



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

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Mission Trip To Jamaica by Jean Shaw



In January 2017, 13 members of Oxford First UMC and Oxford University UMC will journey to Jamaica for a week-long mission trip, leaving January 7th and returning January 13th. Working through Praying Pelican Missions, a Christian group based in Duluth Minnesota and organizing missions in some 15 countries as well as the



USA, our local group will have opportunities do a variety of tasks.

Based in the north central countryside of Jamaica, we will worship and witness at a Pentecostal church and teach Sunday School there -- and take a neighborhood prayer walk afterwards. We know that congregants will be overjoyed to hear our own Effie Burt sing on Sunday as well as Wednesday night -- accompanied by Minister Laura Gillom! On weekdays, we will work at Unity school -- a pre-K through grade-six school, helping and encouraging the struggling students there. In the

afternoons we will do construction tasks -- one being construction of a shower house at the facility where we and other mission workers stay. We will also visit patients at a hospital and care facility in Montego Bay and see a bit of the local culture there.

Many saw and blessed the prayer shawls and bookmarks we have made to share at the church and hospital. On the trip we expect to serve others, but also be inspired by this opportunity, returning with a continuing desire to serve others even more. We appreciate so much the support of our two churches! Please pray for us.

Wortham and Bush Honored

by Evelyn Smith



Oxford First UMC honored the academic accomplishments of Kashaun Wortham (pictured at left) and Chris Bush (pictured right) Sunday, December 18, 2016. Kashaun maintained a grade point average (Gpa) that placed his name on the Chancellor's Honor Roll (3.75 - 4.00) at the University of Mississippi and Chris Bush earned a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi and maintained a 4.0 Gpa. Yes, both of these millennials are honor students and both have attended Oxford First all of their lives. While both have worked hard, neither claimed to have accomplished anything by themselves. Both credited their parents, teachers, and church, but most of all, their relationship with God and His grace and mercy.

To the youth of Oxford First, you will always have struggles and challenges but ask yourself "What do I want to accomplish?" Kashaun and

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Faith Bible Institute



On Sunday, December 11, 2016, Rickey Wadlington and wife Caroline (pictured above with Pastor Diggs and Minnie Milliner) received their Bible College Diploma for completing their course of study from the Faith Bible Institute at Oxford First UMC. Faith Bible Institute, a satellite school out of Monroe, LA, is coordinated out of Oxford First by Mrs. Milliner. "Faith Bible Institute (FBI) is a thorough Bible course for every Christian.

Students study chronologically through Every Bible Book & Doctrine in classes that meet only 1 evening each week. Over 48,000 Christians in over 1,200 churches across the US & on 7 continents have enrolled in FBI's 3 year study. FBI combines verse by verse Bible teaching, student workbooks, and group classes to produce a life changing learning experience. Courses include six 17 to 18 week semesters (plus electives)."

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Chris set goals and surrounded themselves with people who encouraged them to be their best! They also recognized that by trusting and relying on God even during their times of struggles that God showed favor on their lives. I want to challenge you, Oxford First's youth, to surround yourself with friends who want you to succeed and to read and learn about who God is while you are young.

Congratulations to Kashaun Wortham and Chris Bush. We hope to feature more academically successful students after the next grading period.

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. Visit our website at www.OxfordFirst.org and click on the *Jacob's Ladder* link to view previous month's issues.

Praise for The Children

By **Ocie Cook**



I love the kids at Oxford First. They are always willing to help at church with whatever I ask of them, like lighting the candles, for example. They are very good kids and I just wanted to take this opportunity to let them know how much I appreciate all the help I get from them, and for everything they do at the church. After all, the children are our future, and we love them so much.