



Jacob's Ladder



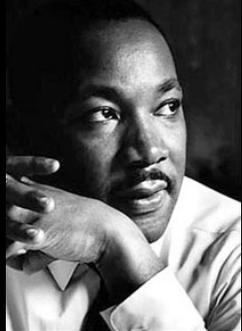
A NEWSLETTER OF BURNS UNITED METHODIST AND HAMMITT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

Volume 15, Number 2, February 2015

Barbara Mathis Wortham Receives MLK Jr. Day of Service Award

*Life's most consistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?



Burns UMC's very own, Barbara Mathis Wortham was one of the recipients of the Lafayette/Oxford/University (L.O.U.) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Volunteer of the Year Awards. The program was held at the Oxford Park Commission Activity Center on January 19, 2015. Pictured above is Barbara with her family (l. to r.): daughter, Kiara, grandson, Isaiah, husband, Kenneth and son, Kashaun, and at left, with Pastor Christopher Diggs.

In Memory of Rev. Arthur Herod



On Monday, January 19th, Rev. Arthur Herod, (pictured above center), former Pastor of Burns United Methodist Church, passed away at the age of 92. He cast a giant shadow in the Oxford-Lafayette County community, and anyone he came in contact with was better for it. He was very active in the Civil Rights Movement. He was one of the earlier registered Black voters in Lafayette County. He was a mentor to young men, to young ministers, to anyone blessed enough to have crossed his path. We lost one of the pillars of our community with his passing. Words are inadequate to express the depth and/or breadth of his contributions, but we are presenting some tributes gleaned from Facebook of just a few of the lives he touched.

I was saddened to hear about the passing of Rev. Arthur Herod on this morning. He had such an impact on my life as a young man. It was Rev. Herod, who preached a powerful sermon during our fall revival (which he was the evangelist for several years) back in 1981, where that Wednesday, I made Jesus my choice and accepted Him as my Lord and Savior. But he will forever be known as "my Pastor" when he was appointed Pastor of my home church, Burns United Methodist Church, where he had such an

impact on the church as a whole, especially the youth like myself. He was a great Pastor, great man, mentor, brother in the Masons, and a huge influence in my life. The Oxford/Abbeville/Lafayette Co. community will deeply miss him. U and Ms Charlie Mae have reunited once again. RIH sir!!!

–Ron Thompson

Growing up in Burns was truly a blessing. We met people who have shaped our lives and they will always be a part of us. God is good!

–Barbara Wortham

Amen!!! A faithful servant gone home to be with the Lord!!! Well done Rev. Herod. He will truly be missed.

–Daphne Annette Blake

I definitely remember the "Burns" days. It was definitely a time in my life that I can't forget.

–Linda Mullins

He was the epitome of what a true role model should be. He was a pillar of our community and he shared his vast knowledge throughout the state of Mississippi.

–Robbie Buford

Emancipation Proclamation

by Clarence H. Franklin

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

Despite this expansive wording, the Emancipation Proclamation was limited in many ways. It applied only to states that had seceded from the Union, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal border states. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy that had already come under Northern control. It did not apply to those in the four slave states that were not in rebellion (Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri), nor to Tennessee (occupied by Union troops since 1862) and lower Louisiana (also under occupation), and specifically excluded those counties of Virginia soon to form the state of West Virginia. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union military victory.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation, it captured the hearts and imagination of millions of Americans and fundamentally transformed the character of the war. After January 1, 1863, every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom. Moreover, the Proclamation announced the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, enabling the liberated to become liberators. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom.

From the first days of the Civil War, slaves had acted to secure their own liberty. The Emancipation Proclamation confirmed their

insistence that the war for the Union must become a war for freedom. It added moral force to the Union cause and strengthened the Union both militarily and politically. As a milestone along the road to slavery's final destruction, the Emancipation Proclamation has assumed a place among the great documents of human freedom.

It should be noted that while the formal institution of slavery was eradicated, there is nothing in our history that totally closed the door



on slavery, particularly the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which is credited with abolishing slavery in the United States. It says: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." All of us should be terrified by that except phrase. It actually lays the groundwork for the establishment of a new legally sanctioned system of slavery. Those duly convicted of a crime can constitutionally be made slaves. We, as Black people should be particularly concerned, considering the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people in our prison system are people of color. Pay close attention to all this talk we keep hearing about the "privatization" of prisons. We live in a capitalist society where the goal is to always make as much money as possible. There is only one reason a private company would ever want to take over prisons: FREE LABOR! The constitutional re-establishment of slavery. Period. Freedom can be very illusive if we are not paying attention.

NOTE: This presentation was part of Sunday Morning worship service on Sunday, January 25, 2015 as part of the Annual Emancipation Proclamation celebration.

Change, Growth and Prosperity?



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To God be The Glory. I'm excited about the possibilities of the future for our churches in

the Lafayette County area. We have the opportunity to be the agent of change, growth, prosperity and distinction by combining the gifts, talents and graces of five churches, Hammitt Hill UMC, Beverly UMC, Salem UMC, West St. Peter UMC and Burns UMC.

On February 28, 2015 William Thomas Chaney, Jr., Regional New Church Strategist for the SEJ New Church Starts/Path 1, from Nashville, TN will be here to speak with our congregations about the possibilities for the future. He is part of the GBOD (General Board of Discipleship), an agency of The UMC Discipleship Ministries that helps local church, district, and conference leaders fulfill the shared dream of making world-changing disciples. I'm thankful to God to be here during this season to witness the great possibilities which could spur a great movement of The Body of Christ in Lafayette County. I look forward to seeing everyone very soon. Time to be announced later.

—Rev. Christopher C. Diggs

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