



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Pastor

Volume 19, Number 7, July 2019

Get Busy Living or Get Busy Dying

By Barbara Wortham



The Mississippi Annual Conference was held in Jackson, MS from June 5-8, 2019. Impressions? The worship services were outstanding! The preaching was illuminating. It is always a pleasure to represent our church and district as a lay delegate. Unfortunately, the hurt and pain of some of the delegates was very apparent. In our business sessions. We heard about different

divisions within our delegation. Young pastors at odds with older pastors. The LBGTQ community vs. the traditionalists. People ignoring the elephant in the room. Our Bishop encouraged us to have “courageous conversations.” Those are conversations where people share themselves with one another. Their hopes, fears, and dreams of how they view themselves and the

church. In his closing sermon, Bishop Swanson referred to a scene from “The Shawshank Redemption.” Andy is talking to Red about life outside of prison. Red can’t envision what that would be like because he has been behind the walls of Shawshank for so many years. He is “the man” inside and would be lost in the world. Sometimes that is how we feel within our churches. I am somebody inside of these walls. God is calling us to come out of our comfort zone. He is calling us to service. Not so we can sit back and talk about how good we are, but so that we can spread the love of God to a

hurting world. As our church goes forward under whatever name we choose, let us not forget our true purpose. To love as Jesus loved. It is wonderful to be able to reflect back on the loving, nurturing history of our church. The question for us is “who will we love and nurture in order to continue the legacy that was left for us?” My prayer is that the church move forward in love. Not to build a beautiful edifice which will decay over time, but to build a community of love that will expand beyond the church walls and bring about a real change to a hurting and dying world.

Fathers’ Day Honorees



On Sunday, June 16, 2019, Oxford First UMC honored fathers listed above. Chris Bush (center) was the youngest father, and Keith Searcy (right) was both the oldest father and the one with the most children. C.J. Richardson (left) was also there.

Building The Temple: Pictorial Review

As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. —1 KINGS 6:12 NIV



Bottled Water Ministry

The Oxford First Prayer Ministry will be distributing 100 cases of bottled water to the elderly, needy families and the disabled during the month of July, starting July 1, 2019. Please call (662)234-2943 and leave your name and phone number, and someone will get back with you. This will be first call, first served on the basis of need.

Admin. Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 10, 2019
6:30 P.M.

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Disturbing Church Statistics

Consider the following:

- 93% of all Christians have never won a soul to Christ.
- 80% of all Christians do not consistently witness for Christ.
- Less than 2% are involved in the ministry of evangelism.
- 71% do not give toward the financing of The Great Commission.

Does this apply to Oxford First UMC?

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE