

Pine Grove - Ebenezer Methodist Charge

JERRY A. TANTON, MINISTER

STAR ROUTE

Carson, Alabama

November 4, 1962

Governor-Elect George C. Wallace
Clayton, Alabama

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The congregation of the Pine Grove Methodist Church voted unanimously today to write you this letter.

We are aware of your grave responsibilities and formative influence in the area of race relations in this state. We are praying for you daily as you face what seems to us to be one of the most serious problems ever confronted by an Alabama Governor.

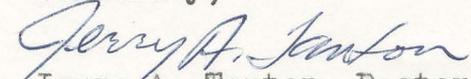
We urge you to begin immediately a program of preparation which will prevent lawlessness, discord, violence, and bloodshed. Every public statement you make is setting the tone for what is to come. We do not believe that inflammatory and rebellious statements provide the type preparation we need.

Our church is vitally concerned about what happens in the next few months at the University of Alabama, where we have four students, and at Auburn University, where we have three students. We strongly urge you to dismiss any ideas concerning the closing of any school! We plead with you to use reasonable governance and the courts to resist integration...not force! While we do not approve integrated schools, we abhor the idea of repeating the present Mississippi crisis in Alabama.

We have faith that the school officials and students can and will handle peaceably the situation which is to arise...if only a peaceful attitude is created by state leaders and private citizens...and if outside agitators are not allowed on the campuses.

We are firm in our conviction that a workable solution to this problem and your own political future depend upon a peaceful approach. We urge you to seek the interested support of the thousands of men and women who are praying and working for law, order, and good will among all the people of our state.

Sincerely,


Jerry A. Tanton, Pastor


C. K. Granade
Church Lay Leader