

Shepherd to Shepherd

"Stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord" Micah 5:4

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Pastors' Newsletter

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Eddie Estep

District Superintendent

- *Christlike Disciples*
- *Holiness Pastors*
- *Missional Churches*



From My Heart to Yours

PASTOR, WHY ARE YOU DOING IT ALL?

A few weeks ago Diane and I visited a church (not in South Carolina) in which we were greeted at the door by the pastor. When the service started, the pastor brought greetings. Then he prayed the invocation, led the singing, called for the ushers, prayed for the offering, gave the announcements, preached the message, gave the invitation, and prayed the benediction. Made me tired just watching him. During the offering he walked back to the sound booth to adjust the controls. He was also at the door to shake our hands when we left. I left shaking my head.

Sometimes pastors are tempted to do everything. Obviously, this pastor had given in to the temptation. Whatever happened to pastors equipping the church for works of ministry?

Just a few days before attending that service, Diane and I were invited to attend a Sunday School class party at Columbia First Church. The class - the Neely Friendship Class - is taught by Virginia Morris. It was a great Christmas party! The facility was beautifully decorated. The food was delicious, and the fellowship was rich. The evening's entertainment included the

appearance of "Patsy Cline." Her first rendition, "Back in Baby's Arms," was sung to a blushing district superintendent whose face became as red as the brightest Christmas sweater in the room. I digress . . .

The highlight of the evening for me was when Virginia introduced the class's "Caregivers." Nine of the 13 "Caregivers" were present and were appropriately honored. These individuals provide care to members of the class, probably the largest Sunday School class on our district (101 on the responsibility list and 70 regularly in attendance). Virginia has learned a lesson that many pastors would do well to learn: no one person can do all the ministry. Not in a Sunday School class; not in a church. We don't need just one caregiver (or preacher, or music leader, or teacher, etc.) in any of our congregations. We need many caregivers in each of our congregations. Let's identify those who have the gifts and passion for caregiving - those who can give spiritual care, emotional care, and physical care. Let's train them, equip them, empower them, and then turn them loose to do God's work.

That would be something even Patsy Cline could sing about.

*Eddie Estep
District Pastor*

PASTORS' PRAYER SUMMIT

February 15-16, 2010, at the D. Moody Gunter Camp & Retreat Center
E-mail nazscdist@cs.com to register.

PALCON

May 11-13, 2010, at Trevecca Nazarene University
Go to www.nazarenepastor.org to register.

Bits-N-Pieces

"Dates to Remember"

January

25-28 Ministry Team Retreat,
Myrtle Beach, with
Dr. Jesse Middendorf

February

15-16 Pastors' Pre-Lent
Prayer Summit

March

25 "Teaching Church"
Seminar at Greenville
First
27 Cooper River Bridge
Run

April

24 District Leaders'
Information Tour
(Greenville, Columbia,
Charleston)

May

8 TNU Palmetto Nazarene
Golf Tournament
(Changed from May 15)
11-13 PALCON at TNU

UPDATES

PRAYER REQUESTS: Pastor John Powell (Batesburg) undergoing cancer treatment; Rev. Hubert Richardson (retired pastor); Scott Adams (Great Falls PK) undergoing cancer treatment; Pastor Bill Watts (Pelion) recovering from heart surgery; Ron Howard (Camp Board) recovering from surgery; Diane Estep's father, Fred, recovering from a heart attack; Wesley Sharpe (Sumter Calvary PK); the people of Haiti and the 116,000 Nazarenes in 500 churches there.

The **Honea Path "Genesis" Church** (Pastor Bill Higgins) had their grand opening on January 10 with 54 in attendance.

Cherrydale Hispanic (Pastor Jonathan Saenz) will be officially organized on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Interim Pastors: Roland Evans is serving at **Columbia Grace**; Barney Baggott is serving at **Winnsboro**.

Congratulations to Dr. Allan Rashford (**Charleston St. Andrews** pastor) who will be honored by the Exchange Club of Charleston on February 14 with their "Golden Deed Award" recognizing his service to the community.

DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? For piano CDs for congregations to sing by, call Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800 or visit www.pianocds.org. No band or complicated orchestrations...simply beautiful piano accompaniment designed for congregational singing.

District Awakening Tour: Danny Bohi, a lay evangelist, will be touring our district November 8-11, 2010. The locations for the evening services have not yet been set, but we are already praying for a tremendous outpouring of God's Spirit. The district will be called to 30 days of prayer prior to these services.

Holiness Summit: Two godly laymen from the Charlotte/Rock Hill area recently met with me to invite me to join them in praying that God would bring a holiness summit to the Carolinas, possibly in the Charlotte/Rock Hill area. They are willing to speak at any of our churches, to share their burden, and to invite others to join them in praying and planning. They will speak to Sunday School classes or in church services according to your direction. You may contact Jerry Renkenberger at 704.751.4078 or Bobby Gums at 704.619.9201. They can be e-mailed at grassrootsprayer@gmail.com. For information and audio sermons on previous holiness summits, go to www.holiness-summit.org.

THINKING AHEAD

- October 10, 2010 (10/10/10) is a Sunday. How could you use this date at your church?
- "20/20 Vision" would be a great title for a ten-year planning cycle for any local church.
- Greg Pressley shares that in 2010 many of the significant holidays will fall on the weekend: February 14 - Valentine's Day (Sunday), July 4 - (Sunday), Christmas Day (Saturday), New Year's Day (Saturday).