

the grapevine

December 2016 ~ Oxford United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter



“We’ve Come to Worship” Choir Cantata

On Sunday, December 4th, our Chancel Choir will be presenting "We've Come to Worship." This is will be a awesome worship experience with compilation, original narrations, and incidental music by director Douglas Boldt.

Our annual Tamalada and Silent Auction will take place immediately following the Cantata. Please invite a friend and bring the whole family!

LADIES' CHRISTMAS TEA

Ladies, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 17 from 1 pm—3 pm! You are invited to come enjoy a delightful afternoon filled with wonderful friends and delicious teas, sandwiches, scones and fabulous desserts! Table hostesses are needed. Please sign-up in the narthex or for more information contact Teri Boldt.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM...

Did you know that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year? Oxford will have ONE service on Christmas Eve beginning at 6 pm. Candlelight service music will be led by Pastor Douglas Boldt and the Chancel Choir. Christmas Eve service will have the traditional candle lighting as we all sing "Silent Night." We will have ONE worship service on Christmas morning at 11:30 a.m. The Elevate Team will be leading the music. We will have a special Children's Time led by Pastor Douglas Boldt as we are gearing up for Children's Church beginning in 2017.

Christmas is perhaps the most glorious time of the year. At its heart it's about the birth of Christ and the incarnation of God. Worship is integral to the occasion. It certainly is not to be missed!



Christmas
Eve and
Christmas
Day



December Birthdays

Children's Church is Coming!

Children's Church begins on Sunday, January 8 during the Elevate Worship Service. Pastor Douglas Boldt will be shepherding and leading the children in a lively and fun time of worship and prayer with their friends. Kids, tell your parents and parents, tell your kids!

A Note for Parents

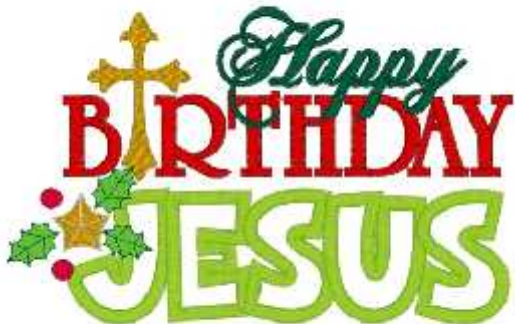
The Nursery will not be open on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This will allow our Nursery staff to be with their families and it will allow for children to be with their families in worship. Children and infants are ALWAYS welcome in our worship services at Oxford. On Christmas morning will we have our Birthday Bash dedicated to Jesus. We will have a Happy Birthday Jesus Party! We will also have Christmas activity bags for the children and our lovely cry room will be available for sleepy babies or nursing moms. A special thank you to Ms. Rosana and our Nursery staff for doing such a wonderful job caring and nurturing our children all year.

Paul Baker	12	17
Gary Barr	12	7
Joan Barr	12	26
Manuel Beltran	12	17
Idaly Cantu	12	28
Juan Cantu	12	5
Patricia Joann Clegg	12	3
Beverly Davis	12	31
Jeffrey Davis	12	7
Mario Espino	12	11
Joshua Forister	12	29
Reed Hayes	12	10
Shirley Hill	12	24
Audrey Howard	12	31
Tom Jackson	12	17
David Keeler	12	7
Brenda Maloy	12	2
Marty Martine	12	30
Janice McGuire	12	20
Teri Morrison	12	22
Rosana Orr	12	12
Luis Ezekiel Salvatierra	12	12
Shaun Slater	12	3
Mitch Thibodeaux	12	23
Tony Thompson	12	29
Priya Grace Vijay	12	19
Steve Work	12	25

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

The Next Birthday Bash is Sunday, December 25!

Come have a slice of cake!



Kids' Night Out is Friday, December 9 from 6 pm—10 pm. Parents, get that Christmas Shopping done! Please RSVP by Thursday, December 8 to mdo@oxfordumc.org

Consecration Sunday Results

78 giving units increase their financial commitment above last year

We enjoyed wonderful worship services and a celebration brunch on Consecration Sunday, November 13th. The emphasis of Consecration Sunday, that stewardship on the basis of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual benefit rather on the basis of the need of the church to receive, was strongly received by the congregation.

A total of **101** giving units (husbands and wives or single persons) present on Sunday completed Estimate of Giving Cards and committed a total of **\$312,692**. A review of giving records revealed that a total of **78** of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount. This is an incredible demonstration of a congregation growing in faith together and realizing that giving brings a sense of meaning, joy, and spiritual growth in our relationship with God that nothing else does.

Thanks be to God.

Paul Peterson
Stewardship Chairperson

Walk to the Manger Christmas Offering

Each year during Advent and at Christmas Oxford takes a "Walk to the Manger" Christmas offering. During each worship service people will be given the opportunity to come forward and place a gift in the manger in honor of our Savior. These gifts, which are to be in addition to one's regular offering, will be used to help the church meet important year-end expenses, including our obligations to the denomination to help meet its missional objectives (apportionments).

All Oxford members ought to give serious thought and prayer to what it is that they need to give. As Christmas is a time in which we celebrate God's gracious gift of himself to us in the Christ child, so it is a time in which we think about how it is that we can give back to his work in the world.

The \$40,000 Challenge Update Final December year end Matching Goal approaching

We are fast approaching the last of three matching goal opportunities for 2016. If you remember, the June and September matching goals were achieved and the first \$10,000 of the \$20,000 matching gift opportunity was guaranteed and funded. Thanks to your support, we have put ourselves in a favorable position to also achieve the final Full Year goal of \$498,000. Through Sunday, November 13 we are at \$442,000, so that leaves \$56,000 to go with 6 Sundays left in 2016.

It will take all of us working together again, to ensure we make the goal. You can follow our progress each Sunday on the thermometer in the narthex of the sanctuary building. God is so good and he is working in the lives and ministry of the Oxford community. It is awesome and humbling to witness the abundance that the Lord can provide through his people. Together we can do this!

Blessings,

Paul Peterson
Finance Chairperson

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

During the Christmas season of giving, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee hopes you will remember the Oxford Staff with a monetary gift. The staff works hard all year to keep you informed, run programs, provide music, reach out to the community, provide spiritual guidance and help, and take care of the campus and buildings. There will be a box in the Narthex through December 18th for your gifts. Please place your gift in an envelope and put it in the box, bring it by the church, or give it to one of the committee members. We (and the staff) appreciate your generosity!

The S.P.R.C. (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

Pray for ...

Our World
Our service men & women
Our nation & its leaders
Our Bishop & all clergy
Oxford UMC
Kairos Ministry
Shepherd Ministry
Stephen Ministry
The Residents of The Heights
Meals on Wheels clients

Ongoing prayer list:

Roy Snyder
Roberto Macias, Sr.
Jackie Duke
Jimbo Frazier
Michele Frazier
Ernie Garibay
Carl Taylor
Millton & Eloise Lindemann
Brian Flanner
Barbie Tarr
Barbara & Max Maxwell
Mary Morgan Marshall
Margaret Mason & Jerry Mason
Susan Gaches
Sadie
Lilly Robinson
Lyndsay Hodges
Russ Tracy
Perla May
Janet Haby
Bette Center
Bonnie Wilcox
Cleto V. Escobedo



*I wish to Thank my Oxford friends and family who contributed to my Crop Walk mission. Together we were able to raise \$530.00! Special thanks to Fred and Kay Wright who also raised money and walked. And thanks to Cheryl Day who walked with ...
Love, Michelle Carey*



We are blessed to have Eric Shovelton and his son Ethan join Oxford. They joined on Sunday, October 30 in the 9:15 a.m. service.

We are also blessed to have Jason Buckner and Jonathan and Melissa Serrato! Jason, Jonathan, and Melissa joined on October 30 in the 11:30 a.m. service.

We will receive new members on Sunday, December 18! Please be in prayer and take the next step in your discipleship here at Oxford!

Military Prayer List

Roland Riley, Andy Bravo, Jeff Davis, Josue "Rudy" Garza, Damian Mendez, Arturo Longoria Jr.



Current Prayer List:

Israel Garcia
Vickie Rocha
Dennis Moses
Rowan
Rebecca Ramirez
Rosa Rocha
Aaron Stine
Jon Stine
Kristen Hall
Sierra Shakir
Milton Nowlin
Karen Barr Scoles
Peter Segovia
Beth Leib
Sarah Rodriguez
Phil
Roberto Macias, Sr.
Thad Williams
Jordyn
Jaelynn
Julie T.
John Livingston
Jose Moya
Melanie Reyes
Angel Star McGowen
Barbara S.
Jacob
Darla
Terry Tearney

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

New Year's Day is Sunday, January 1. We will have one combined worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School classes will not meet. We will welcome in the New Year by praising the Lord together!

Youth Group Events

Tuesday, Dec 6 - We are going to the Magnolia Pancake House Halle to wrap presents for children in need. Please bring new, unwrapped toy/gift or new children's socks. Please drop off your youth at Magnolia Halle at 7 pm and pick up at 9 pm.

Sunday, Dec 11 - Youth Christmas Party at the Peterson's home.

Sunday, Dec 18 & Monday Dec 19 - Drive Through Nativity

Saturday, Dec 31 - Sunday, Jan 1: New Year's Eve Lock In

United Methodist Women News

UMW Trim the Christmas Tree Saturday, November 26 at 9:30 am.

The Kneeling Sisters Circle will have their Christmas Party at Lisa Holloman's home on Monday, December 5 at 6:30 pm

UMW Christmas Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 10 at 11 am in the Family Life Center.

Women's Retreat 2017

Ladies mark your calendars for the 2017 Women's Retreat to be held at the Haven River Inn in Comfort, TX the weekend of March 24-26. The Women's Retreat is open to all Ladies 18 and older. The cost per person is \$150 which covers your room, breakfast Saturday and Sunday and dinner Saturday night, plus all retreat materials. We are asking for a \$25 deposit with your registration and we encourage you to make \$25 payments each month leading up to the retreat, that way by the time March rolls around you will have paid off your retreat and won't have to worry about the money part anymore, just focus on what to pack and how fast can you get to the Haven! Of course if you would prefer to pay it all off in one payment you will not be turned away! We need 25 ladies to sign up and pay \$25 for this year's retreat by November 8. After November 8 if we don't have enough registrations we will be forced to cancel and recover our deposit. So please mark those calendars and start making plans now to attend and invite your friends, sisters, moms, and co-workers to join you. You won't regret it! Come see me, Kristi Forister or Teri Boldt for more information. Thanks, *Kristi Forister*



“AN EVENING IN DECEMBER” CONCERT

Pastor Douglas Boldt will be presenting, “Evening in December” on Monday, December 12 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. This special concert will feature James Phillips on cello. We will enjoy solo piano pieces, holiday favorites, and a Christmas Carol Sing-along! Pastor Doug’s Christmas Concerts have become a much-loved and eagerly-anticipated tradition here at Oxford. As always, everyone is invited and you will not want to miss it!



p.m. soul

Elevate



Marching Band Concert! Saturday, December 10th, 1pm in the Sanctuary

The Alamo City Community Marching Band concert will be held in our sanctuary! Come hear Patriotic music, marches, and Christmas songs!



p.m. soul/jazz featuring ELEVATE CHRISTmas concert

You’re invited to come experience the sounds of the season brought to you by the Elevate Worship Team and Pat and Michelle Carey’s band “p.m. soul” along with members of their jazz project “p.m. jazz.”

This free Christmas concert will be on Monday, December 19.

The concert starts at 7 pm and will include special guests from the San Antonio music scene. In the spirit of Christmas, we are asking attendees to bring a non-perishable food item for the church’s community food pantry.

Worship Attendance

October 30

9:15.....121
11:30 a.m...92
Nursery ...15
Total228
Sunday School...80

November 6

9:15.....107
11:30 a.m...102
Nursery ...11
Total220
Sunday School...74

November 13

9:15.....122
11:30 a.m...105
Nursery ...8
Total235
Sunday School did not meet due to Celebration Brunch



Oxford's **Annual Drive-Thru Live Nativity** is scheduled for the evenings of Sunday, December 18 and Monday, December 19. This is grand event in which Oxford reaches out to the community by sharing the Christmas story in live form. Sets are placed outside on the grounds the church. "Actors" wear authentic costumes and portray characters from Bethlehem City. (No script involved!) Guests will see Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, Inn Keepers, Inn Keeper's Wives, Caesar, Centurions, and the Holy Family Joseph, Virgin Mary, and Baby Jesus. Guests are invited to the Bethlehem Café for soups, cookies, hot cocoa, coffee, and more! Consider volunteering for this grand event. It takes the entire church to make it happen!! You can sign up in the narthex to participate, speak to our Evangelism Work Area Leader Javier Tamez at javytamez@gmail.com

How to help the Drive-Thru:

- Men's Ministry Drive-Thru Work Days
- Be an entrance greeter
- Be an exit greeter
- Make soup or baked goods for The Bethlehem Café
- Help Serve in the Bethlehem Café
- Help Greet in the Bethlehem Café
- Costume prep and costuming
- Be a Cast Member



Poinsettias go on sale SOON and VERY SOON!

Purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost per plant is \$12.

The poinsettias will be in place for Cantata Sunday!

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS STILL NEEDED

We are now collecting items for our Annual Silent Auction to be held on Sunday, December 4 at The Annual Tamalada. If you have any **NEW** item(s) that you are not using or no longer need, we will be glad to take them off your hands! Also, if you know of a business that can make a donation let us know. To make a donation or if you have any questions please contact Sandra Peterson at 367-7967 or sandra@oxfordumc.org Thank You! Bring the items you wish to donate to the church office or contact Sandra Peterson for more info at sandra@oxfordumc.org



CANTATA AND TAMALADA

Oxford's Tamalada and Silent Auction will be held on Sunday, December 4 following the Annual Christmas Cantata. Our Cantata will be presented at 10:30 am. We will have only one worship service that day. We will then enjoy delicious tamales and shop for items at the Silent Auction in the De King Fellowship Center Gym. We will have live music by Mariachi Infinito! Please make plans to attend and invite a friend.



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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Juan Cantu, Jr. revcantu@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