

**Oxford United Methodist Church Contacts**

*Office Hours are from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday.*

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<b>Office and Finance Administrator:</b> Taylor Cooke	taylor@oxfordmethodist.org
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<b>Coordinator of Kids &amp; Youth Ministries:</b> Kathryn Mincher	kathryn.mincher@gmail.com
<b>The Learning Tree Preschool Director:</b> Ellen Thompson	ellen@oxfordmethodist.org
<b>Summer Literacy Director:</b> Donna Critcher	summerliteracy@oxfordmethodist.org
<b>Church Website:</b>	www.oxfordmethodist.org
<b>YouTube Live Link:</b>	http://tinyurl.com/OUMCLive



# TOWER TIDINGS

*2024 Summer Edition*

## *Message from Pastor Glenn*

For four years, the United Methodist Church had delayed the quadrennial gathering of its highest legislative body known as General Conference. The postponed meeting – the first one after many congregations left the denomination through a process called disaffiliation – was finally held from April 23 to May 4. Many important changes were made to our governing document, the Book of Discipline, including the removal of prohibitions against same sex relationships. Due to these changes, the UMC no longer officially prohibits married gay pastors from serving in the church, and same-sex weddings are now permitted to occur in United Methodist churches and be presided over by our pastors.

These are changes that many United Methodists have been hoping for, seeing them as an answer to prayer. Others are more cautious and concerned about what these adjustments might mean for the future. In our congregation there are people on both sides, including many who have mixed feelings themselves.

For us at Oxford UMC, this is a time to draw together and renew our commitment to love one another. In the coming months, we can expect to work through some issues together that these changes at General Conference will require. A first step is to gather for an information session about General Conference on Wednesday, May 22 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will not be a decision-making meeting, but rather a time to hear a report about what happened at General Conference.

See inside this newsletter for details about exciting events coming up, including a new membership class in June, summer service days for the Youth group, Vacation Bible School, and monthly service evenings at ACIM.



## **Oxford United Methodist Church**

**The Tower Tidings**

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105 W. McClanahan St.  
P. O. Box 757, Oxford, NC 27565

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# Summer Interns

Oxford United Methodist Church is delighted to have two interns from Duke Divinity School this summer. They will be with us for 10 weeks, starting Sunday, June 2nd.

*Please join us in welcoming John and Nicole!*

Hi all! My name is John Kim. I am a 1.5 generation Korean-American from the Bay Area.

I am in the second year of my Master of Divinity degree at Duke, and I am pursuing ordination as an elder in the United Methodist Church.

My hobbies include biking, hiking, eating, watching movies, and going to the beach.

I hope that we can grow together this summer!

Blessings, John



My name is Nicole Boddie. I have been married for 17 years, and have four adopted children: my oldest son Ricky is 17, Jackson is 16, Samantha is 13, and Matthew is 12. In the summer of 2015, I answered the call to become a pastor in the UMC. I first served as a Certified Lay Servant in the Texas Conference, later becoming a Licensed Local Pastor. While serving two rural churches, I returned to college to complete my bachelor's degree, majoring in social work. I have completed my first year at Duke Divinity School and I am excited to learn both from your pastor and your congregation! -Nicole



# Prayer Concerns

The Oxford Methodist Church Prayer Chain is ready at any time to give support for any prayer need. To activate the chain, email Pastor Glenn, glenn@oxfordmethodist.org

## Please pray for...

All with Mental Health Struggles  
 Those with Addiction Struggles  
 Our incarcerated brothers and sisters  
 Patricia H. Brady, Kate Brady's Mother  
 Maysi Blenk- Ellen Thompson's Niece  
 Nancy Brooks  
 Al Carraway  
 Buddy Childers  
 Tommy & Rebecca Cox  
 Neill Currin  
 David Dean, Laura Blackley and Charles Dean's Cousin  
 Margaret Duncan- Karen Brown's Mother  
 Harriet Farrow, Susan Bowman's Aunt  
 Sharon Foster- Dee Woodlief's Mother  
 Robert and Marsha Garrett  
 Onnie Gore  
 Lee Humphries  
 Karen Honeycutt  
 Inpahn Keolavanh  
 Doan Laursen  
 Bob & Eunice May  
 Bill Mitchell  
 Carolyn Morton

Faye and Kenneth Nance, Christine Baker's sister & brother in law  
 Bill Oakley, friend of Cindy Snipes  
 Ray Payne  
 Laverne Pope  
 Marie Price  
 Diane Proctor  
 Pene Short, sister of Sharon Williams  
 Reed Spears  
 Emerson Swanner  
 Isabel Talton  
 Marshall Tanner  
 Tommy Watkins  
 Ava West  
 Beth Williams  
 Francis Wilson  
 Lyna Carol Breedlove Wilson

## Our Troops

Jordan Blanchard	Sam Rivers
Micah Domnick	Jeremiah Rush
Hamilton Evrard	David Sergent
George "Fletch" Fletcher	Zach Waler
Brian Harvey	Claudia Wilmsatt
Brock Perry	Drew Wilmsatt
Jack Rivers	



If you know someone who is going through a difficult time, contact our Stephen Leader, Beth Day at 919-691-4603 or edaycpa@embarqmail.com about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday Night Dinners** \*Menu will be sent at the beginning of each week

5:15pm – 6:30pm

Suggested Donation of \$10/person

\*\*Wednesday night dinners will break for summer after May 22nd!

**Grief Support Group**

Every 2nd and 4th Monday @ 6:00pm

**Bible Study Series** \*sign up for weekly reminder emails for study series information!

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm in the Chapel

**ACIM Work Day** \*See page 6 for details

Thursday, April 25th @ 5:00pm

**City Road Men's Shelter Tour** \*See page 6 for details

Saturday, May 18th @ 8:30 (breakfast) & 10:00am (tour)

**General Conference Information Session** \*See page 1 for details

Wednesday, May 22nd @ 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

**VBS Volunteer Luncheon & Safe Sanctuary Training** \*See page 3 for details

Sunday, June 2nd @ 12:00pm

**Vacation Bible School** \*See page 3 for details

June 11th – June 13th @ 5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Membership Class**

June 2nd – June 23rd, Sundays @ 10:00am

**2024 OUMC Education Grant Applications Available! Deadline: May 31st**

OUMC scholarships are available for high school graduates and college students that meet a certain criteria. Links to the instructions and application are available in the weekly reminder emails, or by reaching out to the church office. Submission Deadline: May 31st



## Blood Drive



Our next blood drive will be held on Friday, June 21st from 9:00am – 1:30pm at the OUMC Fellowship Hall.

For questions and sign-up information, please contact Ruth Carraway at [carrawayrt@gmail.com](mailto:carrawayrt@gmail.com).

## Vacation Bible School

**Welcome to VBS 2024 and Camp Firelight!**

June 11-13, 2024

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Registration is open now – June 2

**Bring a friend!**

As children arrive, we will serve dinner in the fellowship hall. Each evening will be filled with Bible stories, crafts, recreation, and fun! If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS, please contact Kathrine Noel at 919-691-3877.



## VBS Volunteer Luncheon

Calling all VBS volunteers, Summer Literacy volunteers, and all other members who volunteer with children!

**June 2, 2024**

**12:00 noon (following 11:00 am service)**

**Lunch will be served!**

**RSVP: Taylor Cooke at the church office**  
(919-693-4091 or [taylor@oxfordmethodist.org](mailto:taylor@oxfordmethodist.org))



We will enjoy lunch and have an overview of VBS and how we are organized this year. Donna will do our Safe Sanctuaries training. Refresher training is required annually for all volunteers who work with children at OUMC. This luncheon will last no more than one hour!

For questions or more information: Donna Critcher, [dbcritcher@gmail.com](mailto:dbcritcher@gmail.com) or Kathrine Noel, [kathrinenoel@gmail.com](mailto:kathrinenoel@gmail.com)

# Reminder! Staff Emails

Reminder! The staff will no longer be using the [oxfordmethodist.com](http://oxfordmethodist.com) email addresses. If you have these saved in your contacts, please change them to the following:

**Taylor:** taylor@oxfordmethodist.org

**Glenn:** glenn@oxfordmethodist.org

**Ellen:** ellen@oxfordmethodist.org

**Summer Literacy:** summerliteracy@oxfordmethodist.org

## Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday school went well this school year! About four to six youth faithfully attended the class. Our curriculum included a variety of lessons and series.

In the Fall, the class covered Learning to Study the Bible and asked basic questions about the scripture: Who? (authors & audience) What? (genres) When? (context) Where? (geography) Why? (interpretation) How? (read closely).

The class delved into the Sermon on the Mount for several weeks. Our Lent series was called *Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess*. Pastor Glenn joined the class for five weeks. He taught confirmation-like lessons for the youth wanting to get baptized or confirmed.

In June, we'll take a course on John Wesley's Three Simple Rules: Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Beth Burt manages the class with assistance from Helen Brummitt, Sonya Carver, Kathrine Noel, and Ruby Stine. The youth meet upstairs in the Education building. The class will continue through June before taking a short summer break. Join us on Promotion Sunday, August 4th, when we will recognize our youth.

## Stephen Ministry

Since OUMC's Stephen Ministers conception nearly 4 years ago we have accomplished much. Although small in number we are dedicated to our mission — "to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties." Some activities this ministry have provided our church and community include 1:1 caring relationships, educational moments for groups, The Longest Night Service, a Grief Support group and assisting with church services,

In the past few years due to moves, illness, or life changes we have gone from having 7 Stephen Ministers to 3. We are determined to strengthen this powerful ministry; therefore, after thoughtful consideration and much prayer we are trusting God to lead and direct us in this next phase.

If you have ever thought you might be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister your opportunity is right around the corner. Our hopes, dreams and prayers are to hold classes *this coming fall* to train new Stephen Ministers. We are opening this opportunity to other members of our community. Therefore, if you have friends in the community please encourage them to consider this opportunity also. Stephen Ministry is non-denominational and as such OUMC is in the process of networking with Oxford Baptist Church.

Details will be forth-coming very soon. Please pray for the growth of our Stephen Ministry and for Beth and myself. With your support and the help of our colleagues we can continue to walk with others through difficult times and keep this ministry alive! We are committed!

In His Service,

Beth Day and Ginny McLaurin

## Online Giving Available

Scan the QR code, or visit this website ([https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJFG/campaign/C-14DFS?access=tile\\_direct](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJFG/campaign/C-14DFS?access=tile_direct)), to learn more about how you can give through the platform called Vanco Faith.



# Women in Mission

On Sunday, April 14th, the Oxford Women in Mission worked diligently to organize the Mission's Storage Room, located upstairs in the Lyon building. This space is dedicated for all supplies used in our many mission projects here at OUMC, including arts and craft items, costumes, and props.

If you ever need craft supplies, feel free to check them out of the Mission's Storage. You will find them organized in alphabetical order. We only ask that they are returned to their proper place.

Thank you, OWIM, for your organized work!



# Interested in OWIM?

The Oxford Women in Mission (OWIM) formed in 2023 as part of both combining several traditional circles and becoming an independent women's group with a focus on mission work and fellowship. We are a loosely organized group of women who would like to grow in our relationship with Christ and each other.

Our current leadership team is Beth Burt, Gail Huffaker, and Donna Critcher. We try to plan a church service project each quarter (cleaning, organizing, etc.) and are actively scheduling mission projects for the coming months. In February, we had a ladies lunch after church, which was well attended and enjoyed by all! Our Easter Sweet Roll sale was a big success and we look forward to serving the community with the proceeds.

Be on the lookout for upcoming events and gatherings! We do not have any kind of "membership" expectations. You are welcome to attend any (or all) OWIM events that you would enjoy!

# Youth Group & Kids Club

The Kids Club has wrapped up the school year and their year-long study of the Fruit of the Spirit. We had a great success with involving new volunteers the past few months and maintained a consistent attendance of 5-8 kids throughout the year! We wrapped up our year with a fun evening of bowling and pizza!

The Youth Group wrapped up their year-long study of the Ten Commandments. The youth stuffed the eggs for the Palm Sunday egg hunt and also worked with Kathrine Noel and Beth Burt on designing shirts to sell to the congregation showcasing the new church logo.

Palm Sunday was a huge success with involving the kids and youth in the services, the great turnout for the hot dog lunch, and the fun egg hunt!

Bringing back the acolytes has been a great addition to our 11:00am service.

Mark your calendars for our Promotion Sunday and Pool Party Kick-off August 4th!

**Youth Summer Work Days:**  
**June 11, June 25, July 9,**  
**July 23, August 6**



# ACIM Work Days

ACIM Work Days are now scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month.

All those who are able are invited to meet at the ACIM site at 5:00pm to pack boxes for the next week.

Can't make it? Donate instead! There is a collection container for food donations at the missions station. We can all bring food at any time, which will be collected weekly!

Future work days are scheduled for  
May 30th  
June 27th  
July 25th  
August 29th



## City Road Men's Shelter

The men of Oxford United Methodist Church and Oxford Baptist Church will tour the new City Road men's shelter on Saturday, May 18th. All men who are available to go are invited to meet in the Oxford Methodist Church parking lot at 8:30am and carpool to Denny's in Henderson for breakfast. We will then tour the new shelter, which is still under construction, at 10:00am and complete our session by 11:00am. Pastor Glenn and Pastor Brett will lead some conversation about options to support this shelter if the group is interested. **Please RSVP for the tour and breakfast reservations to Noel Burt at [nfb.phd@gmail.com](mailto:nfb.phd@gmail.com), or by texting 336-339-2042**

## Note from the Boy Scouts

The Troop and Pack want to thank the church for your continued support!

On April 22nd, we had another Scout complete his Eagle Rank and pass his Board.  
**Congratulations, Joshua Spitler!**

We have two more that we expect to complete Eagle Projects and Eagle Rank by September. Two Pack Webelo Scouts bridged into the Troop on Monday, April 22nd. One was the first ever Lion (kindergarten age) in the Pack, Henry Miller.

In June, The Pack will move to some outdoor activities for the summer, rather than regular meetings. The Troop will continue regular meetings and will attend summer camp the week of June 16th, serve a meal to Summer Literacy on June 27th, and continue to serve the church with Trustees projects.

## Trustees

**Trustees and helpers have stayed busy since the Spring Cleaning!**

- Four overgrown hollies have been removed with 2 more to go
- Thinning the Crepe Myrtles
- The dying maple tree will be coming down soon
- Some additional pruning at the street corner of the sanctuary
- New thermostats with remote control ability and cleaning of the AC units
- Repaired four AC units that were not working
- A newly installed coat rack off the breezeway in the Lyon building
- Additional cleaning and sorting upstairs in the Lyon building

If you would like to donate any of your time or talents, there are frequently small projects that can be done at your convenience!

These include (but are not limited to) planting flowers, pruning bushes/trees, removing nandinas around AC units and elsewhere, painting (inside and out), deep cleaning.

The trustees stay busy maintaining our beautiful building. Please reach out if you notice anything that needs repair, or want to help!