

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 MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

A week ago I spent two days in hospital surgical waiting rooms as Jeff underwent knee surgery one day and Josh underwent shoulder surgery the next. Over the years I have spent much time in those kinds of places. The difference this time was that I was on the receiving end of pastoral care.

You can observe a lot of things over the course of 13 hours in hospital waiting rooms. One can see lots of concerned people, the hopefulness in people's eyes when the surgeon comes into the waiting room following surgery, and how some doctors immediately set families at ease by giving a "thumbs up" indicating that the surgery went well. One sees how lonely some people are, how people respond to a kind word or a smile from a hospital volunteer, and how some health care workers are gifted with a sensitivity to people's needs and a capability of diffusing difficult situations brought about when the stress of

concern makes people say and do things they normally would not.

Over those two days I suppose there were over a hundred other people in those hospital waiting rooms. In addition to the pastors who visited me, I saw one other pastor. One. I watched a family respond to that pastor. Their shepherd set them at ease and engaged them in conversation that made the time go by a little more quickly. They laughed together and prayed together. I watched the pastor stand with the family when the doctor came through the door. I saw the difference a pastor makes by being present.

Pastoral care. It is so important that people know we care. And the best time to let them know is when they need it the most.

Pastor, your presence makes a bigger difference than you might realize.

*Eddie Estep
District Pastor*

Bits-N-Pieces

UPDATES

PRAYER REQUESTS: Rev. Hubert Richardson (retired pastor); Norma Smith (Rock Hill pastor's spouse); Wanda Morris (Rock Hill Emmanuel pastor's spouse), Lauren Rupert (Charleston First pastor's spouse), Bob and Betty Morris (retired pastor) at the passing of their grandson, Christopher Lee Morris; George Gardner (Laurens pastor, recovering from knee surgery); Captain Greg Brunson (Chaplain, Summerville) deployed to Afghanistan.

"Dates to Remember"

September

- 11-13 Lay Retreat;
Springmaid, Myrtle
Beach
19 Panama Work &
Witness Trip

October

- 2-4 NYI Breakaway, Camp
Thunderbird
17 Children's Mission Fair
19-20 Pastors' Prayer Summit
29 District "Teaching
Church" Day, Manning
NewStart

November

- 13-15 Ladies Retreat, Hilton
Royale Palms, Myrtle
Beach

December

- 7 District Christmas
Banquet, Brookland
Baptist Community
Center

January

- 16 Mid-Year Rally,
Seawell's
25-28 Ministry Team Retreat,
Myrtle Beach, with
Dr. Jesse Middendorf

FAIR SHARE UPDATE: The first two months of the church year have resulted in monthly contributions of \$55,000 and \$66,000. (Last year's average monthly income was \$90,000.) Pastors, please check with your treasurers to see if your church's Fair Share giving is current.

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).

Congratulations to Dennis and Bonnie Johnson (Camp Manager) on the birth of a granddaughter, Juliette Susannah Sanford.

Harry Widener has indicated his availability for revivals. He may be contacted at 212 Glen Echo Cr., Saluda, NC 28773; nuhart7965@msn.com; or 828-749-3166 (home); 828-606-0707 (cell).

Dr. Ron Benefiel, president of Nazarene Theological Seminary, has sent a letter of appreciation for contributions from our churches to this year's Seminary offering. The total NTS offering from the South Carolina District this past year was \$3,177.

Southern Wesleyan University (based in Central, South Carolina) and Nazarene Theological Seminary have announced a collaborative effort offering students a program to earn a master of divinity degree. With this new program, students at Southern Wesleyan may complete a master of ministry degree or may choose to apply up to 45 hours of graduate credit to the 90 semester hours required to complete the master of divinity degree at Nazarene Theological Seminary. For details, contact Greg Young at AGSadmissions@swu.edu or toll free at 877.644.5557.

Congratulations to Dr. Phil Jones and the Rock Hill Trinity church board for a successful six-year church/pastoral review, and to Pastor Ron Fite and Rock Hill First church board for a successful ten-year church/pastoral review.

NPH has a Bivocational Pastor Resource page—www.bivocationalnazarene.org—compiled with resources specific to being a bivocational pastor.

THINKING AHEAD

(This month we begin a new feature, Thinking Ahead, containing ideas and suggestions for future planning.)

- Fall is a great time for a sermon series, perhaps on "New Beginnings." Most families are experiencing a return to a regular routine with the beginning of school.
- Begin to make plans for Advent Sermon Series and Advent activities.
- Begin to make Faith Promise plans for 2010.
- Put Baptism Sunday dates on the church calendar for this church year, and begin to advertise them.
- Put Membership Sunday dates (and corresponding Membership classes which should precede each date) on the church calendar for this church year, and begin to plan for them.
- **The 21st Winter Olympics** will be held February 12-28, 2010, in Vancouver. What sermon series or special church activities could you plan in conjunction with the Winter Games?