

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

HOLY WEEK IMAGES OF JESUS

Holy Week is filled with special significance for holiness pastors. This is especially true as we consider the many various and diverse images of Jesus between Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday.

Which image of Jesus during Holy Week most resonates with you?

Is it the picture of the compassionate, loving shepherd, weeping over Jerusalem?

Is it the image of righteous anger, as Jesus drives the moneychangers out of the Temple?

Is it the depiction of the ever-sustaining Jesus miraculously helping Peter pay the taxes?

Is it the portrait of Jesus praying for our unity in the Upper Room discourse?

Is it the representation of a heavily-burdened Jesus, praying in the garden?

One thing these various images of Jesus teach us is that no matter where we are in the journey, not only is Jesus walking beside us, He has been there before.

Take heart. Be encouraged. Christ is with you this Holy Week.

BOOK REVIEW: The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming by Henri Nouwen (151 pages).

This is one great book. Although only 15 years since first published, this is a classic. A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (the eight-foot tall by six-foot wide original hangs in the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg) catapulted Henri Nouwen on a long spiritual adventure. The book considers the several movements of the parable that are reflected in Rembrandt's masterpiece. Nouwen explores insights on his own life revealed by the painting, fascinating observations about Rembrandt's life, as well as historical observations and a rich cultural understanding of the much-loved parable by Jesus. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, reconciliation, and transformation, as well as loneliness, dejection, and jealousy are explored. This is an incredibly powerful book about an incredibly powerful painting based on an incredibly powerful parable. This book could easily provide material for a series of sermons on the Luke 15 parable.

Eddie Estep
District Pastor

Bits-N-Pieces

PRAYER REQUESTS: Hubert Richardson (Batesburg, chemotherapy treatments), Chaplain Steve Survance (deployed to Ecuador), John Powell (Orangeburg First, non-cancerous throat tumor), LaNora Smith (song evangelist, Winnsboro, injured in a fall), Sue Coburn (emergency appendectomy).

41 SC ministers attended the District Pastors' Prayer Summit held at the campground last month. The next Pastors' Prayer Summit is scheduled for October 20-21, 2008.

The Regional Prayer Summit for the Southeast (TNU) Region will be held May 28-30, 2008, on the campus of Trevecca Nazarene University. All ministers and spouses are welcome. Online registration information can be found at: www.nazarenepastor.org

A district pastors' Centennial Sunday training day is scheduled for April 12 in Columbia. Each pastor will receive a complimentary Centennial kit with sermons, worship service ideas, resources for children and youth, CDs, DVDs, and more. Centennial Celebration Sunday will take place October 5, 2008.

Around the middle of each month, a new downloadable and printable Trevecca bulletin insert is posted at www.trevecca.edu/church.services/resources. The University hopes that churches will use these inserts as a way to raise awareness of Trevecca within their congregations.

The Fort Jackson Chaplain's Office is hosting an Integrity in Ministry Conference with H. B. London on April 30, 2008.

As of 2/15/08 SC had submitted 55.40% of our World Evangelism Fund apportionment and 59.50% of our Pensions & Benefits Fund apportionment. Don't forget that our church year ends May 31, 2008 (one month early).

Mia Grace McAdory was born Friday, March 7, and was welcomed with love and pride by Mike, Melinda, Chandler, and Chad McAdory. Mia's grandparents are Rev. Ray and Margaret Moore and Rev. Thom and Ronda McAdory.

April is our *Holiness Today* campaign subscription month. I want to recommend *Holiness Today* to all South Carolina Nazarenes as a resource to strengthen your faith and empower you for practical holy living. In addition to the excellent features and interesting articles, *Holiness Today* will keep you informed of the work of God and the global church. Each church has been sent subscription material.

Your Opinion Counts

The question for next issue: "Summer will bring both the Summer Olympics and the National Democratic and Republican Conventions. Do you have any good sermon series ideas that address any of these events that will be high on the public consciousness?" Please forward your responses to eddieestep@scnazdist.net and I will list selected responses in the next issue.