

Just a Word...

Hi! I'm your new Communications Secretary, Steve Dickerson. I want to do three things with this short message:

- 1) Introduce myself,
- 2) tell you what the job is all about, and
- 3) start doing it—communicating, that is.



Me with my dog, Jindo

Introduction

You already know my name, and you can find a picture my wife, Barbie, and me in the church directory online (more about that another time). I joined the Eastgate Church in 1976, 'way back when we were meeting in a rented Sunday church. Ten years later, my wife, Barbie, our young daughter, Christy and I went away to Thailand for ten years, rejoining Eastgate soon after returning. I'm not always here at church time, because I sing with Hand Picked, a gospel bluegrass group that's often at another church on Sabbath.

The Job

The church lists about 25 activities that the Communications Secretary should be doing—most of them having to do with getting the local church in the newspaper, on the radio, television and other media. Toward the end of the long list are a few tasks aimed at communicating *within* the church. That's what I especially hope to do. The Gospel of John starts out by saying "In the beginning was the Word." As the text continues, it becomes clear that the Word is Jesus. Why is He called the Word? Maybe because words are the building blocks of communication and God had something He wanted to communicate to us. You've got something to communicate, too. Maybe it's an encouraging word, maybe it's a story, maybe it's a new insight on part of God's Word. Whatever it is, I want to help you share it with others.

Stan Maxted does a great job of keeping us informed about church events and other community news, so I'm not going to be doing that. My focus will be more internal, hoping that we can get to know each other better and perhaps explore some of our church activities in greater depth. Who are those people who lead the singing every week? What's happening in our kids' Sabbath School classes? And what about the adult classes? What does the church board do? How does a deacon deac?

Communicating

We used to have a printed newsletter that was physically mailed to our members. Later, the newsletter was produced in electronic form so it could be read online or received as an email attachment. However, we encountered some restrictions with our Internet service provider that limited the number of addresses to which we could send an email message, so other options are going to have to be found. Some people want a printed piece to read, while others appreciate an email. I'm guessing (though I don't really know) that not many actually go to our church website and look for a newsletter. So here's what I'm going to do: each month (or possibly more often) I'm going to put together something that will help you understand more about what's going on at church—and about the people who sit in the congregation with you each week. We'll work together to see how we can best get it to you.