



Tomah Baptist Chronicle

March, 2021

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*When my heart is
overwhelmed;
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I
Psalm 61:2*

Theme for 2021

Renewing our Strength
ISAIAH 40:31

PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart

Pastor Ron Tobin

Marching to Zion

*We're marching to Zion, beautiful,
beautiful Zion; We're marching up-
ward to Zion; the beautiful city of God.*



The hymn *We're Marching to Zion* was written by Isaac Watts in the late 17th, early 18th century, at least the words were. Mr. Watts was a big proponent of hymn singing. The hymn's words first appeared around 1701 and was titled "Heavenly Joy on Earth." Many mocked Watts for writing such humanly composed songs rather than just Psalms or Bible verses. They referred to his works as "Watts' Whims." In fact, often people back then would walk out of services when a hymn was sung.

So in the song, verse two was his response: *Let those refuse to sing, Who never knew our God; But children of the heav'nly King May speak their joys abroad.* It wasn't until the late 19th century that Robert Lowrey put

the words to music. Much of the words were inspired by Psalm 137 and 149. It became a favorite of Christmas songs during the revival era of the 19th—20th century. Personally, the rousing hymn still is. It is a reminder that the believers journey is to another world. To often, we Christians, forget our calling and journey. That is why we sink into discouragement or neglect of the things of God. Things like faithful service or for some, in this Covid mind-set, attendance. We are clinging to this world to the neglect of one to come, Zion.



When we view this world as temporary and not so lovely, perhaps we will start singing and marching to Zion. God and this world's system has a way of making us want to.

Please let us get on the journey and march all of the way to Zion.



How Things Work Around Here

In January I took a Sunday evening service and explained some “nuts and bolts” things about the church’s procedures for receiving, counting and recording tithes and offerings. That has spawned an idea for a series of Chronicle articles entitled, “How Things Work Around Here”. I will add to this collection from time to time.

If we are going to talk about “how things work around here” there is only one place to start – with the church’s secretaries! They are the backbone of any organization, whether they are called secretaries, or administrative assistants, or some other title. At the present time Tomah Baptist Church employs four part-time secretaries. The number has changed from time to time as needs change or personnel are available. Here they are, in alphabetical order (how else would you do it?):

Mrs. Amanda Boots, Ministry Secretary: Amanda works Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Her duties include mailings and phone calls to new visitors, promotional mailings for coming events, mailings to absentees, and organizational preparation work for Thursday night visitation.

Mrs. Kate Buehner, School Secretary: Kate works Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Her duties include communication with parents, accounts receivable (tuition and fees, billing and receiving), and numerous organizational things both in and out of the classroom.

Mrs. Connie Haines, Business Secretary: Connie works Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Her duties include recording the Sunday offerings and paying bills for the church and school. She also does state and federal payroll reporting.

Mrs. Debbi Rippentrop, Pastor’s Secretary: Debbi works afternoons, Monday through Friday. Her duties include bulletin preparation, church correspondence, scheduling appointments with and for Pastor Tobin, assisting him with his various publications (books, booklets, articles, etc.), helping the pastors with computer issues, and making sure the pastoral staff get their Chronicle articles in on time!

Our church is blessed to have a talented secretarial staff that works well together. They genuinely enjoy what they do and each other’s company.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention a few ladies who have served in the past. Miss Jean Wright served as Ministry Secretary for many years before retiring a few years ago. Mrs. Diane Coleman served in the dual role of Business and School Secretary for many years, until health forced her to retire about a year ago. Three of our past secretaries are now enjoying each other’s company in the presence of our Lord – Mrs. Ann Lindblad, Mrs. Lucy McGinnis, and Mrs. Alda Rabe. These ladies have all serviced with distinction and sweet spirits.

Pastor Donald Root



March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Testing				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	Open House Spring Program	31			

No Excuse Sunday

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to have a special “No Excuse Sunday.”

Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say “Sunday is my only day to sleep in.”

There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.

We will have steel helmets for those who say, “The roof would cave in if I ever came to church.”

Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can’t go to church and cook dinner too.

Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.

The sanctuary will be decorated

with both Christmas and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.

Afraid of the Dark

One of Tommy’s favorite games was to ride his mother’s broom around the yard like a horse. When it started to get dark, Tommy went into the house, leaving the broom in the yard. In cleaning up after dinner, Tommy’s mother asked the boy to bring in her broom.

“But I’m scared to go out in the dark, Mom.”

Mother answered, “The Lord is out there, honey. Do not be afraid.”

So Tommy opened the back door a crack and called out, “Lord if you are out there, hand me the broom!”



THE TEN PLAGUES OF EGYPT

Match the question with the answer on the right.

QUESTIONS

- ___ What was the first plague?
- ___ Egyptian magicians were able to copy which plagues?
- ___ What was the fourth plague?
- ___ Ashes were used in which plague?
- ___ Which book of the Bible mentions the plagues?
- ___ What was the last plague?
- ___ How many plagues did Yahweh send on Egypt?
- ___ Who hardened Pharaoh's heart after the plague of locusts?
- ___ What did God tell the Hebrews to do in order to avoid the final plague?
- ___ Whose bones did Moses take with him when he left Egypt?

ANSWERS

1. Yahweh
2. Exodus
3. Turning water into blood and frogs
4. Ten
5. Joseph
6. Flies
7. Boils
8. Death of the firstborn.
9. Water turns into blood
10. Mark their doorposts with lamb's blood



From: God Loves My Kitchen Best By: Mab Graf

The back of the church bulletin was blank. I wrote on it, “Shirley is 5 months pregnant. Let’s give her a shower.” I gave the note to my friend Dorothy, who sits next to me in the choir loft. Then I folded my hands angelically and looked at the pastor’s back while he made some announcements. Dorothy nudged me and handed back the bulletin. She had written, “Ok by me. My house or yours...or the fellowship hall?”

We passed the bulletin back and forth until every blank space was covered. During the offertory we started on her bulletin, and by the time the service was over, we had scribbled all over it, too.

“How was church?” my husband asked as I put my purse and Bible on the coffee table.

“Fine,” I said. “Too bad you had to work.” I sat down and kicked off my shoes. “Dorothy and I are going to give Shirley a baby shower.” He nodded agreement. “Where?”

“At the church, I think,” I said, “if I can clear a date. We’ve got it all planned. I’ll send out invitations and Dorothy will take care of the games. We will each bake 2 cakes and I’ll buy the ice cream and nuts. She’ll buy the prizes and decorations.” I took a deep breath. “We’ll keep account and split the costs.”

“You have it all figured out,” he said. “So—how was the sermon?”

“Uh—great.”

“What did he preach on?”

“Uh— let me get dinner started and then I will tell you.” I went into the kitchen and leaned against the counter. I couldn’t

think of one word of the sermon!

“What did the choir sing?” he called. Good grief! I couldn’t even remember what we sang!!!

“Just a minute honey, and I’ll come back and talk to you.” How could I admit I had been so absorbed in plans for the shower I had blocked out the entire worship hour? Maybe if I stayed in the kitchen long enough he’d forget about it. I began to hum loudly, open and shut the fridge door, bang lids, and rattle silverware. He didn’t ask any more questions. In fact, he was so quiet I thought he had gone outside. I peeked into the living room, and he was reading the church bulletin. Looking up, he grinned at me.

“No wonder you don’t know what the preacher said.”

“Well,” I said defensively, “Dorothy’s going to be gone all this week. We had to get it planned!” He raised his eyebrows, and I flounced into the kitchen.

Which reminds me— we didn’t decide whether to use church dishes or buy paper plates. No matter. We can decide that next Sunday during church.

Isaiah 29:13 *“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.”*

Because we are saved by God’s grace and not by our own works, we often tend to be casual when we worship our Wonderful, Holy Lord.



March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Print Ministry 10-2 6:30pm Weekly Clubs & Mtgs	4 Noon Prayer	5 RU 7 pm	6
7 Building Fund Offering Singspiration	8 P & W WS	9 Deacons Mtg Print Ministry 3-6	10 Print Ministry 10-2 6:30pm Weekly Clubs & Mtgs	11 Noon Prayer	12 RU 7 pm	13 Trustees
14	5	16 Print Ministry 3-6	17 Print Ministry 10-2 6:30pm Weekly Clubs & Mtgs	18 Noon Prayer	19 RU 7 pm	20 Teens-Temple
21	22	23 Print Ministry 3-6	24 Print Ministry 10-2 6:30pm Weekly Clubs & Mtgs	25 Noon Prayer	26 RU 7 pm	27
28 Lord's Supper	29	30 Print Ministry 3-6	31 Print Ministry 10-2 6:30pm Weekly Clubs & Mtgs	Sunday School- 9:30 Morning Service-10:30 Evening Service-6:00 TBA Calendar on Page 4		



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Rev. Ronald J. Tobin, Pastor

Donald I. Root, Assistant Pastor

Robert Meyer, Assistant Pastor

Birthdays

- 1st Serianna Meyer
 - 2nd Savannah Spaulding
 - 7th Cheyanna Gazevoort
 - 4th Rocky Lawrence
 - 8th Roger Pipkin
 - 8th Audrey Caukin
 - 9th Paul Bezzone
 - 12th Taylor Sonie
 - 12th Ashley Caukin
 - 13th Ian Buehner
 - 13th Falicia Christensen
 - 13th Colden Hershey
 - 14th Max Spaulding
 - 16th Stephen Hlass
 - 17th Harold Haines
 - 17th Shawn Christensen
 - 17th Jake Eldridge
 - 17th Ralph Gilbert
 - 18th Patricia Morris
 - 20th Cori Blaschke
 - 21st Bryn James
 - 22nd Isabella Jewison
 - 27th Louisa Mainu
 - 28th Keisha Beason
 - 28th Marta Ziemis
- Anniversaries**
- 11th Pastor Ron & Pat Tobin
 - 20th George & Karen Miller
 - 29th Steven & Debbi Rippentrop
 - 30th James & Donna Williams

Independent Fundamental Church Ministries:
Tomah Baptist Academy K-12 ~ Tomah Baptist Institute
Live streaming Sunday Services ~ Christian Counseling
Mid-Week Children & Youth Ministries
Light-Bearing Print Ministry ~ Discipleship Program
Victorious Overcomers Addiction Ministry



“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

March Missionaries

Dan & Dee Kowach missionaries to Gangneung, South Korea. They hold services in both English and Korean. Language study is progressing and they are starting to communicate more in Korean.

Prayer Requests:

- Dan’s Hearing
- Korean vocabulary will increase faster.
- Assistant Pastor

Couriers for Christ is based out Wyldewood Baptist Church in Oshkosh, WI. They equip foreign churches with the Word of God in their languages. The literature has been shipped to over 30 countries in 16 different languages.

Prayer Requests:

- Meetings during Covid
- Ukraine Bibles needed
- Croatia Trip June 2020

Duane & Sin Chee Ott are missionaries to Malaysia. Zoe Baptist Church & Resource Center www.zoebapresource.com

Prayer Requests & Praises:

- Christian churches being targeted
- Renewal of the English Center license
- More English center