



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF BURNS UNITED METHODIST AND HAMMITT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

Volume 16, Number 1, January 2016

## Youth Trip to Orion Starry Nights and Chuck-E-Cheese by Sherrita Campbell



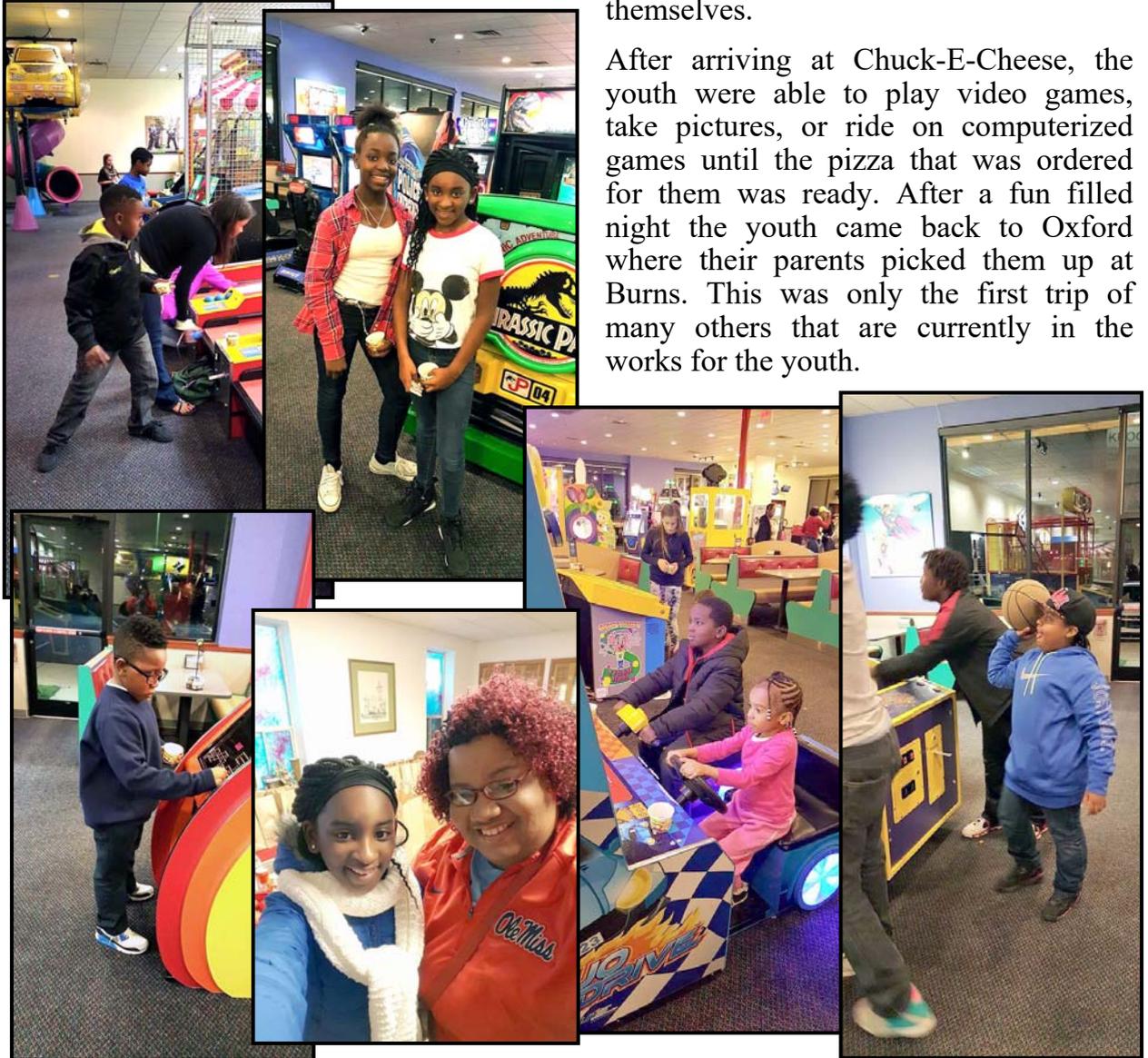
On Friday December 19th, I, in my capacity as Coordinator of the Youth, along with Pastor Christopher Diggs (and family), Minister Laura Gillom, Fannie Goolsby, and Willie Mae Barry, took a

total of 12 youth to Memphis, TN to Shelby Farms to see the Orion Starry Nights and later on had dinner and played games at Chuck-E-Cheese in Southaven, MS. The names of the

children are Megan Henry, Emarion Buford, Akiyah Buford, Zemari Price, Ty Campbell, Nieven Mitchell, Shawn Hilliard, C.J. Ballentine, DeQuard Henry, Emory Phillips, Greek Marion, and Keaton Phillips of Burns and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Churches, ranging in ages from 4 to 14. Shelby Farms

displays over 1.5 million holiday lights at the drive through park; some of the youth had never been to a drive through scenery where they were able to see many different Christmas holiday scenes. After hearing all the "wows," "oohs," "look at this," "look at that," and "aahs" it was clear that the children really enjoyed themselves.

After arriving at Chuck-E-Cheese, the youth were able to play video games, take pictures, or ride on computerized games until the pizza that was ordered for them was ready. After a fun filled night the youth came back to Oxford where their parents picked them up at Burns. This was only the first trip of many others that are currently in the works for the youth.





## Proclaiming The Good News From The Rooftops

by Christopher Cross

“What I tell you in the darkness speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the rooftops.”  
—MATTHEW 10:27

This is an inspiring verse that many people see as comfort going through life’s struggles. Struggles such as hard financial times, problems on the job or school, relationships problems, and so on so forth. In these downtrodden times the Lord most definitely whispers to us that He will take care of every problem, and when we realize that He has fixed the problem, we proclaim our testimonies in the light and on every rooftop. (Notice I said that “when we realize He has fixed the problem” and not “when He fixes the problem.” The Lord took care of every problem we ever had, currently have, and will ever have, on the cross at Calvary. It is now just a matter of us being aware of that.)

There is more to this verse though. Matthew 10:27 applies to the darkness of sin as well. We find ourselves so caught up in sin, that we don’t see any escape. We begin to condemn ourselves and believe the lies of shame that Satan, the Accuser, tells us. But I have found out that it is in these moments of the darkness and lowness of sin that God whispers the Good News of the Gospel. In doing so, He has defeated the darkness of sin, and reminded us that the power of the cleansing blood of Christ can defeat any sin. Furthermore, He reminds us that we are Sons and Daughters of Righteousness of the lineage of Abraham through Christ’s gracious exchange of righteousness for our

sins. We speak these things over and over ourselves and gradually begin to notice that we are no longer lost in the darkness of sin, but shining in the light of Christ. Experiencing God's gracious and merciful love like this, why would we not want to exclaim the goodness of God on the rooftops to a world lost in sin? Just thinking about the love of God should make us want to declare the glory of Christ Jesus!

So next time when we find ourselves in the darkness of either life's tribulations or sinfulness, or both, listen for the quietness of God whispering the Gospel of Christ: freedom from this world and victory over sin!

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PICTURED ABOVE: **New Albany District Superintendent Rev. Billy N. Owens, Rev. William T. Chaney, Jr., South East Jurisdiction Regional New Church Strategist, New Church Division/Path1 and Burns/Hammitt Hill UMC Pastor Rev. Christopher C. Diggs. Rev. Chaney and Rev. Owens met with members of Burns and Hammitt Hill continuing the discussion of church mergers on Saturday, December 5, 2015. A representative of Salem UMC was also in attendance.**

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