

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 6:45-8:00 pm in the John Gibbs Building. Come be a part of the movement to "Be the Church". Groups for 6th-12th grades.

See page 6 for information about COKER HAS TALENT Dinner and Show.

Midwinter Time Again!

We Are A Movement



What is Midwinter? It is a fun-filled, spiritually uplifting, high energy weekend full of amazing worship with fellow youth from the Southwest Texas Conference.



- The Middle School (6th-8th) weekend is Jan 29-31 (forms due by Jan. 13).
- The High School weekend is Feb. 12-15 (forms due by Jan. 31).

The cost is \$100. Scholarships are available. Registration forms can be found in the lobby of the Gibbs building. Please make checks payable to Coker and return the form/payment to the black box by the elevator.



Announcing this summer's mission trips ...

- Middle School to McAllen, TX
- High School to Atlanta, GA

Come find out all the details at
Mission Trip Meeting for Parents and Youth
January 31 at 6:00 pm in the Upper Room

Bring paperwork with you - you will receive it in the mail mid January.