

**Celebration of Musical Instruments at Tennille United Methodist Church**  
By Mary Moye

On Sunday afternoon December 9 at 3:00 p.m. the chancel choir of Tennille United Methodist Church will present a program of Christmas music that celebrates the many musical blessings our church has received this year--the restored pipe organ, the beautiful new piano, and our carillon chimes

The musical program will feature not only the voices of our choir but the added talents of Mercedes Youmans who will offer musical selections for pipe organ and chimes; and Dwight Irons who will treat us to piano solo selections.

God has indeed richly blessed our church in 2007. In April we rededicated the restored pipe organ which was dedicated to the memory of Charlie Smith and Charlie Ouzts. This was made possible by the many contributions of family and friends. In September the Irons family presented a new piano to the church in memory of Grace

Dorothy Irons; a gift made possible by memorial donations to Tennille United Methodist Church in memory of Grace Irons by loving family and friends. In October the Miller family gave the new carillon chimes as a memorial to Hazel Miller.

It is a fitting celebration to show appreciation for these gifts that will continue to enhance our worship services for many years to come.

A reception will follow in the W.B. Smith Social Hall, with 'fingerfoods' provided by the ladies of the church.

**Fall Financial Report**

As we approach the end of the 2007 year it looks like your faithful giving and care in spending may allow us to do a little better than budget.

The budget for 2008 has an increase of 3.4%. One change compared with this year was in the way the conference and district allocated apportionments. Another was in the way our pastor's expenses are paid. In accordance with conference recommendations and good business practice he will have an expense account rather than having to pay many expenses from his salary. To accommodate this change we took funds for the salary increase and added them to a new 'expenses' budget category. The pastor was indeed

given the well deserved district recommended salary increase but it does not show up as such in the new budget.

Next years overall budget looks realistic and matches the estimate of giving but there will always be new issues. One is the need to ensure we have an organist throughout the year. Margaret Northington is ready for some relief after doing a remarkable job for so many years.

In January, Lucy Nell Smith takes over as finance chair. This is my opportunity to thank everyone for keeping our church on a viable financial footing and in particular to thank Jean Bevill who as treasurer is the rock on which all our financial affairs are built. Derek Spry

**New Arrivals**

Congratulations to Darlene and Brian Solomon on the birth of a son, Avery Solomon, on November 15, 2007. Pastor Pete and Reba Barlow are the proud grandparents.

Congratulations to Laura and Scott Pridemore on the birth of a daughter, Katherine Martha Pridemore, on November 17, 2007. Dr. William and Martha Taylor are the proud grandparents.

**Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of**

**Mr. Paul Frederick Thiele**

## Tennille UMW News

**December 5:** Annual UMW Christmas Party, 7:00 pm; Social Hall, W.B. Smith Bldg.

**January 2, 2008:** Annie Lou Hodges Circle will meet in the home of Patsy Blount at 7:30 pm.

**January 16, 2008:** Erin Holder Smith Circle will meet in the home of Lucy Nell Smith at 10:30 am.

**January 19, 2008:** Dublin District Mission Study "*Israel Palestine*"; Rev. Jimmy Cason, Instructor, Sandersville UMC, 10 am.

**January 26, 2008:** Local Officers Training, Pine Forest UMC, Dublin, 10 am.



### All Saints Day Service

On November 4, during the morning worship service, family members and/or friends who had gone to be with the Lord during the past year, were remembered as we called their name, rang a bell, and lit a candle in remembrance. This was a beautiful tribute to those who have given lives of service to their Lord.

### December Guest Ministers

Pastor Pete and Reba will be on vacation December 15 – 23.

On December 16, Dr. Dwight Irons will be our guest minister. On December 23, Dr. Vance Mathis will be our guest minister.

## The Tennille Testimony

### Tennille UMC Vision Update

In his "*Visioning Tools for Local Churches*", Dr. Brad Brady states: "*A congregational vision is a word-picture of God's preferred future for your church. It is a description of your state-of-being at some point in the future when you are living out God's best intentions for your church in your particular community. A vision expresses the essence of who you will be as a Christian community, not the summary of what you will do in the future.*"

So far in our visioning process, we have met with as many as we have been able, gathering the Core Values of our congregation. At the next Church council meeting (in 2008) we will share the summary of those results with everyone.

Soon after the first of the year, we will have another church-wide meeting where we will work through the Biblical Benchmarks tool. The Biblical Benchmarks tool is another exercise prescribed by the South GA Conference leadership to help TUMC create our 'word-picture of God's preferred future' for us.

Please, as you move through the Christmas season, keep TUMC and its future in the forefront of your prayers and continue to ask God for his vision to be revealed to each of us.

### Tennille UMC Cookbook

Your recipes are needed! We are working on gathering enough recipes to put together our very own 'Cookbook'. Please get your favorite recipes to Selwyn in any form and she will get them typed up. Include

any notes on the origin of the recipes, any hints or tips related to the recipe or on cooking in general. Some of the recipes submitted so far show a little of the history of our church families and that is so exciting.

When we have enough, we will gather as a group and figure out how we want to arrange and publish our cookbook—so, please get them to Selwyn.

### Bread of Life Ministry

By Mary Moye

The Bread of Life program began as a project of what has become our Outreach Committee. For two years our church has been participating in this county-wide program designed to feed approximately 60 needy people—many of whom are children. God has blessed this ministry and contributions continue to be generous.

Bread of Life has increased its service from being an outreach to people of our community who are in need and is also part of our ministry to nurture and care for those in our own congregation who have immediate needs. As contributions have allowed, we have been able to provide meals for some members of our own church who are ill or shut-in.

Bread of Life participants receive a blessing each month as we honor God with this ministry and we continue to solicit your prayers and support.

The menu for December 12 is Chili, green beans, fruit, bread, milk, dessert.

**Merry Christmas from the staff  
of the Tennille Testimony**

## *Pastor Pete's Ponderings*

### **The Spirit of Advent**

December 2 is the beginning of the Advent season leading up to Christmas. Advent derives its name 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.
- ❖ Join us for our Christmas Music—A Celebration of Musical Instruments, December 9
- ❖ 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 off? 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.

*Pastor Pete*

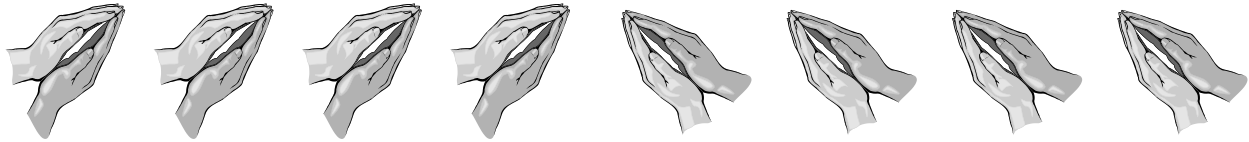
**“By All Means, Let's Win Some to Heaven in 2007”**

The Tennille Testimony

**Tennille United Methodist Church Financial Report October, 2007**

<b><u>Conference and District Apportionments</u></b>	<b>2007 Budget</b>	<b>Paid to Date</b>		
World Service Fund	1,278	1,065.00	<b>Other</b>	<b>Paid to Date</b>
Conference Benevolence	1,755	1,462.50	Human Relations Day	10.00
Clergy Support	1,658	1,381.67	UM Colleges (Wesleyan/Andrew)	40.00
Pre-1982 Pension & MPP	1,320	1,100.00	Wesleyan Christian Advocate	309.00
Comprehensive Protection Plan	619	515.83	One Great Hour of Sharing	50.00
Health Flex (retired clergy)	1,026	855.00	Native American Ministries	96.00
Health Flex (disabled clergy)	110	91.67	Mae Jordan (burnout Victim)	350.00
Administrative Exp.	839	699.17	Wesley Glen	617.00
State Cooperative Fund	69	57.50	Magnolia Manor	92.00
Christian Higher Education	710	591.67	Carnival for Christ	275.00
SEJ Mission Ministry	106	88.33	Local Benevolence	50.00
Africa University Fund	39	32.50	Oconee Outreach	20.00
Black College Fund	175	145.83	Cavalry Inter. (Matthew Appel)	20.00
General Administration Fund	111	92.50	Methodist Children's Home	105.00
General Episcopal Fund	329	274.17	Christian Life Center Treutlen Co.	50.00
Interdenominational Coop Fund	34	28.33		
Ministerial Education Fund	440	366.67		
District Parsonage Fund	437	364.17		
District Work Fund	1,748	1,456.67		
<b><u>Buildings and Grounds</u></b>				
Church and Parsonage Maintenance	2,400	1,693.42		
Insurance	3,368	3,138.00		
Utilities	9,000	6,414.03		
Yard	2,000	2,940.00		
Termite Control	600	491.00		
Parsonage Committee Improvements	3,300	2,230.25		
<b><u>Operational Expenses</u></b>			<b>Month of October</b>	
Janitorial Service	2,000	1,415.36	Contributions	7,751.35
Janitorial Supplies	50	25.00	Disbursements	10,818.02
Office Supplies	700	741.95		
Social Hall Supplies	150	87.90		
Annual Conference Expense	800	400.00		
Musical Instrument Maintenance	500		<b>Check Book</b>	
Miscellaneous	1,000	760.06	<b>Balance as of 12/31/06</b>	<b>13,264.99</b>
Contingency Reserve	3,000	2,500.00	Deposits:	
<b><u>Program and Ministry</u></b>			Pledges	86,438.95
Prayer Ministry	600	181.97	Basket	3,437.15
Family Ministry	150	146.00	Disbursements	85,467.91
Worship	300		<b>Balance as of 10/31/07</b>	<b>17,673.18</b>
Evangelism	500			
Missions	800	700.00	<b>Golden Savings Balance</b>	<b>9,925.76</b>
Pastor's Continuing Education	500	500.00		
Music	500	151.66		
Media Ministry (WEB/Newsletter/Radio)	3,480	2,588.28		
<b><u>Ministerial Support</u></b>				
Salary and Expense	44,712	37,260.00		
Ministerial Pension Plan	6,292	5,023.50		
Health Flex (Blue Cross-Blue Shield)	6,000	5,410.35		
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,505</b>	<b>85,467.91</b>		

**The Tennille Testimony**



**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	Helen Chapman
Velma May	Dennard Miller
Estelle Webb	Louise Cook
Elsie Marchman	Buddy Ouzts
Steve & Jennie Johnson	Anne Bazemore
Lamar & Nicole Belew	Dr. William Taylor
Soldier & their families	Betty Smith
Roger Deem	Georgia Hughes
Alma Deem	Monty Rose
Ernest Deem	Frankie Frost
Sue Stewart	Amelia McAfee
Frank Ergenziner	Ethan Rachels
J. W. Rhodes, Sr.	Ruth Ann Johnson
Angela Mercer	Janet Cowan
Terry Guthrie	Ralph Purser
Linda Rhodes Marchman	Mrs. Verne Borders
Kathleen Gilbert	Helen Fraps Gilbert
Scott Freeman	Veronica Rodriquez
Betty Jo Frost	Eunious Etheridge
Roger Barfield	Suzanne Irons
Louise Stargis	Sharon Leonard
Weldon Moss' Family	Family of Paul F. Thiele
Marvin and Margie Fessler	

**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](mailto:rebabarlow@nctv.com) or Leona Rogers, 478-552-7838 or [rhonie@washemc.net](mailto:rhonie@washemc.net).