

the grapevine

May 2016 | Monthly Newsletter of Oxford United Methodist Church



It's Rummage Sale Time!

Oxford's Annual Rummage Sale will be on Friday, May 6 from 9 am to 5 pm and on Saturday, May 7 from 9 am to 3 pm. The Rummage Sale will be held in the Oxford gym. Volunteers are needed! *For more information contact Sandra Peterson at sandra@oxfordumc.org*



Wednesday Night Bible Study Returns

We will be offering two studies beginning Wednesday, May 4 and ending on Wednesday June 1. The classes will be held in the downstairs classroom of the gym.

At 4:00 pm Teri Boldt will be leading the study **"The Me I Want to Be"** by John Ortberg. This study has DVD segments and there is a study guide that class participants can purchase. At 6:30 pm, Tony Thompson will be leading a study called **"The Five Tools of a Christian."** Tony will be providing all the materials needed for this study.

We will also be bringing back the "themed" Wednesday night dinners, so please stay after your study and join us for dinner and games or come early for dinner and stay for the study. We truly hope those who participated in the Lenten studies will once again sign up for the classes and we invite all who may be interested to please sign up! Sign up forms are available in the church narthex or you may call the church office at 210-696-0192 or sign up via mail to infocenter@oxfordumc.org

The \$40,000 Challenge Update

March year to date blessings short of target by \$4,021

After starting out on track towards our goal for the first two months of the year, the March year to date general fund blessings of \$120,610 are \$4,021 short of the \$124,631 target for achieving the matching gift goals. The chart below shows our progress against our blessing goals for March year to date, June year to date, September year to date and full year 2016.



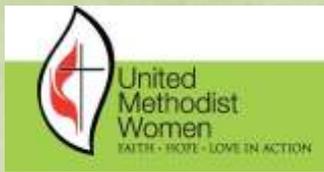
Once again, our immediate focus should be on a healthy next three months to achieve the June year to date goal of \$251,888, which will guarantee \$5,000 of the \$20,000 matching gift opportunity. Thank you for all the gifts and blessings that have already been given. The goals above are challenging, yet very attainable, so please be in prayer about how you might further your blessing to make achievement of the June goal a reality and help Oxford UMC fulfill its ministries in our community and in the world.

I would also remind you to please support the upcoming church rummage sale in any way you can – volunteering your time, donating quality items or purchasing items from the sale. The church rummage sale is one of our annual fund-raising events for the church and the proceeds allocated to the general fund count towards the \$40,000 challenge goal.

Blessings,

Paul Peterson
Finance Chairperson





UMW General Meeting

Join us at our quarterly meeting Saturday morning, **May 14 at 9:30 am in the Family Life Center** as we welcome guest speaker Dr. Ellen L. Palmer. Dr. Palmer will provide insight and understanding of the United Methodist Church's work in mission throughout the world - and in particular the involvement of UMW. Dr. Palmer is the mother of Oxford member Peggy Francis and has been a Methodist since her marriage to the late Rev. Dr. James B. Palmer, Sr. in 1954. Together they began mission work in La Paz Bolivia in 1959. The death of her husband in 2011 has not slowed her down - she is a very active member of FUMC McKinney and is currently involved in several projects in Haiti. Come ready to be inspired and energized about mission through the United Methodist Church and UMW!

Senior Fellowship

Our Senior Fellowship Meals are Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's at 12 noon in the Family Life Center. **If you are over the age of 60, you are welcome to please join us!**

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8 is Mother's Day! We invite all the women of the church to wear their church hats as we say "hat's off to Godly women!" We will have a special recognition of our Oxford Shepherds and this year's confirmation class will be Confirmed! Sunday, May 8 is a Sunday you will not want to miss!



Food Pantry Donations Needed

We had a great response to our Lenten food pantry donation project. There is always a great need for more items for our food pantry. We invite you to bring donations in of canned meats, canned veggies, fruits, toiletries, pastas, soups, and more. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

Sponsor a child this summer at Camp Wesley

Every Summer Camp Wesley offers the children in our community eight weeks of fun and educational activities such as arts and crafts, physical fitness challenges, and field trips. Camp Wesley is offered at the Wesley Health and Wellness Center and includes free breakfast and lunch every day. All activities and meals are offered to the children at no cost, thank in large part to your generosity. We invite you to support Camp Wesley by making a **\$25 donation** for a "Campership." To learn more about Camp Wesley, please call the Wesley Health & Wellness Center at 210-924-5191. Camperships can be mailed or delivered in person to: Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. – 4507 Medical Drive, San Antonio, TX. 78229.

Help for the Needy Fund

Our monthly communion rail offerings will be going to our Help for the Needy fund. This fund is established to help those who come to us with financial emergencies. We have helped brothers and sisters in the community with rental assistance, medical bills, utility bills, and other dire financial needs. Please consider making a contribution this communion Sunday.

Pastor's Perspective

Soon you will have a new pastor. This is an exciting prospect for a church. Before he comes you may be wondering what he will be like; what will his preaching be like; will he be good for the church; will you like him? Anyone who loves his church will have a real interest in what lies ahead.

There are a lot of good things for you to look forward to. The new pastor will bring new ideas to the church, will be able to see some things needing doing that I haven't seen. He will prove to have some skills that I don't have. He will be different than I am, and different can be exciting and good. You don't want just the same old same old all the time. Our church has been on a plateau the last several years in terms of worship and Sunday School attendance. A change may rock the boat, shake things up. That'll be good. There may be some persons who are not regular in their attendance who may want to make a new start with the church. This is a good time to do that.

Of course, a large number of you will be sad to see me go. I've been your pastor for seven years. We've had experiences together. With some of you I have had opportunity to be with you at significant times in your lives. We have some bonds that may be hard to break. Some of you may have just the least little bit of grief at my leaving. But pastors come and go. You will adjust to this change as you have adjusted in times past.

Sometimes when a pastor leaves a church some of those persons who really liked him will retain a kind of loyalty to him, and sometimes may feel a little like they're disloyal should they find they like the new guy. This is not intentional. They know it makes no sense, but it sometimes happens. Well, Reverend Cantu has had nothing to do with my leaving, and he is deserving of your giving him the benefit of the doubt. And if you are the type of person who loves one pastor, then you are the type of person who can love the next.

I will miss you a lot. Though I still have two months to go with you, I am already experiencing some grief over my upcoming departure. You have been an important part of my life. But you are going to be great. You're going to love the new guy, and undoubtedly you have many great experiences yet in store for yourselves at Oxford.

Much love, *Pastor John*



We will have One Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 19! We will celebrate Pastor John's ministry and retirement.

Graduation Sunday! Calling All Graduates!

Help us congratulate our graduating seniors from High School on May 15 after the traditional service and before and after the Elevate Worship service. This year's graduates are Justin Forister, Katie Koeck, and Kimberly Shelburn. If we do not have you listed please contact Kristi in the church office to add your name to our list. If you are graduating from a higher learning institution please let us know so we can recognize you as well. The graduates will have displays set up in the narthex for your viewing and it is customary to drop off a card or note of encouragement for them.

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine



The youth group will be participating in the 2016 30 Hour Famine May 20-21. The youth group of Oxford has participated in this fundraiser for the hungry for more than 19 years. The 30 hour famine is a fundraising effort where students from our church youth group will ask for donations from friends, family, businesses and our congregation to help feed, clothe and pay for school for children all over the world; as little as \$35 feeds a child for one month - \$425 for a whole year!

This year 18 students have taken the challenge to raise \$425 each, which sets our group goal at \$7650. If they reach this goal they will color their youth director's hair some outrageous permanent colors, shave one side of her head or cut her hair very short. The last time she challenged them to raise \$5000 she said she would get a 30 hour famine tattoo; they raised well over \$5000. She will be getting that tattoo before the end of April by a previous youth group member who is now a professional tattoo artist, funny how things come full circle! The Youth have an overnight lock in May 20-21 and we don't eat for 30 hours! During the lock in we will be doing a community service project and learning about worldwide hunger and learning more about the kids and the families the funds we raised will be helping. We break our fast after receiving communion Saturday at noon. If you would like to help to prepare the meal for this break-fast or just come eat with us please come, you are invited. If you can support one of the youth who are collecting donations for the famine please donate, but most of all please pray – for the youth, their leaders, the kids of the world who may not eat a meal today and for an end to world hunger. To donate with a credit card on line please go to www.30hourfamine.org/login, in search box type in oxford, scroll down the list of names of youth and pick someone to donate to. Remember \$35 feeds a child for one whole month, plus it helps them get medical attention, and pay for school....isn't that amazing?!

Summer Youth Activities:

June 5 – Summer Kick Off Pool Party

June 11-18 High School Mission Trip, SOS, Memphis, TN

June 27-July 1 – Vacation Bible School

July 10-14 – Middle School Mission Trip, Mt. Wesley, Kerrville, TX

July 18-22 – Summer Retreat, HEB Foundation Camp- Windsong, Leakey, TX

Others activities will be added throughout the summer; check out the bulletin board outside the youth director's office in the education building or our Facebook page (oxford Youth!) for up to the minute adventures!

MAY

*Birthdays
of the Month*

*Escobedo, Miguel "Angel"	05/14
Allen, Amber	05/03
Beckmann, Randy	05/14
Boldt, Kayla	05/11
Boldt, Teri	05/29
Campos, Angelique	05/10
Cochran, Whitney	05/07
Davila, Marion	05/29
Dennis, Jean	05/04
Graves, Cathe	05/20
Gustafson, Carl, III (Trey)	05/13
Hawes, Bill	05/15
Holloman, Lauren	05/14
Ingold, Andrew	05/29
Jackson, Flo	05/02
Koeck, Michael (Mike)	05/14
Marsh, Monique	05/15
Ormand, Jack	05/12
Peterson, James	05/28
Smith, Dan	05/09
Snyder, Roy	05/04
Tearney, Brett	05/19
Zavala, Christopher	05/08

If we missed your Birthday this month, please send your birthday info to michelle@oxfordumc.org

*The May Birthday Bash will be on Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 am in the Narthex!
Come have a slice of cake!*



**KIDS' NIGHT OUT IS GREAT!
DON'T MISS IT!**

Kids' Night Out is Friday, May 13 from 6 pm until 10 pm. Please RSVP by the Thursday before by calling the church office or contact Ms. Rosana at mdo@oxfordumc.org



Sarah Mae Sisnero was baptized on Sunday, April 10

Worship Attendance

April 3

9:15 a.m...119
11:30 am ...166
Nursery ...7
Total... 292
Sunday School...97

April 10

9:15 am102
11:30 am...75
Nursery10
Total 187
Sunday School86

April 17

9:15.....101
11:30 a.m...82
Nursery ...9
Total192
Sunday School...97



SAVE the DATE for Cave Quest Vacation Bible School

June 27– July 1 from 9 am—12 noon

Registration is now open at www.oxfordumc.org

\$15 per camper.

Volunteers must also register!

Prayer List:

Our World
Our service men & women
Our nation & its leaders
Rio Texas conference churches & clergy
Oxford UMC
Kairos Ministry
Shepherd Ministry
Stephen Ministry
The Residents of The Heights
Meals on Wheels clients
Christians persecuted around the world

Current Prayer List:

Lyndsay Hodges
Gary and Family
Gloria
Jon and Tyler
Tin
Dr. Grace Salinas
Shawn Charmand
Ginny Tumlinson
Lee Tumlinson
Rose Eakin
George Howard
Jean Dennis
Amanda Wise
Larry and Tonia Riley
Ena Ventura
Carl Rohlf
Don & Linda
Rhonda Greenwell

Terrell
Mary
John
The victims of the earthquake in Quito, Ecuador
The victims of the earthquakes in Kyushu region of Japan
Houston, Texas flooding victims

Pray for our Military

Pray for Our Troops

Andy Bravo, Jeff Davis, Josue "Rudy"
Garza, John McCann, Zach Mullins,
Alex Zavala, Damian Mendez,
Arturo Longoria Jr.



Ongoing Prayer List:

Tom & Bernice Adamietz	Rev Phil Robberson
Lily Robinson	Dr. Walter R.
Sadie & her grandma Delores Koeck	Ernie Garibay
Margaret & Jerry Mason	Brian Flanner
Richard & Linda Persyn	Barbie Tarr
Jackie Duke	Max & Barbara
Dennis and Sue Moses	Mary Morgan
Jimbo Frazier and Michele Frazier	Marshall
Nolan & Rosalyn Hoelscher	Susan Gaches
Mark C.	Peggy Fry
Carl	Ruth Martinez
Milton & Eloise	Rose Cervantes
	Mark C.
	Nolie Tolbert

Prayer Shawls

Ever since the prayer shawls have been moved into the Sanctuary and on the pews they have been going out to people in need faster than we can knit or crochet them! If you can knit, crochet or create a prayer shawl we are in need of more ASAP! Please drop them off to the church office to be tagged and placed on a pew. If you would like to take a prayer shawl please see a church employee or usher so we may check it out to you and follow up later about the recipient.



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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. John G. Hargis pastorjohn@oxfordumc.org

Program & Communications Director

Michelle Garibay-Carey michelle@oxfordumc.org

Youth Director and Program Assistant

Kristi Forister kristi@oxfordumc.org

Traditional Music Director

Douglas Boldt doug@oxfordumc.org

Contemporary Music Director

Pat Carey pat@oxfordumc.org

Facility Manager

Sandra Peterson sandra@oxfordumc.org

Mother's Day Out Director and Nursery Coordinator

Rosana Orr mdo@oxfordumc.org

Financial Administrator

James Minor james@oxfordumc.org

Custodian

Jose Moya

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship at 9:15 am
Sunday School for all ages at 10:30 am

ELEVATE Contemporary Worship at 11:30 am
O Positive Youth at 1:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9 am—4 pm
Office Closed Friday