

Pastor's News and Notes

June 25, 2009



- ² *Accept my prayer as incense offered to you,
and my upraised hands as an evening offering.*
- ³ *Take control of what I say, O Lord,
and guard my lips.*

Psalms 141:2, 3 NLT

PRAYER FOCUS

Church for this week: (6/22/09) Landrum– Harold and Gloria Jones

Church for next week: (6/29/09) Liberty – Alan and Jean Abshire

Church for the next week: (7/6/09) Lyman – Tom and Marcia Boland

- District events this summer: District Conference, Missions Rally, Family Camp, youth camps and children's camps.
- Helen Ray, the mother of Rev. Jackie Ray (Knighton Chapel) has moved to Hospice House in Simpsonville.
- Barbara Hightower is making some progress following a new diagnosis
- Rev. George Brassard (Fellowship - Iva) underwent successful back surgery last week and has returned home from Emory University Hospital. Although experiencing quite a bit of pain, he is doing well.
- Mrs. Dan (Rita) Belcher (Chesnee) is recuperating from rotator cuff surgery on June 11.
- The daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Carroll Hutcheson, Shannon Stewart, has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment.
- Rev. Bob Wilson (Northeast) is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Mrs. Bob Cooley (Norma) is continuing treatment for her breast cancer and the tumor continues to show signs of responding.
- Rev. Ray Lewis (Retired) continues rehabilitation following surgery for a broken hip.
- Mrs. Herbert Taylor (Carolyn) is recovering from her chemotherapy.
- Continue to pray for the physical needs of Rev. Darlene Teague.
- Pray for Mrs. Chet Rowan (Kathy) whose pain intensity has increased during the past few weeks.
- Gladys Spearman, mother of Lynne (Mrs. Ken) Addis, who is battling cancer.
- South Coastal DS Dan Berry and his wife, Shelley <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/danshelleberry>.

What's Been Happening

Last week marked the beginning of the summer camping season and signaled a time which brings a lot of excitement for Joan and me. Because of some pressing concerns, I was not able to participate as much as usual in the Middle School Camp. All indications are that it was a tremendous week with many spiritual victories for the campers.

This week, Senior High Camp is rocking and rolling! There are 120+ campers present along with local church leaders and ministry teams from SWU and IWU.

Our youth pastors and leaders are simply the best! Their work in preparation, staging and

programming is off the chart and I imagine our youth camps are among the top in the denomination. We love and appreciate these dedicated men and women who are led by our district youth president, James Henderson. The worship bands and speakers have done an awesome job under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Our district students benefit in a tremendous way from these weeks, with surveys and testimonies revealing that youth camps at Table Rock are the #1 component for spiritual impact in their lives.

While we rejoice in every camper that was here, I do want to share something that is on my heart, even at the risk of having you say that I'm "tossing in a negative." Many of our SC churches



did not have a single student from their congregation attending camp this summer. That means that *many students missed out on a time of making that first decision to accept Jesus Christ or of experiencing other significant spiritual growth, simply because parents, pastors, youth leaders and lay persons did not do everything within their power to realize the implications of this it grieves God's heart.* I am a commitment *now* that next ahead and talk to the students, commitment to honor the these young lives. Then keep the coming year. There is a broader participation from our on our district as these young leaders we will need through

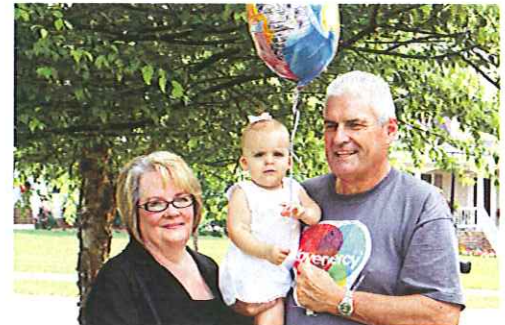


To truly saddens me and I believe imploring every church to make summer will be different. Go parents, and others about your responsibility you have for it before everyone throughout direct correlation between a churches and a greater impact lives become the passionate the coming years!

meeting of the Leadership

Last week included a Team (DS and assistants), a local LBA meeting and a DBA meeting. In our DBA meeting, we approved the District Conference Agenda, acted on a proposed district budget and some Conference Action Committee items.

On Friday afternoon, we traveled to Charlotte for an early first-birthday party for one of our granddaughters, Marlowe Lydia Rampey. (pictured at right) It was absolutely wonderful to be with our son, Aaron, and his wife, Liz, for this celebration. We traveled back Saturday afternoon to join with many of you in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Jim Wiggins. Except for their time as DS of the South Coastal District, this couple has been an integral part of the SC District across several decades. Their service as missionaries, pastor and district leader has been characterized by passion, commitment, and diligence; and they are deeply loved and appreciated by all who know them. On behalf of the district, we extend our congratulations and pray for continued years of health and happiness. Joan and I have counted it a special privilege to be connected to and ministering with this Godly couple.



I had the privilege on Sunday morning of speaking in both services at FWC/ALIVE in Central. We continue to rejoice in how God is using this congregation to impact its community . . . and beyond. They are capably led by Senior Pastor Tom Harding and an incredibly gifted and committed pastoral staff; Pete Wood, Stephanie Rhyne, Patrick Dagenhart, Jim Hanson and Fred Andrews. This first year of a new service schedule and the same speaker for both services has brought them to a new level of unity, purpose and continued growth. These are challenging days as they enter the early stages of preparation for the first phase of their building program that will relocate part of their ministry to the Chastain Road property, within a mile of their present location. God is doing wonderful things through the ministry of this church and the district benefits in a tremendous way from FWC/ALIVE's integral involvement in the life of the district.

Following the services, we enjoyed a meal together with my parents, sister and our son, Matt, his wife, Michelle, and their two children. I am grateful for the gift of a father who has lived a Godly life and I continue to count it a great blessing that he is still on this earth and in good mind and health. His commitment and dedication is evident in everything that God gives him to do and he is a blessing to others. I also am so thankful for the kids who call me Dad, and are giving me the blessed privilege of watching them become Godly dads (and moms) themselves.

We continue to pick up the pace in preparation for District Conference and will be sending out the pre-Conference delegates' packets within a few days. Pastors, you are asked to distribute these to the delegates. The packets will also be sent by email to all that are on our distribution list.) We appreciate your prayers on behalf of the district ministries and activities.

Believing in each other,
Buddy

(A document for bulletin inserts for the Missions Rally is attached.)

2009 District Missions Rally

6:00pm, Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center

Approximately 1,200 miles southeast of Table Rock, lies the impoverished country of Haiti. Yet for the South Carolina District of the Wesleyan Church, Haiti is our neighbor. For generations the South Carolina District and Haiti have had rich connections. In recent years, two Wesleyan Haitian congregations have started and are flourishing in the Upstate of South Carolina. We have several missionaries from South Carolina who will soon be stationed in Haiti, and a missions team from FWC/ALIVE that ministered there in May of this year.



On July 12, 2009, we want to celebrate our connection to the mission work in Haiti. Rev. Dan Irvine, field director for the Wesleyan mission work in Haiti, will be our guest speaker for our District Missions Rally. In addition to Dan's challenge, we will have some spirited Haitian music, see video of our South Carolina teams in Haiti, and hear from our own South Carolina missionaries to Haiti. Please plan to join us on **July 12 at 6pm** at Table Rock for an exciting Missions Rally as we focus on Haiti.

Dan Irvine, a recognized leader and gifted speaker, is also Global Partner's Area Director for the Caribbean area. Following six years of service in Haiti that concluded in 1987, he returned to minister to the Haitian community in this new role in 2004. Their mission in Haiti is to serve the expatriate missionaries, to stand along side the national church leadership, and to develop resources. They desire to be a communication bridge between The Wesleyan Church of Haiti and The Wesleyan Church of North America. Dan and Joy have six children. One of their children is Beth Peterson, Administrative Assistant at FWC/ALIVE.

- Dave Tolan, Missions Director, South Carolina District

News and Information

Way to go, Men! When the Wesleyan Men of Greenville First were made aware of some needs at First Haitian Evangelical Wesleyan Church in Mauldin recently, they were quick to respond. Bill Tatum provided lawnmower repairs (a critical need given the huge expanse of lawn to mow) and Wallace and Rita Evatt donated a refrigerator that was then installed. Special thanks to Paul Mullinax who coordinated this "rapid-response" team.

Quote for the Week

Character in a saint means the disposition of Christ persistently manifested.

- Andrew Murray

Humor for the Week *(Could these be your grandchildren? continued)*

Children's Logic: 'Give me a sentence about a public servant,' said a teacher. The small boy wrote: 'The fireman came down the ladder pregnant.' The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. 'Don't you know what pregnant means?' she asked. 'Sure,' said the young boy confidently. 'It means carrying a child.'

A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "'They use him to keep crowds back,'" said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck.'" A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

A six-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "She lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then when we're done with her, we take her back to the airport."

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

