

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 3, Issue 8

August 1, 2007

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Pastor Pete and Reba are sporting their coveted 'Peachtree Road Race 2007' T-shirts. On July 4, they walked in this race. Two of their grandchildren, Rivers and Chase, are shown hiding in the shadows at the top of the water slide.

Reba says: 'Praise God for His healing power, I was finally able to join Pete in this 6.2 mile race. Though we both only walked, we did it fast enough to get a t-shirt. Pete was kind enough to stay with me though he could have finished much sooner. It was a wonderful experience.'

Loyalty Sunday September 9, 2007

Loyalty Sunday will be held September 9, 2007 at the Tennille United Methodist Church. At the 2006 Loyalty Sunday, the Finance Committee asked each member of the church to fill out and sign an estimate of giving card so that a realistic budget for the church could be planned. The 2006 Loyalty Sunday was successful because members of the church were very generous. The Finance committee again asks each church member to try to be in attendance on September 9th

as we remember the mission of the church to be a blessing to others.

Financial update for the first half of 2007

The numbers look good. For the period January through June our income was \$53,954 and our expenses \$50,942. We are on budget and available cash has held steady. This is all thanks to you giving exactly what you told us you would give and keeping spending within budget

Maintenance of the churchyard is starting to cost us more. In the past, thanks to Ike Beville and his hard work, the rest of us have been relieved of much of this responsibility.

We have started thinking about the 2008 budget. In addition to the churchyard we already know that next year we lose a 25% discount on the health insurance program and will need to consider the increase for pastors recommended at annual conference. It will however be the results of Loyalty Sunday on September 9 that will dictate what we have to spend. Your treasurer and finance chair look forward to this with nervous anticipation. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Jean Beville
Derek Spry

August Camp Meeting Days

As is our tradition we will observe Camp Meeting Days through August. We invite you to dress casual for worship. We will also have visiting speakers each Sunday to talk to us about missions. We will hear about local and foreign missions. Besides sharing during worship, two of our speakers (*) will also share during Sunday School. We hope you will plan to be here during the Sunday School hour as well as during worship.

August 5: (*) Mr. Kip Robinson:
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

August 12: Rev. Robert Kea:
New Life Program for Men,
Treutlen County

August 19: (*) Mr. Nick Morgan:
Sandersville UMC Youth
Director Oconee Outreach

August 26: Mr. Matthew Appel:
Missionary to England

Flowers for Church

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday morning during September or October, contact our Flower Chairperson, Gus Ouzts, at 552-5736. She has a few Sundays available.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of

Rev. Lawrence A. Lemon

Elizabeth Burgess Lemon
Brentwood Nursing Home
115 Brentwood Drive,
Waynesboro, GA 30830

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

Rev. Peter Barlow, Pastor

Church Website: www.tennilleumc.org

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

**Church Council Meeting
With Covered Dish Meal
August 19, 2007**

TUMC 3rd Quarter Church Council Meeting will be held on August 19, 2007 following morning worship. This is a time when you will learn about what is happening or being planned for our church. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite foods. We would also encourage you to bring a recipe or two as well. We enjoy our fellowship dinners and would like to compile a church cookbook of your favorite recipes.

Sermon CDs

Besides listening in person on Sunday mornings, there are three other options to hear Pastor Pete's sermons.

1. On WJFL, 101.9 FM Sunday mornings at 9:00 am
2. Our WEB site:
www.tennilleumc.org
3. On a CD: You can pick the CD up at the church for \$1.00 or have it mailed to you for \$2.50. You may consider sponsoring a shut-in for \$10 per month. Let Pastor Pete know if you would like to order the CDs.

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**Visioning Team Meeting
Monday, August 20 7pm**

The visioning team will meet on Monday, August 20 at 7pm to begin training and become familiar with the process developed by Dr. Brad Brady.

Church Directories

Tennille UMC Directories have arrived. If you have not received your copy, contact the church office – 552-7811

Ball Room Dance Classes

Join the fun of ballroom dance every Thursday at 7pm. Frank Hill is an excellent dance instructor.

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 60 needy persons in our community. The menu for August 8 is hot dogs, coleslaw, potato chips, fruit cocktail, dessert, and milk. You can help in many ways—by preparing food, helping with deliveries, or with a financial contribution. Contact Randy Thomas at 552-7679 or Mary Moye at 552-7703 for more details.

CARNIVAL FOR CHRIST

October 29, 2007

We're planning now for the 2007 Carnival. The Planning Team is looking for 2 people from each congregation; if you would like to serve on this team please let the pastor know. Pastor Pete sends a special 'Thank You' to the 10 persons who each gave \$25 to meet our goal of \$250.

Tennille UMW News

August 19: UMW General Meeting to be held following worship to elect General Officers for 2008

Looking Ahead

September 5: Annie Lou Hodges Circle will meet with Reba Barlow, 7:30 pm

September 19: Erin Holder Smith Circle will meet with Mary Eva Rowley, 10:30 am

September 22: Dublin District UMW Annual Meeting will be held at Swainsboro UMC, 10 am

October 21: South Georgia UMW Annual Conference, Douglas UMC, Waycross District, 10 am

Pastor Pete's projected schedule for September—Mark's of Disciple Series

Sept 2: **Good and Generous Stewardship** – Christ followers recognize that everything they are and have is a gift from God, and use their resources to participate in the restoration of the world through building God's Kingdom.

Sept 9: **Loyalty Sunday**

Sept 16: **Grace** – Christ followers understand and have received Jesus' saving grace, and desire to extend the unconditional love they've received to others in their community, country, and around the world.

Sept 23: **Group** – Christ followers participate in biblically-based community in order to grow in Christ-likeness, to express and receive love, and to carry out the mission of the church.

Sept 30: **Growth** – Christ followers participate in the transformation of their minds, character, actions, and influence through intentional life-long interaction with Jesus.

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Pastor Pete's Ponderings

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

“1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do. I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams. I love to tell the story, it did so much for me; and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

3. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

4. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.” (Katherine Hankey, 1868)

Do you love to tell the story? Do you have a story to tell? Does the Tennille UMC have a story to tell?

Of course the Christian, the one who has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb has a *story to tell of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love*. Consequently, the congregation of the Tennille UMC, a community of Believers has a story to tell—*for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word*.

The visioning process we have embarked on will help us find new ways of telling the story. We'll find other options to say *it did so much for me; and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee*. Let's not wait for it to be our theme in glory—let's make it our theme now to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

As we think of ways to tell the story as a congregation, I believe it is important for each Believer to be ready to tell his/her story. Psalm 107:2 exclaims, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!” In fact, this entire Psalm (107) is given to testifying of the goodness and grace of God to his people. It is a tradition that has a long and wonderful history — “giving our testimony” we call it, telling others what God has done in us and for us. I love to tell people how God has saved me, and I love to hear from others the details of their own salvation story. Few conversations are more effective evangelistically, and few are more enriching to believers.

If we are redeemed we are to say so! We ought to be prepared to share our story. We ought to be ready to say so! There are several models as to how one might to share his/her story. The following is just a suggestion to look at. It's not the only way, however I challenge you to take a look at the outline and, if you haven't already, begin to formulate an outline of your own story.

In the book of Acts the apostle Paul provides a good testimony model for us. He tells what he was before Christ, how he came to Christ, and what Christ has done for him and meant to him since. Here is a pattern for sharing

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your story with the lost or with fellow Christians — before, how, and since. The following is taken from Fred G. Zaspel, Pastor Cornerstone Church.

Before: It has been common in some Christian settings to hear people dwell long on the ugly sins of their past life. It may indeed be helpful at times to make reference to the life from which Christ has saved us, but we should be very careful not to introduce unhealthy thoughts to others. Nor must we ever lose sight of where we are going in this or forget that this testimony is not about us, after all, but about Christ. So you will want to mention some of your particulars — the deep needs you began to feel in your soul, the lack of peace, a fear of death, the sense of sin, hopelessness, helplessness, desperation, lostness. What were your attitudes? Problems? What was most important to you at that time? Perhaps there was a particular sin that stood between you and God, some “darling sin” you were determined never to give up. Perhaps it was a false religion that kept you ensnared and blinded from the gospel. All this can inform “your story” very well. In short, tell us where you were when Christ found you.

How: Now that you have provided the backdrop, you can tell more precisely how it was God brought you to faith in Christ. Perhaps there was a crisis event in your life, or then again perhaps it was all quite surprising. Perhaps there was a Scripture verse that was brought to mind or that was shown you by a Christian friend. Perhaps it was the continued witness of a Christian friend. Perhaps there was first hostility against him. Perhaps he or she addressed a specific need. Perhaps it was the joy you saw in a suffering Christian that first struck you. Perhaps you began to search for peace in the wrong places. But then you heard (or remembered?) the gospel. Where did you hear it? From whom? What was your initial response? How was it God first captured your attention, brought you to recognize your lostness and need of Christ, and brought you to surrender to Christ in faith and repentance? At this point, particularly if you were addressing an unbeliever, you would want to include clear mention of the essentials of the gospel — Christ the substitute, the demand of faith alone, the inadequacy of our works, etc.

Since: Has the problem been fixed? Has the need been met, the void filled, has desperation given way to joy and confidence? What difference has Christ made in your life? How has he affected your attitudes or daily experience? Have there been significant struggles of some sort since coming to Christ? How has knowing Christ helped? What, to you, is the value of knowing Christ? What does he mean to you now?

There it is — a story well worth telling. Do not worry that your testimony has no “exciting” chapters, and do not feel tempted to embellish it to make it more attractive. You may reflect on it all with more mature Christian understanding, but you needn’t try to make your story more than it was. The simple relating of a Christian’s conversion experience is precisely what God has used many times to reach others.

Pastor Pete

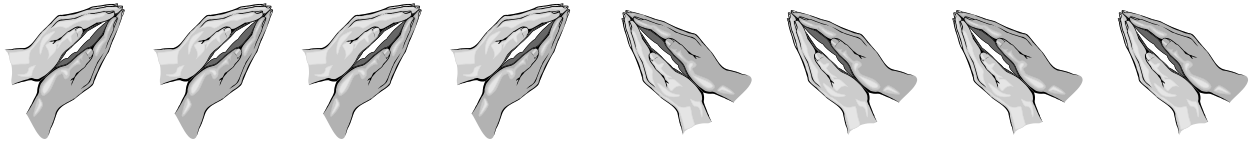
“By All Means, Let’s Win Some to Heaven in 2007”

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Tennille United Methodist Church Financial Report June, 2007

Conference and District Apportionments	2007 Budget	Paid to Date	Other	Paid to Date
World Service Fund	1,278	639.00		
Conference Benevolence	1,755	877.50	Human Relations Day	10.00
Clergy Support	1,658	829.00	UM Colleges (Wesleyan/Andrew)	40.00
Pre-1982 Pension & MPP	1,320	660.00	Wesleyan Christian Advocate	309.00
Comprehensive Protection Plan	619	309.50	One Great Hour of Sharing	50.00
Health Flex (retired clergy)	1,026	513.00	Native American Ministries	96.00
Health Flex (disabled clergy)	110	55.00	Mae Jordan (burnout Victim)	350.00
Administrative Exp.	839	419.50	Wesley Glen	592.00
State Cooperative Fund	69	34.50	Magnolia Manor	92.00
Christian Higher Education	710	355.00		
SEJ Mission Ministry	106	53.00		
Africa University Fund	39	19.50		
Black College Fund	175	87.50		
General Administration Fund	111	55.50		
General Episcopal Fund	329	164.50		
Interdenominational Coop Fund	34	17.00		
Ministerial Education Fund	440	220.00		
District Parsonage Fund	437	218.50		
District Work Fund	1,748	874.00		
Buildings and Grounds				
Church and Parsonage Maintenance	2,400	1,281.59		
Insurance	3,368			
Utilities	9,000	3,826.71		
Yard	2,000	1,920.00		
Termite Control	600	244.00		
Parsonage Committee Improvements	3,300	2,230.25		
Operational Expenses				
Janitorial Service	2,000	935.13		
Janitorial Supplies	50	25.00	Contributions	8,094.61
Office Supplies	700	408.48	Disbursements	9,263.43
Social Hall Supplies	150	87.90		
Annual Conference Expense	800	400.00		
Musical Instrument Maintenance	500			
Miscellaneous	1,000	601.79		
Contingency Reserve	3,000	1,500.00		
Program and Ministry				
Prayer Ministry	600	181.97		
Family Ministry	150	123.80		
Worship	300			
Evangelism	500			
Missions	800	500.00		
Pastor's Continuing Education	500			
Music	500	151.66		
Media Ministry (WEB/Newsletter/Radio)	3,480	1,454.65		
Ministerial Support				
Salary and Expense	44,712	22,356.00		
Ministerial Pension Plan	6,292	3,014.10		
Health Flex (Blue Cross-Blue Shield)	6,000	3,297.48		
Total	105,505	50,942.01		

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Our Prayer Concerns and Praise Reports

Name	Name
Pete and Reba Barlow	Elizabeth Burgess Lemon
Bob and Margaret Northington	Tom Mingledorff
Rubye Brantley	Allen and Lucyle Ballentine
Billie Sweat	Marie Hagood
Velma May	Mary Marshall
Estelle Webb	Traci Mizelle
Elsie Marchman	Audrey Cook
Steve & Jennie Johnson	Monty Rose
Lamar & Nicole Belew	Helen Chapman
Bess Freeman	Cliff Dalrymple
Roger Deem	Louise Cook
Alma Deem	Patsy St. Blanc
All Disaster Victims	Billy Bowers
Soldiers & their families	Dennard Miller
Billie Jean Wofford	Anne Bazemore
Frankie Frost	Amelia McAfee
Dr. William Taylor	Susan Redwell
Amos Tanner	Sheila Godfrey
Ken Etheridge	Ethan Rachels
Georgia Hughes	Rev. Kenneth Watkins—Praise God for Healing
Ruth Ann Johnson	Noah Burgamy
Sue Stewart	Rev. Dale Andrews
Frank Ergenzinger	Betty Smith
Ralph Purser	Buddy Ouzts
J.W. Rhodes, Sr.	Janet Cowan
Angela Mercer	Ryan Mitchum
Terry Guthrie	Family of Rev. Lawrence A. Lemons

Prayer Alert: Please pray for these people daily as you pray. Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. If you ask us to put someone on the list, let us know when their prayers have been answered and they can be removed. We realize some on our list have ‘chronic conditions’ and need much prayer. Many are going through a time of crisis and need ‘extra prayer’ to help them through. When God has answered prayers and brought you through a crisis, let us rejoice with you. Beginning next month, we will remove all who have been on our list more than 6 months unless told otherwise—some have already told me of the need for continued prayer. When you need prayer or know someone who does, please contact Reba Barlow, 478-552-7883 or rebabarlow@nctv.com or Leona Rogers, 478-552-7838 or rhonie@washemc.net.