

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

OF MARRIAGE AND GRACE

In a few days Diane and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. Twenty-five years. That's a lot of marriage. That's a lot of grace.

I remember hearing a wise person once say that anyone who has been married more than a week has grounds for divorce and that the key to a lasting relationship is to find, and keep finding, grounds for marriage.

Grounds for marriage? That would include love, friendship, intimacy, commitment, forgiveness, encouragement, faithfulness, adventure, companionship, and several other grace-filled words. I suppose that's why Jesus so often used the analogy of marriage to describe the relationship God wants to have with us.

Sometime ago Diane dragged me off to see a chick flick (not a rare occurrence). I don't remember the exact name of the movie, but I do remember some memorable lines. A wife is talking to a private detective whom she had hired to investigate her husband, whom she suspected to be having an affair. The detective assures her that is not the case, and their conversation then turns to the nature of marriage. These were the poignant lines: "We need a witness to our lives. Someone who will say, 'Your life will

not go unnoticed. Your life will not go unwitnessed, because I will witness it.'" Truly a beautiful thought.

I suppose it is possible for marriage to be a solitary existence, but how much richer and ultimately more fulfilling when life is a journey made together. Life with Diane is an adventure of grace upon grace. At the young age in which we wed, I was not smart enough to realize how good a decision I was making. Grace.

A few weeks ago I joined my parents, brothers, sister, and our spouses as we got together to celebrate my Mom and Dad's 50th anniversary. We sat around a dinner table for a few evenings recounting warm memories, telling embarrassing stories, and just enjoying the rare opportunity for everyone to be together. One evening we added up the years of marriage around the table: 50 for Mom and Dad, 25 for Diane and me, 20 for Scott and Kim, 18 for Steve and Michelle, 10 for Kim and Robert...123 years of marriage sitting around one table.

That's a lot of marriage. That's a lot of grace.

Eddie Estep
District Pastor

Bits-N-Pieces

PRAYER REQUESTS: Donna Midgette, wife of Rev. Bob Midgette (retired), recovering from surgery; Rev. Hubert Richardson (retired); Rev. Paul Wiggins (retired); Rev. William Carter (Sumter Calvary associate) hospitalized; Janet Harkey (Duncan LifeSpring pastor's wife) recovering from ankle surgery; Eugene Geddings (Sumter Wise Drive PK) anticipating surgery; Jadon Bird (Indian Land PK); Rev. Amanda Watts (Orangeburg First) recovering from a broken leg and broken wrist; Rev. Brent Walker (Myrtle Beach) at the passing of his mother; Rev. Phil Jones (Rock Hill Trinity).

Camp Manager Dennis Johnson reports 98 people provided 223 days of labor and completed 120 jobs in 1,840 hours during Camp Work Days #1 and #2. Thanks to all who participated!

Rev. Brandon and Rev. Amanda Watts have accepted the call to co-pastor Orangeburg First. We welcome Brandon and Amanda and their daughter Anne Elizabeth to our South Carolina District pastoral team.

The South Carolina District welcomes the following staff pastors to our district ministry team: Donna Green, associate pastor/mission director, Manning NewStart; Susan Blankenship, minister of music, Summerville; Melissa Coleman, children's pastor, Lexington Shepherd.

Don't forget to send baptism photos to the district office for the baptism video at the Tuesday night service of district assembly.

Pastors' reports at district assembly will be strictly limited to 90 seconds each.

District Camp Meeting, June 14-21. Pastors' Seminar, Tuesday afternoon, June 16.

Congratulations to Allan and Gloria Rashford (Charleston St. Andrews) at the birth of a granddaughter, Ivey Rose, born May 5 to Alexis & Ben Stroble.

Congratulations to Josh Estep, named to the All-American Mideast Conference (AMC) First Team (baseball) for the third year, and All-AMC Rawlings Gold Glove Team for the second year.

Dr. Jesse Middendorf, chairman of the Board of General Superintendents, has provided a new video greeting and update for pastors on the Nazarene media library. It can be found here:

<http://www.nazarenemedialibrary.org/MediaView.aspx?mediaId=d0603d35-7568-428d-a46a-48c97029f755>. Either click on the link or paste it into your web browser.

Pastors are encouraged to either print several copies of the monthly district newsletter or to make parishioners aware of the availability of the district newsletter on the district website (www.scnazdist.net).