

Charlotte District E-Connection

April 12, 2008

Each year during the week prior to my birthday, I schedule an annual physical exam through my general practitioner—a routine that I highly recommend for all our clergy. After all, the cost of an annual medical exam is practically covered by our Medcost policy. My physician, Dr. Ralph Green, found nothing overtly wrong that needs to be therapeutically addressed. But when I reported that I am experiencing an uncharacteristic amount of exhaustion from my work, he scheduled a stress-test. Thus, on the day before my birthday, I did the treadmill procedure and discovered that my heart chambers are not adequately functioning. This disclosure resulted in the scheduling of a catheterization yesterday at CMC. After two thorough procedures, a team of cardiac specialists decided that I am not a good candidate for the implanting of stints to correct the arterial blockages and that I shall need quadruple bi-pass surgery. This procedure will be led by Dr. Eric Skipper within two weeks at CMC.

I am sending this message to you in order to assure you that I am feeling fine. My condition is likely a result of a genetic circumstance. I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude for this life-saving discovery. I can assure you that the matters of the district will be well addressed. DeEtta Rivens is thoroughly acquainted with the administrative needs of this office and will delegate to a Cabinet colleague matters that require a superintendent's attention. I shall meet with the Cabinet next week as we reach closure on the appointment decisions and begin the process of forming the Lake Norman and new Charlotte Districts. The Cabinet always functions in a spirit of collaboration; so, do not hesitate to bring to DeEtta your administrative concerns.

Please join with me and Pat in offering prayers of thanksgiving for this fortuitous discovery and prayers of intercession for the effectiveness of the upcoming surgical procedure.

Grace and peace,

George