



District News and Notes

March 18, 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

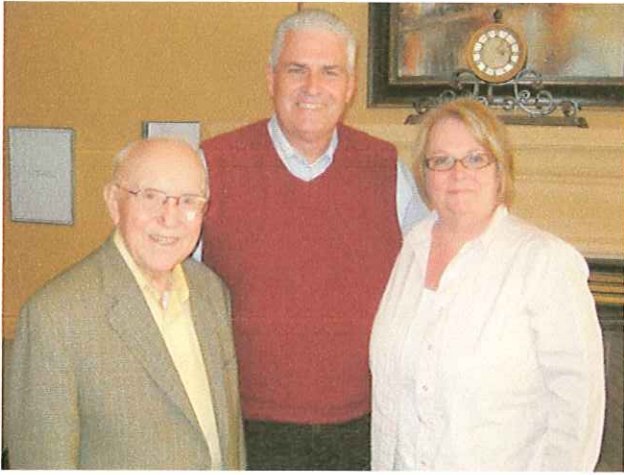
February began with a great meeting with our DS colleagues in San Diego, CA, for our **annual “DS Roundtable.”** This is a special time of sharing ideas and engaging one another in the issues that we face as district leaders. This was an especially helpful time. We are grateful for the opportunity to fly out to California a couple of days early and visit with our long-time friend, Debi Dunham and her daughters (her husband, Bridge, was out of town for the weekend) and to worship with several of the DS's at Skyline on Sunday morning. The weekend provided time for wonderful hours spent "catching up" at their home and doing some sightseeing in the beautiful San Diego area. A picnic at the beach at La Jolla turned into a not-soon-to-be-forgotten memory when a large sea gull suddenly swooped down behind Joan, bumping her head on its way to literally snatching her 6" Subway sandwich right out of her hands! Since I was sitting beside her, I never saw it coming! Unbelievable! This obviously provided a lot of laughter and re-telling of the story throughout the weekend. We truly felt enriched by these two days of enjoying the sights, sounds and fellowship. (Picture above at La Jolla after the “picnic.” - Delaney, Debi, Joan, Alexandra)



The Sunday worship at Skyline was so special. The guest speaker, Christopher West, was just outstanding. (You can download his message at www.skylinechurch.org - Feb. 7, 2010). Years ago, in the early stages of the process, I had seen the “mountain” to which this church relocated so it was good to see their new facilities. They anticipate building their auditorium soon.

The Pacific Southwest DS, Dr. Steve Babby and his wife, Barbara, were marvelous hosts for the afternoon as we watched the Super Bowl together and enjoyed what seemed to be non-stop rounds of delicious appetizers and a meal. Such a great time and fellowship! The Babby's and the Pacific Southwest District went above and beyond in hosting this event. My colleagues and I had a lot of time both formally and informally to be engaged in conversation about our practices – best and worst!

Another highlight of our trip was a visit to one of our heroes, **Dr. Orval Butcher**, founding pastor of Skyline. We had an incredibly wonderful hour with this man of God who, at age 92, still has his trademark vibrancy and obvious love for the Lord. Our connection with him goes back many years. Joan's mother was one



of his teachers at Miltonvale College and he came to the SC Camp Meeting at Greer twice in the 1950's. We have stayed in their home and he has stayed in ours and times of fellowship through the years have been special. To pray with him and have him pray over us was a very blessed time.

Our coming back to earth was pretty abrupt when we landed in Atlanta just as the snow was beginning to fall on Friday afternoon. Our flight to Charlotte (where our trip originated and where our car was waiting for us) had been cancelled. I will spare you the details, but after a round trip car rental (the only kind available) to Table Rock, a night of sleep, followed by a round trip from Table Rock to Charlotte the next morning to pick up our car there, followed by a

round-trip drive to Atlanta to return the rented car, I arrived home very late Saturday night. A short night of sleep later, we headed out for our Sunday morning appointment. Thanks, Pastor Scott Buchanan and Greg, for your help in completing all those round trips!

Sunday morning found us traveling to **LifeJourney Church** in Pelzer. This always been an enjoyable place to visit and this time was no exception. It was thrilling to see the number of young people in attendance and engaged in the service. The worship band is really outstanding and truly led us into the presence of God. We appreciated the privilege of sharing with such a receptive congregation. The time with the leaders following was encouraging as we heard what God is doing through the ministry of the church, especially in the areas of youth and children's ministries. It was a joy to connect with a quality young couple, Quinn and Amber Pearson, who are sensing a call to ministry. (I have since been able to meet with them.) We are deeply appreciative of the ministry of Pastor Phillip Modlin and Crystal, who stepped in at a critical time in the life of this church to provide pastoral leadership to this congregation. Our love and appreciation for them runs so deep. Our visit with them in the afternoon proved to be a significant time. Leading a church through three and one-half years of healing, recovery and ReFocus is understandably physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually demanding. The toll on this young couple has been great. Recognizing this, Pastor Phillip and Crystal have resigned in order to devote some time to renewal and re-tooling themselves. Dr. Roger McKenzie has been appointed by the DBA as interim pastor effective April 1. Please pray for this congregation and for the Modlins in this time of transition.

The re-entry into our regular schedule the next week was the beginning of four weeks of, for the most part, a relentless pace. (OK, OK . . . before my mother and my DBA begin "fussing at me," please note that as soon as this issue of the DNN is published, in about 2 hours, I am beginning a four-day weekend with absolutely nothing scheduled, except for some time with family.) After two very full days of "catching up," Tony Casey, Steve Stanley and I squeezed in a trip to Asbury between a Tuesday evening TRRCC Board of Directors' meeting and a Thursday evening Family Camp Board meeting. The "**DS/Asbury Student Connect**" provided an opportunity for us to meet and share with students. Tony and I were given the privilege of speaking to the students at the Wesley Foundation on Wednesday evening. When we go to Asbury, we always look forward to a dinner with Dr. Joe Dongell—Asbury Seminary professor and a member of our district—and his wife Regina, a long-time friend. We had a delightful time together and are glad to report that Joe's mother, Virginia Dongell, who now lives with them, is doing very well.

I love going to Wilmore, KY, because it was the place of a 3-year honeymoon for Joan and me. We did not think of it in that light at the time, but it was such a wonderful place and environment to begin a marriage, and we now realize that it was certainly the most leisurely three years we've ever experienced.

On Sunday morning, February 21, we did a "drop-in" visit to the **Golden Grove Church** and truly appreciated the opportunity to worship there and just be a part of the congregation. The preparation for the service and sermon by Pastor Matthew Tietje was clearly seen and we came away renewed and challenged. We enjoyed a great time over lunch with Matthew and Ashlee following the service. We extend our congratulations to Ashlee on her acceptance into the Ph. D. program at Clemson University, an acceptance which includes a professor assistantship. We are so grateful for God's leading them to Golden Grove and for His provision of this opportunity for her to continue her education.



Our second annual **Winter Indoor Camp Meeting** began on Wednesday evening and continued through Sunday night. The services and ministry of Dr. Norman Wilson were anointed, with such a wonderful sense of God's presence prevailing throughout the camp. Both attendance and offerings increased over the previous year and the budget was met. We express our appreciation to the committee Chair, Pastor Don Milstead, for his leadership; to Gary Mosley who led our worship; to Kevin Keever for a wonderful job with sound and media; to the choirs from the churches; and to our musicians: Carol Milstead, Joy Beaver and Joan Rampey. Joan and I especially enjoyed the opportunity to renew our fellowship with

Dr. Norman Wilson and Nancy. Their contribution to the Kingdom over their years of ministry has been significant. The date for next year's camp is February 23-27, 2011, and Dr. Paul Mills is scheduled to be the evangelist.

On the morning of February 28, we excitedly headed to the **Westminster Church** for our official visit. Our anticipation came from reading and hearing, across the preceding months, of the remarkable progress this congregation was experiencing since our last visit. (We are discovering that a lot can happen in two years!) We were not disappointed. The old parsonage had been torn down to make room for a nice, paved parking area. Additional improvements have been made to the entrance, the sanctuary and others areas of the building.

However, the best part was observing the sanctuary as it began to fill up with over 60 worshippers! When Pastor Ken Culbertson and Sandy came to lead this congregation almost 5 years ago, they had about one-fourth that number in attendance. This church is going to show another year of strong growth. It was such a joy to preach to this attentive and engaged congregation, and the time of sharing with the leaders following was peppered with praises and thanks to God for the growth and health of this church and with anticipation for what is ahead. We are so grateful to God for "dropping" the Culbertsons down in this area and for their willingness to be used of God in this community.



In addition to the regular visits and some special visits, there have an unusually high number of meetings and extra appointments that combined to pack the schedule to "full and overflowing." With March more than half over, the reality is that this DNN project has been staring me down for a while. While I am fully aware that there is simply no way it could have been "squeezed in" earlier, I do regret its late arrival.

I pray that this Lenten season and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord will be significant times of both worship and harvest for our SC District churches.

Believing in each other,
Pastor Buddy

NEWS and INFORMATION

The COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY and special guests GREATER VISION
will present a concert of sacred music

Saturday, April 17, 2010, at 6:00 PM
 Newton-Hobson Chapel
 Southern Wesleyan University
 Reserved Artist Circle Tickets are \$25.00
 General Admission Tickets are \$15.00
 Tickets are available from Chuck Mealy
 864-644-5192 or 864-508-0555

Congratulations to Dr. Jerry and Calene Pence who welcomed their first grandchild last month. Korbin William Pence was born February 9, at 5:44 a.m. (9 lbs, 3 oz; and 21 inches long) in Marion, IN. Proud parents are Kris and Lani Pence and proud uncle is Kory Pence.

"The grandparents are all aglow!" says General Superintendent Pence. Joan and I have had opportunity to be with them since Korbin's arrival and can verify both the "glow" and the fact that all delegates should expect some pictures at district conference! He is adorable.

Pastor/ Church Relations

- CenterPoint (Laurens) – Open
- Chesnee - Open
- Davis Chapel – Open
- LifeJourney (Pelzer) – Dr. Roger McKenzie (Interim Pastor)
- Northeast (Columbia) – Open
- Startex

DS Schedule for March

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 - 3 | Conflict Training Seminar | Table Rock |
| 3 - 4 | WIF Meeting | AM Indianapolis, IN |
| 6 | Wesleyan Women Nominating Comm. | AM, Pickens View |
| 7 | Martin Grove LifeJourney LBA Growing Pastors Dinner | AM PM PM |
| 8 | FWC/ALIVE LBA | PM |
| 9 | Funeral for Shelley Berry | Lawrenceville, GA |
| 10 | Techology Show Winter Camp Board Chesnee LBA | AM Noon, SWU PM |
| 11 | Leadership Team Pleasant View LBA | AM, Table Rock PM |
| 12 | Dialogue with General Supt. Pence | |
| 13 | DBA | 9am, Greenville First |
| 14 | Fountain Inn Providence | AM PM |
| 16 | TRRCC Board of Directors | PM, Greenville, First |
| 17 | ReFocus Pastors Conflict Response Team Startex | AM PM |
| 21 | DIV Davis Chapel LBA | AM PM |
| 22 | CenterPoint LBA | PM |
| 24 | Piedmont LBA (ReFocus) | PM |
| 25 | Northeast LBA | PM |
| 26 | Youth Pastors/Leaders Activity | PM |
| 27 | DBMD | 9AM |
| 28 | DIV | |

PRAYER FOCUS

Church for the Week:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| March 21, 2010 | Chesnee – Dan & Rita Belcher |
| March 28, 2010 | Columbia Crossroads Northeast – Paul & Sandi Di Toma |
| April 4, 2010 | Common Ground – Neal & Ashley Taylor |
| April 11, 2010 | Davis Chapel – Howard & Lucille Smith |
| April 18, 2010 | Easley First – Steve & Shelly Pickel |
| April 25, 2010 | Eden – Richard & Sharon Hall |

- Rev. Foster Gentry underwent back surgery on March 17 at St. Francis Hospital. He is doing well and anticipates coming home today (March 18).
- Mrs. Lewis Edwards (Nancy) will undergo a heart catheterization with possible other procedures on March 23 at Greenville Memorial Hospital.
- Rev. Jackie Ray (Knighton Chapel) is receiving treatment for a back injury and is experiencing a lot of pain.

Sympathy

We extend our Christian sympathy to District Superintendent (South Coastal) Dan Berry, whose wife, Shelley, went to be with the Lord on March 5 after a two-and-one-half-year journey that took her through months of being in a coma followed by two years of recovery and setbacks from injuries suffered in a horrific auto accident in September 2007. A beautiful service of worship and tribute was held at *12Stone* in Lawrenceville, GA, on March 9. As you have prayed for Dan and Shelley during these past 30 months, please continue to pray for Dan and his sons, Jason and Josh, during this time of loss and healing.

We also extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Clarice Alexander who went to be with the Lord on March 7. Mrs. Alexander was the widow of the late Rev. Earl Alexander, former pastor in the South Carolina District. A tentative date for her memorial service is May 23. She has been living in Texas with her daughter, Myra.