



August 9, 2019

Last Saturday night, Donna and I met with our deacons and their wives for a fellowship meal. It was great getting to know these men and their wives better. Please consider what and who a deacon is in the local church. Our church is full of deacons.

A deacon is a person specially called of God with a great desire to lead and serve the Church of Jesus Christ. Their call is initiated by the Holy Spirit, confirmed by prayer, affirmed by those they serve, and qualified through the consistent testimony of a pure life as evidenced by all. (Acts 6:17) A deacon is a *“leading example of servanthood”*. So often we emphasize the “office” of deacon. I believe the Bible emphasizes the “function” of deacon. Deacon in the Bible is the word for “servant”. So when we call someone a deacon we are simply referring to their function of serving others. So all of us who are serving are “deacons”. The Bible’s emphasis on defining a deacon is on the person’s character. We tend to make so much about one’s office but the Bible makes much about a one’s character. (1 Timothy 3) I believe as we consider deacon ministry in the church, it is wise to put the emphasis where the Bible puts the emphasis, on function and character. This is one of the things I appreciate about the men in our church who serve as deacons. They are just simply servants who want to serve the church and support their pastor. I invite you to find comfort and thanksgiving for God raising up men like these who serve us. Remember, they are just human like we are. If you find you have a need, reach out to these men and find out for your self how happy and ready they are to serve us. I am finding them to be truly *“leading examples of serving”* in our church.

As we consider our deacons, I invite you to join me in thanking God for our chairmen Steve Wampler and his wife Nan Sue. For 20 plus years Steve and Nan Sue have quietly and faithfully served us! Most of us have no idea ALL the many ways they serve us on a regular basis. That’s the way they want it. They place the emphasis where it belongs, on serving. They have set a standard for which I am thankful. Because of their faithful serving, there are many others that follow their example of quietly and faithfully serving us. Faith Fellowship is a family of servants (deacons). Maybe, in part, this is because of the *“leading example of serving”* of Steve and Nan Sue. I invite you to join me in thanking the Lord for Steve and Nan Sue and all those who serve us.

I believe that serving is “the call” of the Lord on our lives. Consider the Word of our Lord from John 13:12-17. *“When he had finished washing their feet Jesus put on his clothes and returned to his place. Do you understand what I’ve done for you? You call me teacher and Lord and rightly so, for that is who I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. For I have set for you an example that you should do as I have done for you. For I tell you the truth, no servant (doulos = deacon) is greater than his master. Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them”*

Let’s join with our deacons and find our place of blessing in serving quietly and faithfully.

Pastor Garry

*“We are a **faith fellowship** of believers on our journey **together** with our Lord... meeting needs, mending hearts.”*