

Celebrating 60 years

the grapevine

September 2017 | Newsletter of Oxford United Methodist Church



Stewardship Season at Oxford

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

The *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* has been selected as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During regular morning worship times on **Consecration Sunday, September 24**, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

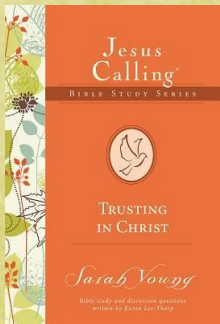
Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our Pastor will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday Stewardship team. Since we will make no follow-up contact to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship services on September 24.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Stewardship Chairperson,
Paul Peterson



NEW Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will start back up on Tuesday, September 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room.

Diane Waldron will lead us in Sarah Young's "Jesus Calling" Series "**Trusting in Christ.**" The cost for the book is \$8. Please let us know if you wish to attend the class by contacting Diane Waldron or by calling the church office.



Sunday School Luau

If you attend Sunday School, please be sure to pick up your Luau Lei in the narthex on

Sunday, September 10. This is our Sunday School Luau Rally! If you have not yet signed up for a class, this is a good time to start. We are celebrating all those who go to Sunday School as well as our awesome teachers.

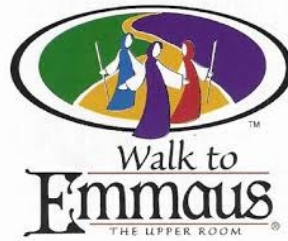
Children's Sunday School News

The Fall semester of Oxford's Children's Sunday School starts up on Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m. The Doves class will begin using a **rotation classroom** model. The children will begin each class with snack time and craft time and then move on to Bible instruction. Diane Waldron and Susan Jarvis will be co-teaching and leading. Parents, this is a great time to sign up for a class for you and your children. Pick up a class list at the Welcome table in the Narthex. We also have Children's Church every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. In the choir room.



Fall Craft Fair

We are seeking vendors and volunteers for the Fall Craft Fair. This year's fair will be on Saturday, October 28 For more info contact Javy Tamez at crafffair@oxfordumc.org



NWSA Emmaus News

NWSA Men's Walk #2, October 12 – 15, 2017, Mt. Wesley in Kerrville.

For a pilgrim application and sponsorship info please visit <http://nwsaemmaus.com/>.

For information about Walk contact Terry Smith at terrywsmith8@gmail.com or call 210-365-7707.



Silent Auction

Silent Auction Items Needed

We are now collecting silent auction items for our Annual Silent Auction which will be held on Sunday, December 10 at The Tamalada. Bring the items you wish to donate to the church office or contact Sandra Peterson at sandra@oxfordumc.org



SAVE the DATE for The Party at the Patch

Sunday, October 29

Reflections from Pastor Doug

Perhaps it's only me that does this (and most likely it is), but I have a habit of misreading signs, then wrestling with what seems to be a rather strange message, because I clearly missed the original intent. Let me give you some examples, and these are just a few of my greatest hits.....

The sign outside Walgreens said "Get your mother's day gifts here." The next line on the sign said "Meningitis shots." Obviously two different things, however I read it all as one line, then queried to myself why anyone would want to give their mother a meningitis shot for mother's day – what a strange gift, I thought! Oh, wait, I get it....

Same situation again (sadly): the sign outside Burger King said "Now hiring" and the next line said "10 Chicken nuggets \$1.49." Hmm...that's interesting, I mused. They hire people to dress as chicken nuggets? And why would they only need 10 of them, and then only pay them a \$1.49? Shouldn't they at least get minimum wage? Wait a minute.....oh, I see....

Walking through a mall, a shoe store had some shoes on clearance in a bin displayed just outside the entrance. The sign read "Shoes, \$10, more inside." Obviously there was more shoes on the other side of the door that could be purchased at this bargain price – an age old business trap designed to lure shoppers into the store. However, I thought to myself, they're not going to get me – I'll buy my shoes out here, because it'll cost me more if I buy them in there! I was a freshman in college at the time, my friends attempted to explain, but instead just walked away shaking their heads in amazement....

Teri discovered this new coffee creamer that creates a sort of cappuccino effect. You brew your cup of coffee then squirt this stuff on top – it comes out like whipped cream from a can, except it's a very thin stream. It filters through the coffee, leaving a layer of froth on top – very cool! So I'm reading the directions wanting to make sure I do it right the first time, and step #1 says "Leave room for froth." What? I thought. That's ridiculous! Why on earth would they ask you to exit the room in order for the froth to form? They really need to draw a picture for people like me, and even then it's a tossup whether I'll get it or not. Of course the double-dumb thing is, I tell Teri about it, and she responded the way any loving wife would – she posted it on Facebook.....

In each case, the true meaning was there, but I saw what I wanted to see, and for the life of me, just couldn't see past it. And we do that with people too, don't we? We see what we want to see, rather than who they really are. I must admit, I'm not a big fan of the old adage "hate the sin, love the sinner" because if you look closely at that statement, all you're seeing is sin no matter what. I am in no way implying that we are not all sinners, but I am saying that's what we tend to see in people – we see them as their sin, rather than someone in need. Oh what brutal judgement we pass, all in the name of "hating the sin." Without realizing it most of the time, we set ourselves up as the standard, then – just like me reading the signs – we can't figure out for anything why that person isn't behaving the way we think they should. How about simply loving the person for who they are, much like (and I'm going out on a limb here) Christ did? Why not pray for every person we come in contact with, and ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to use us to touch that person with God's divine love. In other words, love the person and let the Spirit do the rest.

Pastor Douglas C. Boldt



Help Support Sue Doty's Mission to Haiti

This month I will have the privilege of going to Haiti for the fourth time to work with the Thomas Food Project. The Project is out of the Northern California Conference of the United Methodist Church, but churches and individuals from all over the US have participated. It works with schools in Haiti to provide a daily meal and improved educational opportunities, including basic computer training. I am a family doctor so I just go and do physicals and provide basic medical care in the schools and in the Thomas Methodist Church which is where the project started. Haiti is still struggling to recover from the earthquake and then the hurricane that came shortly afterward. People are in need of basic items like food, but I still have seen many examples of their generosity of spirit. I have met families who are barely surviving who have still found a way to take in one more child left alone from the earthquake.

I can bring two suitcases of supplies with me for a total of 100 pounds. **The most needed medicines that I can bring into the country are ibuprofen and acetaminophen (for both adults and children). For children, chewable tablets are lighter than liquid. I can teach a mother how to break the tablet to the right dose and crush it for her child. Generic antifungal cream is also needed. The people also really appreciate good used children's clothes (including teens). Most important, I would appreciate your prayers for me, the project and the people of Haiti.**

If you want to learn more about the project, go to <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/computers-feed-minds-and-bodies-in-haiti>. There is also a Facebook page called the Thomas Food Project and there are a lot of videos on youtube. I will be in the Narthex after services if you want to learn more about the project.

Sue Doty, Oxford UMC Member

O⁺ Youth Group News

As summer winds down and the youth return to school we will have a short break to breathe before the pumpkins arrive! They are due to arrive Sunday, October 1st at 1 pm. Before they arrive we will have several work days to get the patch set up and ready for all the pumpkins. If you are artistic/crafty we need you! We will be making new "photo boards" for the patch this year. Please let the youth director know if you want to design, cut out or paint with us!

September 10- Parent's Day at Youth! Fried chicken will be provided, please bring a side or dessert to share (A-F chips/sides, G-L fruit, M-R desserts, S-Z sodas/drinks. We will review what the group has been up to the past few months, what's coming up in the near future and of course parents vs. youth games!

September 17 – Pumpkin Patch work day; need youth, parents, sponsors and the congregation's help to set up the patch.

September 30 – the day before the pumpkins arrive; work day to finish up set up.

October 1 – The first load of pumpkins arrive at 1 pm. Need all hands on deck!!! Lunch and drinks will be provided.

October 15 – second load of pumpkins due to arrive.

The O⁺ youth group of Oxford UMC meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the gym and Sundays at 1 pm in the gym with lunch provided. Grades 6-12 are welcome to join us! Come check us out!

Meals on Wheels Report

Oxford has been a Meals on Wheels location for several years. Just recently, more routes were added out of Oxford. Oxford grew from having two routes to now six routes! The new pick up location for the meals is the Narthex. The meals are kept in large coolers and drivers can stop in to pick up their meals before they go on their routes. The covered area makes picking up the meals even more convenient on rainy days. We are so grateful for how God has expanded and grown the Meals on Wheels ministry here at Oxford. I recently did an interview with Marty Donohue. She is among the faithful volunteers of Oxford who volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

How many years have you been delivering? *"Martha Ormand, Sandra Peterson and I have been delivering Meals on Wheels for 11 years and 4 months!!! We have delivered Oxford Methodist Route #1 on Wednesdays since May 2006."*

How many meals is that I wonder? *"We have delivered up 22 meals a day. Oxford started out with two routes and now we have six! Since Jan 1 2017 thru June 30 2017, we have delivered 2040 meals." (total of all routes)*

Can you share a memorable experience? And what keeps you serving? *"Everyday is a rewarding experience, but two experiences that makes us realize why we do MOW are: We had a client who was hard of hearing and she would play her television very loud and we would have to knock very hard for her to hear us. One day we delivered and the television was blaring so we knocking very hard and (I know it was an angel) we heard a very faint "help" over the noise. We then notified the apt manager who opened the door for us and we found the client on the kitchen floor. We do not know how long she had been on the floor because she was incoherent. The manager called 911 and we called the family. She was later put in a nursing facility,*

Another time, we were delivering and the client always left the door open for us because it took so long for her to get to the door. When found her on the floor. She had fallen out of her wheelchair earlier that morning (this was at noon) and she knew we were coming so she waited.

Martha and I both agree that we are more blessed to be able to do the MOW that the client who receive the meal.

We also have one client who gives little gifts every holiday that she gets from Dollar Tree because to thank us and loves us."

By Michelle Carey

2018 Women's Retreat

Ladies- we will start accepting registrations and payments in September for the women's retreat scheduled April 20-22, 2018. The cost for this year's retreat is \$200 at the Haven River Inn. I know that sounds like a lot of money, but if you start making \$25 payments monthly beginning September 2017, by the time the retreat comes you will be paid in full!

The women's retreat is a wonderful get away for you, your sisters, mom, daughter, friends, and family. We praise and worship through song. We have daily sessions that help us grow closer to Christ and each other. We eat a lot of really good food! We even have enough free time on Saturday to go shopping, swimming or take a nap....so if you are looking for a time set apart just for you and God and a bunch of your crazy sisters in Christ, register now for a life changing experience. For more information please contact Kristi Forister in the church office at 210-696-0192 or Teri Boldt at 210-279-2030. Look for the registration table in the narthex.

September



Laura Cafilich	9	29
Cindy Campbell	9	15
San Miguel Cantu	9	10
Debbie Clegg	9	12
Ruth Del Cueto	9	17
Teresa Espino	9	17
Dottie Fisher	9	14
Rick Gerry	9	9
Carol Sue Glassie	9	14
Judy Gray	9	14
Janet Haby	9	27
Linda Hensley	9	15
Linda Heskew	9	6
George Howard	9	20
Jeremy Huggins	9	18
Janette Jackson	9	4
Susan Jarvis	9	15
Tom Kleene	9	19
Katie Koeck	9	29
Lisa Koeck	9	7
Lonni Lee	9	7
Frank Morrison	9	24
Linda Persyn	9	2
Lewis ""Wally"" Salvatierra	9	10
Joel Schnitz	9	23
Schott Tarr	9	12
Helen Taulbee	9	3
Jim Tietjen	9	30
Lorenz Vijay	9	13



Worship Attendance

August 13

9:15 a.m. ...102
 11:30 a.m....81
 Children's Church ...8
 Total ...190
 Sunday School191

August 20

9:15...107
 11:30 a.m...98
 Children's Church...10
 Total ...215
 Sunday School...49

August 27

9:15 a.m. ...74
 11:30 a.m...64
 Children's Church ...6
 Total ...144
 Sunday School...41

John 15:5

*⁵ "I am the vine;
 you are the
 branches. If you
 remain in me
 and I in you, you
 will bear much
 fruit; apart from
 me you can do
 nothing."*



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

The September Birthday Bash will be on Sunday, September 24 at 10:30 a.m. in the Narthex!

Welcome new members:

Ajinth Moses and wife Sherba Lillian joined on Sunday, August 27 at the 11:30 a.m. service. They have two children who attend Oxford's Mother's Day Out. Their names are Ajisha, 4 and Shejinth, 13 mos. Leticia Mendoza has also joined by letter.

Prayer List

Our World
Our service men & women
Our nation
Our Bishop and Clergy
Kairos Ministry
Shepherd Ministry
Stephen Ministry
The Residents of The Heights
Meals on Wheels clients

Ongoing Prayer List:

Jackie Duke
Jimbo Frazier
Michele Frazier
Ernie Garibay
Carl Taylor
Milton & Eloise Lindemann
Brian Flanner
Barbie Tarr
Barbara & Max Maxwell
Mary Morgan Marshall
Jerry & Margaret Mason
Sadie
Perla May
Janet Haby and family
Diane Waldron
Cathy Dean
Roberto Macias Sr.
Dennis & Sue Moses
Lillie Robinson
Larry Schaeff
Sarah Bunch
Randy Jackson
Mary Gail Flake
Janie & Israel Garcia
Lyle & Glenice Rosdahl
Henrietta Cervantez
Bonnie Wilcox
Ruth Martinez

Trusella McIntosh
Ethan White
Brittney
Joyce Dawson
Lottie Millsaps
Elda Flores
Rosalyn Hoelscher
Helen Taulbee
Josie Rodriguez
Melissa Alayli

Pray for our Troops

Pray for Our Troops

Andy Bravo, Jeff Davis, Josue "Rudy" Garza,
John McCann, Zach Mullins, Alex Zavala,
Damian Mendez, Arturo Longoria Jr.,
Roland Riley, Sarah Garibay,
Peter Cortez

Join the Prayer Chain

Join the Oxford Prayer Chain and receive weekly emails! Contact Michelle Carey at michelle@oxfordumc.org

All Saints Sunday 2017

We are gathering information on those who passed away this year for our All Saint's Sunday worship services on Sunday, November 5. If you have a loved one that has died this year and wish to have them included in the list of remembrance, please let me know as soon as you can. During both worship services, the names of those who have passed this year are read while candles are lit. Please send your loved one's information in writing to me at michelle@oxfordumc.org or place a note in my box located in the front office. I ask for the names in writing so the spelling of their name will appear as you wish to have it listed.

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

The 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

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

○ Positive Youth at 1:00 pm

OFFICE OPEN MONDAY-THURSDAY (CLOSED FRIDAYS)
MOTHERS' DAY OUT - Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.