

Shepherd Tuesday Happenings for September 30, 2008

Dear Shepherdites and Friends,

As we start another week, we are thankful for the opportunity. Sunday we welcomed 3 new members to Shepherd, by transfer, had 2 good services, and learned to use a comma before “and” in a series of items within a sentence. In case you wondered, we averaged 40 in our morning worship services in September.

Just Thinking -- Recently I wrote that we had the privilege of worshiping at a Nazarene Church in Mexico. The night before, in our hotel lobby, we had the honor of meeting the District Superintendent and his wife. The pastors, Laura and Alex, with their children were also there. We discussed many things, including their inviting us to worship with them the next day.

They were wonderful people; as much as we wanted to go to their church; we did not want them to have to do anything special to accommodate us. So I told Pastor Laura, in my broken Spanish, “Do not bother getting a translator; Jesus will speak to our hearts.” I must admit, I wasn’t quite sure if that was true, but we didn’t want to put them to any trouble or possible expense. They assured us that there would be a translator.

Their Sunday worship service is at 2 pm. I could learn to like that. Alex picked us up at the hotel. Manuel, Alex’s brother was going to translate for us, but he sat on the other side of Savon, so needless to say, I could not hear him. Pastor Laura preached the message from Santiago 1:22. Ok, where was that in my Bible?

When she finished, in our hearts and minds, we knew what she had preached. In fact, I was able to outline it for her at the meal we enjoyed later.

Isn’t it strange that we declare, “God can do anything”, but we seem to be so amazed when he does something? Nope, don’t doubt what God can do, he’ll amaze you every time. Jesus tells us, *“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

By the way, Santiago 1:22 says, *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* (James 1:22 NIV)

This week at Shepherd: Discipleship – Tonight 7 pm @ C.I. & Van Coleman’s
Bible Study, Wed. 7 pm @ the church – James 1
Discipleship – Thursday 7 pm @ Pastor & Mrs. Coleman’s
Morning Worship 10 am @ the church
Evening Worship 5 pm @ the church

Notice the Discipleship changes – This week only, the Tuesday night group will meet at Clarence & Van Coleman’s and the Thursday night group will meet at Pastor & Mrs. Coleman’s. This will permit those that are interested, to attend the Anniversary Celebration at Sumter First Church on Thursday, Oct. 2.

Scrapbook Night – On Monday, Oct. 13, at 6 pm, there will be Scrapbook Night in the church fellowship hall. Everyone that does or would like to learn scrapbooking is invited. Bring your own supplies; refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, contact Lorrie Whitaker by phone at (803) 808-0385 or by e-mail at LorrieW1234@yahoo.com.

Young Adult Fellowship – The pastor reports that the Young Adult Fellowship was a success at O'Charley's last week. The group honored the Rudes for their work with the church, as they were getting ready to move. The church presented Chris and Katie with a going away present. There is a nice note from the Rudes on the Welcome stand in the church foyer.

New Shepherd Members – Pastor Coleman welcomed some familiar faces into membership, by transfer, on Sunday morning. They have been with us for several months, but now they are official Shepherdians. Welcome Evangeline (Van) Coleman, the pastor's mom; C.I. (Clarence) Coleman, the pastor's dad; and Darren Coleman, the pastor's brother.

The pastor tells me that there will soon be more people joining. If you are not a member and would be interested in transferring or attending a new member's class, please contact Pastor Coleman.

Centennial Sunday – This Sunday we observe the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Nazarene. There will be a special message Sunday morning and we will end the service by receiving Communion.

Note: All loose offering or specifically designated offering will go the new World Evangelism Center of the Church of the Nazarene, as each church throughout the world will be doing. That will be for this Sunday morning only. If you would like to give a little extra for this cause, please indicate the same on your giving envelope or check.

Sunday night we will meet for a community celebration of the centennial at Columbia First Church of the Nazarene at the corner of Saint Andrews Rd. and Kay Street. The service begins at 6 pm.

Wedding – You are invited to the wedding of Jeremy Coleman & Melissa Cotton on October 25 at Camden First Church of the Nazarene. The invitation is in the foyer of the church. You may RSVP to Loraine Coleman by October 8.

Board Meeting – The regular October meeting of the Church board will be on Thursday, Oct. 9 at 8 pm, following the Discipleship meeting.

Musicians Needed – If you saw the extra sheet in your Sunday bulleting, we really need some folks with musical talent. If you play a musical instrument; if you can sing, either solo or in a group; we need you. Currently we have the piano and flute; the church has a keyboard, organ and drum set available. Other instruments are also welcome. If you have the talent and are willing to help, contact Janet Ellisor.

Deadlines – If you have something, church related, that you wish to have included in our weekly newsletter, the deadline for each week is noon on Mondays. You can give it to me, in writing (sorry, but they say the memory goes first), at church; e-mail it to shepherdchurch@mindspring.com ; or mail it to John Frierson, P.O. Box 1423, Irmo, SC 29063-1423. We reserve the right to edit for content, style, and length.

Finally – I guess it is never too early for a Christmas story:

You DO know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of 3 wise men, don't you?

1. They would have asked for directions,
2. Arrived on time,
3. Helped deliver the baby,
4. Cleaned the stable,
5. Made a casserole,
6. And brought disposable diapers as a gift.

Upon advice of my lawyer and bodyguard, I have no comment; except, "See you in church". Remember; come home to Shepherd, where you are family.

John

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