



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Elder Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

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“Let The People Praise Him”

by Rev. Laura Gillom



New Year's Eve was a day of celebration at Oxford First. We were blessed to have sister congregations from the New Albany District join us for a time of praise and worship to God: Elder Bobby Dailey Rev. Marvin Quarles, Rev. Michelle Dailey, Rev. Herman

Flemons and the Abbeville Charge; Rev. Gregg Wax, Dr. Marvin Gipson, and the Ailesville Charge; and Elder James Dye along with Adkins Chapel-Blue Mountain, Union Grove-Ripley, and Mt. Moriah-Corinth.

Our Mass Choir ushered in the presence of the Holy Spirit with songs of praise and worship, while the packed congregation witnessed to the music with hand clapping, swaying, and shouts of “Amen” and “Hallelujah.”

As we closed the year, Pastor Diggs encouraged us with an empowering Word from LUKE 2:25-32: “There’s a Better Day Ahead.” He took us back to the struggles of our fore-parents, of women, and our own everyday life issues, but he reminded us of how God fulfills his promises to us just as he did with Simeon in the text.

Pastor Diggs said, “The collaboration was an opportunity for our church to showcase to all of the visiting churches what we experience every Sunday, and I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what God has in store for our church in the future. More importantly, this is also a season for prosperity in the lives of so many of our members who have continuously sacrificed in the past in order to bless the community and the church. Also, God has been faithful to us, and we should all look forward to the future on a personal level and as a church.”

The Day Santa Came to Church



Sunday December 17th, was set aside for the parishioners of Oxford First to appreciate each other. It was Christmas Card Sunday. Along with everyone bringing cards to exchange with each other during passing the peace, Santa came to church and brought gifts for the children and youth. Their joy was expressed in their smiles and laughter. In addition, the smiles on the faces of the adults who attended were an indication that everyone came to life as their gifts, small and great, were valued.

A Fresh Start for the New Year



Baptism is an important event in every believer's walk with Jesus Christ. On Saturday, December 30th, young Jeremiah Davis publicly professed his faith in Jesus Christ and was immersed in the water by Pastor Diggs at Springfield MBC in Abbeville, with Christopher Cross and Rev. Gillom assisting. Jeremiah's parents, David Davis and Derrick & Terrica Milliner and family were present to witness this

momentous occasion.

Then, on Sunday, December 31st, the entire congregation was blessed to witness the baptism of infant Maliah Kariara Johnson. (Pictured above with family) Maliah was dressed in her white christening gown, and her parents and family spoke on her behalf. Maliah is the cousin of Pastor Diggs and daughter of Kenneth and Heather Johnson.

Strike or Spare? by Khashanti Hervey

On December 21st, we had a wonderful time bonding with one another. First, we went to the bowling alley. We split up into different teams and tried to get as many strikes and

spares as we could. After a while of course we got hungry. We then went to Pizza Hut. We all ate slice after slice, until we thought

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We begin 2018 with a new ministry for children ages 8-12. Mrs. Evelyn Smith and Amber Mister will work with this age group and provide activities and an age-appropriate curriculum.

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our stomachs would burst. We all had a blast. I want to thank Pastor Diggs, Minister Gillom, and others for making this trip happen. This is our thank you from the children and youth.

