

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REFLECTIONS

Renewing old friendships. Making new friends. Learning about growing ministries around the world. Admiring the rich diversity that is ours as a truly global church. Such are the opportunities General Assembly affords. There is also something very special about worshipping with 22,000 Nazarenes in the same room, and being joined by over 10,000 more online.

The 2009 General Assembly contained several defining moments for the church. The retirement of general superintendents Dr. Paul Cunningham (with his credibility, dignity, and memorable preaching), Dr. Nina Gunter (with her world mission passion, rich relational skills, and persuasive preaching) and Dr. James Diehl (with his rich communication skills and contagious optimism) marks a significant transition. While the loss of these leaders will have a considerable impact on the life of the church, we will continue to be blessed by their legacy.

God is faithful to provide for His church, as was evident in the election of three new general superintendents: Dr. Eugenio Duarte, Dr. David Graves, and Dr. Stan Toler. Each of these three brings his own unique, God-given gifts and abilities that God will use to bless the Church of the Nazarene.

One of the proudest moments to be a Nazarene that I have ever experienced came with the election

of Eugenio Duarte, a Cape Verde citizen, and the first citizen from outside the USA/Canada Region. The spontaneous celebration of the assembly, led by the Africa Region, was electrifying.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS

Let me give you some information regarding our 67th annual District Assembly & Conventions, to be held July 26 - 29 at Columbia First Church of the Nazarene.

- Dr. Nina Gunter, General Superintendent, will be presiding. This will be her final assembly as general superintendent before her retirement.
- At the Tuesday evening Assembly service, we will be honoring both Dr. Nina and Dr. Moody Gunter. Churches are invited to bring cards to share with the Gunters at a reception in their honor following the service. (A basket, in which to place your cards, will be available at the reception.)
- Pastors should come prepared to give a 90-second verbal report (with three written copies). Most of our pastors accomplished this very well last year. We did have a few who significantly missed the mark, but I have every confidence all will be on target this year. Dr. Gunter suggests each report contain "the story of a life transformed."

Eddie Estep
District Pastor

Bits-N-Pieces

PRAYER REQUESTS: District Assembly; Rev. Hubert Richardson (retired); Rock Hill Trinity Pastor Phil Jones' daughter, Amanda, hospitalized since July 3; Pastor Bill Watts (Pelion), who has recently undergone heart procedures; Pastor Ed Kessler (Charleston Cross Community) undergoing neurological tests; Chuck Kessler (Ed Kessler's brother) diagnosed with lymphoma.

FAIR SHARE UPDATE: The end of June was a busy time for all of us (camp meeting, General Conventions, General Assembly...) and as a result several churches did not make Fair Share payments at that time. (June Fair Share income was only \$55,000, compared to the average monthly income of \$90,000.) Pastors, please check with your treasurers to see if your church's Fair Share giving is current.

Rev. Ken and Rev. Mary Paynter are available to give a report about the ministry of Clemson - The Bridge on Sunday evenings during the summer. They can fill a pulpit for a pastor who will be away on vacation or do a 10-15 minute presentation as part of the service. They do not ask for or expect an honorarium, just an opportunity to tell the story and extend their prayer base.

Pastors are encouraged either to 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).

Midland Valley First Church is hosting the Leadership Summit, Friday-Saturday, August 14-15, and offering the entire Leadership Summit presentation at a discount cost of \$100 per person, \$85 for early registration (by August 3). Other discounts available for clergy and benevolence ministry leaders. Contact Sharon Mills at MMILLS519@aol.com for more information.

The South Carolina District had a total of 1,918 Continuing Lay Training credits for the 2008-2009 church year, recognized as an "outstanding achievement."

If your church would be interested in a W & W Trip to assist with the construction of the Gamertsfelder Mission Centre in Jamaica, information on the project is available at www.missionofsight.org. Dr. Gamertsfelder is the "Father of Work & Witness."

Rev. Milton Harrington is serving as interim pastor at Simpsonville LifeSpring Community, effective August 2.

Rev. Bill Higgins has been granted approval to begin a NewStart in Honea Path.

Rev. Ben LaPlace has been granted approval to begin a NewStart in Aiken.

In harmony with action of the Board of General Superintendents, effective August 1, 2009, the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the South Carolina District will be Dr. Stanley A. Toler. Beginning on January 1, 2010, Dr. Jesse C. Middendorf will assume jurisdiction until December 31, 2011.