



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Pastor

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## The Pastor's Point

by  
Rev. Sapada Thomas

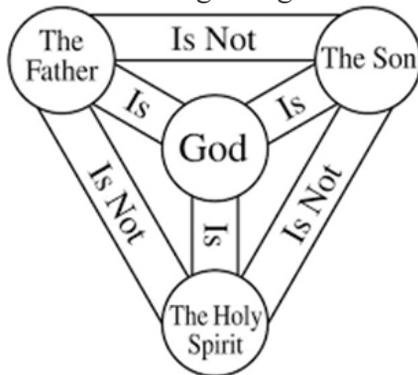
# TRINITY

Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

—GENESIS 1:26 (NIV)

The text from Genesis suggest that there was more than one person who created the first man, Adam. For the text says, "Let 'US' make mankind in OUR image and in OUR likeness. I chose to argue that the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit were there in the beginning. When I speak of God in three persons; I am making reference to the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity has been in existence from the beginning of time.

This image is used to disclose the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The word "trinity" is not found in the Bible. Nevertheless, it is a word used to describe one fact the Bible teaches about God: Our God is a Trinity. This means there are three persons in one God and not three different Gods. The persons are known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and they have all always existed as three distinct persons. The person of the Father is not the same person as the Son. The person of the Son is not the same person as the Holy Spirit. The person of the Holy Spirit is not the same person as the Father. If you take away any one, there is no God. God has always been a Trinity from all eternity: "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God." The image is used to suggest that the Father is not the Son, nor is the Son the Holy Spirit, but each of the persons of the Trinity are God.



But how can that be? Early church leaders developed a phrase that helped describe the Trinity: *Perichoresis*. *Perichoresis* is a Greek word, as Brother Fred Spearman will tell you “I Love Greek words.” (Smile Fred!!!!) It’s made by a combination of two words: *Chora*, a noun which means “space” and the verb form, *chorein*, which means to make space, and *peri* which means “around”. So *perichoresis*, roughly translated, means to make space around. More specifically, it refers to the way in which someone or something makes space around itself for others or something else. One simple way to describe *perichoresis* theologically is to call it the idea of God’s mutual indwelling. God can be both in Godself and also in us, for example. In a more active sense, it is the idea of God moving in and through someone or something. It suggests the idea of a dance. In other words, God the Father, God the Son,

and God the Holy Spirit dance together to make room for each other with each other’s attributes. So: *Perichoresis* is used to describe theologically the divine dance of the three Persons of the Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit make room for each other, move in and through one another, dance with one another, in such a way that creates a mutual indwelling while still maintaining space for each individually.

Why is this important? It helps us understand how there can be three God’s that make one. For example, we understand how the Trinity works in our prayers: We pray to God the Father, in the name of God the Son, through the power of God the Holy Spirit.

**The Point: The next time we pray we should sense the POWER of the dance of the Trinity, dancing in our lives and answering our prayers.**



**PICTURED ABOVE: On January 26, 2019, the Oxford First United Methodist Women met to jumpstart their unit for the upcoming year. Officers were elected and plans were made for the coming year. “Keep an eye on us, we are on the move,” said President Terry Vaughn (above center in blue).**

# Congratulations from Oxford First



Our very own Greek Marion (left) and the Oxford Lady Chargers Middle School Basketball team were recognized for an undefeated season. Congratulations to Greek and her teammates!

Also, Congratulations to Barbara Wortham (right) who was honored as one of the the Teachers of the Month by the colleagues in her building. She, along with eight other outstanding educators were recognized at the January 28, 2019 Oxford School Board



# Christening Ceremony



**PICTURED ABOVE:** On January 13, 2019, a Christening Ceremony was held for Little Miss Nyla Grace Thompson (above center with mother, Vantessa Thompson). Pictured also (l. to r.) Jimmie Nell Smith, Pastor Thomas, brother Josiah, Gracie and Fred Spearman, and Niler Franklin.

# The Time has Come

To everything there is a season . . .  
--ECCLESIASTES 3:1a

The time has finally come. Oxford First UMC has been engaged in negotiations to build a new church for some time now, and by the Grace of God, all is now coming to fruition. What this means is that the fourth Sunday, February 24th, will be our last worship service at our current old Burns UMC location at 600 Molly Barr Road. We will have a special worship service that Sunday. In the months that follow, beginning March 3rd, worship service will be held at the old Hammitt Hill UMC location at 10 County Road 181. As it is now, Sunday School will

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begin at 9:30 A.M. with worship service at 11:00 A.M. We anticipate worshipping at Hammitt Hill (below) for about 6 months while our new facility at 102 Dylan Road is being completed, next door to Mary Cathey Head Start Center and FNC Park.



**Soup for Seniors**  
will return on **Wednesday,**  
**February 13, 2019. Unless**  
**informed otherwise, this will be the**  
**last Soup for Seniors until the new**  
**church is completed.**

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