

# The O.U. Reporter

Oxford-University United Methodist Church: Celebrating Methodism in Oxford for 175 Years, 1836-2011



OPEN HEARTS  
OPEN MINDS  
OPEN DOORS

October 27, 2011  
Issue No. 110

## 175 YEARS

### *Celebrating Our Past, Present, & Future*



### *Worship Schedule*

#### **Sunday, October 30**

Worship Services—8:45, 9:00, & 10:55 a.m.  
Fellowship Time—9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.  
F.I.S.H.—5:30 p.m.  
U.M.Y.F.—6:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, November 2**

Children Choristers—4:00 p.m.  
Youth Choir—5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Holy Communion—6:00 p.m.  
Celebration Ringers—6:00 p.m.  
Chancel Choir—7:00 p.m.  
Nominations Team—7:00 p.m.

#### **Sunday, November 6**

**Daylight Savings Time Ends!**  
**Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour!**

Worship Services—8:45, 9:00, & 10:55 a.m.  
Fellowship Time—9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.  
F.I.S.H.—5:30 p.m.  
U.M.Y.F.—6:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, November 9**

Children Choristers—4:00 p.m.  
Youth Choir—5:00 p.m.  
Children's Drama Solo Practice—5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Holy Communion—6:00 p.m.  
Celebration Ringers—6:00 p.m.  
Chancel Choir—7:00 p.m.  
Nominations Team—7:00 p.m.

As our church looks back on **175 years of Methodism in Oxford**, this **Sunday, October 30**, we celebrate our **Present** and **why OU matters to us, to others, and to God**. Claire has asked our youth, our leadership, and our staff this question. She has also videoed over 50 members of our church, asking their reflections on why OU Matters in their lives. Come celebrate with us as Claire preaches at the traditional Services and Warren leads *The Journey* this Sunday.

The following **Sunday, November 6**, is **All Saints Sunday**. We will focus on our **Past**, remembering the saints of our church and our history in Oxford. Warren will lead us in our traditional services in preaching and Holy Communion, and Gerald Walton will share a brief message of our history in Oxford. Claire will preach *The Journey*.

**Commitment Sunday** is **November 13** where we look to the **Future**. **Rev. John Moore**, former associate minister, will lead our services. **Former ministers** have been invited back and our **Commitment Luncheon and 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration** immediately follows the 10:55 service.

**On this Sunday, please bring the commitment card you received this week with you to present for consecration at the altar. So that we may all hear John Moore, the 8:45 and Journey services will worship together in the Activities Center this Sunday at 9:00 a.m.**

As we enter our Stewardship Campaign, celebrating **Our Legacy—Past, Present, and Future**, please pray this prayer daily with us:

*O God, I resolve to put You first in my life. I recognize that You have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am. As your steward, I resolve to sacrifice when necessary but always to do so out of a spirit of sincere love, just as your Son, Jesus, did for me. I humbly accept the challenge to share from my means rather than from my excess. I recognize that being a good steward is nothing more than being truly Christian. I resolve to be generous with my time, talent and treasure, giving in proportion to the gifts I have been given. I commit myself to taking care of your creation. I know there will be times when I will fail to be a good steward, but I pledge to keep on trying. I will confidently live each day with a spirit of true peace and joy in knowing that I am doing your will. Amen.*

Gratefully,

Robert Northern, *Stewardship Chair*  
Dexter Barr  
Dixie Jordan  
Rev. Warren Black

Carolyn Bond  
Kin Kinney  
Rev. Claire Dobbs

Gerald Walton, *175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair*  
Lloyd Hewitt  
Laura Smith

Jolee Hussey  
Patty Tatum

## PRAYERS

- Frank Anderson
- Robert Bennett
- Diann Coleman
- Mildred Davis
- Ruth Edwards
- Barbara Green
- Cecilia Marshall
- Eugenia McLaurin
- Sarah Robinson
  
- Flavous Barker, Sarah Hampton's father
- Will Campbell, friend of Diann Coleman
- Sandra Collier
- Myrtice DeRuyscher, Lisa Scott and Tamara Austin's grandmother
- Robert DeRuyscher, Lisa Scott and Tamara Austin's father
- Richard King, John King's brother
- Richard Matsufuji, Reba Matsufuji's son
- Patricia Covington-Miller, John Covington's mother
- Ed Moore, Betty Sue Moore's son
- Betty Jo Patterson, Altie and Pat Patterson's daughter-in-law
- Trey Poole, Wanda Poole's grandson
- Joanne Rone, Scott Rone's mother
- Phil Sneed, Claire Hardy's brother
- Jennifer Taylor, Dianne and Glenn Woodard's niece
- Tommye and Bill Webb, Molly Meisenheimer's parents

## 2012 Altar Flowers

The altar flower schedule for 2012 is being published now. If you would like to place flowers on the altar Jan 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Feb 5, 12, 19, or 26, please call Toya Bruss at (662) 832-3061.

## BUDGET UPDATE

### General Budget Comparison to Last Year

	10-23-2011	10-24-2010
Need per week	\$27,035.42	\$25,646.96
Rec Sun	\$42,222.00	\$28,295.62
Need to date	\$1,162,523.06	\$1,102,819.28
Rec to date	\$1,035,902.11	\$999,581.55
Expenses through	\$1,059,143.17	\$1,034,022.16

Total offerings for 10-23-2011 were \$47,880.00, compared to \$32,128.62 in offerings for 10-24-2010.

*Thank you for your continued support of OU's ministries.*

## Pat Elmore Gift—Reminder!

In this season of stewardship, OUUMC is gratefully blessed by the gift of \$743,068.56 from the estate of Pat Elmore.

Recommendations regarding the use of Pat's undesignated bequest should be received in the church office by **Monday, October 31** and will then be made available to the Charge Conference members (Administrative Council) and the congregation. We will have a called Charge Conference on **Monday, November 14** at 5:15 p.m. in the Activities Center.

As Christ's example and witness in the world, our goal is to promote openness, transparency and prayerful discernment in making this decision.

## Called Charge Conference

Following our church Discipline 2528.3 and 2532.5, Rev. Jerry Beam, our District Superintendent has authorized a called Charge Conference for the specific purpose of determining the use of Rev. Pat Elmore's undesignated bequest for Monday, November 14 at 5:15 p.m. in the Activities Center.

The main motion presented to the Charge Conference will come from the Trustees and any other motions or amendments may come from the floor. Rev. Beam will preside.

## OU Loves our Roosters!

*Thanks to Barbara and Scott Michaels and Roosters for donating food for our Wednesday Night Meals. We appreciate all you do!*



## PRESENCE

### Sunday Worship

#### October 16

8:45 a.m.	95
9:00 a.m.	74
10:55 a.m.	281
Sunday School	335

#### October 23

8:45 a.m.	129
9:00 a.m.	68
10:55 a.m.	334
Sunday School	325

*Congratulations to Austin & Lindsey Mitchell whose son Thomas Hayden was born October 20.*

## Toiletries Needed!

Please contribute toiletries such as shampoo, soap, toilet paper, diapers, etc., to be shared with local agencies such as Red Cross, More than a Meal, Meals on Wheels, and Interfaith Compassion Ministry. Small or large boxes of laundry detergent are also needed. Items may be left in Wesley Hall Kitchen.

## DVDs for Sale

OUUMC has both traditional worship services recorded each Sunday. Copies of the DVD are available for \$3 in the church office.

## BAPTISMS & NEW MEMBERS



**Piper Elizabeth Ferguson** was baptized on October 23. She is the daughter of Shannon and Lee Ferguson and the sister of Cade.



**Marla and Jack Wills**  
103 Franklin Street  
234-0325

Marla and Jack joined OU on October 16 from St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Madison. Marla is a retired teacher and Jack is retired from the Soil

Conservation Service. They are the parents of OU member Jennifer Erwin and grandparents of Clayton and Parker.



**Rowan Reed John** was baptized on October 23. He is the son of Jennifer and Nathan John and the brother of Taylor.

## A Season of Thanks and Giving

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons swiftly approach, please keep in mind those in our community who need our help, support, and love by giving to one or more of the following causes:

### Chuck Wagon Ministries

is an action of love, an action of faith, an action of hope. It is a support ministry to provide food to people in time of need. Much like the covered chuck wagon of days gone by, it provides goods to those in dire situations. These boxes of food go to Lena Wiley at Inter-faith Compassion Ministries for distribution.

#### How can you help?

Donate money, and we will shop and fill a Thanksgiving box to be delivered in your name complete with turkey (\$40 for a full box, \$20 for a turkey only).

### Pantry Donation Cards



Give thanks and show your appreciation to others this holiday season with a Pantry Donation Card. A \$10 donation buys you a beautiful holiday card to give in honor of someone special in your life. The inside of the cards read:

*"In the true spirit of Christmas, food has been given in your name to the needy of Oxford through The Pantry."*

*"May the blessings of the Season surround you throughout the year."*

Cards are available in the church office.

Donations are tax-deductible and may be made to The Pantry.



### Operation Christmas Child

Pack a shoe box filled with goodies and gifts (toys, school supplies, hygiene items, etc.) for a boy or a girl and bring it to OU by November 22. Be sure to include \$7 for shipping your box overseas to make Christmas a special time for a

child. For more information, brochures will be available in the church office.



Donate a meal to a local family by purchasing the following items: **\$35 gift card (Walmart, Kroger, Big Star), 2 large cans of corn, 2 large cans of green beans, 2 cans chicken broth, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 lg. onion, 3lb sweet potatoes, 3lb white potatoes, 1 can sweetened condensed milk, 5lb sugar, 5lb corn meal**

Collection Location: Union Ball Room  
November 14-16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., November 17, 8-10 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to pack baskets. To volunteer, contact Hannah Holcomb (heholcomb@olemiss.edu). For additional information contact Valeria Ross (vross@olemiss.edu)

## OUUMC's History, 1832-1890



*OU kneeler representing the 1838 church building illustrating what would have been typical of that time: two front doors, one for men and one for women who sat on opposite sides of the church*

### Methodism Comes to Oxford: 1832-1838

In 1832 the Chickasaw Indians in northern Mississippi surrendered a large plot of land in the Treaty of Pontotoc. John Chisolm, John Martin, and John Craig set up a business on what is now the Oxford Square in 1835. Named in memory of the Marquis de Lafayette, the county was officially established on February 9, 1836. Chisolm, Martin, and Craig purchased land from the Indian Princess Hoka on June 12, 1836. They donated fifty acres of land for a county seat, and the town of Oxford was chartered on May 11, 1837. On that same date, "arrangements were made for two churches."

Circuit rider William Craig sponsored a Methodist organizational meeting in Oxford in 1836. Craig was born in South Carolina in 1786 and was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1803. He was transferred to the Tennessee Conference around 1820 and then moved to Holly Springs around 1830. He was described as: "... (He) was a leading man of his time. He had wonderful success as a Pastor (Circuit Rider) to the new Methodist churches springing up in the wake of the sweep westward as quickly as Indians were moving to other fields." He was "a self-denying preacher of the growing Methodist Church, traveling over a 300 mile circuit, riding a mule. Throughout it all, he was a personality commanding the confidence and respect of all who knew him, and left behind an honorable name."

### Our First Church Building: 1838-1851

No one knows exactly how often early Methodists met in Oxford. It is likely in the early days that they met in each other's homes. While there are no official records of what the first church building looked like, it has been recorded that it was the first church in Oxford, and it is believed to have been completed before the end of 1838.

One writer says, "A frame building in keeping with the church buildings of the day was erected in the fall of 1838." Others believe the first building was actually a log cabin. The building was located on what is now Van Buren Ave. which is now First Baptist Church's Family Life Center.

Most historians believe that A. J. S. Harris was our first pastor. The Reverend W. R. Lott then lists these: William Craig, 1838-1840; E. J. Williams, 1840; William B. Walker, 1841. Other ministers before 1850 likely included E. Phillips, William Morgan, J. G. Acton, William Bonner, A. R. Winfield, A. Davis, and W. W. Caulder.

### Our Second Church Building: 1851-1890

Membership at the small church on Van Buren grew rapidly, and the congregation agreed that a new and bigger building was needed. On July 17, 1851 the trustees were deeded land on what is now Jackson Avenue, between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Robert S. Wendel sold the land to the trustees of the church. The deed states that the land was sold for \$100 and was for the purpose of "erecting thereon a building place of worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South...."

Although no photographs or floor plans have survived, it is reported that it was constructed of brick and that it had "an auditorium upstairs and a large basement underneath." The records are not clear and are sometimes contradictory, but the ministers from 1851 until 1890 were probably: R. F. Colburn, 1850; David Wells, 1851; C. B. Harris, 1852; R. V. Taylor, 1853; James Chapman, 1854-55; Lewis Davis, 1856-1859; George Carter, 1860; Charles Campbell, 1861; Lewis Davis, 1862-63; John Barcroft, 1864-65; J. J. Wheat, 1866-69; Amos Kendall, 1870; S. R. Brewer, 1871; J. J. Wheat, 1872-1877; W. B. Murrah, 1878-81; K. A. Jones, 1882-83; W. J. T. Sullivan, 1883-85; E. B. Ramsey, 1887; R. M. Standifer, 1888; T. W. Dye, 1889; and S. D. Long, 1890-91.

Some of the ministers were quite candid in their remarks when writing their quarterly reports during this period. For example, in 1884 the Reverend Sullivan wrote: "The congregations at public worship have been large, as we had reason to suspect. They have been especially large on Sunday evenings, since evening services at the other churches have been suspended. There has been some return of the misconduct at public worship which disturbs the congregation and seriously interferes with the solemnity and efficiency of the worship and service."

### Church Building Burns: 1890

On March 1, 1890, the "magnificent temple of worship" was burned. The March 6, 1890, *Oxford Eagle* reported on the loss:

*"On Saturday night last about 10 o'clock the alarm of fire was given and as the mid-night bells pealed forth the dreadful warning the citizens rushed half dazed to the scene. It was soon discovered that the fire had originated in the storehouse on Depot Street [now Jackson Avenue] occupied by T. W. Yates, which being a frame building was seen too far under headway to control. The house adjoining, also frame, occupied by T. L. Kendal caught fire in a short time and it was soon discovered that efforts to save either would be useless so every attention was given to check the spread of the flames to the west block of square, as it was conceded by all that if the fire spread in this direction the town of Oxford would be in ashes, before the dawn of another day, In the meantime the Methodist Church directly west of the burning building took fire and in the course of an hour was entirely consumed; nothing but the blackened walls left of this elegant house of worship. At this juncture the flames were checked and a more disastrous ending averted. Too much cannot be said in commendation of those who gallantly fought the fire, and the citizens of Oxford should be thankful that the entire square was not laid in ashes as they had good reason to fear it would be. The Methodist Church was valued at \$7,000 and had no insurance. It had recently been remodeled and was one of the largest and most comfortable churches in the place. Universal sympathy is with the pastor and members of the congregation in their serious misfortune for less than six months ago their parsonage was destroyed by fire."*

The Quarterly Conference records were probably kept in the home of Oxford church member T. L. Harris. Fortunately, those records were not burned, and many of them are available in the history office of our church.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## Children's Christmas Drama Practice Schedule

The Christmas Pageant will be Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.  
All children ages **Pre-k-3 through 6th grade** are invited to participate.

**Parts & Solo Practice:** Wed. Nov. 9, 5:00-5:45 p.m., Sanctuary & Wed., Nov. 16, 5:00-5:45 p.m., Sanctuary

**No Practice Wednesday, Nov. 23**

**All Participants Practice:**

**Pre-k through 3 yrs:** Wednesday, Nov. 30, 5:00-5:45 p.m. in **Room 111**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade-6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Wednesday, Nov. 30, 5:00-5:45 p.m. in the **Sanctuary**

**Pizza Party:** Wednesday, Nov. 30, following practice in the Activities Center— *Parents: please pick up your kids at 6:15.*

**Dress Rehearsal:** Tuesday, December 6, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary—*All children will receive their costumes at this practice.*

**Christmas Drama:** Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Pre-k through 3 yrs: Meet in Room 111 at 5:30 p.m.**

**1st-6th grade: Meet in Wesley Hall at 5:30**

Wrap party following drama in the Activities Center



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Jr. High Backpacking Trip

**Sipsey Wilderness Area, North Alabama, Nov. 4-6**

Grades 7-8 (9th graders invited, too)

Darrell Whitaker will lead a backpacking trip for Jr. High students. We will camp near the trailhead on Friday night, hike into the wilderness area on Saturday, camp Saturday night, and hike back out Sunday morning. Sipsey is the second largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River and one of the most popular backpacking destinations in our area. The church can/will provide tents, backpacks, cooking equipment, and food. Participants will need a **GOOD** sleeping bag since it can get pretty cold in November. The cost of the trip is \$80.00. Email [darrell@camplakestephens.com](mailto:darrell@camplakestephens.com) for more information or to sign up.



*Pictures from last Sunday's UMYF*

**Jr. High Prayer Breakfast:** Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m., Phillip's Grocery  
**Sr. High Prayer Breakfast:** Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m., Phillip's Grocery  
**Sunday School:** 10:00 a.m., Jr. High--Room 201, Sr. High--Youth Center  
**U . M . Y . F . :** Sundays, 6:00 p.m., Youth Center

# COLLEGE MINISTRIES

## Upcoming Events

College Ministries will be helping with **Children's Church** Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Let Allyson know if you would like to participate ([aewillis@bellsouth.net](mailto:aewillis@bellsouth.net)).

Join us for **Sunday School** - 10:00 in the Prayer Room (next to the main office) each Sunday!

**Questions? Contact:** Allyson Willis—[aewillis@bellsouth.net](mailto:aewillis@bellsouth.net), 662.231.9929

## Notes from the Past

**SIXTY YEARS AGO:** On October 21, 1951, Carolyn Kirk King was welcomed as an Addition to the Nursery Department. Carl Downing and Johnny Hoar were congratulated on October 28, 1951, for receiving Eagle Scout badges.

\*\*\*

**FIFTY YEARS AGO:** The Honorable Hugh Clayton gave the Layman's Address on October 22, 1961. The service was led by Lay Leader Dr. C. M. Murry.

Infant Margaeret Helen Baker was baptized on October 22, 1961.

Infant Jordan Keith Jordan was baptized on October 29, 1961.

\*\*\*

**TWENTY YEARS AGO:** Lee Uhlhorn, Kay McDuffie, Riki Matsufuji, and Walker Swaney sang as a quartet on October 27, 1991.

Ron, Becky, and Jenny Hipp joined the church on October 20, 1991.

\*\*\*

**TEN YEARS AGO:** Dr. Marvin Davis spoke on "Birds of Winter" at the Primetimers' meeting on October 19, 2001.

Infant John Liddon Riddell was baptized on October 21, 2001.

## Civic Chorus Concert

On Sunday, November 6, the Oxford Civic Chorus will present its spring concert, "Chantez!," at 3 pm at North Oxford Baptist Church. The entertaining program, selected by Director Brooke Bagley Worthy, will showcase an array of choral pieces by a "Who's Who" of French composers from many different eras. Joining the chorus will be a small orchestral ensemble from the community and university.

Tickets are on sale now at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. They are available from chorus members and at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center on University Avenue. Tickets will also be sold at the door on the evening of the performance. Come on out and enjoy the show!

**OXFORD-UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**424 SOUTH TENTH STREET**  
**OXFORD, MS 38655**

Phone: 234-5278 Fax: 234-4202 Website: <http://www.ouumc.org>

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Permit No. 89  
 Oxford, MS 38655

### *Return Service Requested*

<b>Our Church Staff:</b>			
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Pastor	Warren Black	234-5278	office@ouumc.org
Associate Pastor	Claire Dobbs	234-5278	clairedobbs8@gmail.com
Director of Children's Ministries	Pat Forrester	234-4293	pforrester@ouumc.org
Director of Preschool Programs	Susan Phillips	234-3371	dds@ouumc.org
Youth Minister	Greg Smith	234-5278	gsmith@ouumc.org
College Ministries Coordinator	Alyson Willis	231-9929	aewillis@bellsouth.net
Director of Music	Lee Uhlhorn	234-7102	leeuhlhorn@gmail.com
Journey Coordinator	Julianna Ross	234-5278	juliannaross@hotmail.com
Journey Music Coordinator	Stephen Lehmar	234-5278	slehman65@me.com
Church Administrator	Russ McLellan	234-5278	rmclellan@ouumc.org
Admin. Assistant to the Pastors	Barbara Camp	234-2680	bcamp@ouumc.org
Communications Coordinator	Emilie Bramlett	234-5278	ebramlett@ouumc.org
Organist	Jason Derrick	234-5278	wjderrick@olemiss.edu
Receptionist	Jan Estes	234-5278	jestes@ouumc.org
Bookkeeper	Sylvia Harvey	234-5278	sharvey@ouumc.org
Manager of Buildings and Grounds	James Young	234-5278	office@ouumc.org
Assistant Manager of Buildings	Lisa Corrothers	234-5278	office@ouumc.org
Custodian	Bennie Malone	234-5278	office@ouumc.org