



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Elder Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

Volume 17, Number 8, August 2017

## UMW and Climate Justice by Barbara Wortham



The United Methodist Women of Oxford First hosted a mission study on “Climate Justice” on July 29, 2017. The study focused on the effect of the greenhouse gases on different areas of the world. This study invites you to understand climate justice, which means

setting right our relationships with each other and the earth. Climate injustice is the result of climate change. The study challenged us to see what needs to happen for climate justice to become a reality in the world today. The church needs to more powerfully model a

way of doing it differently. This will entail not just focusing on the environment, but also asking hard questions regarding financial profit, a growing economy, our independent way of thinking and our understanding of

efficiency. The study was led by Ms. Elizabeth Beck, the Education and Interpretation Chair for the New Albany District UMW. Providence and Buford UMC also participated in the study.

## Back-To-School Bash



God continues to bless us at Oxford First. Our Back-to-School Bash was held Saturday, July 29th, from 2-4pm. We were able to provide backpacks and supplies this year to our children and youth in preparation for the 2017-2018 school year. We want them to be successful in their studies.

We've made some major accomplishments over the past 18 months, and we will not allow ourselves to become complacent. Our mentoring program will be implemented in September to better meet the needs of the children. Please watch the announcements for more information.

Miss Nile Blass spoke to the middle and high school students about study habits, and Min. Laura Gillom engaged the K-6 group in a video and discussion on "Minding Your Manners". Min. Chris Bush talked to the young men, and Sis. Brittiny Massey talked to the young ladies about proper behavior.



# VBS: Let Your Light Shine

by Minister Laura Gillom

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

—MATTHEW 5:16 (NRSV)



*"Is it going to be fun?" "What are we going to be doing?" "Can we invite other people?"* These are only a few of the questions from our children and youth about Vacation Bible School (VBS).

This was the first year we've sponsored our own VBS in a while, and for four days, July 10th-13th, we engaged in fun, fellowship, food, and a study of the Word. Our theme for the week was based on Matthew 5:16. VBS challenged us to DO something -- to glow for Jesus through our actions. Throughout the week, we studied about Jesus being the light of the world, Moses being called to be a light to lead the Israelites, Ruth radiating her light

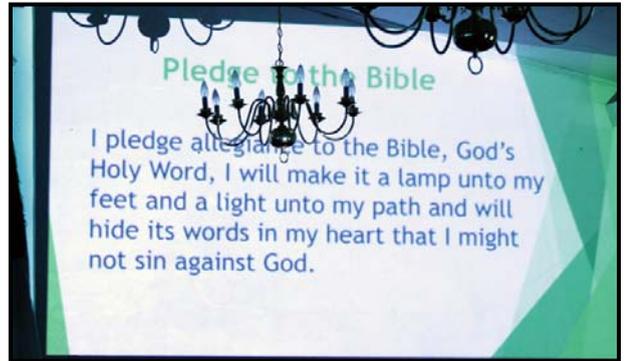
through her love for Naomi, and Paul and Silas lighting up the prison. We also enjoyed getting our daily dose of exercise, stepping to the beat of Father Abraham.



We enjoyed good food, throwing frisbees, writing on the parking lot with chalk, carrying eggs on a spoon, dumping the trunk, putting on layers of clothes, and wetting each other with water guns and balloons. Kase and Madelyn didn't want to get wet, but they wanted to make sure everyone else in their class did, including me. Ty, Zamari, and CJ were sure they would be in trouble after hitting me in the face with the football, but I understood they needed to exert the energy they had from sitting in the house all day. The incident only made them more aware of their surroundings.

*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](mailto:chfrank@panola.com). Visit our website at [www.OxfordFirst.org](http://www.OxfordFirst.org) and click on the *Jacob's Ladder* link to view previous month's issues.

Our average attendance was 45-50. We were blessed to have four classes and teachers for each. The kitchen crew was first-class. OUR VBS could not have been a success without the support of everyone. VBS has taught us that a FEW people who are on one accord can DO more than many people who are divided. WE are a TEAM! Thank God for UNITY! Thank God for Oxford First!



**Jacob's Ladder**  
P.O. Box 277  
Oxford, MS 38655

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE