



District News and Notes

February 3, 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

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What's Been Happening

January began a new decade of this new century. Does anyone besides me feel as if it were just a couple of years ago when we were talking about Y2K? Wow, these past 10 years have flown! It renders truth to the statement, "Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end of the roll, the faster it goes!"

I have struggled through most of the month with a lingering cough, bronchitis and laryngitis. Fortunately, a January 3 church visit and preaching appointment was the only one I was forced to cancel.

Our visit to **Trinity Wesleyan Church** on January 10 was very memorable. The praise and worship time seemed to usher in the presence of God and prepared the way for the preaching of the Word. The outward response of people coming to pray and a sense of God at work is always special. The leadership and congregation is committed to excellence in planning and preparation, and it is reflected in all that is done. The pastoral leadership of Pastor Don and Carol Milstead is bearing fruit. This church has shown strong growth in the past three and one-half years in attendance, membership and especially giving – including missions. I appreciated the time of fellowship with the LBA and staff during the lunch that followed and in the time of sharing/training. Pastor Milstead is assisted by Dale Link, Children's Pastor; Kevin Keever, Media Director; and Gary Mosley, Music Director.

For the first time in many years, we have a pastor serving two churches at the same time. It was my privilege to keep the same schedule as Pastor Kerry Rainey on January 17 and visit both congregations on the same morning. The day began by meeting with the **Walhalla** LBA at 8:30 and then participating in the worship service at 9:30. In the last few months there has been an increase in attendance and efforts have been, and are being, made to reach out into the community. This is a precious group of people.

Following this service, we traveled to **Seneca** for the worship service at 11am. We appreciated the God-honoring ministry of the worship team and band . . . ministry which was done well and truly focused our attention on God. It was a joy to share with a responsive congregation . . . a congregation that included new attenders since our last visit. Again, a spirit of worship, unity and commitment to mission– both locally and beyond–is evident. As a result, growth and health is evident. A lunch and training meeting with the leadership team followed. Pastor Kerry and Terri Rainey have endeared themselves to both congregations and it appears that this arrangement will continue. Pastor Tami Sanford and Jon are providing leadership for the youth and children's ministries.

Landrum is a quiet little town nestled at the foot of the mountains in northern Spartanburg county. The town has found a niche by providing shopping (antiques, primarily) and dining. It is a place you may want to include on your "SC places to visit" list. For more than 100 years, the **Landrum Wesleyan Church** has been in this community, just south of town and a block west of Main Street. The sanctuary in which they worship was completed in 1906. We were delighted to see several new attenders and members, some of whom are now generously sharing their quality musical gifts. This certainly added an uplifting spirit to the service. We were appreciative of the warmth and hospitality of the people and Pastor Harold Jones and Gloria who have been serving here since 1991, and we thank God for some noticeable progress that is being made.

The last weekend of the month brought snow, sleet, freezing rain and more snow (in that order), for a total of around 3" here at Table Rock. We were excited to experience the first measurable snowfall since our moving to SC in 2004. *It was beautiful!* Along with the precipitation came the usual power outage. Fortunately for us, it was pretty short-lived . . . 5 hours on Saturday morning and 1½ hours Saturday night. Our appreciation and thanks go to the power crews who work so diligently, under difficult conditions, to keep us comfortable. Here is the picture I saw as I walked down our driveway Sunday morning.



Leaving for our visit to the **Welcome** church (located between Seneca and Walhalla), we drove down Hwy. 11 to discover that, after only 10 miles, there was no more snow on the ground. TR was evidently right on the edge of the weekend's storm. Nearing the church, we found that—for the most part—the roads were dry and a good crowd (for a bad-

weather Sunday) was gathering. During the service, Pastor Phil Baily reminded the congregation of their policy: unless the situation were very unusual, they would always have a morning worship service for those who could get there safely. That resonated with me as that was the policy we followed at the churches I had served during my pastoral ministry. (I probably got it from *my* father since I can remember walking to church in the snow!) The God-honoring worship we had experienced throughout the month continued on this Sunday. This church has had a great history and reputation in this community for 110 years. The ministry of Phil and Martha Baily is a part of that legacy, having served as pastor for almost 19 of those 110 years. The ministry of Dustin and Hannah Wilson, who assist in the areas of youth and children ministries, is highly respected and appreciated by the congregation. Especially noteworthy for this congregation has been a shift in focus toward their community and those who are younger.

A highlight of our district year is the **Pastors' Gathering**. We had a record number of attendees, with strong participation throughout the event. Dr. H. B. London's anointed ministry inspired us, taught us and encouraged us. His last visit to us was in 2001 and it was certainly a joy to have him back. (*At right: Dr. London with Pastor Gene Burgess.*) I want to express appreciation to Tony Casey, chair of the planning committee, and to its other members: Fred Andrews, Bob Broome, Dan Groves and Chet Rowan. Special thanks are also extended to Pastor Matthew Tietje for his work in the area of multimedia and for leading one of the seminars and to seminar leader Pastor Tim Jones. I was privileged to conduct a seminar during the event as well. There will be no *Pastors' Gathering* in 2011 so that we can fully support the denominational event in Jacksonville, FL,



scheduled for January 4-7, 2011.

It was a delight to have the **FLAME** students and staff here at TR for the week of January 25-29. The weather Friday night and Saturday complicated the departure schedules a bit, but after some delays, we believe that everyone made it home safely, traveling to upstate NY, Ohio, PA, Canada, all over the South, out to the West, and many points in between. Thanks to Greg Hayes for his diligent work to make these events function smoothly. We also want to thank those who helped with the transportation of students and staff from the airport and back: Michael and Michelle Bryant, Bob and Barbara Broome, Arnold Beard, Jim Tolleson and Buddy Rampey. A special thank-you is extended to the True Life Christian Fellowship church that provided a van for us to use the entire week. What a blessing!

January also included meetings of the District Youth Cabinet, Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center Board of Directors, District Board of Administration, in addition to consultations with pastors and Local Board of Administration meetings.

You can see from the DS schedule that Joan and I will be joining a sizable number of our DS colleagues for "Roundtable Discussions" in San Diego next week. We are looking forward to worshipping at Skyline Wesleyan Church next Sunday and spending some time over the weekend with a special friend from our time of ministry in Tulsa. Some warmer weather is sounding pretty good as well. We will be checking office phone and email messages but in case in emergency, you are asked to contact one of the Assistant District Superintendents.

We thank our God as we remember you.

Believing in each other,

Pastor Buddy

District News and Information

This Sunday, February 7, **Iglesia Wesleyana Nuevo Pacto**, a new Hispanic worshipping community, will have their launch service at 2pm at the United Wesleyan Church in Easley. We are grateful for the leadership of Pastor Orvan Link in this, our newest Hispanic congregation, and for the strong and vital support of Pastor Tim Jones and the congregation of the United Wesleyan Church. You are encouraged to attend this launch service, if your schedule allows. Please be praying for those whose lives will be touched by the ministry of this newest congregation.

Winter Camp Meeting Schedule

February 24-28, 2010

Dr. Norman Wilson, Evangelist

All services to be held in the Tabor Building

Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center

Wednesday, February 24

7:00pm Service with special music provided by United Wesleyan

Thursday, February 25 *Best Years' Fellowship Emphasis*

10:30am Service

All are invited to join our BYF guests for a NOON meal at Aunt Sue's Restaurant

7:00 pm Service with special music provided by Welcome Wesleyan

Friday, February 26

- 10:30am Service
7:00pm Service with special music provided by Pickens View Wesleyan

Saturday, February 27

- 9:00am Prayer Rally – Rev. Ken Dill
10:30am Devotional by Dr. Norman Wilson
Join us for an all-day singspiration with special groups
*6:00pm Service with special music provided by FWC/ALIVE

Sunday, February 28

- THERE WILL BE NO MORNING SERVICE AT TABLE ROCK
10:30am Dr. Wilson will speak at Trinity Wesleyan Church, 700 Issaqueena Trail, Central
*6:00pm Final service at Table Rock with special music provided by Trinity Wesleyan

*note time change

(A brochure in pdf format is also attached.)

As preparations are being made for the upcoming **Winter Camp** (February 24-28), there is still 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 at the Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center

- (April 3 – Deadline to register)
\$35 students, \$25 adults
Band – *The Difference*
Speaker – Dustin Wilson

Family Ministry Networking Luncheon

Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Families....can they work together?
Let's discuss as church leaders how to make this happen!

Saturday, February 20th, 2010

10:00 am-2:30 pm

Trinity Wesleyan Church
700 Issaqueena Trail
Central, SC 29630

Host: FWC/ALIVE

Discussions: Diane Runge, *The ReThink Group*

Registration forms (attached) are due February 15, 2010.

DS Schedule for February 2010

1	Hispanic Ministries Council	Amistad
3	Leadership Team Chesnee LBA Startex	Central
7-11	DS Roundtable	San Diego, CA
14	Pelzer	AM
15	SWU Class <i>Developing Church Meeting</i>	AM PM
16	Table Rock Board of Directors	6:30, TR
17-18	Asbury Seminary	Wilmore, KY
18	Family Camp Board Meeting	6:30, Greenville 1 st
19-21	Pastor/Spouse Retreat	Table Rock
23	Youth Camp Planning Committee	7pm
24-27	Winter Camp Meeting	Table Rock
28	Westminster Winter Camp Meeting	AM PM

PRAYER FOCUS

Church for the Week:

February 7, 2010	Anderson Haitian - Francois & Cecille Gilles Francois & Cecile Gilles
February 14, 2010	Bethany - Rick & Maria Gilbert
February 21, 2010	Bridge of Hope – Mark & Nancy Griffith
February 28, 2010	Carlisle – Mike & Joyce Stepp
March 7, 2010	CenterPoint – Dan & Nadine Groves

BGS Urges Wesleyans to Keep Praying for Haiti (Please see update that was sent out today with pictures and video link.)

ADOPTION MIRACLE . . .

Many of you will remember Dan Irvine, speaker for our District Missions Rally last summer. Dan serves as Global Partners' Caribe Atlantic Area Director and is the father of Beth Irvine Petersen, Administrative Assistant to the Sr. Pastor of FWC/ALIVE and is a ministerial student. Congratulations, Justin and Beth. Will is blessed to have you for his parents! The following note is from Dan:

On a more personal note, many of you know Moise or Will, the 3-year-old boy our oldest daughter and her husband are in process of adopting. This past weekend, my wife, Joy, stopped by the US embassy to inquire about the parole they were offering for some orphans who had been in the adoption process. She was told to return on Sunday with Will and all paperwork. After a 12-hour wait, Will was approved for parole. Joy and Will were immediately shuttled to the airport and flown to the U.S. where, after 15 hours, all paperwork was processed and Will joined his new family. He loves Mommy, Daddy, and little sister Sabrina. Joy will be in S.C. for a few more days helping Will to acclimate before she returns to Haiti. We praise God that out of the devastation, many orphans like Will were brought home to their families.

How to wreck your church (Gary Morland - <http://newlife919blog.blogspot.com/about>)

A long time ago I was voted deacon chairman, which in that church meant people got to call you and complain about the pastor. Which is why they voted for me – they didn't want to take the calls. One time I got a call from a guy wanting know why he could never get hold of the pastor; "Why isn't he in his office like we pay him to be?"

Umm, maybe it's because he's visiting people at home and in the hospital like you said he should do last time you called! It's not hard to make a bad attitude go viral. The trick is to make the bad attitude look like it's actually good, and to have a group of people willing to go along. It can work in a family, or any organization, or in a church. Ray Ortland tells how:

How to wreck your church in three weeks:

Week One: Walk into church today and think about how long you've been a member, how much you've sacrificed, how under-appreciated you are. Take note of every way you're dissatisfied with your church now. Take note of every person who displeases you.

Meet for coffee this week with another member and "share your heart." Discuss how your church is changing, how you are being left out. Ask your friend who else in the church has "concerns." Agree together that you must "pray about it."

Week Two: Send an email to a few other "concerned" members. Inform them that a groundswell of grievance is surfacing in your church. Problems have gone unaddressed for too long. Ask them to keep the matter to themselves "for the sake of the body."

As complaints come in, form them into a petition to demand an accounting from the leaders of the church. Circulate the petition quietly. Gathering support will be easy. Even happy members can be used if you appeal to their sense of fairness – that your side deserves a hearing. Be sure to proceed in a way that conforms to your church constitution, so that your petition is procedurally correct.

Week Three: When the growing moral fervor, ill-defined but powerful, reaches critical mass, confront the elders with your demands. Inform them of all the woundedness in the church, which leaves you with no choice but to put your petition forward. Inform them that, for the sake of reconciliation, the concerns of the body must be satisfied.

Whatever happens from this point on, you have won. You have changed the subject in your church from gospel advance to your own grievances. To some degree, you will get your way. Your church will need three or four years for recovery. But at any future time, you can do it all again. It only takes three weeks.

Just one question. Even if you are being wronged, "Why not rather suffer wrong?" ([1 Corinthians 6:7](#)).