



# District News and Notes

May 7, 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

The month of April began with the Easter weekend. For someone who was a pastor for more than 30 years, Easter as a DS takes some getting used to. We did enjoy attending a Saturday night preview service at Lyman. This was their first Saturday evening service and proved to be a great beginning for a special weekend with a total attendance of 269, 1 salvation and many commitments. The worship music was excellent and Pastor Tom Boland preached a powerful message. It was a treat for us to share in this special time of worship.

Easter Sunday worship was at the FWC/ALIVE traditional service. The worship and message by Pastor Tom Harding made for a truly celebratory Easter morning. This congregation recorded an all-time high attendance of 801. You are asked to pray for them as planning and preparation for the relocation to their new property continues.

After the service, we gathered with our daughter, Marian, and her family at my parents' house for an Easter picnic. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed the opportunity to share this special day with family. The first week of the month began with the SWU Board of Trustees meeting. These are challenging days for Christian higher education, but God's blessing upon the university is evident. I continue to appreciate the leadership exhibited by the trustees, the staff, the faculty and administration. Dr. Spittal's fifteen years of leadership have been marked by growth and continued strengthening of the university.

The weekend during which Joan was attending the Women's Retreat proved to be a busy one for me, with a Table Rock work day and a Family Camp Board meeting on Saturday. The work projects included the installation of two projection cones in the worship center. These are mounted in the corners (platform end) and suspended from the ceiling and will provide improved media visibility with less obstruction of the view of Table Rock Mountain. After a drop-in visit on Sunday morning, I met Joan in Clemson where we attended a wonderful children's program in which two of our grandchildren, Mallory and Max, used music and rhythm to communicate a massive amount of scripture memorization.

The next weekend included the District Youth Retreat at TR on Friday and Saturday. A record number of youth were present for this exciting event. "The Difference" from SWU led in the worship and Dustin Wilson was the speaker. Nate George and Justin Donahoo provided leadership for this event and were assisted by a great group of youth pastors and leaders.

On Saturday, April 17, the SWU Alumni Awards Luncheon was a well-attended and beautifully-planned event. We are extremely proud of Rev. Greg Edmonds and Mr. Charles Tegen who were among those receiving awards this year. (See *News and Information* section for picture and article.)

Our Sunday visit for April 18 was at the Davis Chapel church in Spartanburg. Rev. Howard Smith is concluding his ministry to this congregation after 19 years of service. Early in his tenure, an extensive remodeling and reconstruction project resulted in a beautiful new facility and this pastor stayed to pay off the indebtedness! Pastor Smith and Lucille are truly loved and appreciated by this church family. Pastor Ken Hales and Marla have been serving as Assistant Pastor and their ministry has been well received by the congregation. We enjoyed a delicious traditional Southern Sunday dinner with the pastoral couples at the home of the pastor. Lucille is certainly one of the finest cooks in this part of the country . . . even though Howard tries to take all the credit, insisting he taught her! We have enjoyed and appreciated their hospitality during our visits there.

That Sunday afternoon, we traveled to the Boys Farm of Newberry to attend their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Open House. Our daughter, Emily, and her husband, Matthew Miller, are on staff serving as houseparents to six teenage boys. Joining with many other guests and the residents and staff, we had a great time on the farm, even taking an extended hayride through some of this beautiful 300-acre farm, a faith-based ministry whose motto is, "Building Boys Rather than Mending Men." Unknown to us prior to our children's connection there, Boys Farm has provided a safety net for "at risk" boys and young men in the name of Jesus since 1960. Our son, Aaron, and his family came down from Charlotte for the day, which meant that Nana and Poppy got to enjoy the special treat of being with four of the grandkids and their parents on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

The Men's Retreat (pictured at right) has been growing for the past three years and this year we came close to the all-time record attendance. There was a wonderful spirit in the sessions and the fellowship was warm and genuine. The ministry of Rev. Lester Rowan, twin brother of our Chet Rowan, pastor at the Piedmont Church, was outstanding and truly appreciated by those attending. The leadership of our District WM Director, Bryan Stepp, is creating excitement about men's ministry in our district. The men of the district are encouraged to begin making plans for next year's event.



I left the retreat on Sunday morning and drove to Florence for a visit to New Life Christian Fellowship. It was so good to be a part of the teaching time and the morning service. Pastor Peter Sibande and his wife, Sphiwe, are some of God's choice servants. Their investment in the lives of their people is evident. We enjoyed an absolutely scrumptious lunch following the service and a good time of sharing with the LBA. It is anticipated that a work project to replace the roof of their facility will be planned in the near future. As details are confirmed, we hope that there will be many of our district men who can help in this endeavor.

I had invited Mike Hayes from the Pickens View Church to join me for the retreat weekend. We had such a good time at the retreat, playing golf, and eating way too much (at least Mike did). I enjoyed and appreciated his company and the opportunity of getting to know him better. I have an even greater appreciation for and deeper friendship with this strong family man and loyal churchman who is also involved in community service as an investigator with the Pickens County Sheriff's Department. Many of you know him as our camp police officer.

The month also included several board meetings, a meeting of the Conflict Response Team, meetings with pastors, a DBMD meeting, Leadership Team meeting and ReFocus pastors' huddle.

The month concluded with a meeting of the South Central Administrative Area District Superintendents and spouses with General Superintendent Dr. Jerry Pence and his wife, Calene. Joan and I had the privilege of hosting this evening in beautiful Charleston, SC. The setting, fellowship, sharing and weather were spectacular. Dr. Wayne Schmidt, Vice-President of newly-established Wesleyan Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, was our guest and resource person. The presentations and discussions were stimulating and enlightening. Quite frankly, it would be hard to have a bad meeting in Charleston!

I left this city—the largest and probably what will soon become the fastest growing in our district—with a renewed burden for SC Wesleyans to be involved in reaching the multitudes in this metropolitan area who need to know Jesus in a personal way. Will you join me in prayer and ask that God will reveal His plan for us in this special and strategic place in our state?

As you can see from my schedule (below), Joan and I will leave this Friday for our annual family vacation. Excitement is running high as all 19 of us (7 between the ages of 4½ and 1) converge on the beautiful SC coast. Look out, seagulls!

Believing in each other,  
Pastor Buddy

## NEWS and INFORMATION

### Table Rock Work Week: May 17-22

Individuals and Groups are encouraged to come and spend a day or multiple days improving our district retreat and conference center. Lodging and some meals will be provided. Projects include: landscaping, tree removal, repairs, and painting.

### *Southern Wesleyan applauds outstanding alumni*



Southern Wesleyan University alumni were recognized April 17 for their outstanding efforts in ministry and business during an annual awards luncheon on the university's campus in Central. Pictured, from left, are Rupal Shah of Brighton, Mass., who received a Young Leader Award; **Charles Tegen of Central, S.C., who received a Professional Excellence Award in the School of Business; Gregory Edmonds of Chesnee, S.C., who received a Young Leader Award; Bradford Fipps of Liberty, S.C., who received the Alumnus of the Year Award; John Benson of Pendleton,**

S.C., who received the Professional Excellence Award in the School of Business; James Michael Hilson of LaPlata, Md., who received the Professional Excellence Award in the College of Arts and Science; and Karen Young Watts of Albertville, Ala., who received the Professional Excellence Award in the School of Education.

**Congratulations** to Jason and Sabrina Ray on the birth of a son, Sawyer Michael, on April 9. The proud grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. Jackie Ray (Knighton Chapel).

### **Congratulations to our Graduates . . .**

. . . Southern Wesleyan University -

Brittany Buchanan, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Scott Buchanan – Bachelor of Arts

Dana Casey, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Tony Casey – Bachelor of Arts

Christopher Clay, son of Rev. and Mrs. Randy Clay – Bachelor of Arts

Palmer Dill, ministerial student and son of Rev. & Mrs. Ken Dill – Bachelor of Arts

Deanna Tegen, wife of DBA member, Charles Tegen – Master of Business Administration

. . . Rev. Yvonne Beasley upon her receiving a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Biblical Studies, from Indiana Wesleyan University on Saturday, May 1st. Yvonne is an Ordained Minister in our district, having transferred here from the Shenandoah District. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Hal Robbins, Jr.

. . . Michael Bryant graduated on May 1st from Indiana Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems. Michael is the husband of Rev. Michelle Bryant

We received the following note from Aaron and Casey Gadsby following the recent fundraiser sponsored by Greenville First Church, in which approximately 160 persons, representing 9 churches, participated. Proceeds from the event were used to offset the recent medical expenses of this young couple. Aaron is chairperson of the Public Morals and Social Concerns committee and Casey is a member of the Wesleyan Women Executive Committee.

*We want to thank everyone across the SC District of the Wesleyan Church. You have shown us so much love and kindness over the past few months, and it truly has been overwhelming. We do not know how to begin to say thanks. Your generosity has shown us what it means to be part of the family of God. Thank you and God bless you!*

## DS Schedule for May

1	Beaufort SC Nazarene DS	AM meeting PM
2	Northeast	AM
3	Hispanic Advisory Council	Greenville
5	ReFocus Piedmont LBA	AM PM
6	Leadership Team SWU Commencement	AM PM
7-14	Family Vacation	Hilton Head Island
15	Buchanan Wedding	Table Rock
16	Perry Road	AM
17-22	TR Work Week	
19	Budget Committee	Seneca
20	Family Camp Board	G1
22	DBA	9am, Eden
23	Spartanburg First Clarice Alexander Memorial Service	AM 3pm, Greer
25	Nominating Committee	6:30pm, Pickens View
27	Pastors' Gathering Committee	AM
30	True Life Christian Fellowship	AM

## Pastor/ Church Relations

Centerpoint - Open  
 Chesnee - Doug Windsor, Supply Pastor  
 Davis Chapel - Ken Hales, Supply Pastor  
 Life Journey (Pelzer) - Dr. Roger McKenzie (Interim Pastor)  
 Mt. Olivet - Open  
 Northeast (Columbia) - Open  
 Startex - Open

## PRAYER FOCUS

### Church for the Week:

May 9, 2010	Fellowship - George & Mary Brassard
May 16, 2010	First Haitian Evangelical - Patrick & Mirianne Gué
May 23, 2010	Fountain Inn - Bob & Barbara Broome
May 30, 2010	Frontline - Mike & Jen Ferrell
June 6, 2010	FWC/ALIVE - Tom & Lisa Harding
June 13, 2010	Glendale - Frank & Mary Cantrell
June 20, 2010	Glenville - Ralph & Mavis Campbell
June 27, 2010	Glenwood - Roger & Jean Rhoads

Rev. Jackie Ray was admitted to AnMed Hospital on May 3, and is improving. In addition to the blood clots, he is being treated for a serious infection.  
Pray for our district camps, conference.

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## Sympathy

A memorial service for Clarice Tesnow Alexander will be held at Wood Mortuary Chapel, Greer, SC, at 4 p.m. on May 23, 2010 with visitation at 3 p.m. Burial will follow at Wood Memorial Cemetery in Duncan, SC. Mrs. Alexander and her late husband, Rev. Earl Alexander, faithfully served the district as a pastoral ministry couple for many years. We remember the family with our prayers.

Rev. Wesley Childs, who recently transferred into the South Carolina District from the Shenandoah District, went to be with the on April 20, following a brief illness. Wesley is the son of Rev. T. C. Childs (Mountain View) and the brother of Joan Wallace, Missionary to Zambia. We extend our sympathy to the family. His memorial service was conducted on Saturday, April 24, at 11am at the Shepherd Church of the Nazarene in Lexington, SC.