



Oxford First Praise Dance Team



“Let them praise His name with dancing . . .”

—PSALM 149: 3

On August 19, the Oxford First family welcomed the start of two new praise dance teams. One dance team consist of 4 children who did a praise dance to the song *I Love You Lord Today*. The other dance team involved 10 people (children, youth, and an adult) who danced to two selections, *The Storm is Over Now* and *The Presence of the Lord is Here*. The

dance teams are under the leadership of Pastor Sapada Thomas and Minister Tressie Johnson. The dance team will worship God in dancing monthly and is open to anyone who wishing to dance for Jesus. Those who are interested in joining OFUMC praise dance team please contact Pastor Thomas or Minister Johnson.



The Pastor's Point

by

Rev. Sapada Thomas

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

—1ST CORINTHIANS 12:12

Our leader of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., after becoming our bishop, developed a vision for our conference which he called *The Power of We*. This vision was to take the focus off "Me," *i.e.*, each individual pastor, trustee, lay member, and even each church, to shift the focus to the ministry of "We," *i.e.*, the conference as a whole. He recognized that our conference is made up of different races, different ages, different worship styles, different education levels, etc., but when we set our differences aside and work TOGETHER as a Mississippi Conference, we can truly "make disciples for the transformation of the world."

This thought reminds me of a television show my son loved to watch as a child, **The Power Rangers**. There was a Red, Blue, Pink, Yellow, and Black Ranger, each of them possessed their own specific skill they used in battle. But when they faced forces they could not handle individually they all came together to form a giant humanoid machine known as the *Megazord*. Each Ranger, in his or her own unique skill set "UNITED" together to form "ONE" machine to win the war against evil. They experienced *the Power of We*.

What does this say to Oxford First U.M.C? Well, I'm glad you asked!!! We as a church family can truly "make disciples for the transformation of the world" and "fight against the evil forces of this world" if we all "UNITE" ourselves in Jesus Christ and form one body. Paul echoes this truth in 1ST CORINTHIANS 12. He insists that we, the

church, are made up of many different members but form one body. That's the whole point: even though we are different, each person is important in the Body of Christ and makes the body stronger when we unite together. When Oxford First grasps this concept and work together rather than against each other we will truly experience *the Power of We*. We all have different gifts and graces God has blessed us with, but it's left up to us to use them in union with the rest of the body. Therefore, we are not here to tear each other down, but rather build each other up in love. We are not here to judge one another, but rather to pray for one another. We are not here to talk about each other behind their backs, but rather to encourage and inspire each other in Christ.

Our church is made up of many different types of individuals, who have different stories, and come from different experiences in life. However, we have one thing in common, we have all been saved and redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. It's time for us to put aside our differences, our past, our disagreements, our education levels, etc. to truly experience *The Power of We* and **the Power Ranger** effect.

The Point: There is Power when We put aside all our differences and unite ourselves as One Body to promote the Kingdom of God in Jesus Christ.

Prayer: *God, please help me to love and support my brothers and sisters, as we work together in Jesus Christ "to make disciples for the transformation of the world."*

We Have Been Revived!

God absolutely blessed us on August 27-29 during our Annual Summer Revival. This year our revival theme was “Experiencing the POWER of the Gospel” taken from ROMANS 1:16. On Monday night, Pastor Terry Wortham of South Hopewell M.B.C. talked about “The Precious Treasure.” On Tuesday night, Pastor Greg Wax of Beverly & Salem U.M. Churches

talked about “The Peace of Jesus.” Lastly, on Wednesday night, Pastor Bobby E. Dailey of the Abbeville Charge preached “The Missing Part of the Story.” We were also blessed to have each pastor's church choir/soloist accompany them, along with Second M.B.C and Cypress Grove M.B.C choirs. We truly experienced the “Power” of the gospel and the Holy Spirit.



Oxford First Prayer Ministry



We now have a Prayer Ministry, lead by Minister Gracie Spearman, which will constantly stay in connectional prayer for our church, it's members, and ministries. This ministry will provide an opportunity for personal and corporate prayer on Wednesdays from 5:30P.M. to 6:00P.M. in the sanctuary prior to Bible Study.

Everyone is invited, and welcome to come pray together!!!

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Jacob's Ladder

Jacob's Ladder
P.O. Box 277
Oxford, MS 38655

Soup for Seniors

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018
11:00 A.M.



Janis Blake, Laura Ann Cancer
and Terry Vaughn
Coordinators

PLACE
STAMP
HERE