



From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

Since it's election time and I'm a pro-Presbyterian guy, here are some random thoughts and quotes I have compiled concerning the office of elder. Most of this is from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Form of Government and the rest is borrowed, stolen, or quoted from something I've read in the past. I hope this gives each of you an impression of the importance of having good elders and especially the importance of raising up the next generation of leaders in the Presbyterian church! Disclaimer: I do think Deacons and pastors are important too. I'm just covering Elders here.

Qualifications – "To the office of ruling elder shall be chosen men of wisdom, discretion, sound faith and Godly life, and who are qualified under the standards recorded in Scripture." See I Timothy 3 for those qualifications. Note: both faith and practice must be quite evident!

History of Elders – "There were elders of the people for the government of the Old Testament Church. Likewise in the New Testament Church, besides the apostles and the ministers, there were elders who ruled." Remember Jethro telling Moses, "Quit trying to do it all by yourself. Get some help!"

Classes of Elders – There is debate over this, but... Ministers are generally called teaching elders, while other elders are referred to as ruling elders. Both have same standing in all three courts of the church, but teaching elders have professional training and a more difficult passage to ordination. There is definitely equality in office but distinct differences in training and function. For example, ruling elders can't administer sacraments.

Function of Elders – "Together with the ministers, they exercise government and discipline" in the church. Elders serve in three courts: Local Church Session, Regional Presbyteries, and the General Synod. Elders are not simply important for local churches but for the entire denomination!

Plurality of Elders – there must be 2 ruling elders and one teaching elder to have a Session. It is generally thought that there should be equal numbers of ruling elders and teaching elders at meetings of Presbytery and Synod. This is an old principle called parity. It was thought that a balance would keep both parties honest.

Duties of Elders – "It is the responsibility of ruling elders, both individually and jointly, to guard and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation. They are required by their office to visit the people, especially the sick, and pray with them, to comfort the sorrowing, encourage the weak, guide the wayward and the careless, and, in general, to discharge all other duties in Christian love. Although ruling elders do represent congregations by election, they are to seek the will of God in all church court decisions."

"The session shall have as its primary responsibility the initiation, planning, organization and administration of programs designed to enable the congregation to carry on the mission of God in Christ's Church by word and deed in the community and also in the Presbytery, the General Synod and the whole world."

May God give us good elders by his grace!

SYMPATHY

Bill Huffman passed away Tuesday, November 10.
Please pray for the family during this difficult time.

BEST WISHES!

Liam Hutelmyer and Amber Whisler were married
on November 8, 2015.



Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

You will find order forms as an insert in this Sunday's bulletin. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia and due when you turn in your order form. The last day to order is 11/22.

Denominational Offering

Each year at Thanksgiving time the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. You will find an insert and envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, November 22. This offering will be collected through Sunday, December 6.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our congregation has the privilege of participating in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child this season. Brochures are available at the narthex entrances or visit www.samaritanaspurse.org to find instructions on preparing a shoebox. All boxes must be delivered to the church building by Sunday **morning**, November 22. A wonderful video of this ministry is available on the ministry website. If you are unable to fill a box, please speak to Connie Bennett, Lynn Limon, or Joyce Payne.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

November

- 10 WM Book Study - *Extravagant Grace* - 7:00 PM
- 11 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 14 WM Goodie bags for homebound - 2 PM
- 18 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 19 Session Meeting - 7 PM
- 29 Hymn Sing and Social - 6 PM
- 30 Called Session Meeting - 7 PM

December

- 1 Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon - 11:45 AM
- 2 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 4 Christmas Lessons & Carols with reception to follow - 7 PM
- 5 First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon
- 6 The Lord's Supper
- 8 WM Book Study - *Extravagant Grace* - 7:00 PM
- 9 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM - Luncheon
- 10 Session Meeting - 7 PM
- 13 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 20 Christmas Caroling after Evening Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - 5 PM (tentative time)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Caleb Sneed	11/1
Phillip Beaman	11/3
Natalie Wright	11/3
Fran Haynes	11/4
Jean Cathey	11/5
Chip Wright	11/8
Pat Montgomery	11/10
Jack Snow	11/10
David Newton	11/12
Rucker Turner	11/12
Martha Ann Crotts	11/13
Stephanie Payne	11/14
Sandy Childrey	11/15
Doris Haywood	11/19
Laurene Howington	11/20
Chelle Spencer	11/20
Martha Alexander	11/22
Ellen Huffman	11/24
Audrey Turner	11/24
Annie Michael	11/26
Laura Nicholson	11/27
Joe Murray	11/28



ANNIVERSARIES

Russ & Joyce Payne (36)	11/3
William & Jill Roy (34)	11/7
Randall & Libby Cobb (29)	11/8
Jim & Carolyn Christopher (45)	11/21
Chuck & Mary Renegar (63)	11/22
Steve & Sue Walton	11/27
Rick & Carol Erb (23)	11/28

Nursery:

Nov 15: Fran Haynes & Vicki McPherson
Nov 22: Mary Jane Glass & Dot Hutelmyer

Counter:

Nov 15: David Newton
Nov 22: Stephen Robinson

Deacon Duty:

Nov 15: Doug Glass
Nov 22: Stephen Robinson

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