



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Pastor

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## Cultivating Contentment

By Barbara Wortham

*Lord, help me to be grateful for what I have, to remember that I don't need most of what I want, and that joy is found in simplicity and generosity.*

—Enough by Adam Hamilton

Many of us suffer from Restless Heart Syndrome. We are never satisfied with what we have. HEBREWS 13:5-6 tells us to “Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have”. How can we become more content? The Apostle Paul wrote in PHILIPPIANS' 4:11-12 “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” Thus, what are the keys to cultivating contentment?

**Repeat these four words: It could be worse.** Look on the bright side of things, I was sad that I couldn't afford new shoes until I met a man who had no feet.

Ask yourself: **How long will this make me happy?**  
**Develop a grateful heart.** 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 “give thanks in all circumstances.” A grateful heart recognizes that all of life is a gift.

**Where does your soul find satisfaction?** We find our satisfaction in God alone.



Keeping a focus on these key thoughts will help us to combat Restless Heart Syndrome.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a brief summary highlighting Barbara's Laity Day Sermon on Sunday, October 21, 2018



# The Pastor's Point

by

**Rev. Sapada Thomas**

On Sunday, October 28th, we concluded our church-wide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. On the 4th Sunday God spoke to us through the prophet Malachi with our final sermon of Stewardship month, "Transforming a Thief into a Tither." We considered that in order to fully commit our tithes, time, and talents to God, we must return to Him. We also saw that God promises blessings and joy to those who choose to live a life of generosity and self-sacrifice. In addition, we took action to change our lives by setting five specific personal goals to work toward over the next year.

On the 3rd Sunday you received a commitment card, called an Estimate of Giving Commitment Card, during worship. On a practical level, we are asking our members to turn in Estimate of Giving Commitment Cards this year so that our

Finance Committee is able to set an accurate ministry budget for the coming year. This allows us to make the most of every dollar given to the church. On a personal level, the commitment card is an opportunity for you to spend time in prayer and reflection, considering what offering you would make to God through our church in the coming year. We asked you to fill out the card and bring it with you to worship the 4th Sunday for Consecration Sunday. We also will have a second Consecration Sunday on the 1st Sunday in November to ensure that everyone is able to participate. If you did not receive a commitment card or have not submitted your card please do so as soon as possible so our Finance Committee can start looking a ministry for next year. I hope and pray you will celebrate and consecrate our gifts to the ministry of Oxford First U.M.C. for the coming year.

## **Six Key Financial Principles To Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity**

### **1. Put God first in your living and giving, (2 CORINTHIANS 9: 6-7)**

Give your tithe and offering from the "top" of your paycheck, and then live on whatever remains.

### **2. Prepare a spending plan and track all expenses monthly (PROVERBS 37:23-24)**

Creating a budget means developing a plan in which you tell your money what you want it to do. Tracking your expenses is like getting on the scales to see how you are doing.

**3. Simplify your lifestyle; live below your means. (MATTHEW 6:19-33)**

Because this discipline is critical to the success of any financial plan, a Sunday's sermon was devoted to the topic.

**4. Provide immediately for an emergency fund. (1 TIMOTHY 6:9-12)**

An emergency fund is an account separate from checking or long-term savings that is set aside specifically for emergencies.

**5. Pay off all credit card debt; use cash or debit cards, not credit cards (PROVERBS 22:7)**

As you are building your emergency fund, begin to pay off your credit cards and start using cash or debit cards for purchases. If you must use a credit card, be sure to pay off the debt monthly.

**6. Practice long-range saving and investing habits. (LUKE 14:28).**

Saving money is the Number 1 wise money management principle everyone should practice. There are three types of savings for wants and goals, and retirement savings.

## First AirB&B Parsonage Guests

By Rhondalyn Peairs



Oxford First rented its parsonage for the first time for the Ole Miss Homecoming game on October 6, 2018. The following are reviews of the families that rented the house:

Oct. 7, 2018

Enjoyed our stay at your beautiful house, Loved all your little details & the Southern candy. We will come back.

**The Paera Family**  
From Houston, TX

Oct. 7, 2018

We have loved every minute of our stay! Thank you for all your generosity! The house was perfect!

**The MacNeills**  
Baton Rouge, LA

# Soup for Seniors

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018

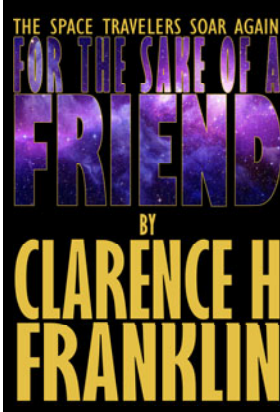
11:00 A.M.



**Janis Blake, Laura Ann Cancer  
and Terry Vaughn  
Coordinators**

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I thank God for all the readers, editors, proof-readers, and all of those who simply encouraged me to continue this venture.. Finally, my book is now available on amazon.com. Just type "Clarence H Franklin" in the search window.

Again, thanks.

—Clarence

**SYNOPSIS:** In 1969, in a small town in southwest Mississippi, how far would a group of black high school seniors go for the sake of their friend? How about an incredible journey to the edge of the solar system and beyond? This is the story of six extraordinary teenagers during turbulent times that would go to any length to help one of their own. Their story was lost for over 48 years. Finally, it can now be told.

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P.O. Box 277

Oxford, MS 38655

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