



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

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2017 Krunk4Christ Youthfest by Minister Laura Gillom



It's Good Friday. The children and youth were out of school, and once again we are prepared to offer them an opportunity to have fun. What better way to begin the day than with Worship? Theme of the day: "You were born to win!" We enjoyed singing together as a group, forming a big youth choir.

Divine Faith, the Praise Team from Moses Chapel UMC in Ripley MS brought us messages through dance. Linda Leatherwood (their adult chaperone) and I had been talking for a month prior to the event. She said, "they are excited about coming to Oxford".

Rev. Kevin Kosh, Chaplain at Rust College, brought the morning message. He gave an inspiring word from 1 PETER 2:9, encouraging the group to 1) love who you are, 2) NEVER forget whose you are, and 3) do your best and be on your best behavior, for you represent your family, your community and most importantly the Kingdom. He then challenged them to speak life, live life, give life, and let their light shine and transform the world. He summed up his message with Nas' song, *I Know I Can*. In the song, Nas says, "I know I can (I know I can) Be what I wanna be (be what I wanna be) If I work hard at it (If I work hard it) I'll be where I wanna be (I'll be where I wanna be)".

After lunch, our afternoon consisted of Coach Bush taking the youth down the hill to the OPC to

play basketball, then returned for a rap session to discuss teen issues. Miss "Lil' Bit" instructed the children and leaders on how to make colored Rice Krispy eggs, and we watched a movie about the crucifixion.

Around 2:00 P.M., Sparky and the Oxford Fire Department showed up with a BIG fire truck, footballs, frisbees, fire hats, coloring books and crayons. The children were allowed to get in and out of the truck, take pictures with the firemen, and even blow the horn. Lela especially liked that part. The Chick-Fil-A cow also made an appearance and gave the group gift cards. They were very appreciative.

Special thanks to everyone who helped. YOU ROCK! I would say it was a "Good" Friday.



“To Be More Like Christ” **by Christopher Cross**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

—1st CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

—Ephesians 4:32

Believe it or not, most of us really have only one goal in life. It is to be more like Christ. I know my actions, particularly, don't always exhibit it, but in the moments where it matters most, I like to believe it shows. We all should strive to be able to love as Christ loves. He died for a bunch of disrespectful, ungrateful, hypocritical, sinful, evil, backstabbing, two-faced, dishonest, prideful, foolish sinners He calls not only His friends, but loved ones, many who claim they love Him back. If we are all called to be like Him, shouldn't we at least to attempt to forgive when our loved ones disrespect us, hurt us, aren't grateful, become hypocritical, scheme against us, and everything else? Should we not attempt to swallow our

pride, put our feelings aside, humble ourselves and forgive others and make amends just as He does when we hurt Him? The hurt we cause Him is much more than the hurt we cause each other, yet He graciously forgives out of His unconditional love for us. He goes as far as seeking us out to heal our relationship with Him, because He desires right relationship with us, even when we've done Him wrong. What amazing love, that We wish to possess! So I pray, God as we strive to be like Christ, help our love for others exhibit itself in how we treat them and reflect Christ's love for us. Help us to be merciful to others, just as He has been merciful to us. Amen.

Greek Marion: Honor Student

by Evelyn Smith



Congratulations to Greek Marion who is being recognized as an honor student (A's and 1 B) for the third nine week grading period. Greek, a sixth grade student at Oxford Middle School states

that her favorite subject is Mathematics and she prefers to study, play basketball and shop during her free time.

She is a sprinter on the track team and a member of the middle school girls basketball team. Greek sings in the youth and children's choir at church and has performed the duty of an acolyte. Greek says that she is striving to make all A's and sees herself in the future as a lawyer.

She has three brothers and three sisters. She is a young lady who is very reserved and humble. She is thoughtful and is a very serious student, and it is with great pleasure that we extend congratulations to Greek Marion on her academic achievements.

Emory Phillips A Shining Star



Oxford Elementary School recently named Emory Phillips a Shining Star for the month of April. For always smiling and being ready to work hard. She is always ready to put her best foot forward. Way to go, Emory!

White obtains GED

by Barbara Wortham



Oxford First congratulates Mr. Corey White on obtaining his GED. Corey is employed at the University of Mississippi. He participated in the Adult Basic Education Program at Oxford First UMC which is sponsored by the Lafayette County Literacy Council.

Soup for Seniors

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

11:00 a.m.



**Laura Ann Cancer and Janis Blake
Coordinators**

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2017 Birthday Celebration

Oxford First UMC is holding its Annual Birthday Celebration on Sunday, June 25, 2017 as part of morning worship service. Remember that this is a major fund raiser for the church, so please get with your month's captains to coordinate your efforts.

We are preparing a Special issue of *Jacob's Ladder* as a Souvenir booklet selling ads. That is one way to raise your month's money. Ad prices are as follows:

Full Page	-	\$100.00
Half Page	-	\$ 50.00
Quarter Page	-	\$ 25.00

**For additional information please contact:
Sister Stella Murray, Program Chairperson**