



# Jacob's Ladder



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

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor, Burns UMC &  
Rev. Dr. Marvin J. Gipson, Pastor, Hammitt Hill

Volume 14, Number 7, July 2014

## Special Birthday Celebration Issue!

### Ordained Ministry Is A Life Of Sacrifice

by Rev. Christopher C. Diggs



Almost seventeen years ago I preached my first sermon. I knew for a fact I had been called by God to enter into ministry and my desire to honor God was paramount in accepting my call. I was then and still a member of Athens United Methodist Church located in rural Monroe County, MS and preaching every now and then was all I wanted to do, but little did I know of the intricacies of ministry in The UMC.

My grandmother, Mary E. Diggs encouraged me very early in my career to attend an Annual Conference. And as fate would have it the conference was in Tupelo, MS only a 30 minute drive. After much prodding from my grandmother, I reluctantly attended my first Mississippi Annual Conference in 1998. Ironically, I

attended The Ordination Service; I knew at that point I wanted to be ordained.

Fast forward seventeen years later and I have been blessed enough to be Commissioned to be ordained as an Elder in Full Connection. The sacrifices have been enormous and mountains extremely high to climb, but standing in line at The Jackson Convention Center a few weeks ago hearing my name called made the hard work worth it. Even more special was the presence of my family who shared with me in this great event. Equally important was the fact I share this momentous occasion with our Burns UMC Church family, I'm thankful to God to be able to be in the presence of such a loving and supportive church family.





When I started this process, I had only two years of college with no degree. God blessed me to attain my Associate's Degree, Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master's of Divinity. Hard work and sacrifice is a way of life for me and I believe anyone can accomplish any goal

they set. I can honestly say God placed people in my life to help reach the goals I set. Finally, I want to thank God for walking with me on this journey and I especially want to thank my wife for believing in me and our ministry.

## Images from Juneteenth Celebration June 14, 2014



## Special Birthday Celebration

Saturday, June 28, 2014

As part of Burns UMC's Annual Birthday Celebration, the month of July solicited the advertisements that appear on the

following pages. We would like to thank all these local merchants for their participation.

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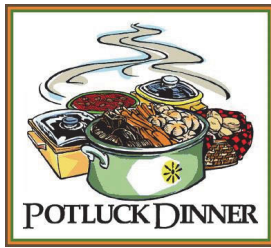
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# Bible Study



Bible Study at Burns UMC is on Wednesday night each week beginning at 6:00 P.M. We now have a "Pot Luck Meal" after our studying. Every one is welcome to come out and participate. We consider it both a privilege and an opportunity to share "the Living Word of God."

*Jacob's Ladder* is a monthly publication of Burns United Methodist Church and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. 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@nmrls.com](mailto:chfrank@nmrls.com).

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