

Coming Home

Volume 7, Number 4

July-Aug-Sept 2011



DAVID MAHFOOD, PASTOR

Tyland Baptist Church

There isn't really a lot left to be said about what we have gone through over the last year and a half. We've celebrated and dedicated, gone through trial and triumph, wept and cheered. We have called upon the Lord for mercy and strength, and praised Him mightily when He granted both in abundance. Along the way, we looked at the Scriptures and clothed ourselves in the identities of the people we met there, in hope that by doing this we might find comfort in our displaced state. We searched for the meaning of life in Ecclesiastes. We learned how to trust afresh in Ruth. We were the rebuilders of Nehemiah. We were the vindicated of Nahum.

And now we're home...

If we've run out of words to describe what this church has gone through, there remains at least one more biblical analogy to be shared. It comes at the end of the book of Joshua. The children of Israel have crossed over into the Promised Land, and Joshua delivers his famous charge in 24:15, quoted often in its truncated form: *"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* Rarely examined, however, is Israel's response to that charge; but in that response, Tyland, is exactly where we find ourselves today.

There's no way we'll turn our back on God, say the children of Israel. In 24:17, they cite three reasons why they would never do such a thing.

1. ***"The Lord protected us"*** – *God brought us out of Egypt, they say. He delivered us out of bondage!* While our church wasn't exactly in "bondage," we have definitely experienced what it feels like to be oppressed and victimized. Like Israel, we called upon the Lord, and He heard our cry.
2. ***"The Lord proved Himself to us"*** – Like Israel, we too can say that. Dozens and dozens of times throughout this ordeal, God has visibly shown His hand among us. Everyone involved has multiple stories they could tell.
3. ***"The Lord preserved us"*** – The best statistic from the rebuilding era? While we buried twelve of our church family, the Lord added twenty to our congregation! Larger congregations dissipate over much smaller issues than a devastating fire. Our very existence – not to mention our growth – is due solely to the preservation of God.

"So, that's it," says Israel to Joshua. "He is our God. We're sticking with Him!"

Only thing is...*they don't*. They get into the Promised Land and they forget all about the God who brought them there. If you don't believe me, read through Judges again.

Tyland, we stand now in that same moment, but we cannot afford to make the same mistake. God has placed us here for *His* glory and *His* service. We exist in this place for the same reason Israel existed in theirs: to honor the King who protected us, proved Himself to us, and preserved us.

I personally challenge each of you to embrace this truth in the days ahead, and to always act accordingly. In this way, we will truly be able to say with Joshua that in *this* house... "We will serve the Lord." –Bro David



"Too Hot Tuesdays" crowd at McAllister's on July 26. Ladies, don't miss the last one of the summer on August 30.

The church dedication service was professionally video recorded. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office. There will be a minimal charge to cover the cost of duplicating. And check out the church "book room". It's awesome! Books, videos, reference materials (hard copy and electronic) for the entire family.

TYLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

2818 Silver Creek Drive

Tyler TX 75702

Back Page Notes

*You are loved...
at Tyland Baptist Church.*

Check out our updated website:
www.tylandbaptist.com

Sunday: 9:30 am Prayer Time
 9:40 am Sunday School
 10:40 am Worship
 5:00 pm Training Union
(beginning Aug 28)
 6:00 pm Evening Worship

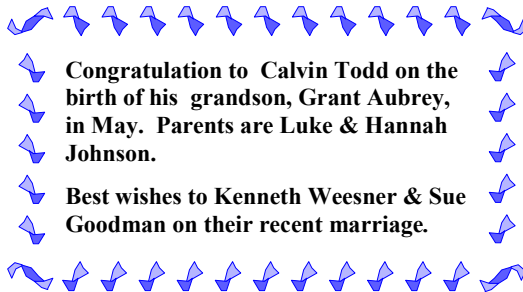
Wednesday: 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting
Wednesday Change, starting Aug 31:
 6 pm Prayer Meeting
 7 pm Choir Practice
 Phone: 903/592-6364

Pastor's e-mail: david@tylandbaptist.com
 Secretary's email: nancy@tylandbaptist.com
 Music director's email: lee@tylandbaptist.com

PATH Donations for August: Cleaning items to keep the house & those in it spic & span—cleaning supplies, soap, detergent, dish washing detergent, trash bags, toothpaste, razors, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

Deacons

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| James Reed | 903/570-4019 |
| Joe Mekalip | 903/593-2735 |
| John Reed | 903/283-2172 |
| Nick Wiggins | 903/520-1265 |
| Charlie Stovall | 903/539-8526 |
| Stephen Lange | 903/520-0557 |



Congratulation to Calvin Todd on the birth of his grandson, Grant Aubrey, in May. Parents are Luke & Hannah Johnson.

Best wishes to Kenneth Weesner & Sue Goodman on their recent marriage.

FUN—FOOD—FRIENDS

Hey, kids, mark your calendars for Saturday, September 17, 10 am-2 pm. That will be our “ So Long, Summer” Bash (formerly known as Back-To-School Bash!). Invite your friends, wear your swim-suits so you can enjoy the water activities, and be ready for a great time celebrating the end of summer with Christian friends! Pre-K (or younger with parents) through High School.

Our deepest sympathy to these families in their losses over the recent months:

James Reed, in the loss of his sister.

Minnie Moss, in the loss of her daughter.

Dorothy Wilson and Kay Mettier, in the loss of Dorothy’s son-in-law and Kay’s brother-in-law.

We all mourn the loss of these precious church members:

Preston Jones

Buford Welmaker

Shirley Epperson

Our love and prayers to their families.

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:37-39