

## Laying a Sure Foundation

*"By the grace God has given me I laid a foundation as an expert builder..."  
I Corinthians 3:10*

Dear Friends,

Several months ago, Rosemary and I decided to build a new "post-retirement cottage." I thought building a smaller tract house would be simple. HA... After months of planning and waiting, this morning they began laying the foundation. We have walked by the lot every day for months waiting to see something finally happen. It looks like the building process has begun. I'm no house builder but I have built two new churches, so I know how important the foundation is. Not just for the building but also for ministry!

Coming back to New Wappetaw I knew the church building had a good foundation, after all, the building has been here for several generations! But what kind of ministry did I want to accomplish as a retired, part-time pastor not living here in the village? Lots of different elements make up a ministry foundation:

- Being present at the church and also being present at community events
- Making physical changes to the church property, so people outside the church can see we are doing things and people in the church can feel proud of the facility
- Finding ways to communicate with not only the congregation but the whole community through emails and notes to visitors, changing the church sign weekly, sending out Mikes Monday message, updating the website, and visiting in homes
- Growing the congregation, constantly seeking out potential members and getting folks involved
- Expanding mission opportunities, especially hands-on mission
- Developing a Christian Education program for all ages

Ok, some of this sounds like more than just the foundation, but if we put all the elements of ministry together, we would have a good foundation on which to THRIVE. By the way, it is just a given that the most important element in the foundation is Jesus. There is a hymn that says, "Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head, and cornerstone, Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the church in one, Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone."

Have a blessed week.  
Mike