



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Roger Wilson, Pastor

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No Coincidences . . .

by Clarence H. Franklin

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven."

—ECCLESIASTES 3:1

Do you know that there are no coincidences in God's kingdom? Nowhere was this better demonstrated than in the recent occurrence at Oxford First UMC. On Christmas Eve morning, I randomly checked the cameras at the church and saw a light blinking in the kitchen and did not know what that could be, so, out of curiosity, I went to the church to check it out. As soon as I opened the door, I became aware of a slow drip of water from the ceiling in the Administrative Assistant's office. I could not get in the office, so I headed for the kitchen to check out the light and attempted to call some trustees about the leak. But as I entered the Fellowship Hall,

there was a loud explosion that came from the administrative hall, and the alarm went off. As I headed back to that side I was met by a rapid stream of water, roaring like the rapids of a river from that direction. Wading through ankle-deep water back to the hallway, I saw the water gushing from under the Administrative Assistant's door and down the hall. Inside her office, water was pounding against the door. That slow drip was now coming down with hurricane-like intensity. *That is not an exaggeration!* I called the Fire Department immediately. I did not know how to cut the water off. I then called Pastor Wilson and James Milliner.



After that, I propped open the front doors to the church, which allowed some of the water to flow outside instead of through the church. The Fire Department came and cut the water off. Mr. Milliner arrived along with Rhondalyn Peairs and Pam Flemmons. Fred Spearman, Hubert Murray, and Carl Goolsby also came to help alleviate some of the mess the water had caused. The insurance company was contacted and repairs are currently being implemented. All the furniture and everything else from the administrative offices had to be stacked up in the Fellowship Hall (pictured on page 1) in order for repairs to begin.

As I look back, I thank God that I showed up when I did. As cold as it was that day, we could have come to church on Christmas morning and found a foot of ice throughout the church. There was no reason for me to have checked the cameras that morning, and consequently, no reason for me to have gone to the church. No, there was nothing coincidental about any of this. It was the Almighty God ordering my steps that morning and sending me where I needed to be at that time. *What an awesome God we serve!* Amen.



Manna from Heaven continued to provide meals for seniors and for the sick and shut-in on Thursday, December 15th.



Reginald Johnson, an old-time member of Burns UMC, recently celebrated his 83rd Birthday



Going Back To Indiana: OFUMC Women of Faith recently presented Going-Away presents and gifts to long-time church member **Ocie Cook** as she prepared to move back home to Gary, Indiana.

Christmas Program: "Reporting from Bethlehem"



OFUMC Youth performed the play "Reporting from Bethlehem" directed by Minister Tressie Johnson on December 11th. After service, meal was enjoyed in the Fellowship Hall. These pictures are from that day.



Charge Conference: Members of OFUMC recently attended the Charge Conference hosted by St. Andrew's UMC. Minister Tressie Johnson received the award she holding above.



Sharing God's Grace: OFUMC Mission Outreach and members recently donated over 100 toys for 40 children to the Mary Cathey Head Start Center.

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Ringin' The Bell: OFUMC rang the bell for The Salvation Army in front of Kroger on December 17, 2022, raising over \$600. Thanks to everyone that participated