

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

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Leona Rogers 478-552-7838 or [rhonie@washemc.net](mailto:rhonie@washemc.net)

Reba Barlow 478-552-7883 or [pereb@bellsouth.net](mailto:pereb@bellsouth.net)

**Special Christmas Music  
By the Chancel Choir  
December 11, 2005**

The chancel choir, under the direction of Margaret Northington, will present a Christmas Cantata ‘**The Advent of Hope, The Birth of Peace**’ on Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2005 at 5:00 PM in the church sanctuary. We are very pleased to have Don and Mercedes Youmans joining with us for this occasion. Mercedes will be accompanying the choir on the organ; Don will be singing in the Tenor section. Members of the choir include: Altos –Margaret Alexander, Georgeanne Cook, and Mary Moye; Sopranos – Reba Barlow, Patsy Blount, Dana Chamma, Leona Rogers, Laura Smith, Martha Taylor and Randy Thomas; Bass – Ron Deem; Tenor – Pete Barlow and Don Youmans. A reception will follow in the W.B. Smith Bldg. Prepare your favorite ‘finger foods’.

**Annual Christmas Party  
December 7, 2005**

The annual Christmas party, hosted by Tennille United Methodist Women, will be held on December 7, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the W.B. Smith Bldg. This is a church-wide party. Our guests for the evening will be Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Baxter who serve the Wrightsville Charge. This is a perfect time to invite others to church for a time of food, fun, and fellowship. Bring your favorite dish.

**Christmas Eve Communion  
December 24, 2005 at 5:00 pm**

**December 25, 2005**

Worship Service at 11:00 am

**Church Directory Photographs will be taken for the church directory on December 5, 2005 from 3:00 - 9:30 PM.** We don’t want anyone to be left out. If you haven’t made an appointment, call Mary Moye.



**Chrismon Tree**

Christian monograms have been used throughout the ages as signs of the Christian Faith. Each monogram has a meaning of its own. Using Christian symbols to decorate a Christmas tree is a way of showing the deep spiritual meaning of Christmas. At Tennille United Methodist Church we have been using the Chrismon Tree as a traditional part of our worship setting during the Advent Season. This tradition was begun in 1983 when the John Wesley Class sponsored a Candlelight Tour of Homes as a means of raising funds for the renovation of the original

Sunday school wing. For many years, Mrs. Elizabeth Simmons had a desire for a Chrismon Tree in our church. This Candlelight Tour which was to include the Tennille Church was the incentive we needed to make her desire a reality. Under the direction of Rev. Don Youmans and Leona Rogers, kits of fabric, thread and patterns were assembled and needleworkers began to stitch the counted-cross-stitch ornaments which were then inserted into gold frames. The stitchers who helped make the ornaments included: Sheila N. Agers, Becky Beville, Jean Beville, Kathleen Gilbert, Bobbie Helton, Harriet Jones, Kay McMaster, Paula McMaster, Dan Moye, Shirley Nicholson, Becky N. Prince, Leona Rogers, Joan Smith, Martha Taylor, Ann M. Warren, Jeanette R. Ward, Betty Wommack, Rev. Don Youmans. Beryl Spry stitched the chrismons on the tree skirt. An album was prepared with pictures of the symbols along with their meaning. This is usually placed on the piano for viewing.

**Christmas Caroling**

**December 21, 2005 at 6:00 pm**

Meet at the church and join with us as we visit shut-ins and sing Christmas carols to them. We have been invited to the home of Margaret Alexander for hot chocolate and refreshments following our time of caroling. All are invited for this special night.

**Reba reflects on some of Pastor Pete’s recent sermons on page 4**

**Pastor Pete ponders the Spirit of Advent on page 5**

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

Rev. Peter Barlow, Pastor

Church Website: [www.tennilleumc.org](http://www.tennilleumc.org)

Office 478-552-7811  
Parsonage: 478-552-7838  
[tenilleumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:tenilleumc@bellsouth.net)

## Bread of Life

The second Wednesday evening each month Tennille United Methodist Church is participating in the *Bread of Life* program. This mission is now providing an evening meal to almost 60 needy families in our community. The sign up sheet is in the narthex of the church on Sundays or you can contact Martha Taylor or Randy Thomas to find out how you can help. You can send a monetary donation for the purchase of food items if you would like to help. Make your check payable to 'Feed My Sheep' with a notation to be used for Bread of Life. This may be sent to the church and it will be passed on to the appropriate person. Your life will be blessed in a special way as you experience the opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus by providing for the needs of our neighbors! The menu to be served for December

## The Tennille Testimony

will be Grilled Chicken, Corn on the cob, green beans with bread and dessert, milk and lemonade.

## Grand Sweep

We have completed 28 weeks of our Grand Sweep Study, but it is never too late to join us as we continue to study God's Word during the Sunday school hour. Using Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas' systematic approach to daily Bible reading makes for an exciting study. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45.

## TUMC Website

Thanks to Selwyn May, the TUMC has a web site. Important news about the church and photos of special events are posted on the site. Visit at [www.tennilleumc.org](http://www.tennilleumc.org) and

click on the links to explore the site. I think you will love it.

## Radio Ministry

Tennille United Methodist Church Services are aired on radio station WJFL 101.9 on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am. Recorded worship services are also available for purchase. You may access the TUMC website for a listing of sermon topics; then submit your order via email or call the church at 478-552-7811. Tapes are \$2.00 each (if mailed) or \$1.00 each (if picked up from the church).

Pete also has devotions once a month on radio station WACO 100 which run for 1 minute each day for a week.

In Reba's column, "Reba's Reflections", Reba talks about Pastor Pete's sermons for the last few weeks. You can be inspired by these sermons also by ordering them.

**ALPHA:** A ten week opportunity to explore the validity relevance of the Christian faith to your life today. It is a practical introduction to the basics of Christianity centered around a meal, a talk, and small group discussion.

**A:** anyone is invited

**L:** Learning together

**P:** Pasta, a meal together

**H:** Helping each other

**A:** Any question is allowed

Alpha is for everyone, especially: Those wanting to investigate Christianity, New Christians, Newcomers to the church, and those who want to brush up on the basics.

### Talk Titles

Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant? Who Is Jesus? Why Did Jesus Die?

How Can I Be Sure of My Faith? Why and How Should I Read the Bible?

Why and How Do I Pray? How Does God Guide Us? Who Is the Holy Spirit?

What Does the Holy Spirit Do? How Can I Be Filled With the Spirit?

How Can I Resist Evil? Why and How Should We Tell Others? Does God Heal Today?

What about the Church? How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?

Start April 2006.

Training for the team starts January 2006

## Restoration of the Sanctuary Pipe Organ

Tennille United Methodist Church is undertaking the restoration of the sanctuary pipe organ that was given to the church in 1964 in memory of William Holder Smith. Under the masterful talent of Charles V. Smith, church organist from 1948-1992, this magnificent musical instrument has graced our church sanctuary and has been a focal point for worship services for over forty years. We are fortunate to have had many fine musicians who have served us as church organist, including Jeri Barton, Mercedes Youmans, Loretha Thiele, Beryl Spry and our present organist, Margaret Northington.

The restoration of the pipe organ will be dedicated to the memory of Charles V. Ouzts and Charles V. Smith. These two longtime members and benefactors of Tennille United Methodist Church would be pleased to be remembered in this manner. The church will hold a special organ rededication ceremony when the restoration work is completed.

The cost of the restoration is \$71,000 since many parts of this fine instrument are no longer produced and will need to be completely rebuilt. This project will take approximately one year. The A.E. Scheluter Organ Company in Lithonia is doing the restoration work. A.E. Scheluter technicians have maintained our organ for over thirty years. Thus, we are confident of the skill and ability of this company to restore our pipe organ to its original quality.

To date a total of \$40,000 has been pledged. Many in our church and community remember both Charlie Ouzts and Charlie Smith with much fondness and appreciate what they have done for Tennille United Methodist Church over the years. Therefore, many donors are expected to participate in this memorial and historic preservation endeavor.

If you would like to make contributions in memory of or in honor of your friends and family, these gifts will be acknowledged. Contributions should be mailed to Tennille United Methodist Church Organ Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 192, Tennille Georgia, 31089.

The fundraising committee for the restoration project is composed of Lucy Nell Smith, Martha Taylor, Jean Bevill, Mary Moye, Allen Smith and Derek Spry. The committee will be glad to answer any questions about this project.

*Mary Moye*

## *Reba's Reflections*

Over the past month our pastor (that's my sweetie) has been giving us some wonderful advice and teaching us virtuous qualities. Oct. 23 he taught us to pray trustfully, thankfully, and tenaciously. Hebrews 4:4-16 tells us to hold fast our confession, approach the Throne room boldly. James tells us if we pray believing we receive. Phil. 4:4-6 says to rejoice in the Lord with thanksgiving. Let your requests be known to God. Rejoice your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life. Everything is secondary to salvation. Thankful people give and operate thankfully. Don't give up, but listen for God's answer, wait for His timing. Don't forsake small beginnings.

Isn't God wonderful! Sometimes with all the things we have to be thankful for we still forget to praise Him for all He has done. Knowing that Christ loves us enough to come and live as we live, die of His own volition, just to reconcile us to God and give us abundant life everlasting is enough for us jump up every morning singing praises to Him. He did all that for us, not for Him. Of course His love for us did give Him a need to commune with us again, but our life was really what He was thinking of when He did it. In doing all this He has shown us how much He trusts us, is thankful for us...He still thinks all He made is good (imagine that after putting up with all of us), and He is tenacious about our relationship with Him. So much so He sent His son. He gives us His Holy Spirit to comfort, guide, and teach us in all things. Can't we find time to do the same? Trust Him, be Thankful for Him and our relationship with Him, and be Tenacious about keeping it flowing strong.

Then on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Pete taught us how to lead other's to Christ by the way of the Roman's Road; a road that reminds us how gracious our God is. Once we have acknowledged that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God and that wages of sin is death, and it is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ we are saved not by works, because He accomplished work on the cross with His death; then we can call on His name believing and be saved; then confess with our mouth that He is Lord. He isn't ashamed of us, so we can't be ashamed of Him.

Of course on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> we honored all our saints including Ruth Smith and Charles Outz that have gone on to be with the Lord. Ruth's daughter, Connie lit a candle for her mother. Gus Outz lit a candle for Charles and Jean Bevell lit one for all the others who have gone on before us.

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> was a glorious day for us all as we celebrated the baptism of Johnny Mimbs and vowed to teach him about His Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Thank you, Randy & Joe for allowing Pete and I to be a part of such a wonderful day in your lives. We also want to congratulate you on your new addition, Sabrina. What a glorious day in her life, to be made part of yours. Thank you for all you in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, all of TUMC, for the love and support you have given to Pete and me. We are continuously in awe of the love here. We know that you spoil everyone you come in contact with, not just the parsonage families. And for that we rejoice with the Lord at your service to Him. Many blessings to you all!

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Pete picked back up on his teachings. We learned the what, why, where, and how of praise. Genuine praise is done with humility and sincere devotion to the Lord from within...on a continual basis. If it is nothing but, in our hearts we say, thank you. Remember He in habits the praises of His people...what a glorious thought, being in His presence continually. Why do we praise? Well if His presence or creation isn't enough, how about provisions, redemption? We praise Him in His temple (that's in us), among our enemies & non believers, and on our **way to worship**. We do this joyfully even if we have to say 'bless the Lord, oh my soul. We also strive for excellence, with full energy...even in our hearts. He hears music every time we speak..

# *Pastor Pete's Ponderings*

## **The Spirit of Advent**

November 27 is the beginning of the Advent season leading up to Christmas. Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” The season proclaims the comings of Christ—whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the Christian community of faith to prepare for these comings.

Therefore Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

As you and I prepare for the Christmas holidays let us also remember to include Christ in our preparations. Let us remember not only to celebrate His birth but also that He ultimately reigns as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Let me challenge us all to include Christ in our preparations.

## **How can you include Christ in your Christmas Preparations?**

I'd like to list a few that our family has either done or I have heard about.

- ❖ Have a Christmas or Chrismon Tree blessing at home.
- ❖ Have a family prayer after the tree/house is decorated.
- ❖ Have an Advent Wreath at home; light the candles each Sunday.
- ❖ Have an Advent calendar at home.
- ❖ Include a gift for Jesus in your Christmas budget. Maybe 10% of budget. Give the gift to the Children's home or other worthy ministry.
- ❖ Bake Jesus a birthday cake.
- ❖ Come to Christmas Eve Communion Service or go to a Mass. Or both.
- ❖ Come to worship on Christmas Day.
- ❖ Join us for Caroling on December 21.
- ❖ Read the Christmas Story.
- ❖ Do an Advent Bible Study.
- ❖ Adopt a needy family.
- ❖ Join for Bread of Life.

What does your family do to prepare for and include Jesus? How about sharing them with the rest of us? Send them to me and we'll put them in the bulletin and on the WEB site.

Reba and I want to thank you all for the many ways you continue bless us. It will be a Merry Christmas for us because we'll spend it in Tennille. We want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

**The Tennille Testimony**  
**Our Prayer Concerns and Praise Reports**

Name	Praise Reports
Peter Barlow	
Bob Northington	
Jim Kitchings	
Jerry Gill	
Tim & Danielle Patnode	
Tom Mingledorf	
Marie Hagood	
Estelle Webb	
Diane Haywood	
Mac Brantley	
Dr. William Taylor	
Hazel & Dennard Miller	
Ruby Brantley	
Hilda Etheridge	
Lamar & Nicole Belew	
Bess Freeman	
Roger Deem,	
Reba Barlow	
Maggie Farmer	
George Logue	
Elmer Moss	Praise God, his cancer is shrinking, blood count good
Elsie Marchman	
Katrina, Rita & Wilma Victims	
Soldiers	
Ruth Ann Johnson	
Billie Jean Wofford	
Frankie Frost	
Daniel May	
Steve & Jennie Johnson	
Louise Cook	
Jack Cook	
Henrietta Lewis	
Family of J. Louie Davis	
Wilmer Tanner	

Please pray for these people daily as you pray. Who do you know needs prayer? Could it be you? Has God answered any of the above prayers? Let us rejoice with you. Submit to Reba Barlow – [pereb@bellsouth.net](mailto:pereb@bellsouth.net) or call 478-552-7883 or hand me their written name please.