



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Sapada Thomas, Pastor

Volume 18, Number 10, October 2018

Praise Is What I Do: OFUMC Praise Dance Team



The congregation of Oxford First UMC was truly blessed by the Praise Dance Team as they danced to Marvin Sapp's Never Would Have Made It at September

30th Ecumenical Sunday Service. We are so thankful to Pastor Sepada Thomas and Minister Tressie Johnson for their work with the group.



The Pastor's Point

by

Rev. Sapada Thomas

Enough



Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

One of Jesus' great teaching parables involves a sower who cast seed along the ground. The sower hoped the seeds would sprout, grow, and bear good fruit. Some seeds did just that, producing a great harvest. But others, Jesus said, fell among thorns and, though they began to grow, these good plants were quickly choked out. Jesus said the thorns were "the cares of the world and the lure of wealth" (MATTHEW 13:22).

In a culture where having "enough" seems to have become a never-ending pursuit, Jesus' parable remains incredibly relevant.

Many of us are chasing the American dream in ways that lead to stress, anxiety, and fear—thorns that can rob us of the ability to enjoy the abundant lives of purpose that God intended for us.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, during the month of October, we will be having a church-wide study and worship emphasis called **Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity**. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and other various readings. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a Biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on the last Sunday in October.

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

OFUMC UMM Come Together



The United Methodist Men (UMM) of Oxford First UMC got together on Sunday morning, September 2nd, for a fellowship breakfast and kick-off session to plan activities for UMM. It was a productive Spirit filled meeting. Many

things were discussed. The men will meet again for another fellowship breakfast on Sunday, October 7th. All men are urged to attend. Watch the pages of *Jacob's Ladder* for more details in the months to come on the projects of the group.

Oxford First Prayer Ministry



Minister Gracie Spearman leads Oxford First's new Prayer Ministry which meets every Wednesday from 5:30P.M. TO 6:00P.M. in the Sanctuary before Bible Study. Our goal is to constantly stay in connectional prayer for our church, it's members, and ministries. This ministry will provide an opportunity for personal and corporate prayer. Everyone is invited, and welcome to come and pray together with us!



On Sunday, October 21st Lay persons will lead Oxford First in worship. Sister Niler P. Franklin takes the lead as coordinator of the Laity service, and Sister Barbara Wortham will deliver the message for the day.

A Lesson from Sunday School

In the opening chapters of Genesis, we learn that humans occupy a special place in the hierarchy of creation and that they enjoy a unique relationship with God by virtue of their being the work of God's own hands, created in His own image and likeness. In one sense, humans bear the marks of divinity, for we are directly animated by God's own breath. But in another sense, we are reminded that humans are but dust taken from the earth, mere clay in the hands of the divine Potter. According to the will of God, we are and remain an odd mixture of dust and divinity. God alone is to be praised as our creator, redeemer, and sustainer. Thanks be to God.

Jacob's Ladder is a monthly publication of Oxford First United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. Franklin. ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Niler P. Franklin. All rights reserved. Announcements or articles should be submitted to Rev. Sapada Thomas or submitted by e-mail directly to Franklin at chfrank@panola.com. Visit our website at www.OxfordFirst.org and click on the *Jacob's Ladder* link to view previous month's issues.

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Jacob's Ladder
P.O. Box 277
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Soup for Seniors Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018 11:00 A.M.



**Janis Blake, Laura Ann Cancer
and Terry Vaughn
Coordinators**

Jacob's Ladder

PLACE
STAMP
HERE