



THE RESURRECTION AND RESTORATION OF BURNS UMC, PART 1

by Rev. Christopher C. Diggs

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

PSALMS 51:12

The great work of restoring Burns-Belfry Building is something to behold. The meticulous planning, the fund-raising, the hard work and dedication to the original structure is something to be marveled and cherished. The City of Oxford, the committee of Burns-Belfry and the entire State of Mississippi should be proud of the efforts of the Chairperson Jim Pryor and his team have put forth to make this project come to fruition. The time is right for all to work together ensure the past of Burns-Belfry is a constant presence for now and years to come. However, we should not forget the current Burns United Methodist Church.

In this passage of scripture David is pleading to God to reinstate to him a place of peace, hope, prosperity, and joy. For a season God had blessed David with whatever his heart desired, but David's unfaithfulness led to a season of heartache, pain, and despair. More importantly, David was experiencing separa-



tion from God and this led him down a path to restore his relationship with God. Restoration is never easy. Oftentimes more work has to be put in the restoring than the

initial phase of the building of a relationship, physical plant of a structure, etc.

David in PSALMS 51, pleads to God to restore him to the place in the heart of God; David not only wanted to get back to where he was once located in the presence of God, but he wanted to exceed the former for an even greater place with God.

What about the current Burns?

Lest we forget, the original Burns is only a stone's throw from the present structure, and we are currently in a season of restoration ourselves. The loss of several former members who have gone on to be with the Lord, declining membership and a season of financial decline has left the current Burns in

a state of repair and restoration. The children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are now inhabitants of the current Burns congregation. We are proud of our past, but we also are confident in our future. Just like David, God is going to restore Burns back to the prominence of the Burns-Belfry and beyond. The time is right for our church to give our efforts, talents and even our finances to those in need and be a catalyst in Lafayette County, Mississippi and beyond, promoting the Love of Jesus Christ. But it should also be known that we are in a season of Restoration, and just as God did not forget about King David in his time of restoration, we also believe God will not forget about us as we put forth maximum effort to re-establish our place of prominence in the community.

THE RESURRECTION AND RESTORATION OF BURN UMC, PART 2

by Clarence H. Franklin

At a called Administrative Board Meeting on Saturday, June 29, 2013, Burns United Methodist Church's new pastor, Rev. Christopher Diggs presented to the church a vision God had given him for Burns. He said that God had given him a vision that come July 2014, Burns will have generated an additional \$200,000.00, above and beyond regular tithes and offerings. He did not use the term "fund-raiser;" he does not believe in fund-raisers for the church. He believes in the God given principles of tithing and sacrificial giving. MALACHI 3:10 says: Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and

prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. It goes without saying that we, as the body of Christ, should be tithers. What he is proposing to us is that we take that to another level, to the level of sacrificial giving. Fund raising involves people outside the church. His vision is that this is something Burns members would do themselves. Specifically, God gave him the vision that 200 people would contribute \$1,000.00 each to Burns during the coming year. \$1,000.00 times 200 equals

\$200,000.00. The first thought that comes to mind is that Burns does not have 200 members . . . ***YET.***

2nd CORINTHIANS 5:7 says: For we walk by faith, not by sight. This is a “faith” journey for Burns UMC. We don’t have to know how it will work; we just have to have faith in God and believe that if we do our part, God will do the rest. Initially this sounds like a daunting task, but as the chart below shows, if we are willing to make a small sacrifice, it can be a lot easier than it appears.

From July 2013—July 2014		
GOAL	200 People @ \$1000.00 =	\$200,000.00
WEEKLY	52 Weeks @ \$19.25 =	\$1,001.00
MONTHLY	12 months @ \$83.35 =	\$ 1,000.20
QUARTERLY	4 Quarters @ \$250.00 =	\$1,000.00
LUMP SUM	1 payment @ \$1,000.00 =	\$1,000.00

Our blessings have already begun. On Sunday, June 30th, when Rev. Diggs announced his vision to the church, a visitor gave us a check for \$1,000.00. Praise God!

Our new undertaking is appropriately called “The Resurrection and Restoration of Burns United Methodist Church.” If we realistically look at ourselves, we know that we, as a church, are not where we want to be, and are certainly not where God wants us to be. Like David, we need to not only be restored but resurrected to new heights. The \$200,000.00 is a tangible thing that we can see and imagine, but this is about a lot more than just money. This is about Burns UMC becoming that light, that beacon on the hill, that God intends for us to be.

BURNS UMC WELCOMES NEW PASTOR



Senior Pastor of Burns United Methodist Church in Oxford, Mississippi.

Christopher is married to Lecha and has a daughter, Christina. Rev. Diggs is a servant leader who is ecstatic about serving Burns UMC and the community of Oxford, MS. “God has truly blessed us with this opportunity and we feel blessed to be back in Northern Mississippi,” he said.

On Sunday, June 23, 2013 Burns UMC welcomed a new Pastor, Rev. Christopher C. Diggs. He has been appointed by Bishop James E. Swanson and the cabinet as the

EDITOR’S NOTE: Read a more detailed biography of Rev. Diggs at our website at www.BurnsUMC.org.



Burns UMC, partnering with The Orchard UMC hosts the More Than a Meal Dinners every Tuesday night this summer at 5 PM. Call 662-259-0094 for more details.

Jacob's Ladder is a monthly publication of Burns United Methodist Church and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. 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 Burns website at www.BurnsUMC.org and click on the Monthly Newsletter link to view previous month's issues of *Jacob's Ladder*.

BURNS UMW SERVED BREAKFAST ON FATHER'S DAY MORNING



Pictured above (l. to r.): Cassandra Johnson, Erma Goolsby, Denise Peairs, Niler Franklin, Stella Murray, Barbara Wortham, Rhondalyn Peairs and Amanda Frierson served breakfast to the church on Father's Day morning.