



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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We wish everyone a very happy and blessed new year.

T.U.M.C. Financial Update

Because of your great response to the call for help during 2006, the financial condition of our church has stabilized. As 2006 draws to a close we have met our obligations and in the last month improved our modest operating reserves. We estimate that we shall end the year about on the \$98,132 budget.

For 2007 the budget is \$105,505. This is a 7.5% increase. Most all of this increase is in utilities, parsonage improvements, ministerial support and district askings. It is still a tight budget. The total estimate of giving for 2007 made as a result of Loyalty Sunday was \$106,000. Your generosity and care with our expenses will allow us to start 2007 with a confidence that finances will not be a distraction from the work of our church.

For those of you who wish to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Jean Bevill or myself. *Derek Spry*

Christian sympathy is extended to the families of

Mrs. Grace Dorothy Irons
Mr. Johnny St. Blanc

Congratulations

Drs. Jeff and Lynn Denny are the proud parents of a daughter, Hannah Elise Denny, born on December 12, 2006. Dr. and Mrs. William Eli Taylor are the proud grandparents.

Brian and Darlene Solomon are the proud parents of a son, Caleb Lamar Solomon, born on December 29, 2006. Rev. and Mrs. Peter Barlow are the proud grandparents.

Pulpit Swap

On January 21, Pastor Pete and Rev. Chuck Love from the Tennille Baptist Church are planning to 'swap pulpits'. Plans are being made for both congregations to share a meal together after worship. Watch the bulletin for more information.

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. If you would like to help, contact Mary Moyer at 552-7703.

TUMC Directory

Thanks to Selwyn and her computer expertise, the TUMC directory is nearing completion.

Sunday School

A new SS quarter began Dec 3. It is not too late to join us in one of the adult classes for our study in the Gospel of John. Our topics for the remainder of this quarter will be: January—Christ Sustains and Supports; February—Christ Guides and Protects. Be sure to join us for SS. We have a place for you.

We thank the Sunday School Department for their generosity in providing the beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary and Wreaths for the exterior doors of the church. Dr. and Mrs. Dwight Irons gave the wreaths over the altar in memory of loved ones. We thank everyone who joined us for the 'Hanging of the Greens'—many hands made the work easy and the spirits joyful.

TUMC Website

Changes occur daily

Thanks to Selwyn May, the TUMC has a web site. Visit at www.tennilleumc.org and click on the links to explore the site. I think you will love it. Her newest upgrade to the site makes it possible for you to hear the Pastor's Sunday sermon online by Wednesday. The Christmas Cantata is also available to download from the site or you may purchase a CD.

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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, December 31, 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) Consider, as you make your New Year's Resolutions as to how you will offer yourself, your talents and your resources to Christ 2007.

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: "*By All Means, Let's Win Some to Heaven in 2007*".

Pastor Pete

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

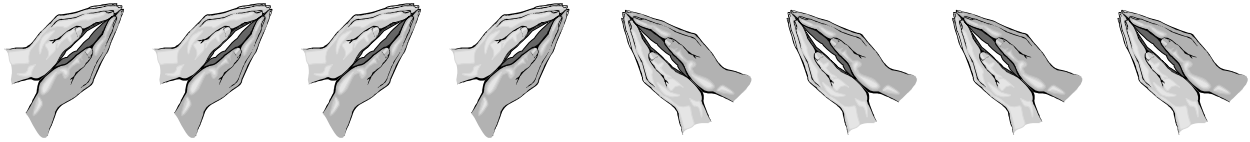
- January 7: John Wesley Covenant Service
- January 14: Apostles' Creed, # 6: He Descended Into Hell
- January 21: Rev. Chuck Love (Tennille Baptist) and I swap pulpits
- January 28: Apostles' Creed, # 7: The Third day He Arose from the Dead
- February 4: Apostles' Creed, # 8: From Then He Shall Come to Judge the Quick and the Dead
- February 11: Organ Rededication
- February 18: Apostles' Creed, # 9: The Holy Spirit
- February 25: Rev. Barlow is away, Preacher will be announced later
- March 4: Apostles' Creed, # 10: The Holy Catholic Church
- March 11: Apostles' Creed, # 11: The Forgiveness of Sins
- March 18: Apostles' Creed, # 12: The Resurrection of the Body
- March 25: Apostles' Creed, # 13: The Life Everlasting

The Tennille Testimony

Tennille United Methodist Church Financial Report November 2006

Conference and District Apportionments	2006 Budget	Paid to Date		
World Service Fund	1,218	1,116.50	Other	Paid to Date
Conference Benevolence	1,560	1,430.00	Magnolia Manor (UMW)	250.00
Clergy Support	1,534	1,406.17	Advocate	270.00
Pre-1982 Pension & MPP	1,298	1,189.83	Magnolia Manor	45.00
Comprehensive Protection Plan	841	770.92	Bee Hive (Metter)	190.00
Health Flex (retired clergy)	1,133	1,038.58	Annual Conf. Offering	52.00
Health Flex (disabled clergy)	99	90.75	Wesley Glen	225.00
Administrative Exp.	723	662.75	Katrina (marathon)	1,216.90
State Cooperative Fund	66	60.50	Carnival for Christ	250.00
Christian Higher Education	677	620.58	Methodist Children's Home	205.00
SEJ Mission Ministry	105	96.25	UM Student Day Offering	68.00
Africa University Fund	39	35.75		
Black College Fund	176	161.33		
General Administration Fund	107	98.08		
General Episcopal Fund	310	284.17	Month of November	
Interdenominational Coop Fund	34	31.17	Contributions	8,325.36
Ministerial Education Fund	444	403.33	Disbursements	7,137.07
District Work Fund	1,714	1,571.17		
Buildings and Grounds				
Church and Parsonage Maintenance	2,400	1,036.55		
Insurance	3,368	3,491.00		
Utilities	7,000	7,551.66	Check Book	
Yard	2,000	1,205.00	Balance as of 12/31/05	6,197.15
Termite Control	600	547.00	Deposits:	
Parsonage Committee Improvements	1,500	1,865.18	Pledges	86,754.88
Operational Expenses			Basket	5,211.01
Janitorial Service	2,000	1,681.78	3/31 Golden Savings	2,000.00
Janitorial Supplies	50	63.08	4/28 Golden Savings	500.00
Office Supplies	600	671.36	Disbursements	89,040.63
Social Hall Supplies	150	68.82	Balance as of 10/31/06	11,622.41
Annual Conference Expense	400	325.00		
Musical Instrument Maintenance	500	455.00	Golden Savings Balance	7,050.31
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,321.13		
Contingency Reserve	3,000	2,750.00		
Program and Ministry				
Prayer Ministry	600			
Family Ministry	150	238.20		
Worship	300	250.00		
Evangelism	500			
Missions	800	658.00		
Pastor's Continuing Education	500	500.00		
Music	500	99.00		
Media Ministry (WEB/Newsletter/Radio)	3,480	3,095.43		
Ministerial Support				
Salary and Expense	43,707	40,064.75		
Ministerial Pension Plan	6,017	5,514.74		
Health Flex (Blue Cross-Blue Shield)	4,932	4,520.12		
Total	98,132.00	89,040.63		

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Our Prayer Concerns and Praise Reports

Name	Name
Pete and Reba Barlow	Elizabeth Burgess Lemon
Bob and Margaret Northington	Don Sheppard
Rubye Brantley	Lucyle Ballentine
Jerry Gill	Will Garland (5yr old child)
Stan Carter	Stewart Turner
Tom Mingledorff	Billie Sweat
Marie Hagood	Mary Marshall
Estelle Webb	Traci Mizelle
Diane Haywood	Monty Rose
Dr. William Taylor	Audrey Cook
Elsie Marchman	Family of Grace Irons
Lamar & Nicole Belew	Phillipa Denny
Bess Freeman	Helen Chapman
Roger Deem	Sol Thomas (Praise God for healing)
Maggie Farmer	Reuben Moskowitz
George Logue	Otis Davis
Louise Cook	Deidra Dalrymple
All Disaster Victims	Billy Bowers
Soldiers & their families	Henrietta Lewis
Ruth Ann Johnson	Steve & Jennie Johnson
Billie Jean Wofford	Anne Bazemore
Frankie Frost	Amelia McAfee
Lee Cook	Susan Redwell
Mercedes Youmans	Betty Barlow
Amos Tanner	Adam Mitchel family
Wilbur Archer	Mr. & Mrs. Verne Borders
Georgia Hughes	Sheila Godfrey
Ken Etheridge	Family of Johnny St. Blanc

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.