



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

April 7, 2020

## Six Reasons Elders Should Shepherd

By: Dan Jenkins



Every now and then when I finish reading an outstanding bulletin article, my response is, “I don’t believe it could be said any better.” When I read the following article from the pen of Adam Faughn I immediately knew it would profit everyone.

The greatest work of an elder (and the entire eldership) is that of shepherding the flock of God. Over and over this is seen in Scripture, but too few elders do that work. Many see the eldership as nothing more than a “governing board” or a “board of directors,” in place only to make decisions. While elders certainly must make decisions—sometimes, very difficult decisions—that is not their primary work. Their primary work is shepherding.

1. It’s commanded. This is the easy one! An elder who is not shepherding the flock isn’t doing what God has charged Him to do. Elders, always remember that this is your primary work, because God has said as much.
2. It’s wise. If elders will shepherd, it will lead to easier decision making. There will not be as many “blow ups” in the church, because those who work and serve will know that their leaders are constantly striving to help.
3. It’s common sense. I think this is why many don’t do it. Benjamin Franklin is quoted to have said, “Nothing is less common than common sense.” Elders need to see that it just makes sense for them to be involved in this work. The more they shepherd, the more they help their own work.
4. It leads to greater respect. While we should never berate elders, many members wonder why elders don’t do their primary work. When elders truly shepherd, it not only ends those questions, it also goes much farther. In fact, it leads the members to have a high level of respect for their leaders.
5. It helps raise future elders. Can you imagine how many young men would aspire to the office of an elder if elders took the time to shepherd them from birth throughout life? When leaders invest that kind of time in young men, our congregations will not suffer for future shepherds.
6. It helps the church grow. Many congregations aren’t growing because they are losing as many members as they might be gaining. When elders shepherd the flock, weaker members will be more likely to remain and grow. So, when we baptize the lost, we aren’t “replacing” someone, we are growing.

~ Adapted from Article by Adam Faughn

## HE DIED FOR ME

Back in frontier days, a woman and her baby were trapped by a prairie fire. That mother exhausted every possible means of escape. In desperation she scooped a hole in the ground with her bare hands. Placing her baby in that hole, she covered him with her own body. A day later, she was found -- dead; but the baby was alive. At the funeral service of that brave woman, someone said, "That's what Jesus did for me. He died that I might live. He put His body between me and the everlasting fire."

In the sixteenth century, Oliver Cromwell ordered that an English soldier be shot for a cowardly crime. The execution was to take place at the ringing of the evening bell, but at the appointed time no sound came from the belfry. Investigation revealed that the girl who was engaged to be married to the condemned man had climbed into the bell tower and clung to the clapper of the giant bell to prevent it from striking. They found her there with her hands bleeding and torn to shreds.

All of us are sinners under sentence of death, but Christ intervened on our behalf. Look at His bruised and bleeding hands -- nail - pierced on that cross.



SEE FROM HIS HEAD, HIS HANDS, HIS FEET,  
SORROW AND LOVE FLOW MINGLED DOWN:  
DID E'ER SUCH LOVE AND SORROW MEET,  
OR THORNS COMPOSE SO RICH A CROWN?



WERE THE WHOLE REALM OF NATURE MINE,  
THAT WERE A PRESENT FAR TOO SMALL;  
LOVE SO AMAZING, SO DIVINE,  
DEMANDS MY SOUL, MY LIFE, MY ALL.

--Joe R. Barnett

*"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." 1 John 3:16*

## **Try Giving Yourself Away**

In the late 1940s, David Dunn wrote a delightful little book by the above title. He determined that he would practice, as a hobby, the art of giving himself to other people. His goal was to do small, thoughtful deeds for others as he went about his daily activities. He found that while such kindnesses did not cost him very much in terms of money, time or effort, they brought great results.

His kindnesses might range from a simple smile shared with a passerby, a word or note of appreciation, or a word of encouragement. He found that while such deeds brought an element of joy to the recipient, he was the one whose heart became filled with joy. In the chapter entitled "Bread Upon the Waters," he stated, "Doing what we can to make life more livable for other people makes our own life fuller. Friends multiply and good things come to us from every direction. The world has a way of balancing accounts with givers-away - provided their hands aren't outstretched for return favors."

While Dunn's book is not specifically a religious volume, his practice of giving himself to others is based upon a principle expressed by Jesus Himself. In Acts 20:35, the apostle Paul stated, *"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

Imagine the difference each of us could make in the lives of those we meet if we could become "givers-away."

By Patrick Hogan

# For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

## PRAYER LIST



**Connie Hester Montgomery**, wife of *Larry Montgomery*, is at home slowing improving from the corona virus.

**Nicki Weaver** will be having tests run in the near future.

**Sue Marques** fell this past Sunday. She hurt her pinky finger and her elbow but thankfully nothing seems to be broken.

### Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Molly Clayton, Jerry Coats, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Bill Lyon, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Sue Stroud, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

### Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud

### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

### Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

### Prescription for the Blues

One day when I was worried  
And feeling very blue  
I read a small prescription  
That I will share with you.

It said, "When you're discouraged,  
Don't sit and fret and frown,  
Just get a piece of paper  
And write you blessing down."

I thought that there was nothing  
For me to write about,  
But long before I finished...  
My fountain pen ran out.  
~ Selected ~

### I've Learned...

Positive words always produce positive results.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 07. .... Shaler Grigsby  
April 12. .... Amanda Coggin  
April 12. .... Emily Wilhite  
April 17. .... Kurt Clayton  
April 19. .... Thomas Wall  
April 20. .... Lynn Harrison

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 07. .... Randy & Christy Wall  
April 17. .... Alvin & Kaye Parks



## NEW ADDRESS

Shaler Grigsby has a new address. He has moved to 409 Second Street, New Albany, MS 38652. Please add his address to your directory!

## PRAYER REQUEST

Sunday, April 5th, Lakisha Harris asked for prayers for her and her coworkers due to the closing of the plant where she worked. Please pray for her and others during this difficult time.

## CHURCH FAMILY UP DATE

- Communion supplies are available if you did not come by and pick yours up last week. Please contact *Greg Clayton* at 662-252-9762, and he will see that you get some. Also, your contribution can be mailed to our post office box 148.
- Remember that our services are being live streamed Sun. morning at 10:30. You can go to our website @ [nacoc.us](http://nacoc.us) to watch live. On Wed. night we will be posting a video devo by Shaler no later than 6:00 PM.
- The Junior Bible Bowl and Area Wide Youth Meeting are both canceled for the month of April.
- Please continue to check on each other via texts, calls, face book etc. Let *Kathy Jennings* or one of the elders know of any that may be sick or have any needs. Most of all, pray for each other and our country.

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto:nacoc15s@gmail.com)

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April 7, 2020

Volume 14

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30  
 Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

## MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.  
 .....256-263-9137  
 Office ..... 534-4649

## ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762  
 Tim Dye.....316-2527  
 Richard Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163  
 Phil Young.....316-2059

## DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420  
 Roger Clayton ..... 538-8195  
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195  
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260  
 Mark Jennings.....316-1606  
 Randy Wall ..... 316-9255

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....  
 A.M. Prayer.....  
 Closing.....  
 P.M. Prayer.....  
 Closing.....  
 Wed.....  
 Wed.....  
 Lock.....  
 Usher .....  
 Security .....

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....  
 Sunday A.M.....  
 Sunday P.M.....  
 Wednesday.....  
 Contribution.....  
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

## PANTRY ITEMS



THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)  
 Church of Christ  
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148  
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652  
 (662)534-4649

Periodical  
 Postage Paid  
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box  
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

## THE ABC'S OF CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

**Act** instead of Argue.  
**Build** instead of Brag.  
**Climb** instead of Criticize.  
**Dig** instead of Depreciate.  
**Encourage** instead of Envy.  
**Fight** instead of Faint.  
**Give** instead of Grumble.  
**Help** instead of Harm.  
**Invite** instead of ignore.  
**Join** instead of Jeer.  
**Kneel** instead of Kick.  
**Love** instead of Lampoon.  
**Move** instead of Mold.  
**Nurture** instead of Neglect.  
**Obey** instead of Object.  
**Pray** instead of Pout.  
**Qualify** instead of Quit.  
**Rescue** instead of Ridicule.  
**Shout** instead of Shrink.  
**Try** instead of Tremble.  
**Undergird** instead of Undermine.  
**Vindicate** instead of Vilify.  
**Witness** instead of wilt.  
**eXterminate** instead of eXcuse.  
**Yield** to works of love instead of works of flesh.  
**Zip** instead of Zigzag.

-selected-