

THE TENNILLE TESTIMONY

Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Volume 5, Issue 5

Leona Rogers 478-552-7838 or rhonie@washemc.net

August 16, 2009

Selwyn May - selwynmay@nctv.com

Meet Pastor Jeff and Sandra



Greetings to the wonderful people of Tennille United Methodist Church! Sandra and I have had the privilege of meeting and beginning to build relationships with many of you over the past few weeks. We thank you again for the Christ-like hospitality that you have shown us from the very beginning. We are truly grateful to all of you for making us feel so welcome in Tennille. For those of you that we have not met, we look forward to the opportunity to meet you. We look forward to developing meaningful relationships and serving together in ministry with you.

I was born and raised in Laurens County, living in the town of Montrose for most of my life. My mother and father, Bill and Regina, lovingly raised me in a Christian home. I have a younger brother, Brad. I am a lifelong Methodist, being

baptized and confirmed at Montrose United Methodist Church. After high school, I attended college at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, obtaining a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in physical therapy in 2003. I was active in the Armstrong Wesley Foundation, the United Methodist campus ministry. While involved in campus ministry, two life-changing events occurred. First, I met the beautiful Sandra Sumner, a native of Savannah, in 1999. Second, I received my call to ministry in 2001.

After graduating from college, Sandra and I were married on June 12, 2004. Sandra began to teach kindergarten while I worked as a physical therapist. In 2006, I was appointed as pastor of Montrose United Methodist Church. I enrolled in seminary at Candler in 2007 and will begin my final year this fall. In June, I became a provisional/probationary member of the South Georgia Conference.

Accepting the call to ministry has been a great adventure. Sandra and I look forward to continuing this adventure with all of you. Since I have been at Tennille, I have witnessed the passion that

each of you have for your church and for its ministry. You are faithful to God's call as a church in so many ways. My prayer is that we open our hearts and minds to the many possibilities for ministry that God has in store for us. Let us take our passion and together spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout our church, our community, and our world.

Rev. Jeff Cook

Sunday School Report



Our Children's Sunday School class has been meeting in one of the Sunday School rooms not used in quite a few years. The Children's Class begins with "Mary's Muffins" and juice and continue with their Sunday School lesson presented by their teacher Amie Williams. We have 4 children now in regular attendance and we are "Expecting More"!!!

The John Wesley and Seekers Sunday School classes led by Mary Moye and Leona Rogers have been studying about the call of Moses by God

Tennille United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 265
Tennille, GA 31089

Rev. Jeff Cook, Pastor

Church Website: www.tennilleumc.org

Office 478-552-7811
Parsonage: 478-552-7883
tennilleumc@tennilleumc.org

The Tennille Testimony

to lead the Israelites from captivity in Egypt to the land which He had promised to Abraham. It was during this journey that these people were transformed into a covenant community with God. The call of God to the Israelites to live in covenant community came with specific rules for living, grounded in God's justice and mercy and intended for the good of both individuals and the larger community. As Christians, we honor and value God, each other, and ourselves when we faithfully value and honor God's words and God's ways.

As our new quarter begins on Sep 6, we will find ourselves reflecting on four leaders in the Old Testament: Joshua, Gideon, Ezra, and Nehemiah. During October we will explore stories from Mark's Gospel in which Jesus interacted with people and invited them to live in covenant with God. In November we will examine First and Second Peter to discern the qualities of people who are part of God's covenant community.

NOW

Nurture, Outreach, Witness

The Nurture, Outreach, and Witness teams are essential for planning, organizing, and carrying out the various programs and ministries of our church. I am excited about the work each of these ministries is currently doing.

Our Nurture team is responsible for worship, Christian education (Sunday

School), family ministries, older adult ministries, and reaching out to the parsonage family (you receive an A++ from Sandra and me for this one). The goal of this team is to give Christ-like attention to the needs of individuals and families of all ages within our congregation. For the 2010 year church growth has prompted us to add two new areas focusing on children's ministry and young adult ministry. Praise God for this growth!

Our Outreach team is responsible for health and welfare, Feed My Sheep, and Bread of Life. These ministries are essential to our congregation's efforts to give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy.

Our Witness team is responsible for hospitality, our website and newsletter, and our radio ministry. These ministries are essential for developing and strengthening our congregation's evangelistic efforts that allow us to give witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

For the 2010 year, we are making a slight change in how these teams work together. Rather than making plans individually, these teams will combine under one umbrella called the NOW Team. Because the needs of these ministries overlap in a number of ways, we foresee this new method of planning as

enhancing the ability of Tennille UMC to plan ministry more efficiently.

I am thrilled to be part of what God is doing and I hope that you are as well. I hope and pray that we continue to seek God in developing a vision for ministry. If you would like to be a part of what God is doing through the NOW team, first pray for the team. Second, ask God to show you where your gifts and talents can be used. You may perceive God leading you to participate in an existing ministry of the church or to help lead our church into a brand new ministry. Third, do not hesitate to get involved. Talk to me, Patsy Blount (Nurture Chair), Randy Thomas (Outreach Chair), Paula McMaster (Witness Chair) or any other church member to learn how to get started.

Rev. Jeff Cook

NEW SEATING....



If you haven't tried them out yet – you must. Our new chairs arrived in July and are a wonderful addition to our sanctuary side rooms and the W. B. Smith Building social hall. Another example of someone seeing a need in the

church and doing something about it.

We have 100 brand new, extremely comfortable, and handsomely upholstered new chairs and we are already enjoying them immensely. They have given the inside of our church a much needed 'facelift'.

Thanks so much to those who made this possible.

and... on Sunday morning Aug 2 we were so thankful for the new chairs when the sanctuary air conditioning didn't work and we had to move our Sunday morning worship service over to the W. B. Smith Building. It turned out just beautifully.



Parsonage Updates

Several needed updates have been made to the parsonage in the past two months including:

- most of the interior has been freshly painted
- many of the minor repairs have been made.
- a new Kenmore surface unit was installed in the kitchen.

The Tennille Testimony

- a Sears leaf blower was donated to the parsonage to help with the yard upkeep.

The interior of the parsonage is in good shape, however, a new roof and paint job is in the not too distant future.

Purser Media Project

The Dorris Purser Media and Audio Project donation to Tennille United Methodist Church purchased a new 55" LCD television for the W. B. Smith Building. This television was first used for a presentation at Pete and Reba's 5 years Celebration Picnic on June 17, 2009. Pictures from their past 5 years of service at TUMC were enjoyed.

We will be using it for studies, presentations, and for broadcasting services from the sanctuary in the future.

The media committee has been gathering information on the technology available to complete the project. The goals for the project are to improve our ministry of sharing God's Good News with

- audio and video distribution to the W. B. Smith Building to accommodate large crowds
- audio assistance for the hearing impaired
- infrastructure to enhance our radio broadcasts and to enhance and provide for further distribution of church services and church events.



A Taste of Tennille

Just in case you don't remember our cookbook project that started as something cool to do for ourselves – we now find that we had much fun doing it and ended up spreading a lot of memories and joy AND although it was not a fund raising project we cleared \$2,105.77 and we haven't collected for all of the last shipment and still have about 15 books left. So – in summary we have sold 335 cookbooks, shared a lot of joy and fun, helped with the refurbishing of the nursery, and made a total of \$2,105.77 so far to be used in the nursery/Sunday School area.

What project do we want to do next?

Children, Cookbooks, Choir

How could all of these relate you ask. The annex to the sanctuary will soon undergo renovation to make attractive children's Sunday School rooms, a larger choir room, as well as a room to be used as a library. This project will be funded from the sale of cookbooks, recent memorial gifts (Lewis Lockhart, Ernest Deem, Dr. William Taylor and Joseph May, Paul Thiele, and Edith McMaster) and funds from the Charles V. Ouzts Trust Fund. The area behind the chancel as well as the side rooms will also undergo renovation. Please look at these areas now and then we can all anticipate the completion of the long-neglected project.

The Tennille Testimony

Trustees Report

The Trustees have been working on plans for two related major projects. At the request of the Church Council they have been developing a long-range plan for major maintenance needs and also for renovating the Old Sunday school rooms. The potential for the Old Sunday School became readily apparent after the renovation of the nursery and the amazing change wrought by the ladies who cleaned the whole place out of years of junk and unneeded stuff. This renovation project will become a reality thanks to the generosity of the Taylor family.

The Taylor family donation, memorials to Dr Taylor, memorials to Joseph May, Lewis Lockhart, Ernest Deem, Edith McMaster, and Paul Thiele, a donation from Allen and Selwyn May, the CV Ouzts Trust and other funds will be used to renovate the Old Sunday School, the side rooms to the sanctuary, the area behind the organ and some furniture in the Pastor's study. We are working on the final details and cost along with the builder and the Finance Committee. We anticipate this project along with some repair work will be scheduled soon.

With the help of Russell Brown we have a good idea of what other major maintenance will be needed and when. Some \$35,000 of other needs have been identified that should be done sooner rather than later. These include replacing the parsonage roof, painting the

church and WB Smith building and other smaller but important items. We have already corrected the extensive damage bats did to one room in the Old Sunday School. We are working with the Finance Committee on priorities and timing.

Bread of Life

The 2nd Wednesday evening each month Tennille United Methodist Church is participating in the *Bread of Life* program. This mission provides an evening meal to almost 70 needy persons in our community.

Tennille UMC is just one of the churches in Washington County that participates in the mission program called Bread of Life---(Sandersville Christian Church and Sandersville Methodist also do this). We get our list of recipients from Sandersville Christian Church (Anne Knox Hodges heads up this program at SCC). To this county-wide list we add local and area people that we know need some TLC. Each month we include 8 -12 of our local shut-ins. It is our belief that being needy doesn't mean just economic need!! We have a team of 22 people who have made the commitment to this mission. We divide the task so that there is a team who cooks the meals and a team that delivers to each of the homes. Because our numbers are so few, many do double duty! We have marvelous financial support from several members of Tennille UMC who are not able to participate actively, and

we absolutely could not do this mission without them.

If you are not involved in this mission, you are missing a great opportunity to serve God by serving your fellow man. If you are interested in participating in this mission by preparing food please contact Mary Moye, or you may send your donations to Randy Thomas. All of the current participants of BOL feel blessed to be a part of this ministry.

Tennille UMW News



Patsy Blount, Deanna, Deidra and Catheryne Dalrymple, Leona, Rhonie, and Betty Rogers, Marjorie and Carl Wright recently attended South Georgia School of Missions at Epworth-by-the-Sea.

Catheryne and Deidra attended children and youth camp.

Patsy, Leona and Marjorie attended classes for the new UMW Studies for 2010. They are 'Food and Faith', 'The Beauty and Courage of Sudan', and 'Giving Our Hearts Away' You will be hearing more about these studies as soon as the schedules are finalized.

Keep the following in mind:

- **Aug 8**, Social Issues Workshop, Pine Forest UMC, Dublin
- **Aug 23**: election of 2010 Officers for

The Tennille Testimony

TUMW following morning worship.

- **Sept 19:** District Annual UMW Meeting, Lyons UMC.
- **Oct 17:** So GA UMW Annual Conference; Columbus, GA

Radio Ministry

We miss you when you are not in church on Sunday morning, but because of our Radio Ministry, you can tune in to radio station WSNT, 99.1 at 10:00 am for last week's sermon and WJFL 101.9 at 11:00 am for the live broadcast for the morning worship service. You can also request a recording from any Sunday service. You can also hear each week's sermon on the web – www.tennilleumc.org.

2009 South Georgia Annual Conference Session

**copied from conference brochure*

"Seek Ye First" was the theme for the 2009 South Georgia Annual Conference Session meeting June 7-10 in Columbus, Ga.

Bishop James R. King, Jr., presiding over his first Annual Conference session since becoming the resident bishop of the South Georgia Area, set the tone for the conference during the opening worship service on Monday morning.

In keeping with the theme, Bishop King challenged South Georgia United Methodist to seek God first and claim the slogan: "Growing a Christlike world."

"I want you to focus on five areas of your spiritual life in order to grow more like Christ: worship, Christian education, fellowship accountability, evangelism/witness and justice ministry," said Bishop King.

Special Offering: Central Conference Pension Initiative

Prior to this year's conference, congregations were encouraged to take up a special offering to support the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI). Together South Georgia United Methodists had the privilege of making a significant difference, collecting over \$32,000. Bishop King announced at conference that these gifts have been made even more significant by a \$500,000 donation by an anonymous donor in Georgia, with another donation possible if individuals and churches in South and North Georgia show their support by making gifts and multi-year pledges before October 1.

Day of Service

On Tuesday morning of Annual Conference, conference members traded in their coats and ties, hung up the dresses and heels and put on t-shirts that proclaimed "Seeking the SON through service." More than 400 United Methodists spread out across the community to participate various service projects during the fourth annual Great Day of Service. As Bishop King toured several of the volunteer stations, he said he found love and justice being shown to some of Columbus' neediest citizens. "I saw these Christ-like images throughout Columbus, and that was so exciting," said Bishop King. "It's amazing how manageable the Kingdom of God really is."

Constitutional Amendments

In one of the major actions at the 2009 Annual Conference session, seven hundred fifty-eight conference members voted on 32 proposed constitutional amendments, many of them related to the denomination's structure as a global body. These amendments were approved at the 2008 General Conference session and are now being considered by every United Methodist Annual Conference. Only 5 of the 32 proposed amendments received affirmative support from South Georgia representatives: II, VIII, IX, XIX, XXII.

Worship Leadership

Along with Bishop King, worship leadership was provided by Bishop Marion Edwards in the Ordination Service, Dr. Hugh Davis in the Memorial Service and Dr. Evelyn Laycock in the Bible studies.

Service of Ordination

During a Service of Ordination June 8 fourteen people were ordained as members in full connection: Carl Randy Barnhardt
Jim R. Coleman
Donald Charles Combs
Sandra Elder Conley
Walter Allen Hartsfield

Bernard Nailiang Khaw
Andrew Howard Lamon
Michael Donovan McCord
Cecile Mitchell
Ivelisse Quinones
Devin A. Schultz
Mike Toluba
Roy Alexander Tracy
Peter Willem Vermeulen

Service of Commissioning and Retirement Recognition

Eleven clergy entering into a probationary relationship with the conference were commissioned and fifteen retired clergy were honored during a Service of Commissioning and Retirement Recognition on June 8. Charles Rupert Puryear, III, was recognized as an associate member of the annual conference.

Those being commissioned as elders were:

Joel T. Bateman
George Eugene Collison, Jr.
William Jeffrey Cook
Michael R. Davis
Cathy E. Green
Brett Maddocks
Tyler Plaxico
Bruce Sack
Randall Smith
Reginald "Reggie" Williams
Don Wolfgang

Those retiring were:

Ronald L. Culpepper
Hugh L. Davis
Thomas W. Davis, Jr.
Lonnie E. Dunbar
George F. Durham
C. Graton Helms
Sandra D. Henry
Charles L. Houston, Jr.
Paula Lytle
Michael A. McAfee, Sr.
John A. Mitchell, Jr.
John J. O'Connor
Jeri V. Pruette
E. Warren Williams
Robert F. Williams

Service of Remembrance

Twenty-eight clergy and clergy spouses who died in the past year were remembered during a Memorial Service on Tuesday, June 9.

Among many other agenda items during the four-day event, conference members:

- participated in a worship experience inspired by the story of the wedding in Cana.
- approved a resolution called "Every Church Gives," which encourages that every church financially support the conference-related health and welfare agencies.

The Tennille Testimony

- reversed a decision made by the 2008 Annual Conference session which outlined a transition plan for clergy families to provide their own furnishings for the parsonage.
- approved the building of a new Conference Center in Macon.
- were introduced to Kara Witherow, editor for the new *South Georgia Advocate*, which is now a publication of the conference communications office.
- celebrated that Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. is preparing

to give a full scholarship to a qualified student from the HUMBLE United Methodist School in Uganda to attend Wesleyan College once they have completed their secondary education.

- approved a \$12.4 million budget for mission and ministry for the next year.

A complete appointment book as well as full coverage of Annual Conference may be found at

www.sgaumc.org.

Bishop King challenged South Georgia United Methodist to seek God first and claim the slogan: "Growing a Christlike world."

Make plans to be at Charge Conference October 26, 2009

August and September 2009 Birthdays

August

R. W. Wommack, III – 1
Gloria Ingram – 2
Lee Cook – 5
Mary Marshall – 7
Elsie Marchman – 7
Irene Summerlin - 9
Helen Chapman – 12
E. K. May – 12
Daniel May – 16
Anne Bazemore – 18
Faye McMaster – 20
J. W. Rhodes, Jr. – 21
Charles Nicholson – 22
Debby May – 22
Dan Moye – 29
Chris Alexander- 29
Jason Smith – 30

September

Martha Woodall-1
Jimmy Childre – 3
Ron Deem – 3
Randy Thomas – 6
Harriet Gilbert Jones – 6
Dr. Laura Taylor Pridemore – 12
Stephen Johnson – 15
Sue Burgamy - 15
Kathrine Dana – 18
Molly Knight – 27

August and September Anniversaries

August

Dr. Kenneth and Harriette Towe – 3
Chris and Margaret Alexander- 8
Jerry and Mary Knight – 10
Charles and Shirley Nicholson – 17

September

Derek and Beryl Spry – 8
Jon and Gloria Ingram – 17

Prayer List

Dennard Miller, Elsie Marchman, Betty Smith, Eunious Ethridge, Joan Borders, Noah Burgamy, George Leverett, Helen Chapman, Lucyle Ballentine, Geneva Bussel, Amelia McAfee, Ruby Hunt, Louise Cook, David Kent, Calvin Till, Rodney Ray, Mercedes Youmans, Frank Hill, Rev. Ramus Freeman, Margaret Northington, Joe Thomas, Zoan Gentner, Jenna Rae Migdon, Debbie & Mack McArty, Nicole Ray, Gloria Ingram, Jim Pentecost, Betty Barlow family, Bill Montgomery, Halie Montgomery, Kim Brooks, Amie Williams, Tom Mingledorf, Johnny Mimbs, Tommy West, Marjorie Johnson, Tamara Yates, Angela Farmer Woods, Mike Leimers, Johnny Ellis Family, Tommy Rountree, Brownie Barksdale, Drew Brantley, Lee Cook, Jim Dunn, Betty Ward

The Tennille Testimony

Tennille United Methodist Church Financial Report July 2009

Conference and District Apportionments	2009 Budget	Paid to Date		
World Service Fund	1,386.00	808.50	Other	Paid to Date
Conference Benevolences	1,126.00	656.83	Magnolia Manor	176.00
Congregational Development	1,142.00	666.17	Christian Life Center	100.00
Clergy Support	2,049.00	1,195.25	Wesleyan Christian Adv.	190.00
Pre-1982 Pension & MPP	1,527.00	890.75	Gideons International	215.00
Comprehensive Protection Plan	724.00	422.33	CCPI	100.00
Health Flex (retired clergy)	1,019.00	594.42		
Health Flex (disabled clergy)	162.00	94.50		
Administrative Expenses	1,017.00	593.25		
State Cooperative Fund	80.00	46.67		
Christian Higher Education	802.00	467.83		
SEJ Mission and Ministry	115.00	67.08		
Africa University Fund	40.00	23.33		
Black College Fund	179.00	104.42		
General Administration Fund	144.00	84.00		
General Church Episcopal Fund	352.00	205.33		
Inter-denominational Co-op Fund	35.00	20.42		
Ministerial Education Fund	448.00	261.33		
Dublin District Parsonage Fund	467.00	272.42		
Dublin Dist. Operational & Program Fund	1,238.00	722.17		
Buildings and Grounds				
Church and Parsonage Maintenance	2,400.00	2,965.03		
Insurance	3,368.00			
Utilities	8,000.00	4,639.96		
Yard	3,000.00	2,589.60		
Termite Control	600.00	392.00		
Parsonage Improvements	1,000.00	3,830.52		
Operational Expenses			Month of July	
Janitorial Service	2,500.00	1,353.44	Contributions	9,178.70
Janitorial Supplies	50.00	12.84	Disbursements	8,929.71
Office Supplies	1,200.00	636.76		
Social Hall Supplies	150.00	139.69		
Annual Conference Expense	500.00			
Musical Instrument Maintenance	500.00	296.00	Check Book	
Miscellaneous	1,200.00	902.44	Balance as of 12/31/08	18,404.90
			Deposits:	
Program and Ministry			Pledges	66,529.91
Prayer Ministry	250.00	78.56	Basket	1,656.10
Family Ministry	150.00	99.07	Disbursements	68,871.06
Nursery		600.00		
Worship	300.00		Balance as of 7/31/09	17,719.85
Music	3,000.00	1,729.00		
Missions	800.00	400.00	Golden Savings Balance	7,230.56
Hospitality (Evangelism)	500.00	150.00		
Media Ministry (Internet/Newsletter/Radio)	7,900.00	4,279.17		
Ministerial Support				
Salary	45,198.00	25,932.33		
Ministerial Pension Plan	5,832.00	3,591.48		
HealthFlex (Blue Cross/Blue Shield)	7,800.00	4,050.00		
Pastor's Exp. Acct.(incl. CEU & Annual Conf.)	3,650.00	2,006.17		
Total	113,900.00	68,871.06		

The Tennille Testimony

Dates to Remember

Wednesday August 26, 7:00 pm: Bible Study

Monday, August 24, 6:30 pm: NOW Meeting at W. B. Smith Building
(This meeting for everyone involved in or interested in the Ministries of the Church- Nurture, Outreach and Witness)

Sunday August 23 after church: UMW meeting to elect officers

Thursday August 27, 5:30 pm: PPR committee meeting at W.B. Smith Building

Monday, October 26, 6:00 pm: Covered Dish and Charge Conference at W. B. Smith Building

Tennille United Methodist Church
PO Box 265
Tennille, GA 31089