



THE TENNILLE TESTIMONY

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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Happy New Year

As we begin a new year, the first thing we will probably do is to make sure we have a 2006 calendar to put on our desk or hang on the wall as a reminder of what day it is and what we may or may not have planned. Think about it—this new calendar is filled with lots of potential—365 days of blank squares to be filled in by us with every occasion that is important to us: birthdays and anniversaries; important meetings, club dates, doctor appointments, beauty shop appointments, church meetings. It won't take long to have a calendar so cluttered with 'things to do' that we seem to have no time left over.

I guess that's why I like a new year, so I can start afresh with a new blank calendar—and for a short while I seem to be able to control the clutter of a busy life. As I began to prepare this Newsletter, I realized that for the month of January we seem to be at a point where we have an almost empty calendar except for the events that happen on a weekly (Sunday School and Church) or monthly basis (UMC Circle Meetings, Bread of Life). With this in mind, I suggest that we take this time to reflect on what we as a church and servants of God wish to accomplish for God during 2006. How will we serve HIM? How will we bring glory to HIS name? How will our lives reflect HIM as we go out into the community? How will others know we belong to HIM? I believe that if our focus is on HIM, we won't have to worry about 'clutter' in our lives. *Leona*

Special Prayer

Reba's son, Lamar and many other soldiers are getting ready to come home, but they are being attacked fiercely. Please pray for their safety and the families (at least four) that have already received the dreaded visit saying they lost their loved one during this Christmas Season and so close to the time of their home coming.

Christmas Music Recorded

Recordings of the Christmas Cantata are available in the narthex of the church. You may make a donation to the organ restoration fund to show your appreciation.

Christmas Caroling

12 carolers met at the church on a crisp cold night to go caroling. We visited with and sang for Bill and Martha Taylor, Louise Cook, Allen Veal, Helen Chapman, Catherine Lewis, Buddy and Gus Ouzts, Norman Marshall, and Harry and Kathleen Gilbert. At the home of the Gilberts, we were invited to join Harry at his 'Railroad Depot' and enjoyed viewing his auto and train collection. After donning his engineers' cap, Harry turned on the power and with great skill guided three trains through his Christmas village. We then gathered at the home of Margaret Alexander for hot chocolate and refreshments. All of us enjoyed a wonderful night of singing, fun and fellowship as we brought Christmas Cheer to others. We hope you will plan to join us next year.

Congratulations

Johnny Mimbs has been accepted at the Academy for the Blind in Macon, GA. He will start school there when the term starts in January. We are very proud of Johnny and his accomplishments.

January 4, 2006

Annie Lou Hodges Circle, 7:30 pm
At the home of Patsy Blount with guest speaker, Marjorie Wright, Dublin District Vice-president

January 18, 2006, 10:30 am

Erin Holder Smith Circle

February 5, 2006, 12:00, noon

Soup-er Sunday Luncheon

As has been our custom, on Super Bowl Sunday we will have a soup and sandwich luncheon following the morning worship hour. This will be a fund-raising luncheon with donations going to the Organ Restoration Fund. Watch for more detail in the Sunday Bulletin.

February 5, 2006

Pastor Pete will be running in the Mardi Gras Marathon in New Orleans. Pete would like to have people sponsor him in this race with proceeds going to the Katrina Victims through UMCOR. A marathon is 26.2 miles. Pete has set a goal of \$2620. This works out to 100 people sponsoring Pete at \$1 per mile, or \$26.20 per person. If you would like to sponsor Pete, make your check payable to TUMC and designate it MARATHON.

February 12, 2006, 2:30

UMW Service of Prayer and Self Denial

Please see calendar for all events.

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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 January will

The Tennille Testimony

be Chili, bread and dessert, milk and lemonade.

Grand Sweep

We have completed 32 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 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

Reba's Reflections

We were very honored and fortunate to have Dr. Hamby Barton with us on Nov. 27. Here is a briefing of his sermon that day, given by him. (Thank you Dr. Barton) Take note that in the 23rd. Psalm we do not stay *in* the valley of death, but go *through* it. And when we come out on the other side we will be greeted by an invitation to God's banquet! In John 20, Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus replied, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Hamby shared with us the events of Jerry's death. She was conscious of her impending death, and as she accepted God's call home, she smiled. Hamby also shared his own anguish, like Martha, he said, "Jesus, where are you? I have preached the resurrection for sixty years." Jesus said, "That's fine, but do you believe it?" In Barrie's play, "Peter Pan", the fairy, Tinker Bell, is dying, her little light is going out. Barry has the character of Peter step outside the curtain and ask the audience, "Do you believe in fairies? The audience responds, "I believe," and Tinker Bell revives, her little light glows again. We say in the creed: "I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Hamby said, "After much anguish and questions, I can say, "I believe." Will you say with me, "I believe?"

On Dec. 4 Pastor Pete encourages us to prepare for **Christ** (mas). These are some really good ways to start off a New Year. 1 John 1:1-9 tells us to prepare with confession and as we do, God is faithful & just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. John 15:1-7 reminds us to prepare by being obedient, and we can do that best by abiding in Him. This is when the fruit of the Lord is evident in our lives. All else fails – read the instructions – the Holy Bible. Then Ephesians lets us know it is by faith that we receive the gift of God, not by our works. Pastor asks us to prepare for God to do a new thing in our lives. What would you put on your **wish list**? Win someone to Christ? Reflect His image?

Dec 11 brought the Good News of Christmas because it brings joy, unity, and salvation. Christmas gives us a hope for all tomorrows as we put away the things of the past and begin welcoming the new things God is doing in our lives. Let Christ be born in you today, bringing with Him gifts of salvation, joy, and unity in your lives. What a wonderful thought as we are going in to the New Year. See John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13, 23; Eph 1:13; 4:3; 1Peter 3:8; Jude 1:3

And last but certainly not least, how do you receive the angels in your life? Well here is a little Angel Etiquette. Of course we want to give the proper greeting – notice in Luke 1:26 -38 how the angel greets Mary. Do you let the people in your life...including yourself, know they are favored (filled with grace) of the Lord? Don't be perplexed with that knowledge, receive it. You have found favor from God. We also want to keep in mind that God's calendar is different than ours...let His timing come. It may be earlier than we think... 'Wait a minute God; I need to be trained for that.' Or it could come later than we think. But whenever it comes, expect the impossible to come forth. Who would ever think I would be a DJ of a radio station, or in sales? Not me. Remember, God is able to do exceedingly more than we can ever think or imagine. Then we must not think twice, do quickly what He says to do, unless of course He lets you know it is for later. We, like the military, must be on guard for our angel encounters... they are our messengers of God...they could be in the person of you spouse, child, friend or just a still small voice of the Lord full of encouragement and love for you. Open your heart today to all the good gifts God has for you, and expect nothing but His best.

Pastor Pete's Ponderings

I hope you have a "Merry Epiphany." That's right; January 6 is the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus. Although some churches will celebrate this day on Sunday, January 1, for most this day comes and goes without much recognition. The Epiphany (Manifestation) of the Lord (January 6), an even more ancient celebration among Christians than Christmas, originally focused on the nativity, incarnation, and baptism of Christ. Today we celebrate the coming of the three wise men (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ child.

Epiphany also marks the end of the Christmas Season—that's right, it's still Christmas according to the Christian Calendar. Christmas didn't end on December 25, that's actually the beginning. The twelve days of Christmas are from Christmas Eve till January 5.

I'm you are familiar with the song: "*The Twelve Days of Christmas.*" But are you aware of the origin of this song? According to the Catholic Information Network, (cin.org) the song was written as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith during a time when they were forbidden to practice their faith in England during the period 1558-1829.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following: **2** Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments; **3** French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues; **4** Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists; **5** Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace; **6** Geese A-laying = the six days of creation; **7** Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments; **8** Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes; **9** Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit; **10** Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments; **11** Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles; **12** Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

Let me challenge you in two areas as we begin this New Year: first, join the wise men and make a gift to the Christ child this year. Offer your self as a holy and living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1) Bring some evidence of your gift to Christ to worship on January 1, Epiphany Sunday. During the Communion Service you will have an opportunity to leave you gift for Christ at the Altar. Be creative in selecting the gift that will represent how you will give yourself to Jesus in 2006. You can retrieve your gift following the worship service.

Secondly, learn the twelve days of Christmas. No, not the song, you probably already know it. Learn what the song is about. Pick one of the days of the song, like day 12, and learn about the Apostles' Creed. Take day 7 and learn about the sacraments. Learn why some denominations recognize different numbers of sacraments. Learn what other names some denominations have for the sacraments.

One final thought from our Charge Conference, let's remember we are the light of the world, (Matthew 5:14) therefore "*Let us trim our wicks in 2006.*"

Pastor Pete

The Tennille Testimony

Our Prayer Concerns and Answers

Name	Name
Peter & Reba Barlow	Stan Carter (wife died 12/26)
Bob Northington	Douglas Welch (wife died 12/25)
Jim Kitchings	Family of Dorothy Chapman Brett
Jerry Gill	
Tim & Danielle Patnode	
Tom Mingledorff	
Marie Hagood	
Estelle Webb	
Diane Haywood	
Mac Brantley	
Dr. William Taylor	
Hazel & Dennard Miller	
Rubye Brantley	
Hilda Etheridge	
Lamar & Nicole Belew	
Bess Freeman	
Roger Deem	
Scott, Holly & Shawn Smith	
Maggie Farmer	
George Logue	
Elmer Moss	
Elsie Marchman	
All Disaster Victims	
Soldiers	
Ruth Ann Johnson	
Billie Jean Wofford	
Frankie Frost	
Lee Cook	
Daniel May	
Steve & Jennie Johnson	
Louise Cook	
Jack Cook	
Henrietta Lewis	
Judy Davis	
Katherine May	

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 or call 478-552-7883 or hand me their written name please.