



Jacob's Ladder



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

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor, Burns UMC &
Rev. Dr. Marvin J. Gipson, Pastor, Hammitt Hill

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BURNS UMC FIRST FAMILY WELCOMES NEW ADDITION



A little over a month ago God bestowed a very special blessing on Pastor Christopher C. Diggs and wife, Lecha in the form of a

beautiful daughter, Madelyn (pictured above with them both at the parsonage).

THIS YEAR IS ALMOST GONE

by Rev. Christopher C. Diggs

Wow!!! Can you believe it, the year is almost gone? We have only a few more weeks left in this year and prayerfully, we will embark on the hope, promises, as well as challenges of 2014. However, as we reflect on the past ten months: I would like to pose a question to all our readers. Have you accomplished those goals you set at the beginning of the year, if not, why? What has hindered you from reaching the full potential God has given you? Have you worked hard at attaining those goals and aspirations you set on New Year's Day? Burns, I would like to challenge you to only reflect, but not look back. Looking back will only impede the progress we can make for the rest of the year.

We need to start now working to finish this year strong and going forward in the New Year with the vigor, determination and faith to accomplish whatever challenges we might encounter.

The time is right for us to stop talking about ministry and start doing ministry. Now is the time for us to establish or re-establish our commitment to Jesus Christ and move

towards sacrificing our time, gifts, finances, etc. Our GED program is a shining example of what we can do to help those in the community who are in need of a hand, but not a HAND OUT. Further, our children's ministry is another way we can allow the Light of Christ to shine on those who are in need of the love and compassion that should come directly from The Church. Also, within the next few weeks we are embarking on a New Ministry at Burns. "Soup for seniors" should be starting very soon. Twice a month we plan on a fellowship meal with our Senior Citizens.

Our weekly attendance has been very consistent; we have had several people to join our church and some to re-commit their lives to Christ. Finances continue to improve; week after week God blesses us to have visitors who come from all over the United States. God is doing a great work at Burns and we can only anticipate with a sense of excitement and exhilaration what God is going to do for the next few weeks and in 2014.



RELATIONSHIPS

by Clarence H. Franklin

Our Pastor, Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, has talked much about relationships since his arrival, our relationship with our Heavenly Father, our relationship with our church, our relationship with our community, and our relationship with each other. But what exactly does relationship mean here? What are we talking about?

First and foremost, relationship is about love. Jesus said in JOHN 13: 34-35 "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another." It is not enough to be a "Christian" as we learned in Bible study

recently. Jesus wants us to be His *disciples*, His followers, to follow His teachings and the example He set for us.

Relationship is also about trust. Trust is a choice. We choose to put our trust in God, in our husband or wife, our church, etc. It is about “taking a leap of faith” when dealing with others. It is most of all, and most importantly, about love as the scripture above demonstrates. I am not sure there can be true love without trust. No love, no trust, and ultimately, no relationship. No where should love be more prevalent than in the church, the body of Christ. EPHESIANS 5:30 says: “For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.” That is what “open minds, open hearts, and open doors” are all about: *love*. JOHN 3:16 says: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Love opens us up to opportunities to establish relationships with others. Of course, opening our hearts to others, opens up the possibility of us getting hurt, of our hearts being broken. But a life without love is hardly worth living. That is why it is so

important that we make sure we have established the first and most important relationship of all. MATTHEW 6:33 says: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.” It begins with our relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Give Him your heart and your trust and you will have the assurance that no matter what you are confronted with, you already have the victory.

Finally, as the church, the body of Christ, what should our relationship with each other look like? EPHESIANS 2:19-22 sums it up: “Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief cornerstone, in whom every building having been fitly framed together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a dwelling place of God through *the* Spirit.” There should be no “big I’s” or “little you’s” in the church. This is the kind of relationship we should all aspire to.



A CHRISTENING

But Jesus said, Allow the little children to come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven.

—Matthew 19: 14

On Sunday, October 13, 2013, Pastor Christopher Diggs held a Christening Ceremony for young Kase Bush, son of Chris and LaJada Bush. It was a beautiful Spirit filled celebration.



**Be the Next
GED SUCCESS
STORY**

FREE
GED
Classes

Burns UMC has free GED Classes on Tuesday and Thursday Nights beginning at 7:00 P.M. Volunteers are need to help with the young children. Please contact Barbara Wortham at 662-607-2636 to volunteer or for more information.

Jacob's Ladder is a monthly publication of Burns United Methodist Church and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. 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 Burns website at www.BurnsUMC.org and click on the Monthly Newsletter link to view previous month's issues of *Jacob's Ladder*.

BURNS UMC YOUTH CHOIR



Burns UMC Youth Choir was resplendent in pink on the 4th Sunday commemorating Breast Cancer Month.

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE