

Periodical
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CENTRAL'S ASSEMBLIES
BRING A FRIEND AND ATTEND

SUNDAY	9:30 A.M.	10:30 A.M.	5:00 P.M.
BIBLE STUDY			
WORSHIP A.M.			
WORSHIP P.M.			
WEDNESDAY			
MID-WEEK CLASSES			
			Online

IN SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY
"These were more noble... they searched the scriptures daily..."

SEARCH PROGRAMS:
July 04- "The Heart"
July 11- "Watch Your Heart"
July 18- "Sins oof the Heart"
July 25- God Wants Your Heart"

Record for July 11, 2021

Bible School	59
Worship Service	104
Sunday Evening	40
Wednesday Evening	Online
Contribution	3,561.29

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

July 18, 2021

Announcements:	Steve Kelly
Scripture Reader:	Dennis Brodersen
Song Director:	Paul Harris
Opening Prayer:	Dwyane Dennis
Sermon:	Logan Edmison
Closing Prayer:	Jim Cross
Lord's Supper:	Eddie Beard

NORTH SOUTH

Eric Park	Don Hair
Lynn Stephens	Henry Arthur

PROJECTION & AUDIO CONTROL

Scott Perry	Dalton Path
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You Can Find Our Worship Service On:

 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralchurchofchristshawneeok/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq8ft4soarDDSok8ol9xpw?>

Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Sunday Evening 5:00 P.M.

 <http://www.shawneecentralcofc.org/media.php/t=sermons>

This will be uploaded latter in the day.

If you would like to mail your offering, mail it to:

Central Church of Christ
P.O. Box 1228
Shawnee, OK 74802

If you would like for someone to bring you communion supplies or pick up your contribution please call the Church office at 405-273-3065, or you can contact one of our Elders or Deacons.



TIPTON HOME

Our Tipton Home collection for the month of July is Kleenex. Please place these items in the barrel in the foyer. Thank you



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THE GOSPEL GUIDE

ELDERS:

Paul Harris
Steve Kelly
Bob Stephens

DEACONS:

Dale Beard
Joe Curtis
Tracy Gettle
Keith Lawrence
Ron Taffe

Minister:

Logan Edmison

Secretary:

Lois Carter

MISSIONS:

Haiti Children's Home
Hope Harbor Children's Home
Liflyfield Christian & Adoption
Nicaragua
In Search of the Lord's Way
Southern Africa Bible College

APPOINTING NEW DEACONS

This coming Sunday, July 18th, the elders will ask the congregation to make recommendations for men you believe to be qualified to serve in the role of deacon. Forms listing the qualifications for deacon, a place to make your recommendations and a place for your signature will be available at each of the exits to the auditorium.

We ask that you submit your signed recommendations by Sunday August 1st. Hand your recommendations to one of the elders or place them in a collection box on the table in the foyer or you may email your recommendations to centralcofcshawnee@gmail.com. On August 1st he elders will begin a review your recommendations, interview those men who were selected by the congregation and then on August 15th present the names of those who are willing to serve.

The participation of each member in this process is important. Please provide the elders with your insights and observations for the men you believe to be qualified and then later for those men that are presented to the congregation as prospective deacons.

As we move forward in this process, be praying for wisdom and guidance that all will be done in love and respect for God's Word, for the Church and for the men being selected.

Tenth and Bell—P.O. Box 1228—Shawnee, OK 74802-1228

Office: 405-273-3065

Email: tenthandbell@sbcglobal.net Website: shawneecentralcofc.org

The Deacon: God's Important Servant

Although the word "servant" is used often in the New Testament, it is clear in 1 Timothy 3 that deacon is used in a special sense. Obviously, Paul is using the term in reference to an office because of the qualities surrounding it. Service is at the heart of Christianity, because it was a key part of Jesus' ministry (Matthew 20:28). Christians in leadership positions are servants first. This is unique to the world because often leaders are served, not the ones who serve. Jesus, however, came not to be served but to serve. Paul refers to himself as a servant on numerous occasions and talks about his ministry on many other occasions. If the elder oversees, then it is clear that the deacon serves.

First, we must acknowledge the word "likewise" at the beginning of the deacon section (1 Timothy 3:8). Since Paul is using the word "likewise", then the phrase "it is necessary" at the beginning of the elder section is still in effect (3:2, the word is "must" in NKJ). This means that these are important qualities that are integral to the position. The phrase "it is necessary" in the scriptures always carries with it the full weight of divine authority.

Now that we understand that the qualities in the deacon section are mandatory to the office and that "service" is at the heart of the office, we can look that the qualities that are to be seen in the individual. Right off the bat, we must acknowledge that these are preexisting qualities. In other words, this is not a pursuit of changing people to these traits (even though this is important as well), this is a pursuit of people who **already have been living these traits**.

First in the list of qualities is that they be respectable. This is a big concept that is not very specific. Paul will list specific qualities that are respectable, particularly that are in line with the idea of "self-control", but this requires a great degree of consideration. The reason is because this word implies that perhaps there are qualities that Paul does not specifically mention but that are not considered to be "respectable".

One is considered respectable when they do not have a "double-tongue". This means that the individual is genuinely sincere. It takes a great degree of deception to convince sincerity when one is not sincere. It is possible, but this is why the word "tested" that he talks about later is so relevant. The implication is that there is a pattern of sincerity, and this pattern is only known through having a relationship with the person for an extended amount of time. Resisting the "double-tongue" does require a great degree of self-control but also integrity. In other words, we are talking about both "behavior" and "character". The person controls the tongue and is not controlled by it. This is a relevant principle for the next "respectable" qualities as well. The individual is not controlled by wine, but rather controls himself away from wine. The individual is not controlled by money, but controls himself in regard to money. This is the goal of everyone who is faithful because being faithful means that one is trustworthy. When someone is trustworthy then they are reliable. When they are reliable then they are respectable. This is especially a necessary trait for one who desires a ministry/service position. This is the pure conscience toward the mystery of the faith – there is no alternative motive. It is easy to allow the word "mystery" be the thrust of the statement, but "faith" is the thrust of the statement. It is a mystery to the world, but the deacon has embraced the faith and devoted his life to it. Faith here is the idea of "belief", or "that which is believed".

When an individual strives for godly excellence, then they should be allowed to serve as deacon. The word "tested", implies that not only should this require a sufficient amount of time, but also that the decision should not be made too hastily. In other words, the "deacon search" is not the beginning of the "deacon search". This examination is public.

One of the hardest parts of leadership is this transition to the "spotlight". Everyone in the Bible that was a leader had to make the transition to the spotlight. Moses, David, and especially Jesus himself. One of the hardest parts about Christianity is being noticed for being different. We as Christians must embrace this spotlight, and be a light in this dark world. Potential deacons must embrace this oh so important task of embracing this examination and letting the light of Christ shine through in their lives.

This also requires fair and just judgement on part of the congregation and its leaders. This is far too important a decision to allow politics and personal opinions to slip in to the process. With any judgment, we must allow God's word be the driving force for the decision, not "people". Let us remember, this is a divine office.

Even though there are some who argue that the word "wives" in verse 11 could be a more general "women" in the

church, there seems to be enough evidence that Paul is still talking about the deacon prospects of the previous verses. However, even if this is in reference to "women" of the congregation, it would be also relevant to the wives of the deacon. Also, verse 12 mentions that the wife and children of the deacon cannot be removed from his ministry. It is true that women do and are to serve the congregation as well, so if this is a wider reference to women of the congregation, it has excellent application. It is probably appropriate to make this application even if we conclude that the context demands that we are talking about the wives of the deacons. The list is similar to that of the deacons. One argument is that 12 returns to the topic of the deacon office, while verse 13 could appropriately read, "For those who have served well as ministers/servants obtain for themselves a good step in their spiritual progress." This reading would include elders, deacons, and even women who serve the congregation (once again, not necessarily in terms of "office"). Again, this is a fine point of application even if the context seems to be demanding that we are still talking about the office of deacon and his wife.

With this in mind, God's important servants have confidence that with God's word on their side, they can serve in the faith knowing that God is well pleased by their service.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable of the King, the Son of Man, sitting on the throne of glory and judging the nations. We know the parable as the parable of the dividing of the sheep and the goats. The basis of the King's determination was found in their services rendered; this was the "dividing factor". Were the hungry fed, were the thirsty given water, were the strangers taken in, were the naked clothed, and were the sick and prisoners visited? Does this make grace irrelevant? Of course not, nor does this merit salvation. Jesus is only saying that at the heart of His Kingdom is ministry. The heart of ministry is love. The church needs godly men to lead the congregation in this mandatory task of service. Deacons are indeed God's important servants. — Logan Edmison

Memorial Service for the Lobaugh's

There will be a memorial service to celebrate the lives of **Ed and Merlene Lobaugh** (former Central minister and his wife) on Saturday, July the 24th at 2:00 p.m. at the Harford Avenue Church of Christ in Ponca City.

If you are not able to attend cards for the family can be sent to

Stacy Lobaugh
2024 Lemon Tree Ln
Ponca City, OK 74604



Blake Carter had an MRI. The doctors are trying to determine the best treatment for him.

Don Mack has multiple issues with his shoulders. He is waiting for a surgery date.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Reading the Bible in a Year Together

July 19, 2021
Proverbs Chapters 9-11

July 20, 2021
Proverbs Chapters 12-15

July 21, 2021
Proverbs Chapters 16-18

July 22, 2021
Proverbs Chapters 19-21

July 23, 2021
Proverbs Chapters 22-25

July 24, 2021
Proverbs Chapters 26-28

July 25, 2021
Proverbs Chapters 29-31

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday Bible Study at 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship service 10:30 am
Sunday Afternoon Service 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Night service will be online.