



WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord. If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Your prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. At the close of service, please put your card in the contribution box at the front of the auditorium as you exit. Or you can hand it to any member.

During the service we will celebrate communion. (Sacraments are available on the table in the entry foyer.) This is a time that we partake of unleavened bread and juice from the fruit of the vine to remind us what Jesus has done for us. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is the source of our hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.

Address:	5728 White Settlement Road Westworth Village, TX 76114
Office Phone:	817-738-7536
Worship Services:	Sunday 10:00 am
Bible Study:	Wednesday 7:00 pm
Men's Group:	2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm
Website:	www.westworthcoc.org
Email:	Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net
Facebook Group:	Westworth Church of Christ
Trustees:	Curtis Dunson, Brian Flaherty, Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 6 — Wednesday Night Bible Study.

It's never too late to join the Wednesday night group at 7pm in the activity building. Last Wednesday we started a new study in the book of 1 Peter facilitated by Bill Jones

Join in, won't you?

July 12—Men's Group



The Men's group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

TIME: 7:00-8:00 pm

CURRENT TOPIC: The Holy Spirit

July 16 (Saturday)—Old Fashioned Ice Cream Supper

Let's get together for some fellowship and

ICE CREAM

Here in the activity building - 5:30 pm. Everyone break out those wonderful home-made ice cream recipes and let's enjoy an evening of fellowship. Bring ice cream, toppings, deserts, watermelon—anything cool and refreshing. YUM!



Invite your friends, family, neighbors... let's get to know them and make them welcomed. There will be games available for those who want to add to the fun.

MILESTONES

July Birthdays

Jaeli Snell	1 Jul	Wanda Reynolds	21 Jul
Justin Snell	2 Jul	Sharold Ferris	23 Jul
Brian Flaherty	3 Jul	Julie Ferris	26 Jul
Marty Montgomery	3 Jul	Anita Gray	27 Jul
Kenzie Kirby	5 Jul	Carla Kerske	27 Jul
		Hettie Keller	30 Jul



July Anniversaries

Sharold & Julie Ferris

8 July

THE PULPIT IN JULY

Bob Mullen will speak for us each Sunday in July. His lesson series

Navigating New Normals

Is scheduled as listed below:

- **July 3—*Finding Joyful Living***
- **July 10—*Navigating Our Sadness***
- **July 17—*Navigating our Fears***
- **July 24—*Navigating our Anger***
- **July 32—*Navigating our Happiness***



Invite your friends and family to hear this series with relevant topics that affect us all.

WHAT DEACONS ARE AND DO

PART 2.A

This is part 2 .a of a series of articles from the Christian Standard magazine shared by David Keller. Part 1 was in the bulletin on June 26. (Part 2 was lengthy –even more so than Part 1—so I have divided it into parts ‘a’ and ‘b’. The remainder of Jim Dalrymple’s Part 2 will be published next week.

Jim Dalrymple serves as executive vice president of advancement and professor of New Testament and leadership with Ozark Christian College, Joplin, Mo.

PART 2 : WHO TO SELECT AND HOW THEY SHOULD FUNCTION

By Jim Dalrymple

In Part 1, I urged deacons to trade in ballots and boardrooms for a basin and a towel. Deacons serve. But what else can we learn from the Bible about how deacons were selected and how they are to function in the church? Unfortunately, here, too, we often mimic secular structures rather than the patterns of Scripture.

Four texts help shape our understanding: 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philippians 1:1; Acts 6:1-7; and Romans 16:1. From these, I want to make three practical observations. But before I do, I feel I must make a case for my use of Acts 6 in relation to the “office” of deacon.

ACTS 6 AS A CASE STUDY

Scholars debate whether we should connect the narrative in Acts 6:1-7 to the more formal *office* of deacons found in Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3. This disconnect is symptomatic of our prioritization of titles and offices over tasks and responsibilities. Notice that those “serving” in Acts 6 are “appointed” to meet needs—it is an official assignment to serve—the very thing implied by the title in 1 Timothy and Philippians. Second, the appointment complemented the teaching responsibility of the apostles—a role eventually delegated to local elders/overseers. The appointment was then made official by

prayer and the laying on of hands (Acts 6:6). This has all the makings of a commissioning to a task.

Should this Acts narrative be used to help us determine what was normal? As for the core principles, I believe the answer is yes. Luke had a reason for choosing and arranging his text. While not every detail should be considered normative (e.g., choosing of seven men with these seven specific names), the text was given a place of prominence for our benefit. I believe Luke intended to describe how the early church flourished (6:7) so that we might follow their example as we work to *serve* both the Word and various needs that arise—often accompanied by complaint (6:1).

As we continue, we will use both Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3 to inform us on how we should select deacons and how they should function in our context.

PRIORITIZE CHARACTER OVER COMPETENCY

We look to outward appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). We look for a job description, but the Bible focuses on the heart's condition. We test for evidence of success, skill sets, and savvy—but the Bible tests for an authentic faith (1 Timothy 3:10). Why? This is not merely a utilitarian role! The surface work might “get done,” but we might not make disciples in the process. We must never settle for the work under the work. Deacons lead *like* Jesus so *that* they can lead more *to* Jesus.

Scripture urges us to look for those who have a reputation of an authentic faith. This is the banner trait we discover in phrases like “good repute” (Acts 6:3*), “dignified” (1 Timothy 3:8), “hold[ing] the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience” (1 Timothy 3:9), or “blameless” (1 Timothy 3:10). This is the metal we are testing for (1 Timothy 3:10). But does this imply a deacon must be perfect? No! This is a test of authenticity. And the best way to test for an authentic life with Jesus is to look for fruit.

First Timothy 3:1-13 is not a checklist, yet we've treated it as such to our own detriment. Instead of a checklist, this passage is a character sketch of the kinds of evidence we should find in an authentic disciple. Notice, too, that the list of characteristics in 1 Timothy 3 stands in parallel to the phrase “full of the Spirit and of wisdom” in Acts 6:3. When we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit will bear fruit in our lives, making

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us self-controlled (with regard to speech, alcohol, and money, for examples) and faithful (in marriage, parenting . . . in all things). So, what if an individual is a fruitful disciple but not married, not a parent, or has a past with alcohol or greed?

Can a believer have a past but also be an authentic disciple of Jesus? Yes! There is no other kind. Earlier in 1 Timothy, Paul admitted, “Formerly I was a . . .” (1:13). He went on to say, “But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life” (1:16). We need more authentic “examples” of gospel transformation. Does it strike you as odd, then, that we look for individuals without a checkered past? This tendency has caused one of two results: (1) no one is qualified or (2) no one is honest.

When we turn 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 into legalistic checklists rather than a core sample of one’s character in Christ, we too readily concoct inconsistent Pharisaic rules. Like all ancient virtue and vice lists, this is meant to be a picture of one’s character as seen by the community. Having said this, we should not simply dismiss the past, but we should test it for evidence of repentance and an authentic relationship with Jesus in the present. The central question is clear: Is this individual an authentic follower of Jesus who, in turn, will lead others to follow Jesus? Unfortunately, I’m convinced some churches would rather have a successful and connected businessperson as a deacon (possibly overlooking symptoms of greed) rather than the person with a messy past who now serves those just like them with the love of Jesus. Hypocrites are great at checking off checklists. Just ask the Pharisees.

(to be continued next week)

NEWS TIDBITS

Directory addition:

Abraham (Abe) Elizondo
5733 Sunset Rd.
Westworth Village, TX 76114
Phone: 817-929-4258

Jonah Jewell's address

Some members are still having mail returned that was sent to Jonah.

I asked John about it and he has told me to just let folks know they can send cards, notes, letters, etc., to Jonah through them in Nebraska and they will make sure it gets to him. John and Samantha's address is: (this info is also in the latest church directory)

John & Samantha Jewell
1125 E. 8th Street, Box 432
York, Nebraska 68467

New publications received this week:

- **India Ink** - Newsletter about Church of Christ efforts in India
- **CRF Newsletter**— news of work in Kenya and other locales in Africa.
- **The Christian Appeal—June 2022 (Vol. 70 No. 12)** - "Listen for His Voice" and other essays by Joe R. Barnett. If you don't already receive this publication at home, be sure to pick up one from the foyer.

I thought the *Preface* to this edition was worth sharing here:

Anyone serious about seeking God's will discovers that what we really need is our Lord's help to *do* the part we already know. In the same vein, philosopher and author Dallas Willard has written, "Our failure to hear His [God's] voice when we want to is due to the fact that we do not in general want to hear it, that we want it only when we think we need it." In this issue, Dr. Joe R. Barnett ably urges us to center always on our Lord and "Listen for His Voice."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Today—July 3
Open	Curtis Thompson
Usher	Eric Kreger
Songs/Close	Curtis Dunson
Communion	Johnny Box
Prayer	Ernie Brawley
Kids Church	Susan Flaherty Sherry Jones
Reading	Marty Montgomery
Lesson/Sermon	Bob Mullen
A/V	Christi Kreger

COMING WEEKS

Date	July 10	July 17	July 24
Open	Brian Flaherty	Robby Robertson	Curtis Thompson
Usher	Curtis Thompson	Brian Flaherty	Bill Jones
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger	Samuel Flaherty	Christian Lindsey
Communion	Bill Jones	David Keller	Tom Reynolds
Prayer	Mike Lisle	Johnny Box	Sharold Ferris
Kids Church	Blair Montgomery Sarah Thompson	David & Hettie Keller	Tracy Robertson Sherri Dunson
Reading	John Snell	James Kreger	Jonathan Dunson
Lesson	Bob Mullen	Bob Mullen	Bob Mullen
A/V	Christi Kreger	Susan Flaherty	Robby Robertson

Communion Preparation July: Anita Gray