



## Burns and Hammitt Hill UMC Merging To Become Oxford First United Methodist Church



Burns United Methodist Church and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Church of Oxford are merging to form the new Oxford First United Methodist Church.

Socrates said, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old but building on the new." History was made on Sunday, May 22, 2016, with the assistance of Dr. Eddie Rester, lead Pastor of Oxford University UMC (pictured at left with Pastor Christopher Diggs), when Burns UMC and Hammitt Hill UMC took the final steps of merging to become one congregation-Oxford First United Methodist Church.

According to Pastor Diggs, "Times are changing, and it is imperative that we accept the challenge to merge in order to become more effective in ministry here in the Lafayette, Oxford, and University of Mississippi (LOU) community." The name and merger will become effective during the

upcoming session of the Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, June 9-11, 2016 in Jackson, MS. Destiny is calling us,

and we are obeying the voice of God at this time, during this season, to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

## Burns-Hammitt Mother's Day Celebration



As part of its Mother's Day Celebration Burns-Hammitt UMC presented "Mother of the Year" Plaques to Mrs. Annie Lee Burt and Mrs. Arletha Collins (pictured above). Pastor Diggs took the opportunity to present a plaque to his mother, Mrs. Mary G. Standifer (left, with brother Gary and sister Rachel), and his wife, Lecha (right, with Madelyn).



COMMUNITY-WIDE  
**VBS**  
*Olympics*

**ALL KIDS  
4 YEARS  
OLD - 5TH  
GRADE ARE  
WELCOME!**

**STONE PARK  
JUNE 20-23  
5:30 PM -  
7:30 PM**

**FUN, CRAFTS,  
SNACKS & MORE!**

**POOL PARTY!  
ON THE LAST NIGHT  
@ OXFORD CITY POOL**

- PROVIDED BY -

**BURNS  
- UMC -**

**COMMUNITY  
CHURCH OXFORD**

**THE  
ORCHARD  
OXFORD**



# What's Within

by Christopher Cross

"And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts... All these things proceed from within and defile the man."  
- MARK 7:21-23

Jesus says this after confronting the Pharisees about inner purity. The Pharisees believed that it was what one consumed and did externally that made a person unclean. The Pharisees trusted that their made up traditions would save them and make them pure. Today, many of us think the same. We often

go about thinking that if we avoid this or that, or perform a certain action that we can avoid sin. Yes, we are to try to avoid and fight temptation but sin comes from within the heart. The world is full of sin, hopelessness, and destruction because those are the things within the hearts of peoples. That is why Jeremiah says that "the heart is more deceitful above all else and desperately sick."

Thus Jesus speaks to us today, as He did then, reminding us that purity, righteousness, and cleanliness, comes from what is inside of a person. This should be completely understandable, since our salvation from sin is not dependent on any act we can perform, external work, or tradition we have, but an internal acceptance of the love of Christ in our hearts. His love changes the heart. The transformative power of the Holy Spirit works within our hearts, driving out evil and malice, truly showing us that the manifestation of the Kingdom of God starts from within.

*Jacob's Ladder* is a monthly publication of Burns United Methodist Church and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. Franklin. ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Niler P. 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](mailto:chfrank@panola.com). Visit Burns website at [www.BurnsUMC.org](http://www.BurnsUMC.org) and click on the Monthly Newsletter link to view previous month's issues of *Jacob's Ladder*.

Jacob's Ladder

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE