



From Our Pastor

“What are your expectations for deacons at Providence Baptist Church?”



Lee Canipe

Mike Walker, this year’s deacon chair, asked me this question before the deacons’ retreat in January. It didn’t take me long to respond. I expect from our deacons the same things that I expect from all our members, I told Mike—only for deacons, these expectations are on steroids because they’ve been called by the church to serve as spiritual leaders, which means they are held to a higher standard. So, what does that look like in practice? Here’s what I told the deacons at their retreat:

- I expect deacons to show up for worship on Sundays, participate in our Christian education ministry as either a student or a teacher, attend deacons’ meetings, and be at quarterly church conferences. Leaders are visible in the communities where they lead.
- I expect deacons to give their money to support the missions and ministries of Providence Baptist Church. How much should they give? The biblical standard for giving is a tenth of our income, otherwise known as a tithe. That’s true for all of us, not just deacons—but deacons should be working toward tithing as a goal for their giving, thus setting a biblical example for the rest of the church. Leaders are generous in the communities where they lead.

- I expect deacons to use their gifts and talents to serve God through Providence Baptist Church. Most of them are already doing this, which is why they’ve been called to serve as deacons. Still, they are under a special obligation to go the extra mile in their service—not only meeting known needs as they arise, but seeking new opportunities to make a positive difference in the name of Jesus. Leaders are active in the communities where they lead.
- I expect deacons to live in a way that honors Jesus Christ. The New Testament doesn’t have a whole lot to say about the qualities of a good deacon, but what it does say makes clear that character counts. Worthy of respect, sincere, temperate, not driven by greed, faithful, and blameless are traits named specifically in 1 Timothy 3. The bottom line? Leaders are role models in the communities where they lead.

Now more than ever, our world needs to see that, as Jesus tells us time and again, true greatness comes through humble service to others. Our leaders are supposed to model this kind of selfless behavior for us. When they don’t, we all suffer. Deacons at Providence Baptist Church have accepted a challenging call to ministry. Their job is to live into that calling. Our job, as members of Providence Baptist Church, is to support and pray for them in their good work.

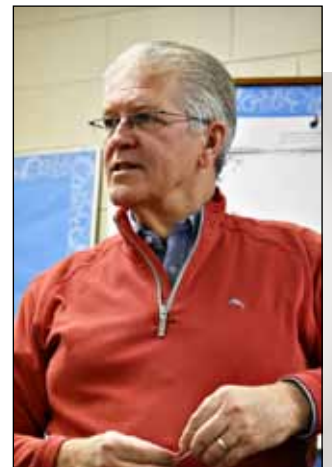
From Our Deacon Chair

“What is the role of a deacon?”

Deacon ministry began in the earliest days of the church, when the apostles realized that they needed help taking care of the vulnerable widows in their Jerusalem congregation. We can read the story in Acts 6:1-6. These people, called to be servants in the church, eventually became known as deacons, a word which comes from the Greek word for “service.” With the deacons taking care of needs within the church, the apostles were free to attend to matters like praying, caring, preaching, and ministering to the masses. Aside from a willingness to serve, what makes for a good deacon? Later in the New Testament—in 1 Timothy 3, for example—we find a few lists that describe the kind of person a deacon should be.

Providence has always been blessed with servant leaders. Throughout the history of this church, deacons have responded to the needs of the church—and they continue to do so today. When asked, “What does a deacon do?”, the answer is not always obvious, because a lot of the servant work our deacons do happens out of the spotlight. Yes, our deacons participate in the weekly worship services, and, with other activities required to provide a hospitable and caring church, but they also seek ways to serve the needs of our church and its members.

Inside is a description of the various Deacon Ministry Groups that are actively serving this church, many of which are going about their work behind the scenes. Nonetheless, the deacons of Providence believe that this ministry is a true calling, and we are honored to be involved as servants of this church.



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Greeter/Usher/Pallbearer Group

Co-Coordinator for Greeters:

Caroletta Partain: carolettajordan@icloud.com 704.554.6442

Co-Coordinator for Paul Bearers/Ushers:

Al Traver: al.traver@yahoo.com 704.726.9678

Additionally: 11 Deacons

Providence occasionally hosts special events that require extra hospitality for our guests. Deacons in this ministry group serve as the welcoming faces and helping hands of the church at funerals

(which generally occur during work hours) and other special events as needed. Church members who would like to assist these deacons are welcome to do so, but flexible schedules are a must for those serving in this ministry group.

(l-r) David Miller, Caroletta Partain, Al Traver, Marlyn Morton, Penny Hewett, Susan Cannon, Debra Wallace, Bill Griffin, Nancy Lockee, Nancy Coppage Not pictured: Bill Caldwell, Ann Long-Jones, Pike Jones, Jane McCoy

Safety and Medical Strategy Group

Coordinator to Contact:

Mike Freeland: freeland_2000@yahoo.com 704.846.1679

Additionally: 7 Deacons (Plus Volunteer Church Members)

Providence is an active congregation, with many people coming to and going from our church campus every day of the week. As is the case at any place where large numbers of people congregate on a regular basis, the potential for emergency situations always exists—and we need to be prepared. Deacons in this ministry group are working on response plans for health crises, criminal activities, and violent outbursts on our church campus. These plans, once in place, will require training for our deacons and for other members of the church who want to volunteer for this important ministry.

(l-r) John Hall, Burt Banks, Mike Freeland, Steve Jarrett Not pictured: Frankie Ayscue, Stephen Brown, David Eskew, Charlotte Guthrie, Al Traver



Engage Cotswold

Co-Coordinator to Contact:

Connie Carpenter: carpentercrew@carolina.rr.com 704.906.0279

Holly Christian: hollychristian@gmail.com 704.277.5334

Additionally: 5 Deacons (Plus Volunteer Church Members)

Providence is located in the heart of the growing Cotswold neighborhood. Deacons in this group seek to reach out to our neighbors, build relationships with them, and raise our church's profile in this part of Charlotte. One way our deacons are already reaching out to our neighbors is by leading a bi-weekly prayer and communion service

at Waltonwood, the senior living facility just down Randolph Road from our church campus. Another way is by volunteering at Cotswold Elementary School. Deacons are leading this ministry, but all church members are invited to join them in being good neighbors here in Cotswold.

(l-r) Debbie Garrett, Catherine Shoemaker Trahan, Sharon Winstead, Charlie Jones, Holly Christian, Cindy Brooks, Connie Carpenter

Strategic Plan Monitoring Group

Coordinator to Contact:

Stephen Allison: StevenAAllison@gmail.com 704.575.3097

Additionally: 4 Deacons

Providence is about to adopt a new strategic ministry plan. Our bylaws require our deacons to formulate these plans at least every eight years. Once the plan is in place, though, it's important that it be implemented. Deacons in this ministry group will monitor the church's progress in translating our strategic vision into action.

(l-r) Sarah Blackwell, Hunter Cook, Mary Bonheimer, Steven Allison, Tim Good



Connections Group

Coordinator to Contact:

Garo Aghjayan: garo.aghjayan@mercer.com 704.375.5554

Additionally: 6 Deacons (Plus Sunday School Class Members)

Providence has Sunday School classes that do an outstanding job providing care and connection to their members. But what about Providence members who are not part of a class? Deacons in this ministry group are exploring ways to stay in touch with church members who are not part of our Sunday School ministry—and, in some cases, have not been active members of our church in quite a while.

They will also encourage our Sunday School classes to reach out to members on their rolls who have been absent for extended periods of time.

(l-r) Jamie Pittman, Ashley Honeycutt, Stowe Query, Kelly Perrone, Les Miller Not pictured: Garo Aghjayan, Tracey Hall

Homebound Communion Group

Coordinator to Contact:

Linda Mullis: lbmullis@carolina.rr.com 704.537.1928

Additionally: 2 Deacons (Plus Volunteer Church Members)

Providence has members who cannot regularly participate in worship with our church family. Deacons in this ministry group provide vital pastoral care to these homebound members, visiting with them in their homes, sharing the Lord's Supper with them, and keeping them connected with their faith community.



(l-r) Anne Long-Jones and Linda Mullis



Home/Yard Small Task Group

Coordinator to Contact:

Jason Mercer: jasonsmercerc@gmail.com 540.220.8657

Additionally: 6 Deacons (Plus Volunteer Church Members)

Providence has members who, from time to time, need assistance with minor home repairs and yard maintenance. Deacons in this ministry group are able and willing to provide this help upon request. They also welcome other volunteers from the church who are passionate about helping others in times of need. Have a need? Let us know. Want to help? Let us know.

(l-r) Mike Martin, Jeff Hinson, Bob Gaskin, Pike Jones Not pictured: Debbie Garrett, Seth McKinney, Jason Mercer



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PROVIDENCE DEACONS EMERITI

Since 1976, Providence Baptist has designated 37 men and women as Deacon Emeritus. All have served faithfully to further the Kingdom of God. They have given their time and talents, and are examples to each of us in our faith journey. We are grateful for all of them, and thank them for their wisdom, service and faithfulness. Names listed with an asterisk (*) are active Deacons Emeriti.

Clarence B. Adams 2004
Aubrey Y. Arant, Jr. 1991
Harry C. Bacon 1980
*** Buddy Bennight 2007**
*** Pauline R. Bethea 2009**
Andrew J. Borders 1980
H. Douglas Broadway 1985
Harry B. Brown 1986
Amos S. Bumgardner 1976
Roderick W. Coward 1998
*** George Crouch 2013**
Selby A. Daniels 1991
G. Wayne Dunn 2007

*** Harold Eddins 2015**
M. Alvin Edwards, Jr. 1982
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Libby Gray 2008
Edgar B. Haire 2001
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Herman C. Kissiah 1980
Frank E. Litaker 2000
Otto Lockey 2011

Tom Pfaff 2004
Earl Pope 2006
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Harmon Simpson 2009
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*** Roberta Teachey 2006**
Russell E. Tucker 1976
*** Harold E. Uttley 2009**
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