



Appreciation and Encouragement – Kissing Kin?

October is Clergy Appreciation Month and even the greeting card industry has taken notice. Gratitude to our pastors is not new in many North Georgia churches. Banquets, worship services, gifts, love offerings, donations to a special cause in the name of the particular pastor, and many other expressions are not unusual. Yet, the designation of a month long observance is fairly recent.

Lyn Powell, Conference Lay Leader, writes, "Churches across the nation are raising up their pastors this month for thanks and attention. Our pastors are special in our lives and sent to us providentially. There are many biblical models for how we should stand in close communion with them. Paul had Barnabas to depend on as he began his ministry to help the lost to come to know the saving grace of Jesus. Barnabas' name means 'Son of Encouragement'. Just think how powerful your congregation could be for the Kingdom if every member was a son/daughter of encouragement! The ways to be an encourager could fill a book. Find those that are especially helpful in your congregation and then do them!"

As an on-going expression of support, our Conference Board of Laity is calling persons to pray with their pastors regularly. "You can be assured," says Powell, "that God will bless that time, and multiply its fruits far beyond anything we can imagine. Your Board would love to hear about the blessings you and your congregation experience through ongoing prayer with your spiritual leader."

Why not find some time to make an intentional statement of appreciation to your pastor? I have discovered that most clergypersons as well as laypersons have pastors who help meet their needs of care and nurture and counsel. To the pastors who address my desire to hear the Gospel, who pay attention to my pastoral concerns and those needs of my family, and who are a source of insight and strength in the midst of life's challenges and opportunities, I say "thank you"!

Ed Tomlinson

Additional Insurance Workshop

The Healthflex Insurance workshops reached a large number of covered persons. A make-up workshop for active clergy and lay employees has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, at 10 a.m. at the United Methodist Center. Leadership from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits will be present. Watch for an announcement soon about a web radio event which will enable a presentation and response to questions.

Order of Elders

Please remember the Order of Elders meeting at Lawrenceville First on Thursday, October 28, at 10:00 AM.

October 31 – A Day of Prayer

It is requested that every congregation enter into fervent prayer on Sunday, October 31, for the election and other issues on the November 2nd ballot.



Northwest District – In the Spotlight

Mike Cavin served as a pastor for 30 years before becoming superintendent of the Northwest District in June 2004. A true Southern gentleman with a humble servant's heart, he passionately believes that when clergy and laity work together to build the kingdom of God, there are no limits on what can be achieved.

Although a relative newcomer to this position, Mike has hit the ground running. "I've begun stressing that the bottom line of making disciples does matter. My goals are that every church in our district, regardless of its size, bring at least one new person to Christ every year, and that every church participates in our connectional mission across the world by paying its apportionments to the North Georgia Conference," Mike explains. "You don't have to be a large church to do vital ministry."

As part of his initiative to reach out and hear what the needs are in the Northwest District, Mike

This Week's Calendar Events

October 25 - 27

Atlanta Marietta District Clergy Retreat - Hinton Rural Life Center - 4:00 PM

October 25

LaGrange District Clergy Meeting - Wesley Chapel UMC, Hogansville - 7:00 PM

October 26

Breakthru House 135th Anniversary Celebration - Northside Church - 7:00 PM

October 26

Atlanta College Park District Lay Speaking Course - Atlanta First - 7:00 PM

October 26

Gainesville District Lay Speaking Course - Corneila First - 6:30 PM

October 28

Griffin District Lay Speaking Course - Locust Grove Church - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

October 28

Order of Elders - Lawrenceville First - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

[Complete Calendar](#)

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Lectionary and Bible Readings

Daily Bible Reading

[Click here](#) for readings that will take you through the entire Bible in a Year.

Lectionary Scriptures NIV Sunday,

October 31, 04 - 22nd Sunday After Pentecost - Color: Green

Scripture Readings

[Psalm 119: 137 - 144](#)

[Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2: 1-4](#)

[2 Thes. 1: 1-4, 11-12](#)

[Luke 19: 1-10](#)

scheduled four separate listening sessions. "All but one of the churches was represented, and we celebrated the relationship between the church and the laity," he says. "It's neat when it clicks and the membership understands that we really do care about them and their ministry."

Mike has also been proactive in evaluating the best way to deal with three challenges affecting the Northwest District. "We must find a way for our churches to reach the new people moving into growing communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ," he says. "Secondly, we are experiencing ethnic diversity and need to address this, especially with the Hispanic population. Thirdly, we have to make sure we provide competent pastoral leadership and the best match possible to every church in our district."

Blessed with the spiritual gifts of discernment, exhortation and administration, Mike is able to separate truth from fiction, offer encouragement, wise counsel and support, and organize resources that empower pastors, churches and laity to maximize their own potential. "In addition to having a caring pastoral heart, hopefully folks will learn that I am upfront and honest, want to be clear about what is expected of them and will make myself available as a resource," he says. "I want to lead somewhere – not just in circles – and help people fulfill the vision that God has given them."

Originally from Pennington Gap, Virginia, Mike grew up in The United Methodist Church. He graduated from the University of Georgia, and received his Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University and his Doctor of Ministry from Christian Life School of Theology. Mike lives in Cartersville with his wife, Janice, and teenage son, Robert. He is also blessed with two older daughters, Tiffany and Trina. "Some of my favorite pastimes include cutting the grass, which I find very therapeutic, attending Georgia football games, playing cards and golfing," Mike says. "I have never enjoyed a sport so much, yet was so bad at it, that every preacher in my district beats me!"

Diana Durie, Communications Assistant
