

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

THE COFFEE OR THE CUP?

A parable by "Anonymous"

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems

and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups. And then you began eyeing each other's cups."

"Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live."

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. God brews the coffee, not the cups. Enjoy your coffee! The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God!

Eddie Estep
District Pastor

Bits-N-Pieces

PRAYER REQUESTS: Hubert Richardson (Batesburg, chemotherapy treatments), Chaplain Steve Survance (deployed to Ecuador), Luis Valverde, Judy Hildreth (recovering from major surgery).

Dr. Steve Callis has accepted the call to Douglasville, Georgia, Church of the Nazarene. We appreciate the service Dr. Callis has provided as chairman of the South Carolina District Board of Ministerial Studies and as director of the Carolinas School of Ministry. We pray God's blessing upon him and his family as he enters this new chapter of ministry.

During pastoral vacancies, the following elders are serving in interim positions: 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.

Andy Barnette (Greenwood youth pastor) has accepted a call to serve as youth pastor at Venice (FL). Alex Mahaffey (Charleston Calvary youth pastor) has accepted a call to serve as youth pastor with his father, Bob Mahaffey, at Westchester (OH).

The district office has a copy of the *Witnessing Without Fear* notebook produced by Chic Shaver. The notebook includes the videotapes for the four sessions and a reproducible session outline.

The "Missional Pastoral Ministry" seminar, taught by Dr. Dwight Gunter, was attended by 31 ministers.

South Carolina District churches are being asked to receive a special offering on Centennial Sunday, October 5, for the Global Ministry Center.

A national pastor on the mission field is in need of a laptop computer. If you have one available, let me know.

James D. Hager, Director of Chaplains and Pastoral Education at Ascension Hospice, is offering a Fall unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), to begin the end of August. For more information, contact him at jamesh@ascensionhospice.com.

The Duncan LifeSpring Community Church of the Nazarene will be organized on Sunday, July 27, with Alan Harkey as pastor. This church was planted by the Simpsonville LifeSpring Church of the Nazarene and Pastor Bill Higgins.

The DAB has approved the creation of the South Carolina District Compassionate Ministries Fund, a 10% Mission Special, designed to assist ministers on the South Carolina District with pressing needs, especially health-related needs.

Your Opinion Counts

Last month we asked, **"What is the highlight of District Assembly for you?"** Responses included: "For me it is the pastors' reports – the joyful victories and the courage in the face of brokenness inspire us and spur us on, knowing that we serve with a "band of brothers." - Mary Paynter

The question for next issue: "If your church could have staff help in one area for a day or two a week, what area would it be?" This question has been posed by Brent Van Hook (Midland Valley) and is being further discussed at <http://www.sharedstaff.blogspot.com>. Please forward your responses to eddieestep@scnazdist.net and I will list selected responses in the next issue.