

Shepherd to Shepherd

"Stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord" Micah 5:4

South Carolina District Church of the Nazarene * 150 McSwain Dr., West Columbia, SC 29169 * (803) 794-2209

From My Heart to Yours

In Admiration of Bi-vocational Ministers

Pastors' Newsletter
9/18/17 * Issue 128



Eddie Estep
District Superintendent



Hunger for God



Leadership
Development



Fruitfulness



This morning it dawned on me that three of the last six Sundays I have worshipped with churches that are pastored by bi-vocational ministers. That percentage reflects reality on the South Carolina District. A recent review of the status of the lead pastors on our district revealed that exactly one-half of our pastors are bi-vocational. Two years ago, 40% of our pastors on the South Carolina District were bi-vocational. The increase is not due to churches transitioning to bi-vocational pastors for financial reasons. The increase is due to this one fact: of the 10 NewStarts that have begun the last two years, 9 are pastored by bi-vocational ministers (the 10th is pastored by an individual who is retired).

The Apostle Paul was bi-vocational, serving as a tentmaker with Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:3). Our bi-vocational ministers, whether due to necessity or preference, are following Paul's example of earning a living outside of the support of the local church that they serve. These ministers come to personally understand the challenges that our laity experience in the workplace. As a result, their preaching and their ministry often contain more and stronger practical applications than those of us who are not bi-vocational.

I have always considered bi-vocational pastors to be heroes. The danger, of course, is for these ministers to become overextended. Sometimes local church ministry alone can become overwhelming. Add to that the time and energy needed for secular work, and the load can become quite heavy. We are grateful for South Carolina's fine bi-vocational pastors and pray that God will continue to bless them, their wonderful families, and their significant work both in the parish and in the public.

Dr. Eddie Estep
District Pastor
www.eddieestep.com

The South Carolina District Church of the Nazarene exists to

- start churches
- strengthen churches
- develop leaders

Prayer Requests: Rev. Alan Pullen (District Camp Manager) and family at the passing of his father, Oscar Pullen (former district treasurer & District Advisory Board member); victims of Hurricane Harvey & Hurricane Irma; Rev. Hoke Robinson (Lugoff Faith) recently hospitalized; Rev. Jackie Richardson (retired) recently hospitalized; Rev. John Sanders (retired) diagnosed with cancer; Dr. Jim Bearden (former SC DS); NewStart Church Planters and NewStart Church Sponsors; Awakening movement of the Holy Spirit on the South Carolina District; Progress toward the 2020 Vision (100 vibrant churches) for South Carolina; the Vibrant Church Initiative (VCI).

NEWS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

TRANSITIONS:

- **Ashwood:** Brandon Barkley is serving as supply pastor.
- **Honea Path Genesis:** Rev. Mark Vaughn (Lisa) was installed as pastor on Sunday, September 17, 2017.
- **Simpsonville LifeSpring Community:** Rev. Terry Weyman and the Greenville First staff are serving as interim pastor.
- **Manning New Start Community:** Pastor Dale Turner has resigned effective September 24, 2017. He will be transitioning to Nashville to continue graduate studies. Dr. Jim Thrower will be serving as interim pastor.

Congratulations to Pastor Jonathan and Ashley Pannell (Rock Hill Emmanuel) at the birth of **Lila Grace**, 7 lbs. 14 oz., on Friday, August 25, 2017.

Congratulations to **Pastor David Snodgrass** and the **Camden First** church board for a positive six-year review.

Congratulations to **Rev. Carey and Jean Pratt** (retired) who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on October 21, 2017. Cards can be sent to them at 1136 Mill Creek Loop, Leland, NC 28451-9106.

NEWS ACROSS THE DISTRICT - Continued

Columbia Grace's food drive for **Harvest Hope** netted 551 pounds of food for Harvest Hope. Thanks to all the participating churches!

Rock Hill Emmanuel (Pastor Jonathan Pannell) is leading efforts to send a tractor trailer and five box trucks loaded with hurricane relief supplies to south Texas for Hurricane Harvey relief.

Rev. Arthur Snijders (Eurasia Regional Director) recently met with our district pastors. To subscribe to the Eurasia monthly newsletter, *Where Worlds Meet*, please see www.eurasiaregion.org; click on the "News" tab and then on the newsletter tab.

2017 REVIVALS and RENEWAL SERVICES

October 6-8	York	Rev. Bill Ulmet
October 8-11	Sumter First	Dr. Chuck Sunberg
October 8-11	Bennettsville First	Rev. Bill Ulmet
October 15-18	Batesburg	Rev. Bill Ulmet
October 18-22	Lugoff Faith	Rev. Ron Fite; The Harvells
November 12-16	New Ellenton New Life	Local Pastors

Hurricane Irma Update from the Southern Florida District: "More than 10,000 Crisis Care Kits, donated by sacrificial Nazarenes across the USA, have been delivered to Southern Florida and delivered to individuals and families at a critical time of need this week, including in the difficult to access Florida Keys region. Thank you so much for your generosity! While many in Florida still wait for electrical power to return (along with much needed AC), the greatest need now is for water, tarps for roofs, chainsaw work teams and cleanup crews. We ask that no more Crisis Care Kits be sent to us. Those kits that may already be on their way to us will be received with gratitude and stored in Southern Florida in case we need to distribute again to others in need, or if another storm comes our way. Otherwise, please send CCKs to the CCK warehouses, as instructed by Nazarene Missions International."

2017 EVENTS TO SHAPE MINISTRY

Register your Lifelong Learning hours at: <https://learning.nazarene.org/>

September 21	The Reformation Presenter: Dr. Steve Hoskins (simulcast) Venue: Winnsboro, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (4 LL hours)
October 2-3	Pastors' Prayer Retreat Facilitator: Rev. Harry Widener Venue: D. Moody Gunter Camp & Retreat Center (6 LL hours)
October 7	EQUIP: A Training Day for Leadership Sponsored by District SDMI, Pastors' Workshops: * Church Planting/Missional Outreach * Online Streaming Worship Attendance Policy Venue: Columbia First; 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (3 LL hours)
November 6	<i>The 3 C's of Servant Leadership</i> & Campus Tour (Pre-registration Mandatory) Presenter: Colonel Jeff Hawkins, Chaplain, Commandant of the Center and School Venue: Fort Jackson, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School; 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (4 LL hours)

Resource for Pastors

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism: Essential Teaching for Faith Formation in the Church of the Nazarene is a comprehensive faith formation initiative for Nazarenes around the world. It outlines essential doctrines that Nazarenes confess and practice as part of a global community of Christians in many denominational expressions worldwide using a traditional, centuries-old template for instruction in the faith of the Christian church. You can access the resource here: <http://www.nazarene.org/onelord>

Southeast USA PK Retreat

The Southeast Field Nazarene Youth International will host its 3rd annual PK retreat February 2-4, 2018, at a brand-new water park located just outside Atlanta, Georgia. The retreat is for all 7-12th grade pastors' and ministerial staff's teens including full-time missionaries' teens.

This weekend is designed to give students being raised in a PK or MK home the opportunity to share their joys and struggles with other students who find themselves in similar situations. It is a unique set of challenges that our PKs and MKs face. They need a place of safety where they can be themselves and connect with other students who "get it."

This two-day retreat will provide meaningful worship opportunities including times to hear from adults who were PKs and their perspective on growing up in the home of a pastor or staff member. Please share this information with your church board and pastoral family.

Registration is \$150 per student before January 1, 2018, and \$175 after that. The South Carolina District is offering \$50 scholarship to any district PK who attends. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.pkretreat.org>.

Super Bus/Super Life Church Workshop

October 19 at 5:32 p.m. until October 21, 2017, at 2:30 p.m.

This event will be held at Charleston Southern University in North Charleston, starting with dinner on Thursday, October 19. Training is free. Meals, except for Friday night, are \$25 per person, total. Friday night dinner and hotel costs are the responsibility of the participants. For more information: <http://www.trinitybiblefellowshipnazarene.com>