



Jacob's Ladder



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

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

Volume 15, Number 5, May 2015

Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. Preaches at Burns UM Church by Rev. Christopher C. Diggs

Praise God from whom all blessing flow.
We were honored and blessed to have our
Superintendent John C. Moore, and our

Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. to join us
for worship on the 2nd Sunday in April.
We were blessed with a spirit filled



service and our choir filled the air with sweet music which overjoyed our hearts. For those who have not been blessed to hear Bishop Swanson preach, you missed a treat. He delivered a rousing, energetic, edifying sermon that had the combined congregations of Burns and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Churches rocking. This service is indicative of what God is doing at both churches, and the possibilities that exist in the future. The fellowship meal was equally impressive, and many other

churches joined in with much excitement as well.

Let's not forget this was a collaborative effort from many people who sacrificed their time and talents to make our Bishop's visit a memorable one and my prayers are that we will continue to love each other and grow in Christ to become the very best at what God wants us to become.



PICTURED ABOVE: With the impending retirement of New Albany District Superintendent John C. Moore (Third from left above), Burns and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Churches presented him with an Appreciation Plaque. Pictured above with him (from l. to r.) are Rev. Marvin Gipson, Bishop Swanson and Pastor Diggs.

Kara Hilliard Wins Arbor Day Poster Contest



Congratulations to Kara Hilliard for placing first in the Oxford/Lafayette County Arbor Day Poster Contest. Kara was recognized at Oxford's Arbor Day Celebration at the new Oxford High School on Friday, April 24, 2015. First place also includes a monetary award from the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

Kara is the granddaughter of our own Laura Ann Cancer, and the winner of Burns UMC's 2013 Valentine's Day Program.

Burns and Hammitt Hill Welcome Rev. Gregg Wax as Associate Minister



Minister Gregg Wax was born in Amory, Mississippi, and educated in the Amory Public School system. He is married to Yolanda Tate Wax and together they have six children, and currently reside in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Minister Wax gave his life to Christ at St

Paul MB Church in Amory at the age of 12. Shortly after moving to Tupelo in 1985, he joined Rising Star MB Church. In 2009 Min. Wax became a member of Life Changing Ministries in Tupelo, and it was there that he received his calling into the ministry in 2012. Under the guidance of his late uncle, Pastor Benjamin Wax, he became an associate minister at Valley Chapel United Methodist Church, in Hamilton, Mississippi.

Now under the guidance of Pastor Christopher Diggs, Minister Wax has come to Oxford as an associate Minister at Burns United Methodist Church and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Church. He is currently working his way through the candidacy program of the United Methodist Church, and plans on furthering his education in ministry, divinity and theology.

Minister Wax is a Senior Process Technician at Tronox Chemical Corporation, LLC, where he has been employed for 23 years.

Race & Reconciliation

by Rev. Christopher C. Diggs

In my opinion, we are beyond the point of discussing Race and Reconciliation in this country - It's time to start doing something about it. Anyone can sit comfortably and criticize, critique, or even sympathize with all of the issues concerning Race in America. However, how many people are actually doing something to help the situation?

When was the last time any of us talked to, instead of talking about someone of a

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Page 4

Jacob's Ladder

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different ethnicity. The problem with Race in America is much deeper than Baltimore, Ferguson or Charleston, SC. We all have issues in our homes, communities and churches. I'm just a small voice, but either we are part of the problem or part of the solution.

Finally, when was the last time any of [our] FaceBook friends sat down with a Black person, or a White person - Hispanic, Asian, etc. When, if ever, have any of you invited someone of a different RACE to sit at your home, or your table to have a meal. In my opinion, the best way to make a difference in this society is by being an agent of change, not chaos. In the words of my Grandmother, "It's going to be very difficult to get together in Heaven, if you can't get together on Earth."