



District News and Notes

January 21, 2010

The South Carolina District of The Wesleyan Church is a community of Christ followers committed to the transformation of South Carolina and the world by resourcing leaders and multiplying churches.

Resourcing ⇒ Multiplying ⇒ Transforming

South Carolina District –The Wesleyan Church • 127 Bethany Cove Drive, Pickens, SC • (864) 878-3478

What's Been Happening

Wow, I am much later getting this out than I would have liked. Chalk it up to battling a cold/sinus/bronchitis for more than a month and a sudden rush of "to do" stuff. Fortunately, I have only missed one major appointment due to the illness – a church visit earlier this month because I was "voiceless."

I sincerely hope that the Christmas season was a wonderful time of celebration for our SC District congregations. I have heard some good reports. On Christmas eve, Joan and I enjoyed the service at FWC/ALIVE with a packed sanctuary and then traveled to El Camino for a combined service/fellowship time with Amistad. It is always good to be with these congregations and this time was no exception.

This was an "in-laws" Christmas (*I really don't like my in-laws very much in those years and I am sure that they feel the same way when it is our time to have the children with us. For those of you who may get it, I am truly kidding.*) We had our family Christmas here at TR the weekend of January 8-10 with three of the four children, their spouses, and seven of the nine grandchildren. What a great time we had together!

The Christmas season does not allow for as many opportunities for "official" church visits, but we were able to visit the Glendale church on December 6. This is such a warm and friendly congregation that is facing the challenge of being located in a mill village where the mill has closed, with most of the people driving in for the services. This church has maintained a positive presence in this community for 110 years. The church was recently able to put a new roof on their building (which required the removal of three old layers!). This was certainly a major expense for a small church but they had the funds on hand because they had prepared for that day. This serves as a reminder that it is wise to avoid spending all that is received and to prepare for those major expenses that are sure to come. Pastor Frank Cantrell and Mary are loved and appreciated by their congregation.

That Sunday evening I had a great time with the Bethany leadership team. We continue to work through the ReFocus process with them.

We visited the True Life Christian Fellowship Church (Spartanburg) on December 27. This was a very positive service with several new faces (including young people) present. The message by Pastor Gene Burgess was well done, positive and a great preparation for beginning a new year.

Most of the week following Christmas was spent with 1,700 students and their leaders at **lovemercy 09** in Charlotte. Many of these youth were from our district. I believe that this was certainly one of the best youth conventions ever (and I've been attending them since 1961, when I was a 9th grader at the very first one)! The spirit, worship, speakers and fellowship were all outstanding. Joan and I enjoyed the opportunity to interact with our students, leaders and pastors. We hosted a cookie/punch reception in our room and served almost 200 SC attendees. (I do not have a list of churches with attendance yet.)

Some additional special times for December included ...

... Christmas dinner with the Leadership Team, hosted by Fred and Sonnie Andrews on December 3.

... a quick five-day trip to see our son, Matt, and his family who moved to Denver, CO in October. We had the joy of visiting them in their new and very beautiful surroundings. We continue to be thankful for God's

provision for them. I returned, bringing with me the afore-mentioned respiratory "junk" which I then shared with Joan and perhaps others.

... a delightful evening and dinner with Mary Mitchell on December 23. This remarkable woman of God simply amazes us with her sharp mind and engaging personality. *(Joan and Mrs. Mitchell pictured at right.)*

... spending Christmas Eve night with my parents and being with the Pressley family as they gathered for their annual Christmas dinner at my folks' house.

I have updated the prayer list for the church and we will run those a month ahead of time so that you can go those on your prayer calendar. I had several of you mention to me in recent days that you pray daily for Joan and I. Thank you so much and please continue. It continues to be a joy to serve with you in reaching our area of accountability with the Good News!

Believing in each other,
Pastor Buddy



District News and Information

First Haitian Evangelical Wesleyan Church will have a candlelight vigil on Saturday, January 23, 2010, at 6:00pm. The Church is located at 501 E. Butler Road, Mauldin. The district family is invited to this event.



Frontline Church (Boiling Springs) moved into new facilities on January 3. This space was previously rented by another congregation so it was "move in" ready. The location is 1641 Old Furnace Road in Boiling Springs. We thank God for this opportunity and for the leadership of Mike Ferrell and the leadership team that is in place. Please continue to pray for them. *(Worship space is pictured to the left.)*

Welcome reports on their Christmas outreach event, "Gifts and Giving." *(Right: Picture of event in Family Life Center)* \$13,500 was raised, and 300 boxes of food were distributed. "Since Christmas our people bought 106 blankets to give to some of the ministries in Oconee County that serve the poor and homeless. It's been amazing to me how our people have pulled together and started reaching out into the community. We are now beginning to see people come and attend church from these efforts". - Pastor Phil Baily



Just a reminder that registration will be closing soon on the **E3 event-Exploring a possible call to ministry**. This event is being held Saturday, January 30 at Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch and resource materials. It will take place from 9AM to 4 PM and would be a great place for people grappling with a sense of calling to vocational ministry. The day will be led by individuals from four HQ departments: Education and the Ministry, Evangelism and Church Growth, Global Partners and Spiritual Formation.

Register online at www.wesleyan.org/e3

On Saturday evening following the E3 event, **Jeremy Summers, Coordinator of Adult Ministries**, in the Department of Spiritual Formation is sponsoring a supper and time to connect with pastors and leaders that minister to young adults and the emerging generations. This event will be at the Pizza Inn in Pickens at 5:00pm and a room has been reserved in my name. Please make reservations by email at: admin@scwesleyan.org or call 864.878.3478.

As preparations are being made for the upcoming **Winter Camp** (February 24-28), there is a need for a **good electronic organ** that could be used in the Tabor Building. Please contact Rev. Don Milstead at pastordon@twc4u.org or 864-654-6000 as soon as possible if you know of one that could be used.

District Youth News

No Super Bowl party this year. Groups are encouraged to have an event with other Wesleyan churches in their area.

District Youth Retreat – April 16, 17, Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center

(April 3 – Deadline to register)

\$35 students, \$25 adults

Band – *The Difference*

Speaker – Dustin Wilson

Congratulations to the following winter 09 SWU Graduates:

Jhonatan Camacho, son of Rev. and Mrs. Dumar Camacho (Amistad, pastor)

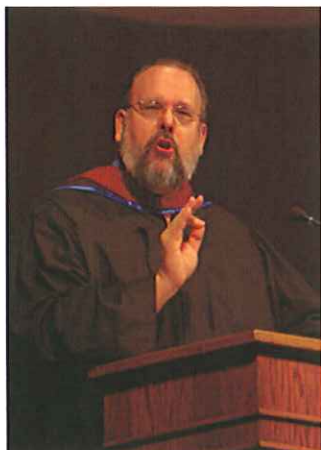
Charlsie Dennis (Summa Cum Laude), daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Dennis

Christian Hunt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Scranton (United, staff)

Deysi Rodriguez (Cum Laude), wife of Rev. Frankie Rodriguez (El Camino) and daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Dumar Camacho (Amistad)

Marie Whitehead, mother of Rev. Joey Parris

Baccalaureate Speaker:



Rev. Steve Stanley, pastor of First Wesleyan Church in Greenville, S.C., delivered the baccalaureate sermon. He encouraged the students to become servants to others, "living for God for the good of others." Rev. Stanley serves as a member of the Board of Administration of the South Carolina District of The Wesleyan Church. He has earned a bachelor's degree in theology from International Seminary and Master of Ministry from SWU is currently completing a master's degree in divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary. The university's Baccalaureate Chapel includes a "Ceremony of the Servants" and a challenge for graduates of the university to find ways to serve the needs of people throughout the world.

DS Schedule for January

6	Gilbert funeral	Easley
7	Leadership Team	Central
10	Trinity	AM
11-13	Pastors' Gathering	Table Rock
13	Piedmont (ReFocus)	PM
16	DBA	9am, Golden Grove
17	Walhalla Seneca	8:30am 11:00am
18	Youth Cabinet	7pm, Greenville 1 st
19	TRRCC Board of Directors	6:30pm, Greenville 1st
20	Chesnee LBA	7pm
22-23	Faith Wesleyan Golf Tourney	Little River, SC
24	Landrum FLAME Shuttle	AM PM
25-29	FLAME	Table Rock
27	First Haitian Evangelical Wesleyan	7pm
28	District Children's Workers meeting	6:30, Greenville 1 st
30	E3 (Ministerial Students)	
31	Welcome Frontline	AM PM

Prayer Focus

Church for the Week:

- (1/31/10) Amistad - Dumar & Maria Camacho
- (2/7/10) Anderson Haitian - Francois & Cecile Gilles
- (2/14/10) Bethany - Rick & Maria Gilbert
- (2/21/10) Bridge of Hope - Mark & Nancy Griffith
- (2/28/10) Carlisle - Mike & Joyce Stepp

BGS Urges Wesleyans to Keep Praying for Haiti

Wesleyans have responded to the recent earthquake devastation in Haiti, but General Superintendent Dr. Jo Anne Lyon says great help is still needed. Despite a generous outpouring of giving and aid by Wesleyans around the world, suffering is still rampant. Dr. Lyon, speaking on behalf of the Board of General Superintendents, asks Wesleyans to stay involved in helping Haitians.

The Wesleyan Church has had a presence in Haiti for 80 years with some 40,000 people connected to the churches there. However, all seven of the Wesleyan churches in Port-au-Prince have been destroyed, and some Wesleyans are still unaccounted for. The denomination and their compassionate ministries partner, World Hope International (WHI), have partnered to be vessels of hope and healing in Haiti's ravaged capital city.

Dr. Lyon urges Wesleyans to faithfully pray for Haitians in this desperate time of need. "I believe God wants to bring resurrection out of the ashes and suffering we have seen," says Dr. Lyon.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the relief efforts is urged to contact The Wesleyan Church, Global Partners, or World Hope.

Visit the BGS site <<http://www.wesleyan.org/bgs#haitivideo>> to view a video message from Dr. Lyon.

- Pray for our work team, headed by Greg Edmonds, that is still scheduled to leave January 28. This will be the first work team going in after the earthquake and the conditions will still be very challenging.

Physical Needs:

- **Rev. Ralph Campbell** (Glenville) continues to make good progress after additional surgery was required last month.
- Continue to remember **Rev. Wilbur Key, Rev. Arnold Beard, and Rev. Homer Smith** as they recover at home.

Christian Sympathy . . .

Dr. Steve Calhoun died on December 11. Steve and Lou Ann were long time members of Central, First Wesleyan Church and Steve was employed as Academic Dean at Southern Wesleyan University until his retirement. The service for Dr. Calhoun was held on December 19 at Asbury Acres in Maryville, TN 37804. Lou Ann's address is 826 Cokesbury Circle, Maryville, TN 37804.

After many years of declining health **Mrs. Sallie Lackey Newton** passed away on December 19. Her first husband, Curtis Lackey, was a pastor in the South Carolina district and was killed in an auto accident on Dec. 13, 1953 while they were pastoring the Wesleyan church at Walhalla. After his death the church asked Sallie if she would assume the pastorate of the church and she agreed. She pastored the church for 3 years and during that time a new church was built and dedicated on May 22, 1955. To honor his memory the church was renamed Lackey Memorial Wesleyan Church. The church has since relocated and the name has been changed. After those 3 years Sallie returned to Central Wesleyan College (now Southern Wesleyan University) and finished her degree. She then taught at Liberty High School for 20 years. In 1965 she married Tom Newton and they were married for 24 years until his death in 1989. She was a member at Trinity Wesleyan Church. A burial service was conducted on December 23, 2009 at the Gray Funeral Home in Whitmire, S.C. A memorial service was held at Trinity Wesleyan Church in Central, SC, on Saturday afternoon, January 2, 2010 conducted by Rev. Jimmy Wiggins. The SC District has blessed by the life and ministry of this gracious and Godly woman. Our prayers and deepest sympathies are extended to her family.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Jean Gilbert**, mother of Rev. Rick Gilbert (Bethany) who went to be with the Lord on Sunday evening. The funeral service was conducted on Wednesday, January 6 at 2pm at the Robinson Funeral Home in Downtown Easley.

Please pray for **Aaron and Casey Gadsby** (Greenville First staff) whose baby girl, Grace Hope, was born prematurely on January 20 and has gone to be with the Lord. May the God of all comfort be extremely near to them and the family during this time of loss.