

Shepherd to Shepherd

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

South Carolina District Church of the Nazarene * 150 McSwain Dr., West Columbia, SC 29169 * (803) 794-2209

Pastors' Newsletter

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Eddie Estep

District Superintendent

• *Christlike Disciples*

• *Holiness Pastors*

• *Missional Churches*



From My Heart to Yours

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Some friends of mine recently stopped by a favorite restaurant in Columbia to get a bite to eat. They were surprised to discover the restaurant—part of a national chain—closed. Curious, they got out of their vehicle to examine a sign on the door. The sign read, "This store didn't measure up to our company's high expectations. Therefore, it was closed." Apparently, the company did not want their name associated with shoddy service, bad food, or lousy atmosphere.

As I was pondering this news, I began to wonder what would happen if God had a similar policy for His churches. What if, whenever churches didn't measure up to God's high expectations, the doors were locked and a sign was put out front reading, "This church didn't measure up to My high expectations. Therefore, it was closed. Signed, God."

What are the expectations for churches that identify with Jesus, "the Nazarene"? May I suggest that the following might be realistic expectations:

Expectation #1: That we make Christlike disciples.

Expectation #2: That we live out our Core Values: we are Christian, we are holiness, we are missional.

Expectation #3: That we passionately love God and people.

Expectation #4: That we are both faithful and fruitful.

I have a feeling that if we meet these expectations, God might just decide to start up more of His "Nazarene" churches in South Carolina.

Eddie Estep
District Pastor

Bits-N-Pieces

PRAYER REQUESTS: Hubert Richardson (Batesburg, chemotherapy treatments), Chaplain Steve Survance (deployed to Ecuador), Luis Valverde, T. W. Mitchell (Ashwood, recovering from eye surgery).

Youth Camp begins today at the D. Moody Gunter Camp & Retreat Center. Registrations number in excess of 200, well above recent years.

Thanks to your hard work and sacrifice, our World Evangelism Fund is now at 97.37%. We are almost to the goal of 100%!

During pastoral vacancies, the following elders are serving in interim positions: Jerry Earles at Winnsboro; John Sanders at Summerville; Bob Albert at Lexington Shepherd; Leonardo Cortes (Manning NewStart Hispanic pastor) at West Columbia Hispanic, Bill Ulmet at Hartsville First. Mickey Smith will be serving in the interim at Rock Hill Grace beginning in August.

John Griggs has accepted the call to pastor the Conway Church. He will be installed as pastor on July 6.

Ricky Grimes (Shelly) has accepted the call to pastor the Winnsboro Church. The Grimeses and their teenage children, Joe & Kay, will be moving from Colorado Springs. Their first Sunday will be July 27.

Mark Foster (Bennettsville First) has been appointed Mission Area Director for the Northeast Mission Area.

SC District Family Camp takes place June 22-29. Discipleship Classes with Dr. Chic Shaver, 9:00-10:00 daily; Morning Services: 10:30 a.m.; Evening Services: 7:30 p.m. A special seminar for Pastors will be offered Thursday, July 26, at 1:30 p.m. "Missional Pastoral Ministry" will be taught by Dr. Dwight Gunter.

Luis Valverde has resigned as pastor of the West Columbia Hispanic NewStart due to health reasons. We ask you to remember Luis and Dianey in your prayers. I also request that you forward any recommendations for a West Columbia Hispanic NewStart pastor to me at eddieestep@scnazdist.net.

Mike Blankenship (Summerville) has been elected as the ministerial representative to the Trevecca Nazarene University Alumni Board and to the Board of Trustees for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2008.

Mike McAdory (Midland Valley First music minister) has been elected as the South Carolina member to the Alumni Board of Trevecca Nazarene University.

Great Falls and Pastor Henry Adams saw nine children receive Christ during VBS.

Congratulations to Pastor Arthur Sharpe and the Sumter Calvary Church board for an excellent ministry review.

We received a letter of appreciation from Harold Graves, president of Nazarene Bible College, for our district churches involvement in the NBC annual offering. Twenty-two of our churches gave a total of \$3,118 for the NBC offering this year. Thank you for your involvement.

Your Opinion Counts

Last month we asked, **"What one word best describes the pastorate?"** Responses included:

"Adventure," said Ken Paynter. "Adventure," said Andy Bird. "Adventure," said Eddie Estep. "Unpredictable!" said John Porter.

The question for next issue: "What is the highlight of District Assembly for you?"

Please forward your responses to eddieestep@scnazdist.net and I will list selected responses in the next issue.