



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

Volume 17, Number 2, February 2017

“The Walls Will Come Down!”

by Minister Laura Gillom



In JOSHUA 6, Joshua and the children of Israel marched around the city of Jericho seven times on the seventh day as God instructed. The seventh time, they shouted as loud as they could, and the walls of Jericho collapsed. The Israelites took the city. The message from Pastor Diggs on Sunday, January 15th, from JOSHUA 6:17-25, prompted a call for the members of Oxford First and the Lafayette Oxford University

community to join in a Community Prayer Walk on Saturday, January 21st.

More than 30 people arrived at Oxford First at 9 A.M., in response to the call to walk around the church building and the perimeter of the property seven times as Joshua and the Israelites had done. We believed God would bring down the walls in our lives hindering us from moving

forward and fulfilling our purpose both individually and collectively. At the end of the walk, we joined together in a circle as prayers were prayed in thanksgiving to God for the walls coming down. At the conclusion of the prayers, we united in resounding "Hallelujahs", spiritually seeing our walls come down.

As a result of our sacrifice to God, Pastor Diggs has received testimonies of walls coming down.

Dennis Kimbro said in *The Wealth Choice*, "If you have the faith, God has the power!" We exercised our faith, and God came through.

Jamaica 2017

by Barbara Wortham



A group of Oxford University and Oxford First members served in ministry to our sisters and brothers in Jamaica on the week of Jan. 7-13, 2017. We were blessed to take part in service projects for the Roland Anderson Guest House and the Bunker's Hill Church of God and Prophecy. It was a week filled with new culinary experiences and worship through giving and sharing.

Each day we worked at the Unity Primary School. Our service to the school was enhanced this year by the addition of our music classes which were taught by Min. Laura Gillom and Ms. Effie Burt. The rest of the team volunteered in the pre-K and kindergarten classes or worked one on one with the children or in small groups. Many of us commented on how receptive the faculty,



staff, and students were to our being there.

One of our teams worked on the solar shower project during the afternoon work sessions. the shower project was the brain child of Mr. Chris Stasny. The solar shower was constructed at the Anderson Guest House to assist other missionary groups who would be traveling to Jamaica. The other team worked on building a fence at our partner church,



Bunker's Hill Church of God and Prophecy. They helped clean the area behind the church, dig post holes, and begin putting up the chain link fence

The highlights of the trip were our visit to the Trelawny Infirmary, Nursing Home, worship service at our partner church, and visiting the neighborhood around the church. On Sunday afternoon, we went around the neighborhood handing out prayer shawls and cards to the

sick and shut in. We participated in a stirring fellowship gathering on Wednesday night. The congregation played a find the matching verse game and the mission team passed out prayer shawls and bibles. It was wonderful to see young and old joining in with the praise team. We danced out of the church that night. Thursday morning we visited the Trelawny Infirmary where we handed out toiletry bags to the staff and cards to the patients. We were



extremely blessed when one of the patients began to sing "Yes, Jesus Loves Me." He sang that song as if he knew it was true without a doubt.

Our week was one filled with work, building relationships, showing Christ's love to our brothers and sisters, and learning how to give of one's self. Jamaica 2017 was an adventure





for all concerned. We would like to thank Ms. Jean Shaw for her leadership and our local pastors for their leadership and support. We also thank our congregations for their prayers and words of encouragement. God is doing great things in the lives of his people!

Jacob's Ladder is a monthly publication of Oxford First United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. Franklin. ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Niler P. Franklin. All rights reserved. Announcements or articles should be submitted to Rev. Christopher C. Diggs or submitted by e-mail directly to Franklin at chfrank@panola.com. Visit our website at www.OxfordFirst.org and click on the *Jacob's Ladder* link to view previous month's issues.

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Jacob's Ladder
 P.O. Box 277
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Soup for Seniors

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
 11:00 a.m.



Laura Ann Cancer and Janis Blake
 Coordinators

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 STAMP
 HERE