



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Pastor

Volume 19, Number 4, April 2019



The Pastor's Point

by
Rev. Sapada Thomas

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

—EPHESIANS 4:4-6

In this text to the church at Ephesus, Paul encourages strong relationships between the Jews and Gentiles by emphasizing the spiritual reality that they all were one in Jesus Christ. Paul is suggesting that they

were all ONE in Christ regardless of their cultural affiliation, socioeconomic status, or family/political hierarchy. In other words, because they realized that God's prevenient grace was always with them, they gave their



lives to God and experienced God's justifying grace, and they could now experience God's sanctifying grace together; growing in the knowledge and power of God through the Holy Spirit working in their lives. This realization was unconditional, Amen!!!!

Likewise, just as the early Christians had to grow into this knowledge of living as ONE, we must do the same thing. I saw this realization begin to blossom on March 17, 2019 at Oxford First U.M.C. Our resident bishop of the Mississippi Annual Conference, Bishop James E. Swanson, visited with our church to celebrate what God is doing among us. Our morning began with meeting at the sight of our new church location. We were able to stand, together, on

the sacred spot where God has blessed us to grow into a vibrant congregation as we minister to the community. At this point I really felt we all were Oxford First U.M.C. We took ground breaking pictures and the Bishop prayed over this new page in the history of our church. We were also blessed to hear a word from the Lord from our bishop as he preached until the angels in heaven began to shout!!!! The Bishop encouraged us to "...not get so caught up in the end result that we miss the joy of the journey getting there!!" It was very inspiring. Along with the Bishop, we were blessed to have his wife, Dalphene, and our District Superintendent, Dr. Rev. Raigan Miskelly spend a day with us as we continue to journey toward God's positioning us for ministry.



The Bishop's presence and words reminded me that we are ONE church moving towards perfection in Jesus Christ. It is easy for us to get focused on building a new church building, but not allow God's Holy Spirit to "build us up in the Spirit." My brothers and sisters, we all have our different backgrounds, histories, and personalities. In the midst of all our differences, we are Oxford First U.M.C. God has brought Burns U.M.C. and Hammitt Hill U.M.C together to form strong and beautiful relationships to make disciples of all nations. Let us not get

too focused on building a new church and forget that we have, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all!!"

The Point: God has begun a great and new thing with Oxford First U.M.C. Let us not forget that God is over us, through us and in us all. Let us "BE the Church", and not let the church (building) be us!!

Editor's Note: Pictures courtesy of Kenneth J. Franklin



Homegoing Ceremony of Mrs. Erma Goolsby

April 3,
1938



April 1,
2019

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 12:30 P.M.
T.O.M.B. Association Bldg.
Oxford, MS 38655

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United Methodist Women



Members of Oxford First United Methodist Women were the first to come together at our interim Hammitt Hill location in the month of March, meeting at 8:30A.M. on Sunday March 3, 2019. They continued to make plans for the upcoming year.

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE