



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Quennel Alexander Anderson, Pastor

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From the Pastor's Desk



OFUMC Family,

Though this journey has just begun, I want to take this time to express my gratitude for the love and support that you have shown both me and my family. I consider it a blessing to be welcomed in such loving arms. I am

grateful to serve the Oxford First UMC family. I want to encourage you all to stay the course and trust God as our story continues to unfold. The wisdom found in the book of proverbs instructs us to commit our work to the Lord and our plans will be established! (PROVERBS 16:3; NIV) Faith

drives our engines, but commitment keeps our engines running! As we continue to press through life, let us remain in prayer for each other, our families, and communities both near and abroad. “The prayer of the righteousness is powerful and effective” (JAMES 5:16b; NIV). Let us continue to keep our bereaved, sick and shut in lifted in prayer as well. As we grow together, let us continue to extend love and grace to each other. We are better together! Let us continue to rejoice in the words of the apostle Paul, “I am confident of this, that the

one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ!” (PHILIPPIANS 1:6; NIV) God is and will remain faithful amid any challenges that we may face. Don’t lose confidence in the work that was started in the beginning. God will remain by our side, whatever is lacking, we will continue to trust that God will bring it to completion! Stay bold, stay committed, stay encouraged as we continue to show disciples and show the light and love of Jesus Christ!

Faithfully Yours
Pastor Quennel Anderson



True, Necessary and Kind

by Clarence H. Franklin

We humans are able to tame and have tamed all other creatures---wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish. But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison.

—JAMES 3:7,8 (GNT)

I am amazed how some things we’ve learned stick with you. I remember a Sunday School lesson I heard from over 11 years ago. It was entitled “Control Your Speech.” The background scripture came from JAMES 3:1-12, verses 7 and 8 presented above, and PROVERBS 18:2-13. It talks about the power and dangers of the tongue; how what we say and how we say it can be a detriment to the Kingdom of God.

We had a lively discussion on the dangers of careless speech. Examples of thoughtless, careless and unkind speech include profanity, lying, gossiping, disclosing things told to us in confidence, and guessing and speculating about matters that we present to others as facts.

The lesson stated “that the greatest sign of integrity for Christians is not in what we say, but more often in what we do *not* say. Our refusal to speak negatively to or about others, even those who hurt us, is a sign of spiritual maturity. Many churches and other organizations are adopting the following simple guideline for speaking to others: Before you speak to someone, ask yourself, ‘Is what I am about to say **true, necessary and kind?**’ If the remark is not *all* three then don’t say it. This rule forces us to thoughtfully pause before we speak and then put the feelings of others before our own. It insists that we recognize that others, like us, are children of the King. God loves them, and so must we.”

As MATTHEW 12:34 says: "...out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." What we say often reveals who we truly are inside. We, as disciples of Christ, have to make a conscious effort to control what comes out of our mouth. After all a tree can

be identified by the fruit it bears. But we can't do this by ourselves. "Only by allowing the Spirit of the Lord to infill us can we control our tongues so we say things that build up, edify, strengthen, and encourage others."

AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



**IRON
SHARPENS
IRON**



Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church

The African American Leadership Academy aims to foster unity and collaboration among the African American congregations of the Mississippi United Methodist Conference. Its goal is to offer resources and education that equips and inspires both congregations and clergy to serve their community effectively, tackle challenges and thrive in their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The focus for this initiative comes from Proverbs 27:17, NIV: *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* The academy has five modules

based on the following areas of concentration: discipleship, generosity and stewardship, leadership, preaching and teaching and community engagement.

Mark your calendars to attend the upcoming events from the discipleship module **Saturday, August 4 via Zoom** and **Saturday, August 23 at Anderson United Methodist Church in Jackson.** Watch the video below for more details and how to register for these two upcoming events.

CPR 
TRAINING

Get trained. Save a life. You'll be glad you did.

**Provided by the Oxford Fire Dept.
August 30, 2025**

Second Baptist Church

Open to the Public. Contact Barbara
Wortham if you want to attend.

A Morning Doves Event



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On July 12th, Karen Peairs gave a presentation to the Morning Doves on becoming an attorney. Thanks Karen. A good time was had by all.

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P.O. Box 277

Oxford, MS 38655

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