



# 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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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)

## Words of Praise and Thanks from the Thomas Family

I recently requested a report from Randy Thomas about her grandson Sol and his daddy Simmons so that I could share their good news with all who have been praying for them.

Randy responded.... "Sol Thomas has been weaned from the ACTH and is seizure-free. He is receiving Physical Therapy weekly and is making progress in his gross motor skills. His parents and grandparents are thankful for the love, concern and prayers that have been expressed in his behalf by their friends. Sol's daddy, Simmons, will graduate from the Medical College of Georgia in May and will begin a dual residency program in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut on June 12<sup>th</sup>."

Thank you for sharing your news with us Randy. We know that God answers prayers and uses many resources and ordinary people for doing so, including all persons involved in the Medical Profession. All of us at Tennille United Methodist Church are proud of Simmons and his accomplishments. Our prayers will go with him and his family as they travel to Connecticut to serve his residency at Yale University.

**We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of:**

**Mary Alice Wommack**

## Family Day, May 7, 2006

We are looking forward to a great day on May 7, our annual Family Day Celebration. Our guest speaker this year will be Rev. George Freeman, son of Rev. and Mrs. Ross Freeman and nephew of Rev. Ramus Freeman and Catherine Orr. We encourage you to invite your family and former church members to join us for this special day in the life of our church.

## Sunday School News

We are planning for some changes at Sunday school. We have several teachers lined up for the various classes we feel we will need in the near future. The Grand Sweep has been a wonderful study with much lively discussion. May 21 will be a time of praise, celebration and reflection.

On May 28 we are having a Breakfast at 10:00am. There will be coffee, juice, doughnuts and pastries for your refreshment. We want you to join us to learn about the new classes which will be available, to meet the needs of our church, beginning on June 4. You can also discover more about our plans for a Vacation Bible School June 11-16 for both adults and children. If you would like to help with this, check with Suzanne Irons. She will be more than glad to use your many and varied talents. She may be reached at 552-7249.

**May 3, 2006, 7:30 pm**

Annie Lou Hodges Circle  
At the home of Jean Bevill

## Chaplains

Dr. Dwight Irons has recently been chosen by our Sheriff, Thomas Smith, to serve as the Chaplain for his department. Pastor Pete has been serving as Chaplain for the Tennille Police Department. Isn't it great to know that our Law enforcement agencies are in God's hands?

## 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.

## Bread of Life

The second 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 families in our community. If you would like to help contact Mary Moye at 552-7703

## Radio Ministry

When you cannot make it to church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to radio station WJFL 101.9 at 9:00 am and listen to a service from the previous week at TUMC. You may also contact Pastor Pete to obtain a recording from any Sunday service.

**May 17, 2006, 10:30 am**

Erin Holder Smith Circle  
At the home of Gus Ouzts

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  
[tennilleumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:tennilleumc@bellsouth.net)

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**May 4, 2006, Noon**  
National Day of Prayer  
Courthouse  
**May 10, 2006, 7:00 pm**  
Church Council Meeting

**May 20, 2006, 5:00 pm**  
Annual Barlow Backyard Bayou  
Boil and Open House.

**June 7, 2006, 7:00 pm**  
UMW family Picnic at the Rhonie  
Rogers home on Franklin Street.

### **An Important Message about Finance and Stewardship**

For many years the Tennille Methodist Church has been blessed by a congregation of good stewards who have supplied the funds necessary to carry out the work of the Church.

Over time the needs have grown and at the end of last year we had to dip into reserves to meet about 6% of that years routine funding. At the last charge conference a budget of \$98,000 was approved for 2006. This was an increase of about 8% over 2005. Our new ministries, health care insurance, utilities and an increase for our Pastor made up a large part of this. It is a sensible budget that focuses on real needs here in Tennille and in the district and conference.

The first quarter of this year has been difficult for our treasurer. Our expenses are near budget but our giving has not met this need. Without being more than overly optimistic we do not see substantial improvement for the remainder of the year unless we do something different. Our best estimate is that we must find about 15% more this year than we received in 2005. That is why we are asking everyone who has already given so much to give at least 15% more if they possibly can, and those who perhaps do not regularly give to consider doing so.

With this new responsibility of leading the finance and stewardship missions of our Church and the dedicated help of our committee members, particularly our treasurer Jean Bevill, we will work hard to have a financially healthy Church that can fulfill its mission this year and for the long term. Of course we will need your help.

We will keep you informed both when it's smooth sailing and when we hit the inevitable bumps in the road. We will also welcome your input.

Derek Spry, Finance and Lucy Nell Smith, Stewardship

## Reba's Reflections

The following text that was used 4/30/2006 has generated a lot of wonderful memories for TUMC.

*“Each of you must pick up one stone .... We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future, your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a permanent memorial among the people of Israel.”* Joshua 4:5-7 (NLT)

Pastor Pete asked some of the children that have moved off if they would write/type a small paragraph telling “What TUMC Means To Me.” He read some of these as part of his sermon that day. Everyone was so happy with this idea; we have decided to make a file or maybe a scrapbook if I get energetic enough, of all of these wonderful memories. So instead of writing **my** reflections this month, I am going to plead for **yours**. If you haven’t already been asked or wasn’t able to get yours in by the short deadline, our plea is that you do it soon and get it to the office for our file. I believe it would be wonderful to have a scrapbook of these memories placed somewhere so that we can reflect on them, and so the additional members that God is sending us can see what God has done in this wonderful church and is still doing today....and will continue to do.

If you remember the day of your salvation, baptism, the love you have felt here, anything that means a lot to you **that** is what we want you to write about. It need not be lengthy, but it can be. These are your memories and we appreciate all you will share with us.

I know you know that the people of TUMC that you grew up with, or went to church with for many years loves you, but I do pray you sense the love that Pete and I have for each and everyone of you. You are a very special part of our lives and we look forward to serving you for many years. While I am on the subject, thank you so much for your love and kindness in asking us back for another year. We are very proud to serve TUMC. You have made loving you easy, therefore our service to you comes easy also.

Thank you all for your contribution to the ‘Memories Scrapbook’. Maybe some of the ladies would like to have a scrapbook party. I would love to hear you all reminisce as we put it together. You can let me know what you think. Look forward to your input.

With Much Love and sincerity,

Reba Barlow

## *Pastor Pete's Ponderings*

### **Why do I give? When do I give? Where do I give? What do I give?**

I know stewardship includes all aspects of our life and is not limited to money, yet it does include money. Therefore I would like to share with you “Why, When, Where and What your pastor gives.” As the pastor, two of my responsibilities according to our Book of Discipline are: {¶ 340.3.b} (3) “To provide leadership for the funding ministry of the congregation.” And {¶ 340.3.b} (4) “To promote faithful, financial stewardship and to encourage giving as a spiritual discipline.” I have tried to fulfill these requirements in sermons, Sunday School, Finance Committee Meetings, Church Council Meetings, Trustees’ Meetings and any other opportunity that I’ve sensed. So why the News Letter? Two reasons: it is yet another opportunity to encourage giving as a spiritual discipline and it also gives me a chance to be a little more personal. So here goes:

**Why do I give?** First let me say it’s not I, rather we, Reba and I. Why do we give money? We could list several Scriptures that encourage giving of our money. To mention just a couple: “Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it.” (1 Peter 4:10, the Message) and “Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.” (Proverbs 3:9, the Message) These are just a couple of many that explain in part our rationale for giving of our money. We feel as if we have received it from God and that we are honoring God when we give our money to worth while organizations.

**When do I give?** Paul suggests we give regularly: “Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal.” (1 Corinthians 16:2, the Message) Reba and I have set up in our budget to give regularly. We don’t get paid every week. I get paid once per month from both my pastor’s salary and my Navy retirement. We give once per month from these. Reba is paid twice per month and she writes a check from each pay check. In my mind we could wait and write one check per month, but those of you who know my Sweetie know how excited she gets when she can write three checks per month instead of just one. She truly is the cheerful giver Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians 9:7. When do we give? Our giving is predetermined and is included in our monthly budget.

**Where do I give?** We give to several different things. I will explain more in the What I Give discussion, but basically we give to Tennille UMC, other ministries and missionaries, and even some non religious organizations like The Navy Relief, an organization that helps sailors and marines in crisis. We give at times to the Red Cross, the Fraternal Order of Police, American Cancer Society and political organizations.

**What do I give?** Reba and I are tithers. Or we could say we are percentage givers. Our giving is based on a percentage of our income. This is how we work out our budget giving. We have two sections for our

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giving. We have a predetermined amount for each. The first section is what we call our tithe, or 10 % of our income that we give to the operating budget of the church. For us that is 10 % of our gross income from our all sources: Tennille UMC, US Navy, and WJFL Radio station. Why the operating budget? We base this on: “Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.” (Malachi 3:10, the Message) We see the Tennille UMC as our store house and we bring our 10 % here and trust the leadership of the church to be good stewards of it.

We also give 2 % to what we call our offerings or second mile giving. From this 2 % we give to things like the organ fund or other special offerings through the church, missionaries, the Navy Relief, the Police Association, etc... This is extra giving that we designate where we want it to go. Our goal is to increase our offering giving to 10 % as well.

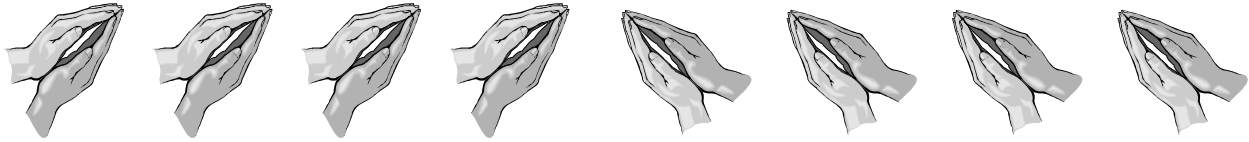
How does that work out in numbers for the Barlows? The congregation of the Tennille UMC is very gracious and pays their pastor a monthly salary of \$3,642.25. Uncle Sam kicks in \$1,518 for my 21 years in the Navy. Reba typically makes a little more than this, but our budget is set up with her making \$700. When her income is more, because we are percentage givers, our gifts automatically increase. Our total monthly income is \$5,860.25; therefore we return 10 % (\$586.03) to the Tennille UMC to be used in the operating budget as determined by the leadership of the congregation. We use 2 % (\$120.87) for the designated organizations that we feel are important. We use these percentages for what ever the reason for the increase: from income, honorariums, to change found on the street.

In another part of this News Letter is an article from our Stewardship Committee challenging us to increase our present giving by 15 %. I like their approach in that they are using some sort of percentage method to help us understand our giving. I've read recently this statement from a Church's Stewardship Committee: “*We are not concerned with your share of our budget, what matters is God's share of your income.*” What a great statement! I would like to challenge you to do as the Stewardship Committee has asked. I would also like for you to go a step further. As you take a look at your finances, consider becoming a percentage giver. **Prayerfully** determine what percentage of your income that you will designate God's share. Using the percentage method, when you receive a blessing like a pay raise or unexpected income, you've already determined how much to return to God.

Thank you for giving to our Lord through the Tennille UMC. You will see in the coming weeks and months reports that show how your gifts are being used to the Glory of God in His Kingdom.

*Pastor Pete*

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**Our Prayer Concerns and Praise Reports**

Name	Name
Pete and Reba Barlow	Chad Field (soldier has been shot in head)
Bob Northington	Don Sheppard
Jim Kitchings	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	Tiahna Hoff
Elsie Marchman	Australia Cochran
Dr. William Taylor	Audrey Cook
Hazel & Dennard Miller	Grace Irons
Rubye Brantley	Mark & Pat Zeitlin
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
Elmer Moss	Monty Rose
Louise Cook	Deidra Dalrymple
All Disaster Victims	Billy Bowers
Soldiers & their families	Henrietta Lewis
Ruth Ann Johnson	Steve & Jennie Johnson
Billie Jean Wofford	Daniel May
Frankie Frost	Betty Ward
Lee Cook	Margaret Northington
Mercedes Youmans	
Betty Barlow	
Anne Bazemore	

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.