

TOWER TIDINGS

March 2017

The mission of the Oxford United Methodist Church is to love God, love people, and faithfully minister to human and spiritual needs in our community and beyond.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY/"THE WAY" by Adam Hamilton

Travel with Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Fascinating videos from his personal travels to the Holy Land give you a "first-person" experience while his biblical wisdom and historical knowledge provide thoughtful and insightful commentary.

**This Bible study begins on
Tuesday March 7th at 10:00am, or Wednesday March 8th at 6:00pm**

- ⇒ Childcare provided (please specify this need on the sign-up sheet)
- ⇒ Register in the breezeway entrance or outside the church office.
- ⇒ Study books are \$12.00

How We Worship/The Light of Christ

Lighting the altar candles early in worship is an important and traditional part of our worship. Candles have been used in Christian worship since ancient times. They were first used because they provided light needed to read. In recent times candles were used simply for their symbolic value, signifying Christ as the light of the world.


As the light in the form of a flame is carried into the church sanctuary by acolytes, we remember Christ is present with us as we worship. Once the minister has concluded the service's final blessing the candles are extinguished and carried out of the church – symbolizing the Lord's light going with the people of the congregation out into the world.

The Bible verse found in John 8:12 – "I am the Light of the World" – is the primary inspiration for this ritual of candle lighting and extinguishing, which begins and ends a Methodist worship service. Even in this modern world of electric light, Methodist churches only use candles with an actual flame as a part of the worship service.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter at OUMC

Ash Wednesday—March 1st

Come. Pray. Receive your ashes.

 **OUMC Sanctuary**
6:30a until 9:00a
11:30a until 1:30p

The Pastor will be present during above times.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:30p–7:15p (Sanctuary)

Let us prepare for Easter by sharing in a Holy Lent.

Lent Worship Series—INSIDE OUT!

Holy Week—April 9–15

April 9: Palm Passion Sunday

April 13: Holy Thursday—The Cantata and Holy Communion 7:00p
(Sanctuary)

April 16: Easter Services

9:00a *Fusion Service with Holy Communion*

10:00a - 10:40a *Fellowship Breakfast* and decorating the Flowered Cross
with signs of spring and new life—in our NEW fellowship hall!

11:00a *Traditional Service with Holy Communion*



Notes from the Music Department

Mass Choir Cantata

Several church choirs in Granville County will be gathering together to present an Easter Cantata! Famous choral composer Joseph Martin will be conducting his cantata, "Sanctuary," on Sunday, March 19th at 6:30 pm, at Butner First Baptist Church. We hope that you will come and be blessed by an evening of uplifting music. Please put March 19th on your calendars and we hope to see you there! If you cannot attend the March 19th event, our Chancel Choir will be presenting the Cantata at our Holy Thursday service, April 13th at 7:00p.

OUMW

In 1869, eight women in Boston listened to the stories of two missionaries to India. Hearing of the desperate needs of women there, these eight women called together a group of women friends and formed the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society. This began a long history of service to people in need.

The organization eventually changed its name to United Methodist Women and now UMW has over 800,000 members.

Since its inception, this very active organization has focused on helping women and children at home and around the world. Local missions include visiting local nursing homes and providing bingo prizes for patients at Butner hospitals. Items for health kits are collected and packed for local women in need, as well as for the use of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Members pack and mail care boxes to members of our Armed Services overseas.

Contributions to the Methodist Home for Children, *Feed the Hunger*, ACIM, Murdoch School Campership Fund, Harbour House, and *Heifer International* are all part of local missions. OUMW participates in the backpack and school kit programs for local schools. They also support our sister church in El Salvador, El Shaddai Methodist.

In addition when special needs come up, OUMW is there to help; for instance, when a death occurs among church members or when people are ill, our women are there with meals and support.

***OUMW consists of 4 Circles
Monthly Meeting Times and Contact Persons:***

Carrie Fuller Circle-1st Monday @ 7p; Ellen Jenkins, chair, 919-693-3721.
Lydia Circle-2nd or 3rd Saturday @ 8a; Jennifer Hall, chair, 919-888-8791.
Deborah Circle-2nd Sunday @ 5:30p; Kate Brady, chair, 919-693-5706.
Dorothy Circle-1st Wednesdays @ 10a; Elaine Lytton at 910-690-8372.

Oxford United Methodist Women Officers

President Elaine McKelly
Vice President Laura Miller
Secretary Elaine Lytton
Treasurer Gail Huffaker
Program Resources Chair Laura Miller
Communications Chair Bette Laursen
Bereavement Comm. Chair LaVerne Pope

Kitchen Comm. Louise Currin,
Frances Baker, and Judy Hagwood
Meal Comm. Chair Connie Adcock
College Student Support Chair
Lisa Cook
Flowers to Church Members Chair
Cheryl Hawkins

Deborah Circle News

At our February meeting, Deborah Circle members brought cooked pork roasts and canned vegetables to be taken to Penn Avenue Food Ministry. We also prepared Valentine gift bags for the teachers and staff at Credle Elementary School, always a fun project for those who are on the front lines of service to our community every day!



The Deborah Circle yard sale is coming up on May 6th! We are taking donations in our two rooms upstairs in the Lyon Building; thanks to those who already have donated. The rooms have signs on the doors. We are not accepting televisions this year, sorry!

If you need assistance getting your items to the church, or if you would like for one of us to carry items up the steps, please let us know: Kate Brady: max-amps@mindspring.com or 919-690-5706, or Kathrine Noel: enon-farm@gmail.com or 919-691-3877.

We meet the second Sunday each month at 5:30 pm. Our next meeting is March 12th at 4 pm in the new conference room at the church. We are going to do a service project: painting a few rooms upstairs in the Lyon Building. Pizza and fellowship included! We would love for you to join us!

The Next Lydia Circle meeting is Saturday, March 4 at 8 am at the home of Wendy Owens. Please join us! Contact Kathryn Mincher for more info!

Our combined circles, Oxford United Methodist Women, sponsor many projects to help people in need. On January 29, health kits were packed to be distributed to ACIM, Families Living Violence Free, and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).



Attention UMW: It's not too late for Reading Program 5, 10, 15 Books by July 25th. New books just added to the library are: "Silent No More", "Fully Awake truly Alive", "The Bible and Human Sexuality", "Wherever the River Runs", "Slowing Time", and many others on order. Also Childrens/Youth Books.

Library currently located in the education building.



UMW Scholarship Applications for eligible HS and College Students are available outside the church office. Deadline is April 18th.
Contact Janis Torgersen @ janis.torgersen@gmail.com with any questions.

March 2017

#oumcyouth

Thank you to all the persons who have provided meals for our youth recently: Kate Brady at A.C.I.M., Natale Rivers, Susan Rackley, Jenny Wilson, Stan and Judy Hulsey, and youth members: Riley and Catherine! Thank you so much!

We have several youth going on an international mission trip to Honduras and others going on a CCC mission trip in the U.S. If you would like to help sponsor our youth on mission please see Pastor Jenny. A youth fundraiser is planned on the opening of our fellowship hall. Watch for more details on this.

Confirmation - a time of affirming faith in Christ begins with an informational meeting on **March 12th at 4:30 pm**. Confirmation is for students and one of your parents and includes 6 sessions and one Saturday morning retreat. All students (grade 6 and above) who are not yet members of the church are encouraged to consider being a part of confirmation. Weekly classes (with Spring Break and Easter exempted) begin for the student and a parent on Sunday, March 19 at 4:30pm until 5:30pm. Questions? See Pastor Jenny

News Around the OUMC

Construction/Renovation Update

As you no doubt are aware by now, the newly renovated Lyon Building is open and in use. There are a few issues to be worked out, so you will see construction staff in the building occasionally. The new stairwell is the next item to be brought into service, and then the new fellowship hall and new landscaping should be complete by the end of March.

We are excited to announce that OUMC has received a \$150,000 grant from The Duke Endowment! This grant will enable us to minimize the amount of money that we may be required to borrow, and for that we are thankful. We continue to remind everyone to try to stay current on their building pledge so that we can avoid borrowing, which will decrease our expenses if we do not have to pay interest.

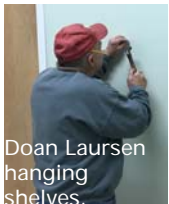
We praise God for so many things: the willingness of members to commit to the project, a great contractor and architect who have helped us create a building that is an asset to the community, our pastor who is completely supportive of the project and the vision, leadership in the church who listen to the voice of God, and so much more.



The Dorothy Circle meeting in the new conference room.



The Dorothy Circle washing dishes.



Doan Laursen hanging shelves.



Jesus said we'll be happy (or "blessed") when we are pure and so on (see Matthew 5:3-12). In other words, the results from putting others' needs above our own.

Research confirms that helping others boosts productivity, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of purpose, and increases gratitude and sparks others to "pay it forward." Researchers have found that the "activism cure" can help come bouts of sadness. So get helping — and get


Save The Dates:
Blood Drive April 10, 2017
Confirmation Retreat April 29, 2017
Deborah Circle Yard Sale May 6, 2017
Durham Bulls Outing June 4, 2017
VBS June 26 - 30 2017



Worship Bulletins are now available online. Click the link on our home page.

www.oxfordmethodist.com

1
 6:30a-9a Impo
 8:30a Learning
 10:00a Dorothe
 11:30a-1:30p L
 2:30p Mustard
 6:30p Ash Wed

5 
 8:30a Praise Team Rehearsal
 9:00a Fusion Worship/Communion
 10:00a Sunday School
 10:30a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00a Worship/Communion
 5:30p Youth

6
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy
 7:00p Carrie Fuller Circle
 7:00p CPR Training
 7:00p Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:00p Boy Scouts

7
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 10:00a The Way Bible Study
 10:30a LTP Music
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

8
 8:30a Learning
 2:30p Mustard
 6:00p The Way
 7:00p Chancel


12 
UMW Sunday
 8:30a Praise Team Rehearsal
 9:00a Fusion Worship/Communion
 10:00a Sunday School
 10:30a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00a Worship
 4:00p Deborah Circle
4:30p Confirmation Info Meeting
 5:30p Youth



13
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy
 7:00p Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:00p Boy Scouts

14
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 10:00a The Way Bible Study
 10:30a LTP Music
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy
 5:30p Trustees Meeting


15
 8:30a Learning
 12:00p JOY G
 2:30p Mustard
 6:00p The Way
 7:00p Chancel

19 
 8:30a Praise Team Rehearsal
 9:00a Fusion Worship/Communion
 10:00a Sunday School
 10:30a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00a Worship
 4:30-5:30p Confirmation Class
 5:30p Youth
 6:30p Easter Cantata @ Butner First Baptist Church

20
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy
 7:00p Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:00p Boy Scouts

21
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 10:00a The Way Bible Study
 10:30a LTP Music
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

22
 8:30a Learning
 1:00p Penn Av
 2:30p Mustard
 6:00p The Way
 7:00p Chancel

26 
 8:30a Praise Team Rehearsal
 9:00a Fusion Worship/Communion
 10:00a Sunday School
 10:30a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00a Worship
 4:30-5:30p Confirmation Class
 5:30p Youth

27
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy
 6:00p UMW Executive Board Meeting
 7:00p Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:00p Boy Scouts

28
 8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
 10:00a The Way Bible Study
 10:30a LTP Music
 2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

29
 8:30a Learning
 1:00p Penn Av
 2:30p Mustard
 6:00p The Way
 7:00p Chancel

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Please contact the church office with your schedule of events and to reserve any necessary space. School is back in session and the preschool and afterschool programs may be using various rooms on campus. Thank you for



Coffee will be available in the kitchen serving window Sundays until 11am. Stop by for a cup!

2
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
10:30a LTP Activity (Carr Classroom)
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

3
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

4
8:00a Lydia Circle (At the home of Wendy Owens)

10:00a Easter Cantata Rehearsal @ Butner First Baptist Church

9
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
10:30a LTP Activity (Carr Classroom)
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

10
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

11

16
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
10:30a LTP Activity (Carr Classroom)
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy
6:00p Finance Committee Meeting
7:00p Church Council Meeting

17
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

18
UMW Mission Studies ("Climate Justice and "The Bible and Human Sexuality")

23
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
10:30a LTP Activity (Carr Classroom)
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

24
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

25

30
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
10:30a LTP Activity (Carr Classroom)
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

31
8:30a Learning Tree Preschool
2:30p Mustard Seed Academy

Make sure to check out OUMC's Facebook page and stay up to the minute informed on happenings around the church! Like the page and you will



A great time in fellowship! 19 were able to attend a showing of "The Kitchen Witches" at The Barn Dinner Theatre in Greensboro on Tuesday, February 7th.

Missions



The Blood Drive Friday, February 10th at Granville County Shrine Club was a GREAT SUCCESS! We collected 47 units. Thanks to all that came out and supported the drive!

We so appreciate the Granville County Shrine Club for helping us with events while our fellowship hall is in progress. Thanks be to God, the April 10th blood drive will be in our new fellowship hall!



Rev. Jenny Wilson



Al Carraway



Marjorie Lumpkin



George Ritchie

| April 2017 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

The next blood drive is Monday, April 10th from 1:30 pm to 5:30pm. Call Ruth Carraway at 919-693-7647 or carrawayrt@gmail.com for an appointment.



The Lydia Circle is collecting Operation Christmas Child shoebox items all year this year with a goal of 150 boxes for 2017! This quarter we are collecting Wow! Items such as; sports balls, dolls, stuffed animals, etc. These are the items kids usually see first when they open the box and we want them all to be wowed! Help us make a difference in the lives of children around the world this Christmas! Donation box in

Opportunity To Help:

Church Family,

My sister and her family are in need of some help. They live in California and have been affected by mudslides. They were displaced for 3 weeks because their house was not safe. They have incurred a lot of expenses and there are more to come. They are back in their house under a "yellow tag" which means their house is still not completely out of danger. On top of all of this, her husband has been looking for a job for about 2 months with no success. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. If you are led to help out my sister and her family, please call me (919) 603-1018. Donations may be made to OUMC. Thank you, Beth Dean.

Special Messages

OUMC Caring Ministry

Several folks have asked me what can they do for those that are on the Prayer Chain. I want to share the responses I got.

A call from someone, just letting them know they are being thought of. A card, something they can touch and look at daily knowing someone thought enough to send it.

A short visit to see face to face someone that really cares how they are doing. And of course, continue prayers daily for all those in need.

When you look at the prayer list in the bulletin and Tower tidings, please consider these options to show you care.

Through God's constant love, Becky Goins

The Discipleship Committee would like to thank all who participated in the recent "Bible Study Preference" survey. We were thrilled to have received 42 responses. Your input will be very helpful as we plan Bible studies for the next year. Thanks again, and see you in Bible study.

OUMC Family,

For the many prayers, cards, calls, food, visits, and concern shown for me and Christine during my recent hospitalization and subsequent stay at Brantwood Rehab Center, we thank you. We thank you for the many prayers, cards, calls, beautiful tulips, and concern shown for Christine during her recent visits to Duke ER and Duke Hospital. The support from our church family means so much to both of us.

Love to all of you,
Christine and Buddy Baker

*Thank
You*

Dear Church Members,

I would like to thank you during my convalescence for your prayers, cards, gift, and visits.

Thank you again for your kindness,
Walter Crews

Words are so inadequate to express our thanks for all your efforts to coordinate, setup, provide the post funeral party and clean up. The party was just what my Dad wanted. I know he was thrilled. That gift of caring you gave us in making the lunch happen. I saw so much of God's grace at work during this difficult time—I am awed. You made his wishes possible and I am ever grateful. Sincerely,

Christena Johnston-Pulliam

| <u>Those Who Serve</u> | 3/5/2017 | 3/12/2017 | 3/19/2017 | 3/26/2017 |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 9 AM Fusion Service | | | | |
| Lay Liturgist | Laura Miller | Kathrine Noel | Lee Isley | Sylvia Harrison |
| Server | Frances Baker | Laura Miller/ Michele Allen | Mark Harrison | Al Carraway |
| Acolyte | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Children's Chapel | Wendy Owens/Becky Goins | Wendy Owens/Becky Goins | Wendy Owens/Becky Goins | Wendy Owens/Becky Goins |
| Nursery | Kathrine Noel Kathryn Mincher | Donna Bowling- Critchler | Elaine McKelly | Donna Bowling- Critchler |
| Sound | Adam Mincher | Ruth Carraway | Lindsay Williford | Ruth Carraway |
| Greeter | Michele Allen | Frances Baker | Becky Goins | Laura Miller |
| Altar Guild | Becky Goins | Becky Goins | Becky Goins | Becky Goins |
| Ushers | Michael Hanks Bill Goins Al Carraway | Michael Hanks Bill Goins Al Carraway | Michael Hanks Bill Goins Al Carraway | Michael Hanks Bill Goins Al Carraway |
| 11 AM Traditional Service | | | | |
| Lay Liturgist | Kathy May | Ellen Jenkins | Susan Bowman | Erica Bridges |
| Server | Tommy May Bob and Eunice May George Summers David Matlock | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Acolyte | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Children's Message | Susan Bowman | Cathy Pruitt | Sarah Lewis | Carolyn Jones |
| Children's Chapel | Jennifer Hall | Ashley Salazar | Beth Dean | Ashley Salazar |
| Nursery | Natale, Jack & Sam Rivers | Jennifer Hall | Teresa Jackson | Beth Dean |
| Sound | Donna Bowling- Critchler | Leslie Egerton | Charles Dean | Doug Roberson |
| Greeters | Doan Laursen | Martha Jackson | Beth & Charles Dean | Marilyn Noblin |
| Altar Guild | Marjorie Lumpkin Karen Floyd Donna Biggs Carolyn Morton Connie Adcock | Marjorie Lumpkin Karen Floyd Donna Biggs Carolyn Morton Connie Adcock | Marjorie Lumpkin Karen Floyd Donna Biggs Carolyn Morton Connie Adcock | Marjorie Lumpkin Karen Floyd Donna Biggs Carolyn Morton Connie Adcock |
| Ushers | Charles Dean Ellen Jenkins Rob Williford Steve McNally | Charles Dean Ellen Jenkins Rob Williford Steve McNally | Charles Dean Ellen Jenkins Rob Williford Steve McNally | Charles Dean Ellen Jenkins Rob Williford Steve McNally |
| Counters | David Currin Donna Bowling - Critchler | Leslie Egerton Angela Parrott | Steve McNally Sandra Pruitt | Tara Roberson Stan Hulsey |

Carolyn Morton
 Ted Morton
 Buddy and Christine Baker
 Kate Brady
 Cindy Bryan
 Walter Crews
 Francis and Marion Dean
 Florine and William Dement
 Henry and Judy Hagwood
 Warren Hicks
 Rev. Jenny Wilson and Paul
 Elaine Sievert
 James Daniels
 John and Kathy Wolford
 Anne Berry (Marshall and Martha Tanner's daughter)
 Mary Cowles (Elaine & William Lytton's daughter)
 Jacob Owens
 Ashlyn Roberson
 OUMC Members
 OUMC Shut-Ins
 OUMC Staff
 Bill Howard at United Healthcare
 Lucille Dixon at Brantwood Room 210

Annette Baker Morgan (Christine & Buddy Baker's daughter)
 Stacey Lundy (Christine Floyd's granddaughter)
 Dorian and Suzanne Vargas (friends of Wendy Owens)
 Lyna and Francis Wilson
 James (Russ Allen's dad)
 Linda Wilson
 Judy Yates
 Cheryl Hawkins
 Bill Howard
 Lucille Dixon
 Kevin Rumsey's Dad
 DeCicco Family
 Julia and Harmon Byrd
 Virginia (Pastor Jenny's mother)
 Susan Melton Gentry (friend of Sonya Carver)
Our Troops
 Jordan Blanchard Fletcher and her husband
 George "Fletch" Fletcher, US Army

Please keep those who have lost loved ones in your prayers.

The family of Reverend Bill Johnston
 The family of Cecil Howard

The Oxford Methodist Church Prayer Chain is ready at any time to give support for any prayer need. To activate the chain, call Becky Goins, 919-529-4902 or email beckyanne@nc.rr.com

Prayer cards are available in the pew pockets in our sanctuary. Persons with prayer requests may complete the card and give it to the pastor after worship. We will use what you place on the card to alert the Prayer Team for prayers or for just the pastor to be in prayer. This new Prayer Card will enable us to continue to be persons who pray for each other and those we love.

OUMC Financials

Month Ending December 2016

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Income | \$57,313 |
| Total Expenses | \$49,280 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ 8,033 |
| Prior period brought forward | <u>\$(8,033)</u> |
| MTD Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ 0 |

Month Ending January 31, 2017

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | \$32,317 |
| Total Expenses | \$23,066 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ 9,251 |
| Prior period brought forward | <u>\$ 0</u> |
| MTD Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ 9,251 |

Oxford United Methodist Church Contacts

Office Hours are from 9 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Church Office: (919) 693-4091

Pastor: Rev. Jenny Wilson, ext. 22

jenny@oxfordmethodist.com

Parsonage: (919) 693-3237

Church Secretary/Bookkeeper: Tabatha Boyd, ext. 21

tabatha@oxfordmethodist.com

Minister of Music: Sarah Lewis, ext. 25

sarah@oxfordmethodist.com

The Learning Tree Preschool Director: Ellen Thompson, ext. 24 ellen@oxfordmethodist.com

The Mustard Seed Academy

mustardseed@oxfordmethodist.com

Newsletter Coordinator: Donna Citcher

dbcdesigns@nc.rr.com

Church Website:

www.oxfordmethodist.com



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