



We're All In This Together

If anyone . . . sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

1 JOHN 3:17 NIV

A white friend of mine, who was just struggling with the realization that I could easily be one of the black people killed by the police, asked me the other day, “is there any hope?”

This was my response: We're all in this together. **We. Are. All. In. This. Together.** Over the last week of hate and racism, I found myself oddly hopeful today. And it's because of you. No, not all of you, but a surprising number of you seem to have realized, we're all in this together. I see the posts, the stories, the shares, the retweets. All of it. And Thank you. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “The time is always right to do what is right.” It does not matter what you did yesterday, only what you'll do today, and tomorrow. And if the number of people who now appear to realize just how bad racism in America is, and is ready to stand against it, I am genuinely hopeful for the future.

—Kenneth J. Franklin



Illustration by Kenneth J. Franklin

Carlos “C.J.” Richardson Honored



On Sunday, May 24th, Oxford First UMC recognized and honored Carlos “C.J.” Richardson upon the event of his graduation from Oxford High School. Pastor Sapada Thomas posed the following 4 questions to him.

1. What is the most exciting thing you’ve experienced during graduation?

The most exciting experience was actually being able to walk the stage despite the unfortunate events.

2. What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I am going to basic training for 15 weeks with The National Guard, and upon returning I will attend Jackson State University.

3. What has Oxford First meant to you during your years in high school?

Oxford First has definitely been my backbone and helped me remain emotionally stable and kept my head on straight.

4. What is your favorite Bible verse?

PHILIPPIANS 4: 13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

We wish nothing but the best for CJ as he transitioned from youth to manhood.

This pictorial review highlights his day.





The Worthams Recognized

During a training in February, Kenneth and Barbara Wortham renewed their Lay Servant certification. The Worthams completed a course on ministering to families of individuals with dementia. The Lay Servant ministry is designed to assist pastors in providing pastoral care for congregation and community members. Certified Lay Servants serve the local church or charge in

any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship, including the interpretation of Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of the church. Certified Lay Servants are to serve within and beyond the local church. Some duties of Lay Servants are to:

- Take initiative in giving leadership, assistance, and support to the program emphases of the church
- Lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries
- Conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, and present sermons and addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries
- Relate to appropriate committees and ministry areas in providing leadership for congregational and community life and fostering caregiving ministries
- Assist in the distribution of the elements of

Holy Communion whenever celebrated upon request by the pastor of the church of which the lay servant is a member

Kenneth and Barbara also serve as coordinators of the New Albany district's Lay Servant Ministries. In this capacity, they plan the annual training for district Lay Servants and represent the ministry on the district's Laity Board. At Oxford First, the Worthams are involved in community outreach through the water and food ministry, and the Adult Education ministry.

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. Sapada Thomas 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.

