

## Shepherd Tuesday Happenings August 5, 2008

Dear Shepherdonians and Friends,



**It's a sign of the times:**

New pastor, new times. Yep, that's our new schedule. Sunday we welcomed Pastor Coleman, his family and many other people to our combination breakfast, morning worship and pot-luck lunch. The sanctuary was so full; we almost had to add more chairs to the more chairs that we had already added. Now if we can get everyone back next week, I might even shout. The pastor spoke about Gideon and how even a small group can make a big difference. We resumed our evening services at 5 pm and concluded with the Lord's Supper.

**Just Thinking** – The other evening, as we drove up to my mother-in-law's house, I saw a rare sight, for a city-dweller (I guess to be technically correct, Irmo is only a town...so a town-dweller). I saw a bunch of fireflies. You remember them. When we were children, we called them lightening bugs.

It seems as our cities and towns have grown and, dare I say, have become more polluted, we seldom see these beautiful little creatures; but there they were swarming around the shrubbery just sparkling and twinkling away in the twilight.

It's sort of like us, as we grow older and our minds (hearts?) get polluted with thoughts, schedules, responsibilities, etc. Because of that, we miss so much of the beauty around us that God has provided to remind us of His existence and love.

There's that well worn cliché, "You need to stop and smell the roses." Maybe it would be better if we "Stopped and thanked God." *"...God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets... perfect in beauty, God shines forth."* (Psalms 50:1-2 NIV)

**More new territory** -- Starting tonight (Tuesday) and again on Thursday, we will begin Discipleship Training, as part of our Sunday School and Discipleship Ministry. Tuesday night we will meet at the home of Van and Clarence Coleman, 2840 Dogwood Trail, Lexington. On Thursday night we will meet at the home of Gail and William Jones, 105 Huntsman Lane, Lexington. Both meetings start at 7 pm; directions sheets were passed out at church or you can go to [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com), or enter the address into your GPS or call the church. You are encouraged to attend either of the sessions, the lesson will be the same and attendance will count toward our Sunday School attendance.

**Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study** – We continue our exploration of the Parables of Jesus, this week we will be studying Luke 10.

**Next Sunday** – This is a special occasion, during the 10 am service, the South Carolina District Superintendent, Dr. Eddie Estep, will officially install our new pastor. Plan to attend this and the evening service at 5 pm.

**Thanks You** – To all that took part in preparing and serving the delicious breakfast and lunch. We thank Van and Savon for their help in coordinating this great undertaking. Also we thank each of you that took part in the preparation, cooking, serving and the clean-up afterwards.

We thank Bob Coleman for cleaning up the church sign and coordinating the new lettering. Also Bob has been hauling off the church garbage.

We thank Chris Rude for all he does with the electronics and for keeping up the church website and e-mail. He also cut the grass last week.

There are many more doing that something extra for the church. I am afraid if I tried to name them all, I would leave out someone; so let's just say "thank you" to each of you for what you do to make our church a better place to worship. God knows what you do, even if we might forget or overlook thanking you personally.

**Next week** – Next week August 11-18, there will be no **Shepherd Tuesday Happenings**, even editors get an occasional vacation to rest the mind and body. Psalms 55:6 says it this way in the NIV "*I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest-*". However, I believe that the translation in The Message catches the thought better, "'Who will give me wings," I ask— "wings like a dove?" Get me out of here on dove wings; I want some peace and quiet. I want a walk in the country; I want a cabin in the woods. I'm desperate for a change" I've never thought of US Airways as a dove, but they will suffice.

There will be the normal activities at Shepherd during next week:

Tuesday & Thursday @ 7 pm - Discipleship Training (locations to be announced)

Wednesday @ 7 pm - Bible Study

**Finally** -- A man had been shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific, and was alone for 20 years. When a ship finally arrived, his rescuers were impressed with the three buildings he had built and asked him about them.

"Well," the man replied, "this is my house, and that building over there is my church. It's a wonderful church and I hate to leave it."

"And what is the third building yonder?" a rescuer asked.

"Oh, that is the church I used to go to," the man replied.

See you in church. Come home to Shepherd where you are family.

*John*

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