



# Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Elder Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

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## 2018 Krunk4Christ Youthfest by Rev. Laura Gillom



Oxford native Louis Gillom, Jr. encouraged our young people to listen to their parents during our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Krunk4Christ Youth-Fest on Friday, March 30, 2018. He captured the attention of the young people as he gave his personal testimony about his childhood,

the faith instilled in him, and the faith he developed during his illness. He challenged them to be fearless like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, by not bowing down to the pressures of life, but by standing out and sharing their faith with others.

# New Members Welcomed at Oxford First

## by Minister Gracie Spearman



In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

—PROVERBS 3:6

We the Spearman's, Fred Spearman, myself, Min. Gracie Spearman and Christopher Spearman are excited about joining up with our new Church family, Oxford First UMC.

This was an easy decision for us. After faithfully serving at Resurrection House of Prayer (RHOP) Baptist Church for 18 years, we left RHOP with the laying on of hands, and with Pastor Alice Blackman's blessing and a letter, being guided by the Holy Spirit and by Pastor Blackman. I asked God to direct me as to where we were to serve and worship Him. In December of 2017, at Beverly UMC, Pastor Diggs was the Guest Speaker. He brought the Word concerning "Anticipating Jesus." As I sat there with the

children and listened, the Holy Spirit let me know that this was the church my family and I belonged with. My family and I believe that there is One God and we believe in God the Father; we believe in His Son Jesus. We believe that this same Jesus died for our sins and that God raised Him from the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, and have all been baptized and accepted Jesus as our personal Savior. We love God because He first loved us.

We bring a variety of God given gifts with us and we plan on using them to the Glory of God! We believe in giving God the first fruit. In other words, we believe in the giving of tithes and offerings, and we believe in

helping those that are less fortunate than ourselves. We plan on following the vision and obeying the rules and regulations of the UMC and govern ourselves accordingly and where ever we can be a help.

My prayer for the Oxford First family is that we learn to trust God and to know that God is God. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. I pray that we will grow together in His kingdom and that we will worship Him in Spirit and in truth and in the beauty of holiness. I pray that we will teach the children of God's goodness, grace and mercy, and that we will live lives pleasing in His sight. I thank my God for His favor, putting us into His ministry. Amen

Bro. Fred Spearman has served as an ordained deacon at several churches. He has an Associate Degree in Electronics. He has also served as choir director, and he lead the male praise team in songs of praise at RHOP until he left.

Christopher Spearman is a senior at Oxford High school. He played percussions with the Oxford High School Band in 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade. He played the drums faithfully at RHOP since the age of 4. He was the back-up

keyboard player also for the last 3 years, and he still attends lessons in music each week. He is a singer and also was on the praise dance team.

I am an ordained Elder, with an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies from Revelation Message Bible College, and a Bachelor Degree of Theology from Jacksonville Theological Seminary, under the leadership of Apostle, Dr. Laverne J. Johnson of Victory Outreach Ministries in Memphis, TN in 2005. Licensed to preach at RHOP, I served as Associate Minister, Minister of Tithes and Offering, Pastors Aide and Assistant Sunday School Teacher. I worked with the youth choir and praise team, and served as kitchen help and church decorator. I have performed marriages, assisted with funeral service, and assisted those that are homeless by finding them a place to live or food and also have taken some into my own home.

Most people know me as "The Hat Lady," because I designs and make my own hats. I have owned and operated 3 retail businesses in Water Valley, Oxford and Batesville, MS.

## Homegoing Ceremonies of Wiley and Boone



The month of March saw the passing of our brother, Herbert Wiley (left) and our sister, Ester Boone (right). A memorial service for Wiley was held Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at Oxford-University UMC with Rev. Jonathan Parker performing the eulogy. Mrs. Boone's memorial service was held at Oxford First on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> with former Burns UMC pastor, Rev. Robert Brown providing the eulogy. Please keep the Wiley, Boone and Oxford First family in your prayers.





# Little Miss Blue Revue Pageant

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Mu Chi Zeta Chapter held their 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Little Miss Blue Revue Pageant" on March 26, 2018 at the Oxford-Lafayette County Public Library. Oxford First UMC youths, Rose Barnes (left), and Dakydra Hilliard (right) participated in the pageant. Congratulations Rose and Dakydra from your church family.

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