

Pastor's News and Notes

May 7, 2009



"I (Jesus) tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life." John 5:24, NLT

PRAYER FOCUS

Church for this week: (5/04/09) Greenwood – Kenny and Cheryl Smith

Church for next week: (5/11/09) Healing Waters – Brenda and Jeff Singleton

Church for the next week: (5/18/09) Heritage – Mark and Pepsi Stevenson

- Rev. Frank Cantrell will have an outpatient procedure this Friday to destroy a large kidney stone.
- Rev. James Ramsay is continuing to recuperate from his blood clot condition.
- Rev. Bob Wilson (Northeast) will be undergoing shoulder surgery on May 14. While the total recovery time is expected to be about 12 weeks.
- Mrs. Marshall Rampey (Ruth), mother of Buddy Rampey, continues her non-chemo treatment regimen for lymphoma this week.
- Mrs. Bob Cooley (Norma) is undergoing treatment for her breast cancer.
- Gladys Spearman, mother of Lynne (Mrs. Ken) Addis, has experienced a return of her cancer.
- Rev. Ray Lewis (Retired) is now in rehabilitation following surgery for a broken hip.
- Rev. Michael Stepp (Carlisle) is back in the pulpit following his back surgery.
- Mrs. Herbert Taylor (Carolyn) is continuing her chemo for cancer.
- Continue to pray for the physical needs of Rev. Darlene Teague.
- Pray for Mrs. Chet Rowan (Kathy) whose treatment for MS continues.
- The families of Vergie Milstead and Saul Rodriguez.
- South Coastal DS Dan Berry and his wife, Shelley <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/danshelleyberry>.

There will be **no PNN next week** since we will be on vacation with our family. In the event of an emergency please call Rev. Fred Andrews or Rev. Tim Jones.

What's Been Happening

Since last week, another district and fiscal year has ended. I thank God for the victories and milestones reached and for His presence and anointing that allow us to serve our Lord and His church. I am looking forward to receiving the reports from the pastors and churches in the coming days. Pastors, you are urged to be committed to the deadlines accompanying the responsibility for year-end reporting! I am very aware of one thing: at this point in my life the years are simply flying past me, it seems. This completes 37 years of ministry and 5 in this place of service.

Last week included more than the usual number of meetings, phone calls, emails with pastors and church leaders. I also met with the FWC/ALIVE staff, the Hispanic Ministries Advisory Council and Family Camp Board. On Wednesday, Joan and I went to North Carolina for the funeral and burial services of Mrs. Vergie Milstead, mother of Rev. Don Milstead. I went because Don is my best friend and also to represent the SC district. What a beautiful service of celebration for a life lived for Christ, her family and the church! I am so appreciative of the Trinity Wesleyan Church family for their support of their pastor during this time. Many of them attended the service in Gastonia, NC. You are encouraged to continue to pray for Pastor Don and this family.

My favorite district responsibility for almost 20 years has been serving on the District Board of Ministerial Development. Last Saturday, our board met at Amistad to connect with students through training and accountability, conduct business and interview ordination candidates. What an incredible day! It was also one of the longest, as we completed the last item of business around 6:00pm. I want to express my gratitude, on behalf of the district, to the board and to our chair, Tony Casey, for his leadership. He continues to serve effectively despite the incredible requirements of his commitment to a full-time Ph. D. program. Please pray for him and all that is demanded of his schedule.

Sunday morning began with an early morning trip in order to arrive in time for the first of two services at the Eden Church. What a delight it was to share in worship, fellowship and celebration with this

congregation that is one of our fastest growing churches. We had the privilege of celebrating with them the fact that, for the first time in 15 years, they are "debt free." Because of two services, two copies of the mortgage were burned. It was a joy to affirm the growth of this congregation under the leadership of Pastor Richard Hall for the past 15 years. They have doubled in their worship attendance in the last 6 years! Did I mention that they are in the middle of a peach orchard? Following the second service, we enjoyed lunch and then a time of training and fellowship with the Leadership Team. It was also a delight to visit with staff pastors Paul Stempihar and James Henderson.

Early this morning, I am very aware that there are children and grandchildren sleeping at our house. That is a good feeling. That serves as a reminder that we are getting ready to spend a week together as a family on the beautiful South Carolina coast – all 18 of us! Yes, pictures will be forthcoming!

I am also reminded of the faithfulness of God, our Father, who is the source of every good thing in our lives – including family. This Sunday, Mother's Day, my mother celebrates another birthday. Thank God for his goodness in allowing her to be alive and well and in good mind all these years. Happy Birthday and Mother's Day to my favorite mother!

May this Lord's Day be a blessed day for our churches as we celebrate our Risen Lord and honor our mothers.

Pastor Buddy

News and Information

Pastors, please let us know if you are eligible for **service awards** at district conference. A watch is presented to those with 25 years of service and citations for each year following. (Special recognition is given at the 40 and 50 year levels by the denomination.)

Work Week at Table Rock – May 18-23. Come for a day, a few days or the week . . . our treat! Landscaping, repairs, painting and more are waiting for you and it will be great fellowship working together. Pastors, please announce this and make plans now to bring a group with you. If these dates conflict with other schedules at your churches, you may make arrangements to bring a group at other times by calling Greg Hayes, Camp Manager, at 864-878-2792. (See article and pictures)

ANNUAL PRAYER RALLY at Pickens View Wesleyan Church, "Prayer...America's Hope"

Pickens View Wesleyan hosted its annual prayer rally this past Friday evening, May 1, 2009. This was the kick-off for a week emphasis on prayer and the hope that it brings to the nation and to the church. After an All-American meal of hot dogs, slaw, chips, apple pie and ice cream, the group began the service with the pledges to the American and Christian flags. Mr. Wes Groce brought two selections of special music. Rev. Steve Stanley shared a stirring message based on 2 Chronicles 7:14. His message was "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray...I will hear!"

This rally leads us to the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2009. The church is hosting an event for National Day of Prayer with the church sanctuary open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Individuals and groups may come during any hour to pray. The sanctuary will be set with various prayer stations and helps to guide prayer. Pickens View would love to have visitors from other churches and the community to participate in this day of prayer for the nation. After all is said and done, "Prayer is America's Hope".

Family Camp: July 14-19, 2009, Table Rock Wesleyan Camp

Evangelists: Kerry Willis and Jim Dunn

Children's Workers: David Duncan

Children's Camps (Brochures have been mailed)

- July 5-9 (Camp 1) – Contact Cynthia Edge 864.415.4801
- July 26-30 (Camp 2) – Contact Scott Buchanan at 864-972-3719

Church/Pastor Relations

CenterPoint – Open

Golden Grove – Voting on candidate on May 10

Walhalla – Open

Table Rock Landscaping Project

On May 2, workers arrived at Table Rock to beautify another area around the Tabor Building. See the before and after photos below. This was a joint project between Modern Woodmen of America (May 2 was MWA's Join Hands Day), Seneca Wesleyan Church, and staff representing the Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center. Pictured, are left to right: (in posed picture) Tony and Jon Sanford, Victor Alexander, Jacob Leroy, Lisa Bate, Rebekah, Valerie & Laura Alexander, Hannah Bate, Ben Rosenberger, Greg Hayes, David Rosenberger, Davis & Jim Tolleson, and Cathy Tillet. Not Pictured are Ed Alexander, Michael Bate, Nelson and Jeff Rosenberger.



Quote for the Week

"Once we understand God as Father, a new conception of sin dawns on us . . . sin is not so much about violating a law as about breaking a relationship. Sin is much more about unreturned love than about broken commandments." Keith Drury, *Common Ground*

Humor for the Week

Marriage saver toilet paper holder:

