



Jacob's Ladder



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

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

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Pastor and Wife Appreciation



It's Pastor Appreciation month at Burns and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Churches. We will honor our pastor, Rev. Christopher C. Diggs and his family for their service to our congregations and the Lafayette-Oxford-University community on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at Burns UMC at 4:00 p.m. This is Pastor Diggs' 18th year in ministry. Elder Bobby E. Dailey and the Abbeville

Charge will be our special guests for this occasion.

We are eagerly looking forward to honoring our Pastor and his family, as he celebrates 18 years of ministry and we celebrate 2 years plus as pastor of Burns and Hammitt Hill U. M. Churches. Join us for this momentous occasion.

Traveling Through Time

by Clarence H. Franklin



As far back as I can recall I have always been fascinated by the concept of time travel. The idea of going back in time to see or relive some aspect of the past has an incredible appeal. Even the idea of seeing what is to come; where will you be and what will you be doing in 10 years, 20 years, 30 years or so into the future is equally captivating. Of course there are potential consequences in going back to the past in that you might inadvertently change some small thing in the past that could have devastating repercussions on your place in the present. The future could be just as dangerous in that we could gain knowledge of future events that could be exploited in the present.

Three of my favorite books growing up were *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain, *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells, and *The End of Eternity* by Isaac Asimov. My favorite episodes of the *Star Trek* television show and all its incarnations were those with a time travel theme, such as "The City on The Edge of Forever," "All Our Yesterdays," "Yesterday's Enterprise," "All Good Things . . .," "Trials and Tribulations," "Past Tense," and "Endgame." My favorite movies are *Time After Time* (where H.G. Wells actually invented a time machine but Jack the Ripper escaped into the future in it), the *Back To The Future* and *Terminator* series, *The Butterfly Effect*, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, and the recent re-launch: *Star Trek*, all of which had prominent time travel themes.

So what does any of this have to do with the church or the Kingdom of God, you may ask? Well, as fascinating as the concept of time travel may be, the reality for us is that we have a totally linear existence. We exist where we are on the timeline; we cannot go back and we cannot go forward. But isn't it wonderful to know that our God does not have this

limitation. He exists in the past; He knows and sees everything we have ever done. He exists in the future; He knows what we are capable of and what we will do long before it even enters our mind. He certainly exists in the Present; He is here with us and for us, to guide us, to protect us, to provide for us, if we let Him.

No, we cannot physically travel back in time, but we can get *stuck* in the past. We hold on to things that have happened in the past that we won't let go of, particularly in the church. Someone may have done something to us that we did not like years ago, something that person has forgotten and has gone on with their life, but we are still stuck back there in the past, holding on for dear life to our animosity and anger for that person. *What good does this do us?* How can God get any glory from this? We can't grow or enjoy our present life today because we are still stuck in the past. And it is not just other people having wronged us that we hang on to. We, ourselves, have made mistakes, done something stupid in the past that we won't even forgive ourselves for. There might even be something that we *did not do* that we now regret. We still "exist" at that past event and it is still holding us back to this day. Why? Why do we do this? Don't we know what an awesome God we serve? He forgives; He forgets. Why can't we? We can't get stuck in the past and let it

hold us down. We can't do what we want to do with our lives, and even more importantly, what God wants us to do with our lives if we are still clinging to some event that we did, or did not do, or that was done to us in the past. As Brother Dwight Johnson once testified, "God can take your past and throw it away."

You cannot go back! You cannot change anything that has happened in the past. As our linear existence goes, we can't change the past, so let it go. The present, this moment in time, where we are right now, is the only time we have any control over. So make the most of this moment. Be all that you can be right now. Seek God's kingdom now; do His will now, and you don't have to be concerned about the future. No, we cannot go to the future either, but if we are willing to let go of the past, live our lives to the fullest in the present as God wants us to do, and stand on His promises today, then we don't have worry about the future. As Doc Brown said at the end of *Back to The Future Part III*, "your future has not been written yet, no one's has. Your future is whatever you make it, so make it a good one." But true confidence in the future comes from MATTHEW 6:33, ". . . seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

No Tricks! No Treats!

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
—MATTHEW 9:37

On Friday, October 30, 2015, we are holding a Harvest celebration at Hammitt Hill UMC from 5:00P.M. until. Our goal is to teach the children to help other and work for God. We will have singing, dancing, praying, and a skit, *The Harvest*. Then we'll have games, food, "prizes" and lots of fun in Jesus name. Sponsored by Hammitt and Burns. Call Teresa Johnson 662-801-7492 for a ride.

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. Visit Burns website at www.BurnsUMC.org and click on the Monthly Newsletter link to view previous month's issues of *Jacob's Ladder*.

Niler P. Franklin Selected to Serve Four More Years



Our very own, Niler P. Franklin has been selected to serve 4 more years on The Board of Pensions of The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at a recent Board Meeting in Jackson, MS. This board oversees the pension benefits of retiring full and part-time clergy.

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P.O. Box 277
Oxford, MS 38655

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