

The O.U. Reporter

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



OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS

December 8, 2011
Issue No. 112



Christmas Mission Offering

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Goal: \$30,000

Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 11

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, December 14

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.

Sunday, December 18

Worship Services—8:45, 10:55 a.m.

Fellowship Time—9:30 a.m.

Sunday School—10:00 a.m.

Christmas Potluck—12:00 noon

F.I.S.H.—5:30 p.m.

U.M.Y.F.—6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

Holy Communion—6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24

Worship Services—4:00, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.

To continue our tradition as a leader in supporting local and global missions through the United Methodist Church, these mission causes need our generous support:

- Alex and Brenda Awad
our missionaries at Bethlehem Bible College
- World Service
the number one mission arm of UMC
- Mississippi Campus ministries,
including Ole Miss Wesley
- Camping and Retreat centers
including Camp Lake Stephens
- Methodist Children's Home
- Choctaw Mission
- Baddour Center
- Community Centers in Mississippi
- Rust College
- Africa University
- Ministerial Education Fund
providing half tuition for our Mississippi seminary students

Your special gifts can make the difference. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews or you may designate your check to "Christmas Offering." Thank you.

Dexter Barr
Finance Chair

John Morgan
Administrative Council Chair

Warren Black and Claire Dobbs
Pastors

Celebrate Advent & Christmas with Your O-U Family!

Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, December 18, following the 10:55 service in the Activities Center

A-F—bring a salad

G-L—bring a dessert

M-R—bring a vegetable

S-Z—bring a casserole

Everyone is invited for a holiday celebration. We will introduce our newest members at this time, so join us for fun, food, and fellowship!

Sunday, December 11 *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:45 & 10:55 Traditional Services—Warren Black,
9:00 a.m. *The Journey* Christmas—Claire Dobbs

Sunday, December 18 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:45 & 10:55 Traditional Services—*Lessons and Carols*
12:00 noon OU Family Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

10:00 a.m. One service of Christmas Celebration and Joy

Wednesday, December 14

12 noon Grace Notes Advent Music, First Presbyterian Church
6:00 p.m. **Holy Communion**

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve
4:00 & 6:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
& **Holy Communion** (*nursery provided*)

The church office will be closed Thursday at noon, Dec. 22-Monday, Dec. 26 for Christmas, & Friday at noon, Dec. 30-Monday, Jan. 2, for New Years. The Journey will take a break on the following Sundays: Dec. 18, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1. The Journey will resume on Jan. 8, 2012.

PRAYERS

- Frank Anderson
- Robert Bennett
- Mildred Davis
- Barbara Green
- Ann Huggins
- Cecilia Marshall
- Eugenia McLaurin
- Molly Mogridge

- Al Bergeron, Joe Bergeron's father
- Joanne Brown, Patrick Brown's mother
- Sandra Collier
- Robert DeRuyscher, Lisa Scott and Tamara Austin's father
- Andy Hollingsworth, Bettye Parham's son
- Richard King, John King's brother
- Richard Matsufuji, Reba Matsufuji's son
- David Mealer, Donna and Bob Killen's son-in-law
- Patricia Covington-Miller, John Covington's mother
- Trey Poole, Wanda Poole's grandson
- Joanne Rone, Scott Rone's mother
- Joanne Smith, Brent Smith's mother
- Phil Sneed, Claire Hardy's brother
- Tommye and Bill Webb, Molly Meisenheimer's parents

Sunday School Christmas Parties

Growing in Grace
Friday, Dec. 9, 6:00 p.m.,
21007 Wills Trace

Eureka Class:
Sunday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.,
Stonebridge

Stragglers:
Sunday, Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m.,
402 Victoria Cove

Sojourners:
Thursday, Dec. 15, TBA,
415 Northpointe Lake Dr.

BUDGET UPDATE

General Budget Comparison to Last Year

	12-4-2011	12-5-2010
Need per week	\$27,035.42	\$25,646.96
Rec Sun	\$25,628.95	\$30,582.33
Need to date	\$1,324,735.58	\$1,256,701.04
Rec to date	\$1,231,041.64	\$1,187,764.94
Expenses through	\$1,193,082.72	\$1,189,024.39

Total offerings for 12-4-2011 were \$31,424.95.

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

2012 PLEDGE UPDATE

We have received **219** pledge cards totaling \$1,107,567.

General Budget: \$1,012,431 Building Fund: \$ 91,115

Compassion: \$4,020.

We are grateful for your continued support of the ministries of OUUMC. Please return your pledge card to the church as soon as possible so budget plans can be made for 2012. Every gift matters, and no pledge is too small. If you have not yet received a card, they are available at each service or in the church office.

Thank you

Interfaith Compassion Ministries Update

First, Second and Third Quarters, ICM has helped **2,490** families.

Total spent so far in 2011: **\$235,318.79**

ICM has helped **224 homeless families** so far this year.

2012 Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar Jan 1, 15, 22; Feb 5, 12, 19, or 26, please contact Toya Bruss at (662) 832-3061.

Congratulations to

Jennifer and Matt Taylor,

whose son Jackson Matthew was born November 14.

He is welcomed by sister Anna Katherine.

Kate Meacham and Davis Jones,

whose daughter Bianca Erin was born November 8.

She is welcomed by siblings Alex and Elsa.

Annie and George Haymans,

whose daughter Katherine Ann was born November 30.

She is welcomed by brothers George Stouton and Worth.

Louise Burney and John Tyner, who were married in our sanctuary on December 3. Louise is the daughter of Sara Mize.

Margaret Fields

who received recognition with special mission membership in United Methodist Women at their December luncheon.

Kelly Johnson,

grandson of Riki Matsufuji and son of Mary Matsufuji Johnson, was recently named as special teams Player of the Week at the University of Alabama for his outstanding play in the Alabama vs. Mississippi State game.

PRESENCE

Sunday Worship

November 20

8:45 a.m.	87
9:00 a.m.	78
10:55 a.m.	275
Sunday School	310

November 27

8:45 a.m.	73
9:00 a.m.	81
10:55 a.m.	237
Sunday School	258

December 4

8:45 a.m.	102
9:00 a.m.	117
10:55 a.m.	342
Sunday School	397

Christian Love & Sympathy is Extended to

Drue Le Grand

in the death of her brother
Tom Trent

Forrest Bryan

in the death of his grandmother
Jo Bryan

Martha Hitch

in the death of her mother
Martha White

Beth Rosson

in the death of her uncle
Bill Waller

Basketball Sign Up

Jr. & Sr. High Leagues

Contact Greg Smith for more information (gsmith@ouumc.org, 234-4220). Sign up sheets will be posted on the Activities Center Doors.

BAPTISMS & NEW MEMBERS



William Ayers Spencer III was baptized on November 20. Liam is the son of Ayers and Andrea Spencer and the brother of Jack, Ethan, Stanton and Betsy.



Beau Hudson Tomes was baptized on November 27. He is the son of Megan and Michael Tomes and is the brother of Cole and Eliza.



Janet McCarty
1171 Anderson Road, 6205 B
662-380-1463
Nov. 20 Janet joins from St. Luke's UMC in Houston, TX, where she was College Coordinator. She grew up in Madison UMC, where she worked with youth. She works now for a law firm in Oxford.



Eddie, Allyson, Selby, Clayton, and Lydia Willis
101 Leggett Lane
662-402-2427

The Willis family joined OU on December 4. Eddie is the Director of the Wesley Foundation at the university and guest preaches in *The Journey*. Allyson

works as OU's College Ministries Coordinator and is a wellness coordinator. Eddie is a Deacon in the conference, and Allyson comes from FUMC in Cleveland, MS. Selby is 9, Clayton is 6, and Lydia is 4. They are expecting their fourth child in January.



Warren Smith, Heidi Gatlin, and Tag & Bo Gatlin
201 Cherry Bark
601-341-0277

Warren, Heidi, Tag and Bo joined OU on Nov. 20. Warren is a law student and comes by profession of faith; Heidi joins from First Baptist Church in McComb and is the sister of OU member Krisi Allen. Tag is in eighth grade, and Bo is in the fifth grade.



Helen, Greg, & Megan Smith
212 Shelbi Drive
216-5763

Greg, Helen, and Megan joined our congregation on December 4, from Mt. Olive UMC in Van Buren, Arkansas. Greg is our new Youth Minister, and Helen is directing our Youth Choir.

They are Alabama natives. Megan is 20 months old.



Aaron McMillan
1711 Anderson Road
662-392-6092

Aaron joined our church family on December 4 from Greenwood Baptist Church. He is a senior at Ole Miss studying classics and history and is a member of the marching band. Aaron works with the Wesley Foundation.

Special Thanks...

On November 6, the Sneed's Shepherds Sunday School Class honored their long-time teacher, Dwight Sneed, who is retiring from teaching this class. Thank you, Dwight, for your many years of faithful service to OUUMC.



OUUMC is responsible for managing the **Food Pantry in January 2012**. Our work days are every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Sign-up forms are available in the church office.

For more information, contact Barbara Mitchell (didibird@bellsouth.net, 236-2197) or Richard Goodman (234-1883).

Soon after World War I, the Southern Methodist Church was determined to build "commodious church buildings at educational centers." The Oxford church qualified, and in 1920 it looked as if a new church might be constructed. But the money ran out in a hurry, and no construction took place. Reverend S. H. Caffey in 1928 realized the church simply had to have more space, and he led an effort to find \$100,000 for a new church. The Conference promised cooperation. Pledges amounted to \$25,000. An article in the November 3, 1928, *The Mississippian* carried the headline "Local Methodists Will Probably Have New Building Soon." Several church members attended the Annual Conference at Pontotoc. According to the article, "The purpose of the meeting at Pontotoc was to place before the conference representatives the need of the Oxford Methodist Church for help from the Methodist Conferences to build a new church building in Oxford that will properly meet the needs of the growing University community."

When Rev. W. H. Mounger became minister in 1929, however, he realized the amount needed was too high, and things slowed down. Then they really slowed down as the Depression hit, and things were put on hold. Reverend J. E. Stephens was appointed pastor in 1934, and he began the efforts in earnest. E. B. Phillips drew a set of plans; they were submitted to the North Mississippi Conference and the Mississippi Conference; after favorable reaction, a fundraising campaign began. By the time Rev. W. R. Lott was appointed minister in 1935, there was disagreement about where the new building should be constructed. In fact, a few members preferred just adding to the 1891 church. One story is that most changed their morning when the church was raided by flies which had been attracted to the creamery next door. In 1936 the church bought property at the corner of 10th Street and University Avenue.



Photo courtesy of M. Lott

On December 16, 1936, there was a groundbreaking ceremony. Chancellor A. B. Butts and Mayor R. X. Williams and church officials participated. *The Oxford Eagle* reported that "The new building, to be one of the finest edifices in North Mississippi, will be erected ... on a lot at the corner of University Avenue and Tenth Street." Construction began on February 1, 1937. From the very beginning it was understood that the church would be constructed in units. What is now Wesley Hall was to function as a temporary sanctuary, with plans for a larger one as funds became available. (The Jackson Avenue property was sold to C. J. Lawhorn in July 1937.) The first service in the new church was held on August 29, 1937. Reverend W. R. Lott was the first to preach in the new building. Mrs. C. E. Harrison played the organ, which had been brought from the older building but upgraded. The cornerstone was laid at 5 p.m. on that date.

One article contained a concise summary of the building: "The present structure consists of the chapel where the preaching services are held [Wesley Hall] and the educational building used by the church school." An August 26, 1937, *Oxford Eagle* article had more details:

New Building Is A Realization Of Years

First Talked in 1920, Becomes a Reality in 1937; One of Finest and Most Modern Church Homes

(By an Eagle Reporter)

The new \$30,000 Methodist church building is one of the finest in the conference. Containing sixteen class rooms, a beautiful chapel, a large social room with adjoining kitchen, offices for church officials, it is planned to give ample room for Oxford and University Methodists and university students.

The present structure is only a part of the planned ambitious building. Yet the finished part is complete in itself, appears complete from an outside view, will be adequate for the church until the large auditorium can be built. According to the plans, the auditorium is to be added to the northeast corner of the building, to run parallel to the present chapel to University avenue.

Entering the 10th street entrance, one sees a long hall lined on each side with Sunday school rooms. On the south side are a nursery room, adult room and the pastor's office. In spite of the large heating system of the church, Rev. Lott insisted on a "homey" old-fashioned touch to his office with the installation of an old iron fireplace. On the north side of the hall are primary and beginner's rooms. Next to them is

the large social room to be used as an assembly room for adult Sunday school attenders in addition to all small meetings, church suppers, etc. Next to the social room is a well-equipped, large kitchen, with sink, work tables, and large electric stove. Pleasing to the good ladies will be to work over the hot stove to prepare bountiful church suppers of famed eatability, will be the large electric exhaust fan which will draw out hot air and odors.

At the rear of the west end of the hall is the Sunday school superintendent's office and the choir room.

The Chapel

Running along the west side of the lot is the large, fine chapel. It was built to be used as a university student's chapel but will be used for all church services until the larger auditorium is added. Seats from the old church have been augmented by new ones and the chapel will seat around 400.

The choir section and pulpit are at the north end of the chapel. The pipe organ has been retained from the old church and has been modernized. An electric motor has been added to furnish power and no longer can colored Joe Walton, veteran of 16 years, be considered as an active member of the International Brotherhood of Organ Pumpers.

The newness of the beautiful chapel gains in dignity from the time-worn appearance of the furnishings and the beauty of the memorial windows brought from the old church.

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SUNDAY PROGRAM

Sunday morning Sunday school will be the first meeting in the new building. C. E. Harrison, superintendent, will have building marked so that every class and department will have no difficulty in finding their places.

At eleven o'clock the pastor, Rev. W. R. Lott, will preach the first sermon. Mrs. C. E. Harrison, organist, will use the organ which has been modernized.

Mrs. Roy Bailey, choir director, has arranged hymns and special music. A quartet composed of Mrs. Ed Walker, Mrs. Allison Bushy, Mrs. James Riley Knight and David Nelson, will sing "Seek Ye the Lord."

At five o'clock the cornerstone will be laid. Former pastors who have been invited to attend and assist in the service of laying the cornerstone are: Rev. H. S. Spragins, Memphis; Rev. J. R. Countess, Greenville; Rev. S. J. E. Stephens, Clarksville; Rev. S. H. Caffey, Greenwood; Rev. W. H. Mounger, Winona; Rev. W. W. Woodard, Rosedale; Rev. E. B. Lewis, Durant. John Lee Gatsky will lead the singing at the five o'clock service.

OPENING SERVICES

OXFORD-UNIVERSITY METHODIST CHURCH



The first and best view of Oxford Church, North Mississippi and Maryland Counties. W. R. LOTT, Pastor. E. B. PHILLIPS, Architect. J. D. WOODEN, Printing Editor.

Laying Corner Stone

At five p. m.
 (and at seven at front of East Entrance)
 Conducted by Rev. J. D. Wooden, Presiding Elder.
 Hymns—led by John Lee Gatsky.
 Special Prayer—Rev. J. D. Wooden.
 Scripture Lesson—Rev. J. E. Stephens.
 Historical Article given back of doors—Rev. W. R. Lott.
 Stone set in position by H. MOWDY, DAVIS and C. E. HARRISON.
 Announcement—Rev. J. D. WOODEN.
 Address—Rev. S. H. OULY.
 Introduction.

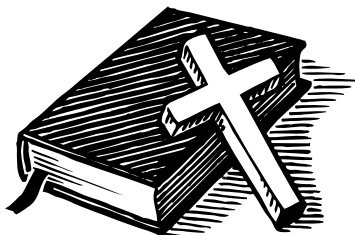
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THE OXFORD EAGLE

Subscription Price: \$1.00 per year in Lafayette County (Other Counties, \$1.50)

First Services in New M. E. Church Building Sunday

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Third Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, December 11

10:55 Service

Third graders all meet in the Narthex before the service and we will all sit together. The Bibles are donated through the Esther Sneed fund.

Confirmation 2012 begins in January!

Parent Orientation is Wednesday, Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Please be thinking of a mentor for your child. If your sixth grader is not on this list, please contact Claire Dobbs or Pat Forrester, clairedobbs8@gmail.com, pforrester@oumc.org, or 234-5278.

Sarah Rose Boothe
Annie Forgette
Lily Mitchell
Katie Thomas

Keaton Calhoon
Will Hollingsworth
Chip Powell
Jack Whitaker

Lauren Chandler
Caroline Kamman
Anna Renfroe

Madison Crosby
Merrill Lamar
Ally Shinall

Arden Davis
Lilly McElreath
Sidney Smith

YOUTH MINISTRIES



U.M.Y.F CHRISTMAS PARTIES

December 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Junior High: 812 South Lamar (Lauren and Land Renfroe's home)
Senior High: 210 South 5th Street (Dorothy and John Laurenzo's home)

Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift for "Dirty Santa".

If you need transportation...please arrive at the church by 6 p.m. If you are dropped off at the church then please plan to be picked up at the church at 8 p.m.

OVERFLOW AT CAMP LAKE STEPHENS†

December 30th, 2011 through January 1st, 2012.

For more information, visit

<http://camplakestephens.com/youth-events/overflow/>

or email Greg Smith at gsmith@oumc.org.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: No U.M.Y.F.

Dec. 20, 21, 27, & 28 : No Prayer Breakfasts

COLLEGE MINISTRIES



On Monday, November 14, College Ministries visited residents at Azalea Gardens.

Notes from the Past

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS AGO: At the Quarterly Conference in December 1891, the minister reported “Fair attendance at the 11 o’clock services; prayer meeting poorly attended, lack of interest on part of the official members.”

SIXTY YEARS AGO: Church secretary Mrs. Jack McGee left in December 1951 to be with her husband at medical school at the University of Tennessee. Mrs. R. S. Downer was her replacement.

Infants Christened in December 1951 were David Bailey, Larry Butts, Janice Chitwood, David Chitwood, Carolyn King, Ralph McNeely, Eddie Mack Morgan, Jr., Patricia Ramey, Tim Tatum, and Nancy Young.

FORTY YEARS AGO: As of December 1, 1971, 173 pledges totaling \$57,226 toward the 1972 budget of \$71,286 had been received.

Those playing instruments at the Christmas Vesper Service on December 12, 1971, were Tommy Ayles and Larry Overstreet, trumpets; Mike Pritchard, baritone; Jerry Robbins, trombone and chimes; Gary Lamb, drums; Saralyn Huneycutt, harp; Phyllis Linton, guitar; Polly Williams, flute; and Bob Kelly, oboe and clarinet. At a Christmas Eve service on December 25, 1971, Allen Boyer read the scripture and Nina Stubblefield and Lucy Hathorn sang solos.

THIRTY YEARS AGO: The Wesley Weds had a luncheon at the Warehouse Restaurant on December 2, 1981.

Paula Jones, Kathy Goodman, Robert Tettleton, Laura Champion, Leland Roy, Delma Edwards, Payne Sneed, Pat Patterson, Stacy Cox, Lynn Goodman, Sally Hellums, Paul Tate, Stephen Brammer, and Philip Tettleton led the Advent Candle Lighting Services in December 1981.

Bob, Martha, and Fletcher Whitwell and Janet Lou Payne joined the church in December 1991.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: Acolytes in December 1991 were Drew Fair, Justin Clisby, Jeremy Bruss, Will Matthews, Olivia Foshee, Scott Hale, Meg Johnson, Jennifer Bruner, Jon Harris, Lucy Goodpaster,

Those who lit candles of the Advent Wreath in December 1991 were Crenola Coleman and family, the Dan Phillips family, J. D. and Jessie Mae Sneed, Rusty and Beth Rasberry, Sarah and Brent Hampton, and the Ralph Dean family.

Lee Uhlhorn, Riki Matsufuji, Scott Long, and Taylor Maddux sang “Carols Around” on December 22, 1991.

Catherine Hoxie Harris was born on December 14, 1991.

Hayley Lane Upton was born on December 21, 1991.

TEN YEARS AGO: The Dec. 4, 2001, newsletter announced that “Ms. Shellie Ross became employed as our Youth Minister December 1.”

Marjorie Buckley presented a Christmas program at the Primetimers meeting on December 14, 2001.

Persons lighting the Advent Wreath in December 2011 were Jim and Nancy Hampton, the Blake Smith family, the Rick and Ginger Thurlow family, the Tom and Nancy Garvin family, David and Dee Reid, Glover and Virginia Johnson, the Keith and Debbie Prevost family, the Randall and Amy Atchley family, and the Bob and Toya Bruss family.

The readers of the lessons at the Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 23, 2001, were Rachel Malone, Randall Atchley, Virginia Terry, George Rosentreter, Jane Lutken, Denny Tosh, Melanie Moore Tatum, Marjorie Buckley, and Warren Black.

Infant Ira Christian Morgan was baptized on December 16, 2001.

Soloists who sang “The Holly and the Ivy” on December 16, 2001, were Mary Ivon Montgomery, Virginia Terry, Emily Lutken, Hunt Halford, Tom Lutken, Jackie Boyce, Mary Margaret Collier, and Kate Harris.

Infant Sophie Robinson Biglane was baptized on December 9, 2001.

Acolytes during December 2011 were Taylor Maddux, Mary Margaret Collier, Marci Faulkner, Allie Denton, Kristina Williams, Matthew Shaw, Simsie Shaw, Lee Paine, Graham Rone, Emily Barnes, Jane Lutken, Cody Parker, and Katie Heckel.

Our new organ was dedicated during a morning service of dedication (with Jason Derrick as organist) and a dedication recital during the afternoon on December 2, 2001. Dr. Richard Webb from Baton Rouge was the guest organist at the afternoon program.

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
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 Oxford, MS 38655

Our Church Staff:

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College Ministries Coordinator	Allyson Willis	231-9929	aewillis@bellsouth.net
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Journey Coordinator	Julianna Ross	234-5278	juliannaross@hotmail.com
Journey Music Coordinator	Stephen Lehman	234-5278	slehman65@me.com
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Admin. Assistant to the Pastors	Barbara Camp	234-2680	bcamp@ouumc.org
Communications Coordinator	Emilie Bramlett	234-5278	eb Bramlett@ouumc.org
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Assistant Manager of Buildings	Lisa Corrothers	234-5278	office@ouumc.org
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