

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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Thomas Holder Smith with Charles Nicholson and George Turk

### Thomas Holder Smith Day at Tennille UMC

At the morning worship service on October 9, 2005 the Tennille United Methodist Church honored Washington County Sheriff and life-long Tennille UMC member Thomas Holder Smith with an Appreciation Celebration and a Sunday Luncheon. Sheriff Smith very ably serves the people of Washington County and recently served state-wide as President of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Association.

Mr. Terry Norris and Mr. Stan Reaves representing the Georgia Sheriffs’ Association were the guest speakers for the occasion. In his remarks Mr. Reaves aptly described Sheriff Smith as approachable, affectionate, authoritative and aspiring—a man who goes to God for direction and faces each day hand-in-hand with God.

Charles Nicholson and George Turk, representing *Gideons International*, presented Sheriff Smith with a commemorative Bible in appreciation for his service to others. A number of

sheriffs from neighboring counties, Washington County judicial officials, family, and friends participated in this recognition of Sheriff Smith and made appropriate comments as to his dedication, determination, and service leadership.

Thomas Smith is an extraordinary Christian who has turned the trials of his life into triumphs. As a layman he graciously serves the Tennille United Methodist Church as has his family through three generations. We thank God for His servant Thomas Smith.

(We thank **Mary Moye** for this report and **Selwyn May** for the photos)



Thomas and Laura Smith with Rev. Peter Barlow

### All Saints Day

Why do we celebrate All Saints Day? Check out Pastor Pete’s Ponderings on page 4.

### Charge Conference November 3, 2005

Tennille UMC Annual Charge Conference will be held Thursday, November 3, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the W.B. Smith Bldg. Our D.S., Rev. Ricky Varnell will be here to lead the meeting and to preach. This will be a supper meeting, so bring your favorite covered dishes. All church members are **encouraged** to be present.

### Grand Sweep

We would love to have you join us for Sunday school at 9:45 on Sunday Mornings. We are using *The Grand Sweep* study books by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas as a guide for a systematic approach for daily Bible reading and study. Dr. Kalas offers a brief overview of each day’s reading along with questions for reflection.

We come together at Sunday school very excited about what we have studied during the week; ready to share our insights as well as questions we may have. The schedule of daily readings is also posted in the bulletin each week. Pastor Pete usually chooses his sermon topic from the scripture which we read each week and we feel this helps to prepare our hearts and minds to receive his message. Come join us at Sunday school this week.

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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. 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 November will be Hot Dogs, baked beans, fruit, cake or cookies, milk and lemonade.

## Upcoming Events

**Administrative Board Meeting**  
**October 30, 2005**  
Following morning worship

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night Service**  
**October 30, 2005**  
**6:00 pm**

Tennille UMC has invited Piney Mount UMC and Tabernacle UMC to join us for a time of worship and fellowship. Piney Mount Pastor, Rev. Jim Dominey will preach. Please bring your favorite finger food.

**Annie Lou Hodges Meeting:**  
**November 2, 2005, 7:30 pm**  
Home of Shirley Nicholson

**November 11, 2005, NOON**  
**Community Veterans Day Service, Court House Square.**

**November 13, 2005**  
**Come celebrate with Randy and Joe Thomas at the baptism of Johnny Lee Mimbs, Jr. during the morning worship service.**

## The Tennille Testimony

**Erin Holder Smith Meeting:**  
**November 16, 2005, 10:30 am**  
Home of Martha Taylor

**Grand Sweep Monthly Meeting**  
**November 16, 2005, 7:00 pm**

**November 20, 2005, 6:00 pm**  
**Community Thanksgiving**  
**Worship Service at Sandersville Elementary School**

**November 29, 2005**  
**Hanging of the Greens**

We are considering having a 'Hanging of the Greens' Service to celebrate the decorating of the church for the Advent Season. Rhonie and Leona Rogers usually set up and decorate the Chrismon tree; Jean Bevill usually decorates the tree in the W.B. Smith Building; Joe Thomas and Dan Moye hang the wreaths on the doors and above the altar. This year we would like to invite others in the church to participate in these happenings. When all the trimming is complete, we'll have a worship service to celebrate, then enjoy a time of fellowship as we share a meal together. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.

**A Church Directory**  
**Photographs to be taken on**  
**December 5, 2005**

We are excited about the prospect of a pictorial directory of our church family. See the attached letter from the pastor for more details.

**Annual Christmas Party**  
**December 7, 2005**

The annual Christmas party, hosted by Tennille United Methodist Women, will be held on December 7, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the W.B. Smith Bldg. This is a church-wide party. You do not have to be a member of UMW to attend. This is a perfect time to invite others to church for a time

of food, fun, and fellowship. We just plan the entertainment and decorate for the occasion. Bring your favorite dish.

**Special Christmas Music**  
**December 11, 2005**

The chancel choir is practicing Christmas music to be presented on Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2005 at 5:00 PM in the church sanctuary. A reception will follow in the W.B. Smith Bldg. Prepare your favorite 'finger foods'.

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**December 24, 2005**

A Christmas Eve Communion Service will be held on December 24, 2005 at 5:00 pm

**We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Harry Gilbert on the passing of his sister, Ruth Gilbert Bell 28 Feb 1914 – 23 Oct 2005**

## 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.

**Thanks for your very positive feedback on the newsletter. Our contact info is on the front page under the header. If you have news you would like to share, send it to us by the 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to receive your copy via email, send us an email so that we will have your address. We are praying that our church will be blessed by this ministry.**

*Leona Rogers*

## The Tennille Testimony

**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

Ways you can help: Pray. Volunteer to help run the course. Join the 1050 club. (We need 10 people to give \$50 each to cover the cost of the initial materials) We have 9 of the 10 already. **Why don't you be the 10<sup>th</sup>?**

## *Reba's Reflections*

Pete and I went to Louisiana October 14 – 17 to help his mother with a little damage that she received from Katrina. Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> we attended two services, one with his mother, and the other with his sister. Both services were such a blessing. His mom's church had testimony time – people testified to God's grace during this horrendous storm. People being blessed by people they have never seen before, the servants being blessed by the faith they witnessed or the open door to share their faith. Both churches spoke of opportunity -- the open door God has provided during this time. His sister's pastor spoke of how during devastating times we tend to get frustrated (Why me?), go through the feeling of failure (Who cares?), and fear of what lies ahead (What now?) He said difficulty is a time to learn to rely on our Creator. So, we can choose to discover God's presence instead of being frustrated with what we see as the circumstances. And we can't get what we need from God by ignoring Him. Have devotion – reconnect -- Ask Him to direct your paths. Remember we can't hear Him over our day to day task & our frustrations with them – We need quiet time with Him. While we are in His presence – determine His purpose – realize this was not an accident – He can use it – Do you trust Him? Don't make bad decisions that affect those around you – choose to depend on God's Power. He alone can get you through this. Remember He is with you always. Be like the baby bird – ready to receive His grace and daily manna with an open heart, mind, and soul. If we close our mouth when He tries to feed us, we can't get nourished. If we don't ask when we are hungry, then He can't answer. Sometimes, most times God uses people to answer our prayers, so God is not the only one we need to talk to; we need to make our need known to His children – our family. He has many people in His kingdom that can meet our need, and desires to serve Him by serving you. Don't be ashamed to turn to your Father, and your family. Don't be the one that complains about his or her circumstances when you haven't even trusted the Father to meet your need.

## *Pastor Pete's Ponderings*

November 1 is "All Saints Day." Just what is All Saints Day? All Saints Day is the Church's Memorial Day, a time to remember those who have died in the faith of Christ. It is traditionally celebrated on November 1, but may be observed on the first Sunday in November. We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6. It's a great day to remember and to name those of our congregation who have finished their race. During this service we will name, light a candle for, and ring a chime for Mrs. Ruth Smith and Dr. Charles Ouzts. It is also a great time to remember all the people who have had an influence in our Christian journey. Although we will not light a candle for these, you will have an opportunity to name these individuals during the service. Therefore, let me challenge you to think of what I like to call my "Faith Hall of Fame" and be ready to name these persons on All Saints Sunday. The service will also include celebrating Holy Communion. Some have said that the All Saints Sunday was John Wesley's favorite Christian service of the year. That's pretty incredible to me. Let me remind us of one of the things in The Great Thanksgiving in which we sing every time we share Holy Communion: "And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn." Who is this company of heaven that we join in praising and singing? I believe it is all who are in heaven. Now that is some real deep theological statement. Everybody that is heaven! Well whose there? There must be some angels there, right? Isaiah 6:2 mentions some seraphs. So there are certainly some majestic beings in heaven, singing: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6:3) Well who else is there? Paul has said that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8) Many funerals begin with these words: "Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." Those saints who have finished their race are in heaven. It is easy for me to believe that my dad is part of that heavenly company singing the unending hymn. Remember the word saint is used in the Scripture to refer to those who have trusted on Christ for their eternal future. All believers are saints. Even if we don't think they act like saints sometimes. All Saints Sunday is a great time to remember and confess that we will see our loved ones that died in the faith again. We can look forward with great expectation to that great heavenly banquet to which God will bring all his saints to feast for ever in our heavenly home. So join us, bring a friend to join God's people here on earth as we join all the company of heaven as we praise and sing the unending hymn: "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory."

## The Tennille Testimony



Someone's praying for you!

May God's righteousness, joy, and peace abide with you always.

May He manifest His presence and power in your life today.

### Our Prayer Concerns

Name	Praise Reports
Peter Barlow	
Bob Northington	
Jim Kitchings	
Jerry Gill	
Family of Ruth Bell	
Tim & Danielle Patnode	
Tom Mingledorf	
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,	
Reba Barlow	
Maggie Farmer	
George Logue	
Amy Smith	
Elmer Moss	
Elsie Marchman	
Katrina & Rita Victims	
Soldiers	
Ruth Ann Johnson	
Billie Jean Wofford	
Frankie White	
Wilma victims	
Daniel May	

Please pray for these people daily as you pray. Who do you know who needs prayer? Could it be you? Has God answered any of the above prayers? Let us rejoice with you. Submit to Rev. Peter Barlow – [pereb@bellsouth.net](mailto:pereb@bellsouth.net) or call 478-552-7811.