

Jan-Feb, 2010

Volume 6, Issue 1

# Tyland Baptist Church

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David Mahfood, Pastor  
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## Services

- **Sunday**  
9:30 a.m.-Prayer Time,  
Children's Music  
  
9:40 a.m.-Sunday School  
  
10:40 a.m.-Worship  
  
5:15 p.m.-Choir Practice  
  
6 p.m.-Worship
- **Wednesday**  
6 p.m.-Bible Study: Adult,  
Youth, RA, GA

## Dates to Remember

January PATH Food  
Donation: Soup. Put in  
basket in hallway.

## No January Movie Night

Jan 11: Deacon Ordination  
6 pm

Jan 13: Business Meeting  
6 pm

Jan 24: David's Song  
6 pm. Also, deadline for  
Feminar registration

Jan 26: Greenbrier NH BD  
Party 2:30 pm

Jan 31: NO EVENING  
SERVICE

Feb 5: Movie Night  
6:30 pm

Feb 10: Business Meeting  
6 pm

Feb 14: Valentine's Day

Feb 23: Greenbrier NH BD  
Party 2:30 pm

Feb 26-27: Feminar –  
Belcher Center/Longview

Feb 28: Newsletter  
Deadline

## From The Pastor – “Don't Just Stand There”

One of my favorite moments in the Bible is perhaps the most "non-eventful event" chronicled anywhere in the pages of Scripture. It is located early in the Book of Acts, just after the disciples have watched the Lord Jesus ascend into heaven. Luke describes the action.

*"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:10-11, NKJV)*

I enjoy this scene for numerous reasons. First, I can't help but laugh as I picture eleven men – heads thrown back onto their shoulders, eyes wide and mouths open – trying desperately to mentally process what they have just witnessed. Second, I get the feeling from the words of Scripture ("steadfastly" and "gazing") that they would still be standing there if not for angelic disturbance. Finally, I am taken by the subtext of the angels' message. Though they don't come right out and say it, their intention seems abundantly clear: *"Don't just stand there!"*

In order to fully appreciate the moment, we really have to consider what has immediately preceded it.

- The disciples have met the Risen Lord in Jerusalem (1:4).
  - He has told them that the Holy Spirit would come upon them shortly (1:5).
  - He has corrected their doctrine by way of reproof (1:7).
  - He has promised them power to fulfill their mission (1:8)
  - He has given them their marching orders (1:8)
- ...and yet, after all of that, *they're still standing in place looking up at the sky!*

Brothers and sisters, I fear that we imitate this type of behavior far more often than we care to admit. What makes this even more tragic is that, as Christians, we have received blessings equal to and, in some cases, greater than those eleven men who were gazing skyward that day.

- They met Him in Jerusalem – we have met Him in our hearts.
- The Holy Spirit came upon them later – He came upon us at conversion.
- Jesus corrected their doctrine – in addition to the words of Our Lord, we have the holy and inspired writings of Paul, James, Jude, John, Peter, and the writer of Hebrews, all of which aid in our sanctification.
- As with them, Jesus has also empowered us.
- As with them, Jesus has also given us our mission.

*So why are we still standing here?*

We have the divine assurance, voiced by the angels, that Jesus will return – so we need not continually watch the sky. We have the words of Our Lord saying that only the Father knows the time of this return – so we need not continually watch the clock. What we must focus upon is the mission that is in front of us, to be witnesses for the Lord no matter where He places us. In order to do this, we must be willing to lower our heads and see what lay before us. Only then will we be able to take the next step on our journey. Only then will we be able to truly see the fields of harvest.

Let us pray together that 2010 is the year in which we reach out to the lost of this world. We have the power within us. We have our marching orders. The last thing we want to do is "just stand there." After all, who knows? Once we quit staring at the clouds, we might even realize that there have been angels at our shoulders all along.

May God bless you all and preserve His church,

– Brother David





**Feminar 2010**  
 -Feb 26-27  
 -Belcher Center/Longview  
 -Musical Guest: Mandisa  
 -Speakers: Lysa TerKeurst, Founder of Proverbs 31 Women's Ministries, and Janet White.  
 -Tickets: \$42 (deadline is Jan 24 to get money to Diane Suess)

**Ava Marie Halbert was born on November 12 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Halbert. Proud relatives are grandmother Reta Lynne Spradlin, great grandmother Reta Spradlin, and aunt and uncle Patrick and Jennifer Davis.**



Pics from Dec '09 Children's Christmas Party!



**God Looks for Clay**  
 Devotional from Henry Blackaby



**Sunday, January 24, 6 pm**  
**In Concert at Tyland Baptist Church...**  
**David's Song**  
 -Recipient of the 2007 South Texas Gospel Music Association's Trio of the Year Award.  
 -Honored in 2007 for the STGMA Song of the Year, "Wish You Were Here".  
 -Recipient of the 2006 STGMA Horizon Group of the Year Award.  
 -David McKain received the STGMA's 2005 Musician of the Year Award.

 A photograph of three men in grey suits standing outdoors in front of a tree with autumn-colored leaves. One man is kneeling in the foreground, while two others stand behind him.

**You are invited to the Deacon Ordination Service for Stephen Lange Charles Stovall**  
**Sunday, January 10, 6 pm**  
**Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.**

"O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"  
**JEREMIAH 18:6**

God knows how to bring salvation to your family, your friends, your community, and your world. Accordingly, He looks for those who will allow Him to shape them into the instruments He requires to do His divine work. Clay has no plans of its own, no aspirations for service, nor reluctance to perform its given task. It is just clay. Moldable, pliable, totally submissive to the will of its master. At times we excitedly announce to God: ""I've discovered my strengths and gifts, and now I know how I can best serve You!"" At other times we inform Him, ""I am aware of what my weaknesses are, so I know which tasks I'm not capable of doing for You."" Yet this is not characteristic of clay. God is not limited to working with our strengths (2 Cor. 12:9-10). He can mold us into whatever kind of instrument He requires. When God's assignment demands humility, he finds a servant willing to be humbled. When His work requires zeal, He looks for someone He can fill with His Spirit. God uses holy vessels so He finds those who will allow Him to remove their impurities. It is not a noble task, being clay. There is no glamour to it, nothing boastworthy, except that it is exactly what almighty God is looking for. Compliant, moldable, yielded clay.

If your tendency is to tell the Father what you can and cannot do for Him, submit to His agenda and allow Him to shape you into the person He wants you to be. Like clay."

**No church services Sunday Evening, January 31. Smith Association Annual Meeting at Lake Tyler Baptist Church.**