



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF BURNS UNITED METHODIST AND HAMMITT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

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## Moving Towards The Future

by Rev. Christopher C. Diggs



The frigid temperatures from an unseasonably cold winter are beginning to subside and the beauty of daffodils are reentering into our sight, glowing from the beauty and warmth of the sun giving us

confidence and assurance that spring is quickly approaching. I cannot help but to thank God as we move from one season to the next. However, the excitement and enthusiasm from the warm temperatures have

been halted by the recent activity on campus at Ole Miss. Three students have been accused of putting a noose around the neck of The James Meredith statue and draping the shoulders with a confederate flag.

I'm appalled, but not shocked. Saddened, but not detoured from being a shining example of what God wants me to be. I believe, based on life experiences, history and the Bible that God wants us to move towards the future and not allow us to wallow in the immaturity, incompetence of a few young men who now face ridicule from many.

I can honestly say I have made many friendships within the Ole Miss community. The University of Mississippi degree which hangs on my wall has afforded me many opportunities which otherwise would not be available to me. More importantly, not one time have I ever been disrespected by anyone affiliated with Ole Miss and furthermore I think I would do myself harm, as well as the people I lead by getting into a war of words with those whom I do not know or have never met. So therefore, I plan on using my precious time by promoting peace and harmony among Rebel Nation. I learned very early in life the importance of promoting peace. "If you cannot make peace, do not ever break peace." These words came from the lips of my grandmother, and they have resonated with me my entire life.

In order to make peace we must move towards the future by treating each other with dignity and respect. Also, we must learn the importance of forgiveness. Not only with the incident which happened on campus a few days ago, but we must engage in forgiving those who have hurt or mistreated us in some capacity. On our jobs, in our homes, in the

community and even in church, we have been mistreated in some way.

I am reminded of an occasion when Jesus was forced to react to a sinful woman. JOHN 8:1-11 explains his reaction to those who wanted this sinful woman stoned to death. If you have not read this story, I will close with it here (Good News Translation-GNT):

1 Then everyone went home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Early the next morning he went back to the Temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and began to teach them.

3 The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught committing adultery, and they made her stand before them all.

4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.

5 In our Law Moses commanded that such a woman must be stoned to death. Now, what do you say?"

6 They said this to trap Jesus, so that they could accuse him. But he bent over and wrote on the ground with his finger.

7 As they stood there asking him questions, he straightened up and said to them, "Whichever one of you has committed no sin may throw the first stone at her."

8 Then he bent over again and wrote on the ground.

9 When they heard this, they all left, one by one, the older ones first. Jesus was left alone, with the woman still standing there.

10 He straightened up and said to her, "Where are they? Is there no one left to condemn you?"

11 "No one, sir," she answered. "Well, then," Jesus said, "I do not condemn you either. Go, but do not sin again."



## True, Necessary and Kind

by Clarence H. Franklin

We humans are able to tame and have tamed all other creatures---wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish.

But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison.

—JAMES 3: 7,8

The February 23rd Sunday School lesson was entitled "Control Your Speech." The background scripture came from JAMES 3:1-12, verses 7 and 8 presented above, and PROVERBS 18:2-13. It talks about the power and dangers of the tongue; how what we say and how we say it can be a detriment to the Kingdom of God.

We had a lively discussion led by Attorney Alvin O. Chambliss, Jr. on the dangers of careless speech. Examples of thoughtless, careless and unkind speech include profanity, lying, gossiping, disclosing things told to us in confidence, and guessing and speculating about matters that we present to others as facts.

The lesson stated "that the greatest sign of integrity for Christians is not in what we say, but more often in what we do *not* say. Our refusal to speak negatively to or about others, even those who hurt us, is a sign of spiritual maturity. Many churches and other organizations are adopting the following

simple guideline for speaking to others: Before you speak to someone, ask yourself, 'Is what I am about to say **true, necessary and kind**?' If the remark is not *all* three then don't say it. This rule forces us to thoughtfully pause before we speak and then put the feelings of others before our own. It insists that we recognize that others, like us, are children of the King. God loves them, and so must we."

As Matthew 12:34 says: "...out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." What we say often reveals who we truly are inside. We, as disciples of Christ, have to make a conscious effort to control what comes out of our mouth. After all a tree can be identified by the fruit it bears. But we can't do this by ourselves. "Only by allowing the Spirit of the Lord to infill us can we control our tongues so we say things that build up, edify, strengthen, and encourage others."

Come to Sunday School. You'll love it.

# Free GED Classes at Burns UMC

Tuesday and Thursday Nights  
beginning at 7:00 p.m.

See [www.BurnsUMC.org](http://www.BurnsUMC.org) for  
more details.

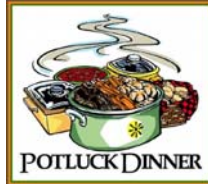
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## Soup For Seniors

Burns UMC has a new Senior Ministry called "SOUP for SENIORS" on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday in each month. Come for a study of God's word, fellowship and yummy soup. Sponsors are Ann Cancer & Janis Blake.



## Burns UMC Bible Study

Bible Study is on Wednesday night each week beginning at 6:00p.m. We now have a "POT LUCK MEAL" after our studying. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME OUT AND PARTICIPATE and MAY GOD BLESS.

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE