



NEWS FROM OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES OF OXFORD IN THIS MONTHLY PUBLICATION.

ISSUE
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SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES BOARD

We have recently added a Service Opportunities board in the Narthex. We invite everyone to keep up with and to discover the many ways you can be in Ministry at Oxford. We pray that every member would be in ministry and in community here at Oxford. There are items you can donate and there are "jobs" to be filled.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you."

- Help in the Church Office
- Help with Vacation Bible School
- Donate items or funds for VBS
- Help or Donate to the Food Pantry
 - Give a Ride to Church
- Donate Gatorade for the Youth summer mission trips!
- Prepare lunch for our Seniors
- Sponsor a Child for Camp Wesley

For more info contact the church office.

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 John's Retirement Sunday, June 19 - ONE Service at 10:30 am followed by luncheon (Meat is catered. Members, please bring sides.)

We welcome Pastor Juan Cantu on Sunday, July 10.

OUR YOUTH

WE WITNESSED OUR 2016 CONFIRMATION CLASS BECOME CONFIRMED ON SUNDAY, MAY 8 AT THE 11:30 AM ELEVATE WORSHIP SERVICE

Confirmation is not a sacrament in The United Methodist Church, but it is an important step in our spiritual journeys. Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. We are so blessed to have had seven young persons say, "Lord, I want to be a Christian." We celebrated this witness on Sunday, May 8 at the 11:30 am worship service. The Confirmands spent time in preparation in classes and at a retreat. Rev. Shirley Hill led this year's class through the process along with the leadership of Rev. Hargis and Youth Director Kristi Forister.

Each Confirmand was given a Bible with their name inscribed on the cover. There was a cake reception after the service as well.

The 2016 Confirmation Class

Julia Campos
Alexis Gerry
Brandon Koeck
Michael Lira
Dylan May
Dana Moses
Makayla Slater



Habitat for Humanity

We have been asked to send a volunteer team on Friday, June 3 to help Habitat for Humanity. This invite is open to everyone who would like to serve in the community age 14 and up. We will be working from 7:45am to 3:30pm. We don't know what we will be doing yet; if you would like to meet at the church and car pool with us please let Kristi Forister in the church office know. I will get details out to everyone as I learn of them. If you can't do the physical work, but would still like to be involved Marty Donohue is heading up a group to bring lunch for us. Please speak to Marty or myself if you would like to participate with lunch.

O⁺ Youth Group Happenings

Summer is almost here and youth group is about to get busy!!!

Sunday, June 5 – Summer Kick Off at Guadalupe River State Park

June 12-18: High School Mission Trip to SOS in Memphis, TN

June 27-July 1: Vacation Bible School

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

July 18-22: Summer Retreat at the HEB Foundation Camp-Windsong near Leakey, TX

TBA – Water park trip, Water Wars

**New This Summer – Random Youth outings are scheduled for June 23, July 25, Aug 2, Aug 11 and Aug 18. Some examples of activities are the zoo, museums, pool/river, movie, lunch, theme park, etc.*

Pastor's Perspective

Well, June is my last month with you and so this is my last Pastor's Perspective. It is time to say good-bye. I have been the pastor at Oxford for seven years, which ties me, I think, for the longest tenure of any of the pastors who have been here. This has also been my longest tenure as pastor at any place of my career.

I have enjoyed my time here. I have enjoyed the open and welcoming spirit of the place. I have enjoyed the music. I like the fact that you have good and dependable youth sponsors and Sunday School teachers and other church leaders. I have enjoyed the many special events like the Drive-thru Nativity and the Living Last Supper that you do. Of course, what I have liked the best is simply you, the people of the church. I care for you a great deal. The staff, I feel sure, know how I feel about them.

I have been gratified to preach to you each week, to administer the sacraments, to see you in the hospitals, to do your weddings and funerals, to be with you in committee meetings where we try to do the work of the church. It's all been great. I will miss it a great deal. I have always experienced some grief when leaving a church. I know I will this time too. And then there is the added grief of this being my last church. I have received many congratulations from people on my impending retirement. I appreciate that, but I have very mixed feelings about it. I tell myself, and I guess I believe it, that the next phase of my life will include many wonderful and fulfilling experiences.

I look forward to roaming the country with my wife, to spending lots of time with the grandchildren, enjoying long conversations with friends and family, and in pursuit of various hobbies. I know that retirement does not spell an end to my Christian ministry. But still I do not leave my profession of thirty-six plus years lightly or without a sense of loss. I began to feel a strong sense of call to the ministry when I was but fifteen years old. I don't really know what it will be like to be neither preparing for nor being engaged in the practice of ministry. I don't know what to expect. But long ago I became convinced that through the ups and downs of life, through the successes and the failures, the triumphs and the tragedies, indeed through all life's seasons, that God would be with me. There is no reason for me to lose that confidence now.

Much love, John



Retirement Celebration

Sunday, June 19 we will have one combined worship service at 10:30 am during which we will celebrate Pastor John's retirement and show our appreciation of his 36+ years in ministry. We will have an all-church luncheon after the service. Meat will be catered. You can sign up to bring side dishes and non-cake desserts. You may also place cards for Pastor John in the **"Bucket of Blessings"** on the altar table in the narthex. Thank you Pastor John! Well done good and faithful Pastor.

Summer at Oxford

SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM

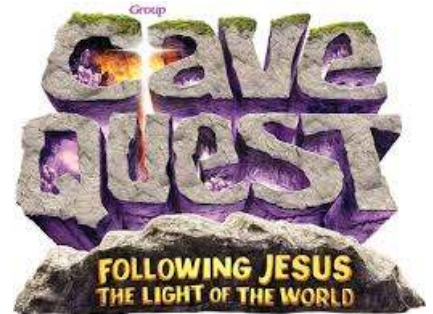
We will be discontinuing our Senior Meal program that has been provided by the City of San Antonio effective Friday, June 3. We will begin hosting our very own Oxford Senior Fellowship "Winners' Wednesday's" each and every Wednesday at 12 noon. We will have donuts, snacks, light lunch items, along with card games, fellowship, and fun. Everyone is invited! For more information contact Michelle Carey in the church office.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Our Wednesday night meals will be suspended for the summer. Our last meal will be June 1, please join us for our beach themed welcome to summer at 5:30 in the gym – plus fun games! Thank you to all of our Chef volunteers these last five months, it is so nice to not have to cook and clean up at least one day week! Also thank you to all of those that help set up and clean up, your role is vital! Until the fall...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 27 - July 1 from 9 am -12 noon! The cost is \$15 per camper. **Registration is NOW OPEN on our website www.oxfordumc.org** Volunteers are asked to please register online, so you can receive your t-shirt. The theme is **CAVE QUEST!** Sign up to help today!



UMW News

A special thank you to all that attended our meeting to welcome our guest speaker, Dr. Ellen L. Palmer. We were able to provide her with 21 sets of twin size sheets for her return mission trip to Haiti. She had some wonderful news to share with us about the work being done with orphanages in Haiti. We learned also of the training and educating of nurses who serve in poverty stricken areas Haiti.

Dates to remember:

June 1 - Deadline to register for the UMW Luncheon at Annual Conference

June 11 - UMW Luncheon at Rio Texas Conference in Corpus Christi, TX

June 15 - Mission U registration deadline

July 8-10 - Mission U, Mt. Wesley, Kerrville, TX

Worship Stats



April 24

9:15 a.m...92
11:30 am ...82
Nursery ...10
Other...27
Total... 211
Sunday School....107

May 15

9:15 a.m...110
11:30 am ...92
Nursery ...10
Total... 212
Sunday School...64

May 1

9:15 am ...116
11:30 am....85
Nursery12
Total213
Sunday School88

May 22

9:15 am ...124
11:30 am...82
Nursery ...9
Total215
Sunday School84

May 8

9:15.....118
11:30 a.m...97
Nursery ...11
Total226
Sunday School...77

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

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

ONGOING PRAYER LIST

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

*Thank
You*

"To our family in Oxford United Methodist Church, We thank you all for the love, prayers, and support you have given us during the time Larry became ill. We are really blessed and fortunate to be part of such a spiritual and caring church.

*Our Love,
Tonia and Larry"*



Annual Conference is scheduled for June 9-12, 2016 in Corpus Christi, Texas. Michelle Carey, Louise Taylor, and Flo Jackson will be representing Oxford. Pastor John Hargis will be recognized at the Conference Retirement Service on Saturday, June 11. Please be in pray for all who will be attending Annual Conference.

NEW MEMBERS

Barbara McCullers and her daughter Valerie McCullers joined Oxford on Sunday, April 24 at 9:5 am service. Bette Center joined by transfer on Sunday, April 24 at 11:30 am service. Emilio & Julia Lira along with their son, Michael Lira joined Oxford on Sunday, May 8. Michael was part of the 2016 Confirmation class. The Lira's come to us by transfer from another UMC in our District.

Scholarships

We wish to congratulate Katie Koeck on being a recipient of a \$500 scholarship awarded by Church Women United. Katie's scholarship will be awarded at the June meeting. Church Women United awarded \$500 scholarships to ten high school students and three women in transition. Way to go Katie!

The recipients of Oxford's 2016 Pugh Memorial Scholarships are Justin Forister, Mary King, and Marty Martinez.

The Recipient of Oxford's AJ & Mabel Fore Stricklin Memorial Scholarship is Justin Forister. Way to go Justin!

We congratulate all of our recipients.

DOLLARS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A monthly submission sharing stories of how financial giving positively impacts the community of Oxford.

"The congregation of Oxford UMC has always been so generous to our youth group. Whether we are raising funds for the 30 hour famine for world hunger or doing a fund raiser for mission trip scholarships, Oxford has always helped us out. In early 2016, we had a very successful cowboy breakfast to raise money for our upcoming summer mission trips. We will be taking the High School youth to Memphis, TN to do construction work on homes through the SOS organization and the middle school mission trip will be to Mt. Wesley in Kerrville, TX to help with grounds upkeep and beautification of this very popular retreat location. But, the biggest giving I see every year from our wonderful church is the help they give during the Pumpkin Patch in October. Countless people show up to unload truckloads full of pumpkins, sign up to work shifts in the pumpkin patch to sell the pumpkins, advertise our patch to their families and co-workers and of course our church congregation purchase their pumpkins here too! There are so many ways that our youth group of Oxford UMC have blessed by our church. Through your prayers, your volunteering, your financial assistance and just loving the youth of our church means so very much to us. God Bless each of you!"

Kristi Forister,
O Positive Youth Director



OH HAPPY DAY

Alayli, Gabriel	06/13
Beckmann, Lindsay	06/12
Bermea, Arturo	06/21
Carriker, Ken	06/12
Chavira, Nicolas	06/07
Clegg, Nicole	06/29
Davis, Hubert	06/26
Doty, Sue	06/23
Escobedo, David	06/09
Fassler, Caleb	06/25
Gerry, Jennifer (Jen)	06/14
Gustafson, Charlotte	06/11
Hinkel, Bonnie	06/02
Howell, Ellin	06/01
Jones, Jillian	06/07
Jones, Judith	06/07
Koeck, Brandon	06/18
Lindemann, Milton	06/26
Maroney, Jody	06/21
McGuffin, John	06/28
Millsaps, Lottie	06/08
Minor, James	06/26
Nadeau, Kaitlyn	06/30
Rangel, Connie	06/01
Salvatierra, Thine	06/03
Schott, Debbie	06/27
Tearney, Barney	06/21
Vargas, Jackson	06/01
Wilson, Bettie Lee	06/25

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



Sunday, June 26 is the June Birthday Bash!

The \$40,000 Challenge Update

First Matching Goal Approaching June 30

The chart below shows our progress as of April 30 against the blessing goals for April year to date, June year to date, September year to date and full year 2016.



While April was \$10,629 short of target, May is looking better and the June goal of \$251,888 is still very much attainable if each financial supporter of our church will consider and act on these three steps.

Please make sure your giving is current

If you submitted an estimate of giving card, please make sure your giving is current. First quarter giving statements have been distributed and you can always contact James Minor, Financial Administrator to get an update on your giving status. Some will have unexpected financial difficulties; however, through April nearly 50% were behind on their giving – maybe due to missing a few Sundays here and there, but it all adds up.

Give an extra amount of one week's normal giving before June 30

Once you are current, prayerfully consider if you could give an extra amount before June 30 equal to one week's normal giving. This could be an above and beyond gift or you could think of it as a prepayment for when you might miss a Sunday or take a vacation later in the year.

Prayerfully consider a more substantial gift by June 30

If you have been especially blessed, prayerfully consider if you could make an even more substantial above and beyond or accelerated gift by June 30 to help ensure we make this first \$40,000 challenge goal.

Achieving the June year to date goal of \$251,888, will guarantee \$5,000 of the \$20,000 matching gift opportunity and help Oxford UMC fulfill its ministries in our community and in the world. Thank you for your gifts and blessings. We can do this together!

Blessings,
Paul Peterson
Finance Chairperson

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE
RAISED \$5,812. 11 FUNDS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE GENERAL FUND, YOUTH, AND THE UMW. THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND TO SANDRA PETERSON FOR HER LEADERSHIP.

Oxford United Methodist Church

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OUR STAFF

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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