

# Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Clemmons, North Carolina 27012  
Telephone 336-766-6078

Preachers: **Paul Kirkpatrick**  
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**A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU**

**October 3, 2010**

## SELECTING ELDERS AND DEACONS

The intent of this article is to not only present what the Bible teaches about this subject, but also what the Bible does not teach. In matters of doctrine, the elders have no choice but to teach and practice what the Bible teaches if we want to be pleasing to God. However, in matters of indifference [opinion] we have the option of choosing that we believe will be expedient [fitting, suitable, appropriate, or advisable]. It is important that we don't treat matters of indifference as if they are matters of doctrine and vice versa. We'll begin by considering Bible doctrine related to selecting elders and deacons, and then we'll move on to aspects of the selection process that are matters of indifference.

In Titus chapter 1 Paul commanded Titus to appoint elders in every city: "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you". Paul then proceeded to list the qualifications men must meet when they are appointed and as long as they serve as elders. This scripture placed a grave responsibility on Titus and other preachers to teach the biblical qualifications so men can be appointed that are acceptable to God. Also in 1 Timothy chapter 3 Paul lists the qualifications that elders, deacons, and their wives must meet. As a result of Paul's instructions, Acts 14:23 states: "So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

Before we consider other scriptures, let's summarize the doctrine we've learned thus far. First of all, elders [plural] are to be appointed in every church in every city. Secondly, the elders who are to be appointed must meet the qualifications [likewise deacons and their wives]. According to Paul, a congregation is incomplete or lacking if it does not have elders. In view of the fact that Jesus said: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age" [Matthew 28:19-20], the above doctrine applies to us as well.

**Continued on Page 2**

We know that the church at Philippi had followed the Holy Spirits instructions given through Paul because Philippians 1:1 states: “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.” However, we’re not told the procedure that was followed during the process of selecting and appointing the bishops [elders] and deacons in the church at Philippi. As a matter of fact, no description of the process for selecting and appointing elders and deacons can be found anywhere in the New Testament. Since we’re not told in scripture what the procedure should be, it is a matter of opinion.

Elders, who have the oversight of the congregation [1 Peter 5:2], routinely make decisions for the congregation that fall in the realm of opinion. For example, the elders decide how the contribution will be spent or how we practice evangelism. Deciding how new elders and deacons will be selected and appointed is no different. At the same time, an eldership would be wise to seek input from the members and keep them informed in every aspect of the work.

No doubt someone is asking themselves: “Isn’t Acts 6:1-6 an example of selecting and appointing deacons?” A close look at these verses will show that the apostles and the disciples were selecting and appointing men to accomplish a specific business just as the elders and members of Warners Chapel have done on several occasions in recent years. Men from our congregation have been selected and appointed to stay with a disabled member while his spouse took care of some necessary business, but they were not appointed to the office of deacon.

Acts 6:1-6 states: “Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.”

We know that Stephen and Phillip later became evangelists, but were they appointed to the office of deacon as well? What qualifications were the apostles looking for in the men that were selected and appointed? They wanted seven men of (1) good reputation, (2) full of the Holy Spirit, and (3) full of wisdom. Since the apostles didn’t require that the seven men meet all the qualifications required in Titus and 1Timothy, it seems obvious they were not appointing deacons. Although the elders could decide to use the procedure described in Acts 6, it would not be required of them by scripture. Rest assured that the Warners elders will seek input from the members before selecting and appointing new elders and deacons that meet the qualifications. If anyone has additional questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the elders.

### READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2010

October 4 - Eph. 6  
October 5 - Phil. 1  
October 6 - Phil. 2  
October 7 - Phil. 3



October 8 - Phil. 4  
October 9 - Col. 1  
October 10 - Col. 2

## OUR SICK:

### Please Remember In Your Prayers:

**Brenda Moser** underwent surgery this past Wednesday at Medical Park Hospital. She will be released either today or Monday.

**David Todd**, a friend of Paul and Carla Kirkpatrick and an elder at the Orangeburg, SC congregation. He has undergone brain surgery due to a head injury and his condition at this time is poor.

Brian Down's brother-in-law, **Hojie Cecil**, underwent quadruple by-pass surgery recently and was to be released from the hospital on Friday. Please pray for a quick recovery for him.

**Marty White**, the Flinchum's son-in-law, has had his tumor removed from his lung and will be going home soon.

Ellen Workman's cousin, **Drake Damesworth**, suffered a broken neck recently while playing ball. An update is that he has recovered some feeling and can move some at this time. He is being sent to Atlanta for long-term rehabilitation.



An up-dated copy of the prayer list may be picked up on the credenza in the foyer. If you know of someone who needs to come off the prayer list, please let Faye know.

### ~BAPTISM!~

We rejoice in that **Charlie Goodwin** was baptized into Christ this past Thursday evening. Charlie is a friend of Stephanie Hardister and has been attending services and devotionals recently.

### PLACED MEMBERSHIP

We welcome Jim and Dorothy "DJ" Harrison into the family of Christ that worships here at Warners Chapel. The Harrison's address is:  
5177 Little Brook Lane  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104  
Tel. 336-765-6596

Also, David, Wanda and Dawn Elam have placed their membership recently here at Warners Chapel. The Elam's address is:  
3129 Greenbriar Drive  
Yadkinville, NC 27055  
Tel. 336-961-6010

Please add the Harrison and Elam families to your directory.

# Welcome

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO REMAIN FOR A "COVERED DISH" FELLOWSHIP MEAL SPONSORED THIS MORNING BY ZONE 1.

### WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

**Oct. 3 - Pew Packers** at 5:30 p.m.

**Oct. 7 - 50 and Over Class** will resume meeting for Bible study at 10:30 a.m. in Annex.

**October 17—Friends and Family Day**

**October 17-21—Gospel Meeting with Mel Futrell.**

**November 6 - Annual Chicken Stew.**

### AREA EVENTS

**Oct. 3-6 - Fall Gospel Mtg.** at the Capernaum church of Christ.

**Oct. 16 - Ladies' Day** at the Eastside Church of Christ.

**Oct. 23 - Ladies Day** at Highland Acres church of Christ.

See bulletin board for details.

### Change of Address:

**Bonnie Landreth's** address has been changed to P.O. Box 1104, Clemmons, NC 27012.

### FOR THE RECORD

**Sunday Sept. 26, 2010**

**Sunday Bible Study** 169

**Sunday Morning Worship** 215

**Contribution for Sept. 19, 2010** \$5,748

**Daily Adult Bible Readers** 23

**Chapters Read:** 588

**Daily Children Bible Readers:**

**Chapters Read:**

**Sunday Evening** 158

**Wednesday - September 28, 2010** 154

## Lord's Day Appointments - October 10, 2010

DEVOTIONS:		OPENING PRAYER:		SONG LEADER		SCRIPTURE READER	
Scripture	- Mark Roy	Morning	- Bill Knost	A.M.	- Don Minor	A.M.	- Bill Carothers
Song Leader	- Tim Allen	Evening	- Frank Shepard	P.M.	- Steve Tesh	P.M.	- Brad Hoots
Prayer	- Jack Piper			Wed.	- Mark Roy		
NURSERY (0-2 1/2):		NURSERY (2 1/2-4):		TAPE MONITOR:		FELLOWSHIP MEALS:	
Morning	- Jessica Lay	Morning	- Gina Strickland	Gray Nail		Zone 2	
Evening	- Betty Hoots	Evening	- Jeannie Moore				
Opening and Closing Building				Greeters:- October			
Sunday	- Oct. 3	Shawn & Terrie Thomason					
Wednesday	- Oct. 6						



## Birthdays - October 4-10, 2010

*Carla Kirkpatrick - Oct. 4      Ashley Everett - Oct. 5*  
*Nancy Minor - Oct. 5*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - *Nursery open for small children during all services.*

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:50 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

**WEDNESDAY:** Mid-Week Service 7:00 PM

**"GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE"** at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8  
**SEARCH PROGRAM** - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

**WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**8999 LASATER ROAD**  
**Clemmons, NC 27012**

#### ELDERS

Steve Martin  
 David Moore  
 Tim Allen  
 Joe Everett

#### DEACONS

Steve Tesh  
 Randy Warner  
 Tommy Rose  
 Keith Warner

Andy Santiago  
 Mark Minor  
 Todd Hinson