



# TENAHA WESLEYAN



A Publication of Tenaha First United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 258, Tenaha, TX 75974

From the Pastor's Desk

February 2009

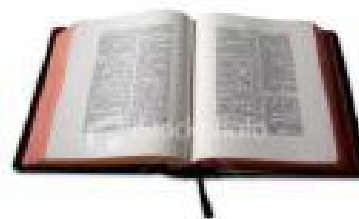
**Just in case you thought I have some weird ideas about new ways to do ministry, you need to read the article on page 4.**

As all of you know by now Leslie lost her father Wednesday the 28th of January. We had to leave town to make the arrangements but we never left our family. Even though we were not here physically This marvelous family of believers, friends were right there with us through the entire ordeal. All the phone calls to offer any help. The support we felt through this whole ordeal was nothing less than a miracle. Not a miracle in the sense that we usually associate with miracles but in the sense that this family was there to encourage, lift-up and support Leslie, Wes, Ron, Katie, and I in our time of need. It was a miracle in the sense of all those who were able to make the trip to Crockett to be at the service and to show support. It was truly a miracle in the sense that all the love was genuine and not dished out because that is what you are "supposed to do" but because you truly wanted to.

I was talking with Leslie's best friend Rayma and she noticed all the love and support that was flowing from ya'll. Then she made a statement that

### Inside This Issue

- From The Pastor— pg. 1
- Thought for the Month—pg. 1
- Happenings Around the Church— pg. 2
- Inspirational Promise—pg. 2
- Advice on the Economy—pg. 2
- Prayer Request—pg. 3
- Bible Study—pg.3
- Beer Nuts to Beatitudes-pg.4
- Your Journey with God for Men—pg. 4
- Ancient Wisdom — pg. 4
- Your Journey with God for Women-pg. 5



### Order Dates

February 5th 11:00 am —1:00 pm  
February 6th 4:00 pm — 6:00 pm

### Distribution Date

February 28th 1:00 pm — 3:00 pm

## Happenings Around the Church

Monday, February 2nd  
Mary Graves Birthday

Tuesday, February 3rd  
UMW—10:00 am

Wednesday, February 4th  
Administrative Board Meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 11th  
Jean Parker Birthday  
Fellowship Dinner 6:30 pm

Friday, February 13th  
Laura Bowers & Brooke Harrison  
Birthday

Tuesday, February 17th  
UMW—10:00 am

Thursday, February 19th  
Bible Study on ACTS 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 23  
William Weeks Birthday

## Inspirational Promise

The single most difficult pursuit is truth and love.

That sentence is grammatically correct. I know every English teacher would like to pluralize it to read: The most difficult pursuits are those of truth and love. But that's not what I mean to say.

Love is a difficult pursuit.

Truth is a tough one, too.

But put them together, pursue truth and love at the same time and hang on baby, you're in for the ride of your life.

Love in truth. Truth in love. Never one at the expense of the other. Never the embrace of love without the torch of truth. Never the heat of truth without the warmth of love.

To pursue both is our singular task.

### John Wesley's advice on the economy

In 1772, John Wesley wrote to *Lloyd's Evening Post* regarding the causes of and cures for high unemployment, food shortages and dismal economic conditions. He starts: "Why are thousands of people starving -- perishing for want, in every part of England?"

More than two centuries later, the United States is struggling with dropping stock prices, rising unemployment, home foreclosures and inadequate health care. But our diminished economy scarcely rivals that of 1772 England.

Wesley believed a growing disparity between the rich and the poor caused most of the economic problems in England. His cure was to repress "luxury, either by example, by laws, or both." He asked for laws prohibiting the distillation of alcohol. He lamented high taxes upon the poor and middle class and called for additional taxes on luxury items. He suggested that people be taxed on their purchases rather than their earnings.

Concerned about future generations, Wesley also called for a reduction of the national debt. In short, he called for higher taxes upon the wealthy and laws prohibiting the wasting of natural products.

Contemporary application of Wesley's advice suggests that the U.S. Congress should reduce taxes on the poor and middle class, add taxes to luxury items, eliminate taxes upon necessities, introduce laws governing the use of natural resources, and take steps to reduce the \$10 trillion national debt. A record 28 million Americans are now receiving food stamps.

In the same time he wrote to *Lloyd's Evening Post*, Wesley organized groups of Methodists to visit the London workhouses where poor people were housed and employed. They also led worship for the inmates, most of whom were children and elderly people.

John Wesley's life serves as an example to United Methodists about our personal obligation to care for poor and vulnerable people through a



# Please be praying for...



## WEB PAGE

www.tenahafumc.org

Amy & her new son	Terry Alford
Evelyn Alford	Jim & Juana McCann
Charles Alford	Menefee Family
Laura Bowers	Scott & Jenny Nease
Wes, Victoria & Jonathan Bradley	Louann Parrish
Albert Burns	Aileen Roberson
Mrs. Clifton	Larry Rough
Bill DuBose	Clay Scull
Ed Dykes	Jay Walker
Dena Holmes's Family	Joanie Windam
Harry Hunt	The Webbs
Jan McDonald	Lavernia Winkleman

Our military and their families. The leaders of our nation. Our church.

### Action Point

Rock pillars or cairns date back to Moses' crossing the Red Sea during the Exodus. Rock pillars, thought to be set up by King Solomon, mark the crossing site. They what God did for His people. Another analogy that I thought of is stones of remembrance are to point and show us the way. I have discovered is that every page of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, point to Jesus Christ, The Way.

Genesis 5 holds the prophetic stones that reflect genealogy from Adam to Noah which spell out the Gospel:

Adam=Man  
 Seth=Appointed  
 Enosh=Mortal  
 Cainan=Sorrow  
 Mahalalel=The Blessed God  
 Jared=Shall Come Down  
 Enoch=Teaching  
 Methuselah=His Death Shall Bring  
 Lamech=The Despairing  
 Noah=Comfort

In sentence form it reads: Man (has) Appointed Mortal Sorrow; (but) The Blessed God Shall come down Teaching, (and) His death shall bring The Despairing comfort.

Take time to read and study your Bible, you will be amazed at the stones of membrance that you will find. I guarantee it will keep you on the trail.

### Bible Study Verse

Joshua 4:21-24  
 He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God." (NIV)

### Thoughts

My wife's passions are her horses and trail riding. In the past 38 years we have ridden many back country trails and followed cairns, small piles of rock set to mark the trail. Today the Forest Service uses small blue diamonds tacked to trees along the trail. The older method of marking with stones is still used, especially on unmapped trails or the older less traveled trails. Recently I found cairns over two feet high, stacked by an energetic soul. They still all serve the same purpose, the way. (Byron S.)

## Beer Nuts and Beatitudes

**First United Methodist Church** of Sidney, Ohio, was founded in 1825 when a circuit-riding pastor held Bible studies in a local tavern. A mere 183 years later, the church has returned to its roots.

Country Rock Church, one of Sidney's offshoot services, is held Sunday nights at the Pub Lounge, a western bar with a rough reputation.

Sidney's lead pastor, the Rev. Chris Heckaman, said he was looking for creative ways to reach people in unconventional places when he had the idea for the service.

"This venue is natural for good people who have no desire to be in a traditional church setting," Heckaman said.

The service has increased in popularity and even drew the attention of ABC News, which ran a feature about Country Rock Church on *Nightline*.

Dwight Meyer, owner of the Pub Lounge, told *Nightline*, "Some question serving beer where there's religion, but I thought, 'Maybe those are the people that need the religion.'"

"The service has been embraced fully in our church," Heckaman said. "Other area churches have issues with us. We've been the subject of many a letter to the editor here."

"It's just us being faithful with the Jesus that we know," he added. "I think this is the kind of place Jesus would hang out."  
**--Joey Butler,**



## Your Journey With God For Men

*This is how we sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands.*

*1 John 2:3*

Oswald Chambers, the author of the Christian classic devotional text, *My Utmost for His Highest*, advised, "Never support an experience which does not have God as its source, and faith in God as its result." These words serve as a powerful reminder that, as Christians, we are called to walk with God and to obey His commandments. But, we live in a world that presents us with countless temptations to stray far from God's path.

When we behave ourselves as obedient servants, we honor the Father and the Son. When we live righteously and according to God's commandments, He blesses us in ways that we cannot fully understand. So, as this day unfolds, take every step of your journey with God as your traveling companion. Study His Holy Word. Follow His commandments. Be an example of righteous living to your friends, to your neighbors, and to your children. Then, grab the blessings that God has promised to all those who accept His invitation of life abundant and life eternal.

### A Prayer for the Journey

Dear Lord, I will make my life's journey with You. I will strive to live by your commandments, Father, and I will follow in the footsteps of Your Son today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen

## Ancient Wisdom Main Thing

*Wisdom is supreme – so get wisdom. And whatever else you get, get understanding.*

*Proverbs 4:7*

Even though the book of Proverbs is more or less a rapid-fire, quick-hitting list of *Ancient Wisdom*, there are key verses inside that sum up the whole thing. This is one of them, and it basically has one message:

Wisdom— *Get it! You'll need it!*

That's because life is made up of choices, and wisdom is essential to making sure those choices are the right ones, the best ones. Who you are today is the sum total of the choices you have made. We could wish this weren't true, especially when things aren't going well, when we want to retreat from consequences of our own decisions, blaming it on our parents or our upbringing or our spouse or ...anybody but us.

"This can't be all my fault, can it?"

Cont. pg. 5

## Your Journey with God

### For Women

*For it is God who is working among you both the willing and the working for His good purpose.*

*Philippians 2:13*

Your life is a journey, and every step of the way, God is with you. If you seek to live in accordance with God's will for your life—and you should—then you will live in accordance with His commandments. You will study God's Word, and you will be watchful for His signs. You will associate with fellow Christians who will encourage your spiritual growth, and you will listen to that inner voice that speaks to you in the quiet moments of your daily devotionals.

Sometimes, God's plans seem unmistakably clear to you. But other times, He may lead you through the wilderness before He directs you to the Promised Land. So be patient and keep seeking His will for your life. When you do, you'll be amazed at the marvelous things that an all-powerful, all-knowing God can do.

God intends to use you in wonderful, unexpected ways if you let Him. The decision to seek God's plan and to follow it is yours and yours alone. The consequences of that decision have implications that are both profound and eternal, so choose carefully.

### A Prayer for the Journey

Dear Lord, You created me for a reason. Give me the wisdom to follow Your direction for my life's journey. Let me do Your work here on earth by seeking Your will and living it, knowing that when I trust in You, Father, I am eternally blessed. Amen

Cont form page 4

This practice of shifting blame is fueled by those psychologists who make their living endorsing personal memberships in the "Not My Fault Club." They don't seem to agree with people who study these carefully and biblically, who tell us that life is 10 percent what happens to us, and 90 percent how we choose to deal with it.

We all want to make good, solid choices with every opportunity we have. Therefore, we need wisdom. And we need to go get it!

You can't find true, lasting wisdom just anywhere, so where do you go to get it? All wisdom is God's and comes from God. If you have a thimble of wisdom, it's not because you've figured stuff out on your own but because God in His grace has revealed it to you. Any other knowledge we pick-up along the way that is not God's wisdom is what the Bible calls the "world's wisdom" which amounts to "foolishness" in God's eyes. It is stupidity by contrast.

So let's not get bogged down in the world's wisdom. You'll hear it spouted on afternoon talk shows, at the gym, at the hair place, or on prime-time. Seek after God's wisdom alone, because it's absolutely essential to life.

I like to define wisdom this way: *Wisdom is the best choice with the best results in every situation.* If we build within our heart a passion for wisdom, a hunger and thirst for godly perspective and understanding, we will become increasingly wise—not because we're so smart, but because we're acting as God wants us to.

*Get wisdom*, Solomon said. "If you find yourself close to it, reach out and grab it. Do not let it pass you by. Stop and listen, then get it for yourself where you can take it home and let it sink into your life."

*Get wisdom.* "Whatever else you get," make sure this pursuit comes first, learning from God, learning from wise followers of Christ, learning and putting God's wisdom into practice.

*Get wisdom.* Most of the true wisdom you come across is going to be found in the Bible. Yet many of us spend little time reading the Word of God. If you truly want the ability to make sound decisions and well-placed choices, then invest a lot of time studying, understanding, and listening to God's Word.

Get wisdom, my friend. Get it because God wants to give it. Get it because it's essential to life.