



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Roger Wilson, Pastor

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by Clarence H. Franklin

It seems that one way or another, we are always talking about relationships, our relationship with our Heavenly Father, our relationship with our church, our relationship with our community, and our relationship with each other. But what exactly does relationship mean here? What are we talking about?

First and foremost, relationship is about love. Jesus said in JOHN 13: 34-35 "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another." It is not enough to be a "Christian" as we learned

in Bible study. Jesus wants us to be His *disciples*, His followers, to follow His teachings and the example He set for us.

Relationship is also about trust. Trust is a choice. We choose to put our trust in God, in our husband or wife, our church, etc. It is about "taking a leap of faith" when dealing with others. It is most of all, and most importantly, about love as the scripture above demonstrates. I am not sure there can be true love without trust. No love, no trust, and ultimately, no relationship. Nowhere should love be more prevalent than in the church, the body of Christ. EPHESIANS 5:30 says: "For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones." That is what the

old United Methodist theme: “open minds, open hearts, and open doors” is all about: **love**. JOHN 3:16 says: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Love opens us up to opportunities to establish relationships with others. Of course, opening our hearts to others, opens up the possibility of us getting hurt, of our hearts being broken. But a life without love is hardly worth living. That is why it is so important that we make sure we have established the first and most important relationship of all. MATTHEW 6:33 says: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.” It begins with our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Give Him your heart and your trust and you will have the

assurance that no matter what you are confronted with, you already have the victory.

Finally, as the church, the body of Christ, what should our relationship with each other look like? EPHESIANS 2:19-22 sums it up: “Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief cornerstone, in whom every building having been fitly framed together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a dwelling place of God through *the* Spirit.”

This is the relationship we should all aspire to.

Practicing What We Study

by Rev. Mattie Gipson

Our Bible Study group decided to take time out to practice what we study. A few weeks ago, we studied about FELLOWSHIP. The Good Book teaches us that as sisters and brothers in Christ we should assemble ourselves to break bread, pray and sing. In so doing we can be witnesses about the Fellowship we have with our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus often took time to break bread

not only with His disciples, but with others that He met along His life's journey.

To that end, our Bible Study Class had a pot luck supper on Wednesday, September 27th, in our Fellowship Hall. It was open to any member of the church. Good food, good conversation and good fellowship was the order of the

day. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable love that He so freely lavishes upon us.

We continue to urge all members to come and join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 P.M. as we study God's

Word. Come and bring a friend. You may be surprised at what you learn from THE BOOK!

Below we present a couple of images from our wonderful Fellowship.



Unto Us A Child Is Born!



The Spearman family recently welcomed a wonderful new addition. On August 10, 2023, Christopher and Kaydrietta Monya Spearman brought forth a seven-pound, one-ounce baby boy, Christopher Kentrell Spearman, Jr. (pictured). His grandparents, Fred and Gracie Spearman continue to bask in the glow of God's blessings.



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