



District News and Notes

February 11, 2011

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

OK. Where did January go? I know it was on the calendar, but it seems like a vapor . . . which is an increasing reality for me. That said, this DNN will recap *two* months, including what is usually a slow time for district office demands: the Christmas holidays.

The only official Sunday visit in December was on the 5th at the **United Wesleyan Church** in Easley. It was the first time for me to be present for their morning schedule since they began having the two services (and it seemed rather natural to me, since that was my schedule for the last 14 years of my local pastoral ministry). There was a wonderful spirit in the services, and an attendance pushing the 200 mark. Thank the Lord for one salvation and several others who made commitments that morning! This congregation, under the leadership of Pastor Tim Jones, has made remarkable strides in the past 2+ years, with morning worship attendance increasing by 50%. During the following week, Joan and I attended their LBA Christmas dinner meeting and had a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing in a time of dialogue and training. In addition to Pastor Tim and Connie serving as Senior Pastor, the staff includes Bob Cooley, Michelle Bryant and Matthew Haynes .

The Pickens View, Greenville First and United congregations are to be congratulated on a wonderful Christmas program presented by their combined choirs. An article and picture is included in the *News and Information* section.

The time of sharing with the Leadership Team in our monthly meeting, and a Christmas dinner that included the spouses, was a blessed time of encouragement, accountability, and receiving counsel. We completed a group study of the book, *The Way Forward*, edited by Matthew LeRoy and Jeremy Summers. This is a collection of writings that include short biographies and excerpts from works of holiness leaders.

Other meetings during the month included TRRCC Board of Directors, youth pastors/leaders and LBA meetings.

We had three Sundays in which to visit some of our churches as well as a congregation of another denomination. It is always good to sit under the ministry of others and learn what God is doing. It was also a delight to attend a program in which our grandchildren participated.

Christmas 2011 was a very special time for us and our family. Your generosity and thoughtfulness—expressed through your notes, cards, and the Christmas bonuses—is truly appreciated. The bonuses made possible our not having to secure a loan for our December grocery bill!!!! We had an extended time (a week for most) with all of the family here at Table Rock! What a special time! It was one of the most memorable weeks of our lives. The setting, the season, the snow were all shared with our precious family. We were blessed in an incredible way. By the way, more grands are on the way! In addition to the baby girl due in May to Matt/Michelle, two more (gender not to be announced) are due the last of July to Aaron/Liz and Emily/Matt. Joan never did make brownies that much and it looks like the children didn't pick that up either (inside joke from the comedian at *The Gathering*)! There is a good chance that the 2011 District Journal will be completed in record time so that Nana can be . . . well, Nana!

Now to January. Around 2,000 Wesleyans were present for our denomination's second "gathering" of pastors and leaders. ***The Gathering '11*** was a tremendous time of worship, renewal, retooling, fellowship and encouragement for all who attended. I believe that this event is further evidence of the commitment on the part of the leadership of the denomination to be increasingly intentional about our capturing the hearts, imaginations, and passion of our emerging leaders. It was a decidedly younger crowd than was present four years ago. The vision presentation by the General Superintendents (while we ate our "sack lunches"—a great use of time) represented, both in quality and scope, the most compelling vision from the General Church level ever during my time of ministry. Over 70 South Carolina Wesleyans attended this event. This represents 21 pastors, 10 staff pastors and others, with 69 present at our district dinner on Wednesday evening. (Pictured below)



All the main sessions and seminars are available at the denominational website for listening/downloading: <http://www.wesleyan.org/gathering/resources>. We are very grateful for this generous gift to pastors and lay persons who were unable to attend or to those of us who wanted to get to other seminars.

Several of us benefitted from attending the pre-conference session conducted by the Spiritual Formation Department on *reaching and keeping the emerging generation*. These presentations were carried live by *thetechologyshow*. We are proud of Matthew Tietje, Tony Casey, Heath Mullikin and Steve Stanley for their ministry through this medium. You can go the website and catch this and many other awesome things that they did.

Our first church visit for the new year was to the **Davis Chapel** Wesleyan Church on January 9. This church has a very visible location and an attractive facility that we are hopeful can reach the potential that is theirs. Pastor Ken Hales and Marla have been providing leadership for this congregation since July. There was a warm spirit (in contrast to the bitter cold temperature outside) in the service and a good response to the message. Following the service, our fellowship and sharing with the LBA was beneficial.

The community of Mayo in Spartanburg County has been home to **Graham Chapel*** Wesleyan Church since 1900. Rev. Preston Edmonds has proved that the axiom, "you can't go back home and pastor," is not always correct. For the past twelve years, he and Donna have served in this community where they grew up. They have recently broken ground for a Family Life Center to house their expanding ministry to children and youth . . . a ministry that is growing significantly through their outreach efforts. This congregation is rejoicing in the calling of God upon the lives of Greg and Heidi Edmonds and their recent departure to serve as career missionaries in Haiti, but their presence is greatly missed. This church has a strong history of sending out Christian workers, including James Henderson, who is now serving as youth director back at his home church. I am grateful for the support of the congregation and the presence of the Holy Spirit as we had the opportunity to preach and then meet with the leaders. I was told that the instructions given to the LBA for the dinner meeting following the service were for "everyone just bring what you would have at home and we will put it together." I can tell you that this is a church where all of the leaders are well fed!

On January 23rd, we traveled for the third consecutive Sunday to northern Spartanburg County, visiting the **Carlisle** Wesleyan Church. I appreciate several things about this church: the large number of men who are highly visible in the service and on-going ministries; the commitment, passion and enthusiasm of the pastor; an increasing number of younger families who are seeking the deeper things; and a high level of spiritual fervor. Pastor Mike Stepp and Joyce and their family are deeply appreciated by the congregation. Within the last year, they have added a media system to the sanctuary. This particular Sunday turned into a long day, as we traveled from Spartanburg to a grandson's birthday party in Charlotte, then home late that night. Thank the Lord for traveling mercies.

What a delight it was on January 30th to visit the **Oakway** congregation—our first time there since Heath and Karen Mullikin came to serve in this community. It is a real delight to welcome them back to the district where they served for 12 years at the FWC/ALIVE church and were so active in our district youth ministry. At the end of last year, this congregation voluntarily requested Developing Church status in order to continue the ReFocus process to church health. There was a good attendance and spirit in the service, and the time of praise and worship led by Jody Reynolds was uplifting. Our meeting with the leaders following lunch took a somewhat different turn when I realized I

had left the packets to be used back at the office. The Lord helped as we transitioned and spent a good season sharing together.

The **Hispanic Rally** that evening at the Glenwood church was well attended. Following the uplifting time of worship led by a multi-cultural group, Pastor Roger Rhoads brought a wonderful message. More than 100 were present for this service. We continue to thank the Lord for how He is growing His church in diversity as well as in numerical strength.

For the past four years, we have anticipated each FLAME week that we have hosted here at TR. The recent session brought a record number of students and faculty, well over 100!!! We enjoyed getting to know many of them and serving warm "home-baked" cookies and cold milk for the Tuesday and Thursday afternoon snack times. This week also included more than the usual number of committee meetings and individual appointments.

We rejoice in the reports of God's presence in services, conversions, baptisms and the building of His church here in our district. I love getting those Monday emails recounting wonderful worship services and reports of new Christians coming into the Kingdom. The best is yet to come!

Believing in each other,
Pastor Buddy

* Graham Chapel Wesleyan carries the name of Rev. Frank M. Graham, a widely-used singer in the late 1890's and early 1900's. He and his wife, who was also a preacher, traveled often with Rev. L. W. Johnson and were greatly used of the Lord as soul winners. This congregation was formed after a revival they conducted in 1899 in this community which resulted in sixty-five professions of faith. Rev. Graham also wrote at least one hymn, *The Old Account Was Settled*, which eventually appeared in many hymnals. I can remember this hymn being sung and especially remember it being sung often by the male quartet on *The Old Fashioned Revival Hour*¹, a popular radio program during the middle part of the last century. Rev. Johnson was a very effective worker in the district.

¹ www.biblebelievers.com/OFRH/history.htm

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Winter Camp Meeting – February 23-27, Table Rock, Dr. Paul Mills, speaker

BROCHURE ATTACHED

- Wednesday - Friday Evening Services, 7pm
- Saturday - Sunday Evening Services, 6pm
- Thursday, 10:30am Best Year's Fellowship Emphasis and Lunch to follow
- Friday, 10:30am Fireside chat and lunch to follow

Growing Pastors Dinner

A resourcing event for pastors, pastoral staff, and their spouses

DATE: Sunday, March 6, 2011

TIME: 4:30pm to 7:30pm

PLACE: Family Life Center, Trinity Wesleyan Church

Make your reservations now for this evening of praise and worship, testimonies of encouragement and an exciting time of sharing with **Rev. Phil Struckmeyer**, pastor of Impact Church in Lowell, Michigan. Read about that here: <http://www.impact-church.org> In 2003, Phil was the lead church planter for Impact Church in Lowell, MI. The church has grown to a congregation of almost 1,000 in worship. In addition, they have planted two daughter churches that have grown into significant congregations . . . and one of them has daughtered a congregation. In August, Phil was selected as the Director of Church Planter Training for The Wesleyan Church. He is also working with districts as a consultant for building a church planting movement.

(Pastors, please reference the more detailed information being emailed to you.)





It's new, coming to your neighborhood and very affordable – A Wesleyan Youth Convention! *

Dates: April 1,2

Place: Southern Wesleyan University

This event features speaker Jeremy Kingsley, music by Atlantic, a Follow On Tour Block Party, game show, activity sessions, giveaways, t-shirts, meals and free lodging on campus (for the first 150 students who register) . . . all for only \$25 per person!

Here is the link: http://swu.edu/admissions/follow_on_tour_form.htm (The site contains all that you need for registering your group, etc.) Don't miss it!

*Seriously, this event is being planned by the same team that planned our youth conventions. The new plan is to bring conventions closer to our churches in the years that we don't have the international event. (The plan is to have those events every three years, instead of four, and to have more regional events instead of area conventions. The next international event is scheduled for 2012.)

Women's Retreat, April 1-3, Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC

Fitting the Pieces Together, Martha Blackburn, Speaker

Brochures have been sent to churches and information, including registration forms are available at:

<http://www.scwesleyan.org/scww/>

**Men's Retreat – April 15-17
SpringMaid Beach Resort**

It is important to spend some casual time together to bond and grow in the Lord. Join us by setting aside the weekend of April 15-17 to enjoy the fellowship of other men from across our district at Myrtle Beach. You will enjoy quality time getting to know one another better as you fish off the pier, golf, play basketball, take a walk on the beach, or just relax. This is a great time to get away from the routine pressures and enjoy some refreshing from the Lord alongside other men.

Bryan Stepp can answer your questions at (864) 978-8017 or tpstepp@hotmail.com.

Dates for Summer Camps

- Family Camp – July 10-17
Rev. Ernest Mullins and Rev. Steve Wilson, Evangelists
Bob & Gail Kerstetter, Worship Leaders
- Middle School Camp – June 20-24
- Senior High Camp – June 27-July 1
- Kids Camp – July 18-22

A NOTE FROM JOAN ABOUT THE WESLEYAN WOMEN SUMMIT

JUNE 23-25, 2011

It is anticipated that this Summit will be a pivotal time as the next decade of Women's Ministries of The Wesleyan Church is launched. I want to encourage the women of our district to attend and be a part of giving input at this crucial time. There is just nothing like "being there." June 23-25, 2011 is your chance to experience *The Summit* and be heard!

Let's do some math! Dr. JoAnne Lyon has challenged Wesleyans to send 1,000 women to *The Summit*! Does that sound like a lot to you? Well, let's break it down a bit: That's only 250 women per area. Within each of the 4 areas of The Wesleyan Church are approximately 8 districts. If each district sends only 32 ladies that would meet Dr. Lyons' challenge. This is entirely within the realm of possibility. The women of The Wesleyan Church have been and are on the cutting edge of ministry within our denomination, our communities, and around the world! I believe getting to *The Summit* is largely a matter of mobilization, ladies!

Pastors, local women's ministries directors and leaders, pastor's wives, and all other women who receive this communication . . . please do all that you can to spread the word, encourage, and mobilize the women you know.

And will you pray with us about *The Summit*?

1. For God's anointing as plans are finalized. This is a big undertaking for a small committee, but we have a BIG God!
2. For women across our nation and around the world that God will help remove obstacles to attending *The Summit*!
3. Pray that God will be honored above all else.

Additional detailed information is available at http://www.wesleyan.org/ww/ministry_summit

Church Planter's Assessment Scholarship

Ever wondered if God was calling you to plant a church? There is a process to help you discern whether church planting might be a part of your ministry journey. The South Carolina District is partnering with the Department of Evangelism and Church Growth at The International Center to provide a scholarship for those interested in going through a formal church planter's assessment. The process is as follows:

- Begin praying about your involvement in church planting
- Complete the "Is It In Me?" Self Assessment Tool at www.uought2.org
- Visit churchplanterprofiles.com and take the Free Initial Screening Assessment
- Connect with the SC District office by completing the Church Planter's Assessment Scholarship Application
- Receive district approval to attend Church Planter's Assessment Center
- Complete the \$79 Assessment at churchplanterprofiles.com
- Attend a Church Planter's Assessment Center

Candidates receiving approval from the SC District to attend the Church Planter's Assessment Center will receive a scholarship that covers the \$79 churchplanterprofiles.com Assessment and expenses for Church Planter's Assessment Center, including registration, travel, lodging and meals. If you have any questions about the process or need more information, please talk with Pastor Buddy at ds@scwesleyan.org or 864-878-3478.

A note from Tony Casey . . .

Over the years, I have collected South Carolina District Journals. Below is a list of the years I still need. I am hoping someone out there may have some of the years I still need. If they are willing to part with them, they can call 864-898-2808 or email me at acasey64@gmail.com.

1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1997, 1898, 1899
1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908
1924
1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935
1964

Christmas Concert

The choirs of Pickens View Wesleyan, Greenville First Wesleyan and United Wesleyan combined together on Sunday evening, Dec. 12, at Pickens View Wesleyan and again on Sunday, Dec. 19, at United Wesleyan. There were around 57 total choir members on Dec. 12 and around 54 at the Dec. 19 performance. The choir sounded great at both services. Thanks to Nancy Edwards, Esther Mullinax and Pastor Bob Cooley for working with their choirs and presenting the Christmas Cantata of "O HOLY NIGHT!" It was enjoyed by a total of 475 for both performances. We are planning to do this again next year! Thanks to all who participated. (by Bob Cooley)



Haiti Team



For the second year in a row, our district sent a work team to Haiti. They returned on February 5 . . . grateful, fulfilled and spent from 8 days of work and ministry. Pastor Greg Edmonds wrote, “The SC team left this morning to go home. Heidi and I were so blessed to have them here working alongside us. They did plumbing, wiring, painting, concrete work, tree removal, baby-sitting, cabinet repairs, house decorating, roof sealing, English classes, prayer for the sick at the hospital, and spent two afternoons playing with the children from the orphanage.” Members of the team included: Daniel & Deanna Stanley, Rev. Michelle Bryant, Rev. Bob Broome, Rev. Matthew Tietje, Rebecca Marsengill, Jim Nelms, Monica Stirewalt, Ralph Kelley,

Jessie Flanagan, Bethany Bates, and Nancy Lanni.

DBA Action (January 15 meeting)

- Elected Rev. Heath Mullikin to a term (expires 2012) on the Family Camp Board
- Designated the South Carolina District of The Wesleyan Church as the owner of the newly-formed *Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center Utilities, LLC*
- Officially closed the Frontline Church

DS Schedule for January/February

2	DIV	
3-7	<i>The Gathering '11</i>	Jacksonville, FL
8	True Life Christian Fellowship Retreat	Table Rock
9	Davis Chapel	AM Service/LBA Training
12	Leadership Team	Easley
16	Graham Chapel	AM Service/LBA Training
17	Funeral (Colfax, NC) Youth Cabinet	Greenville, First
18	TRRCC Board	Table Rock
20	Meeting with Phil Struckmeyer Developing Church Leaders Meeting	Columbia Easley, United
23	Carlisle	AM Service/LBA Training
24-28	FLAME	Table Rock
24	Winter Camp Meeting Committee Family Camp Board	SWU Greenville, First
25	SWU Chapel (Spiritual Emphasis)	
30	Oakway District Hispanic Ministries Rally	AM Service/LBA Training Easley, Glenwood
1	Hispanic Ministries Meeting	Conyers, GA
6	United	AM
7	Hispanic Advisory Council Kids Camp Committee	Greenville Greenville
13	DIV	AM

	Mt. Olivet	PM
15	Leadership Team	Central
16	Chesnee LBA Davis Chapel LBA	4:30pm 7:00pm
17	DAWG	
20	Easley, First	AM Service/LBA Training
21	Youth Cabinet Pleasant View LBA	Greenville, First
23-27	Winter Camp Meeting	
24	Service and BYF Lunch	Table Rock
25	Service and Lunch	Table Rock
26	TRRCC Planning Retreat	Table Rock
27	Piedmont	AM Service/LBA Training

PRAYER UPDATES . . .

Church for the Week:

February 13, 2011	United – Tim & Connie Jones
February 20, 2011	Walhalla – Kerry & Terri Rainey
February 27, 2011	Welcome – Phill & Martha Faye Baily
March 6, 2011	Westminster – Ken & Sandra Culbertson
March 13, 2011	Anderson – Francois & Cecile Gilles
March 20, 2011	Bethany – Rick & Maria Gilbert
March 27, 2011	Bridge of Hope Community – Mark & Nancy Griffith

- Dr. Paul Faulkenberry, who has been receiving treatment for prostate cancer, had surgery for bladder cancer on January 5 and is continuing to receive treatments for both.
- Please remember in prayer the granddaughter of Rev. Ken and Sandra Culbertson (Westminster). **Lisette Runyan Smith** was born in Sante Fe, NM on November 2. Born with Down Syndrome and several resulting complications, she is continuing to progress toward a weight of 15 pounds, at which time she will undergo heart surgery.