



## Clergy & Laity Leadership Conference



On Sunday afternoon, January 26, 2020, Pastor Thomas and members of Oxford First UMC attended the New Albany District Clergy & Laity Leadership Conference at New Albany FUMC in New Albany, MS. The guest speaker for the conference was resident Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. Addressing a packed sanctuary and getting his scripture from the first chapter of GENESIS, Bishop Swanson expounded on the subject "Be Fruitful and Multiply."

After his inspirational sermon, all the attendees went to the various breakout sessions to learn ways to help their congregations to grow and thrive. Using the theme, "**Engage, Connect, Grow, Send**," the sessions included such subjects as "Church Vision," "Using Social Media to Further the Kingdom," "How to Grow your Sunday School Program," "Lay Leaders: Connecting Links," and "Conflict Resolution," just to name a few.



# The Pastor's Point

by

**Rev. Sapada Thomas**

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge."

—PROVERBS 23:12

**Discipleship** is teaching biblical precepts, while modeling and guiding others toward living righteously as followers of Jesus Christ. This should be a cyclical process—meaning once we are discipled, we are to disciple others, and so on. One of the most important characteristics of being a disciple (a student or pupil), is to develop an intimate relationship with God through Christ rather than just learning about Him. Discipleship equips the Christian with God's Word, prayer, doctrine, worship, encouragement, and service.

God has lead Oxford First to envision an Intentional Discipleship Plan to help our member have goals for becoming a disciple in their personal lives. It is may prayer that we will live out Authentic Worship, Generosity, Community/Outreach and Spiritual Practices to help us become closer to God through "applying our hearts to instruction and years to words of knowledge" as we sit at the feet of Jesus.

Oxford First United Methodist Church Discipleship System				
"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But this one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press toward the goal to win the prize for which				
Philippians 3: 13-14 NIV				
Church Vision:				
<i>Regenerating Passion, Reaching People, Renewing Purpose</i>				
	Searching	Beginning	Growing	Maturing
Authentic Worship	Attending worship sporatically	Begin to worship regularly and becoming more aware of God each day	Continuing to regularly attend worship and begin participating in worship	Honor and worship God everyday in work and leisure time; inviting others to worship as well
Generosity	Getting an understanding about what it means to give your time, talents, and tithes	Prioritize and develop ways to be a good steward of your personal time and possessions	Start tithing my resources, time and talents to God through various ministries of the church	Becoming active and passionate about giving time, talents, and tithes to God, your family, and church
Community/Outreach	Understand the love, grace and mercy God has for all creation through prayer, searching the Scriptures, and self-reflection	Start exploring the different opportunities the church and/or community offers to reach out to the marginalized	Intentionally seeking opportunities to share God's love, grace, and mercy with others	Actively engage with church and community ministries to offer Christ-like services to individuals locally and abroad.
Spiritual Practices	Feeling a need to have a closer relationship with God and God's people	Attending weekly Bible Studies and Sunday School to develop and interest for God's Word and ways	Begin to pray and read the Scriptures once a day; while getting a better understanding of spiritual practices	Intentionally develop and carve out different times of the week to pray, read the Scriptures while actively participating in Holy Communion

Developed 10/18/2018

## A Musician At Last!



*Hallelujah!* Oxford First UMC now has a new musician. Pictured above with Pastor Thomas is our new musician, Eddie Goliday, his wife Marketta Goliday, and his son, Eddie D. Goliday III (Tre). Thank God for this wonderful blessing.

## Lay Servant School

New Albany District Lay Servant School will be Saturday, February 22, 2020 at New Albany First United Methodist Church. Registration for this event opened December 1, 2019. If you would like to become a Certified Lay Servant or renew your Certification, please get a form from the ushers and fill it out.

## Board of Trustees Meeting Scheduled

The Oxford First UMC Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at our Hammitt Hill location at 10 County Road 181. All Trustees are asked to attend as important decisions for the new church need to be made.

## Installation of Leaders of the Church



Oxford First UMC recently installed and recognized all officers of the church for 2020. Everyone happily accepted their positions and were eager to begin their ministries.

# Grand Opening of Our New Church Coming Soon



We are planning to have our **FIRST** worship service at the new church building on **Easter**

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**Sunday, April 12, 2020.** We will also have an **Open House** for the new church building on **Saturday, April 11, 2020**, with the time to be determined . Please spread the word of our Easter Celebration. All those members who agreed to assist and develop our first worship service will meet soon.

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