

Glenpool Church of Christ

A Question About Elder Sabbaticals

I was recently asked a very good question about the practice of elders taking “sabbaticals,” extended breaks from their responsibilities without stepping down from their positions. This might be requested at a time of personal burn-out or to care for personal responsibilities which have unexpectedly mounted such as personal health, professional responsibilities, or family care. To begin, let be clear that the Bible does not directly address this issue. All of the thoughts I have are inferences at best. However, I do think biblical principles apply and should be heeded.

1. Jesus Frequently Took Breaks. While Jesus’ normal ministry was of teaching his disciples and tending to the needy, he often took time apart for himself. Sometimes it was to face great obstacles in his own life, such as the forty days of fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) or the short period of prayer in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). Luke explains that this sort of break from his work was a normal part of his life: “He would withdraw to desolate places and pray” (Luke 5:16). Several translations of this passage add that he did this “often” (NIV, NASB, NLT, NET). This isn’t easy for Jesus, as crowds often followed him anyway (Matthew 14:13-14). In principle, I see that Jesus has set a precedent for times of privacy and prayer while serving in public ministry. Each person will have to decide whether this is best accomplished in brief intervals of prayer or long stretches, like forty days in the wilderness. In any event, Jesus did not stop being Messiah when he retreated to tend to other needs. This same principle is applied by Paul to a husband and wife having difficulty, where he allows for them to separate for a period of prayer (1 Corinthians 7:5).

2. Men of Responsibility. One of the key attributes of the leaders in Paul’s writings is that they are men of household responsibility (1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; Titus 1:6). A person who neglects his family responsibilities is not managing his household well. Indeed, “if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8). Taking care of your household is part of what Paul means when he uses the term, “blameless” or “without reproach” (1 Timothy 5:7). The qualifications for elders cannot be incompatible with the work of being an elder. As such, it seems clear that elders are expected to take the necessary time to tend to personal and family obligations as they present themselves. Any man who would not is not fit to be an elder. I see no reason for a person to resign his position in order to fulfill the very traits which made him qualified in the first place. Having said all that, this principle should never be abused to create a permanent state of absentee elders who neglect the flock.

by Benjamin J. Williams

May 7, 2017

ELDERS

Bobby Hill

Bill Path

Keith Riggs

David Tenison

PULPIT MINISTER

Benjamin Williams

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Haden Brill

PRISON MINISTER

Bill Hamrick

DEACONS

James Hamilton,

WORSHIP

Thomas Hallsted,

FINANCE

Todd Khoury

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Johnny Riggs,

MEMBER SERVICES

Bruce Rothell,

MISSIONS

Zac Tenison,

YOUNG FAMILIES

Edwin Whittlesey,

EDUCATION

SECRETARY

Karen Brown

Belong. Learn. Serve.



GRATITUDE

Hannah Edwards sent a thank you card, thanking everyone for the cards upon her graduation.

A Mother's Prayer

Dear Lord, it's such a hectic day,
With little time to stop and pray
For life's been anything but calm
Since you called me to be a mom.

Running errands, matching socks, building
dreams with building blocks.
Cooking, cleaning, and finding shoes
And other stuff that children lose.

Fitting lids on bottles of bugs,
Wiping tears and giving hugs.
A stack of last week's mail to read,
So where's the quite time I need?

Yet when I steal a minute, Lord
Just at the sink or ironing board
To ask the blessings of Your Grace,
I see then in my small one's face

That You have blessed me all the while
And I stop to kiss
That precious smile.



Mother Is The Best

My mom is really great;
She's sweet as she can be;
When I need some help, I know
She's always there for me.
Mom loves me all the time,
Even when I'm a pest;
She always takes good care of me;
My mother is the best!



Sunday, May 14

Mother's Day

Wednesday, May 17

Young men will lead the devotional

Sunday, May 21

Young Families dinner

Saturday, May 27

Mow and clean up at camp

Sunday, May 28

NO Fellowship meal; Memorial Day Weekend

Wednesday, May 31

5th Wednesday Singing

Sunday, June 4

Wetzel Baby Shower at 3pm

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

- Nola Buller will not need surgery on her broken arm, it seems to be healing nicely on it's own.
- Vickie Crawford's mother, Esther Dixson, has been in the hospital where they found a spot on her lung. She will have a biopsy done soon.
- Bill Path, Sr. is trying to recover from pneumonia and an E.coli infection. He has been transferred to Muskogee Creek Nation Physical Rehab in Okmulgee and will be there for a couple of weeks.
- Carson Hallsted had tubes put in his ears this past week, he is doing well.
- Let's continue to keep Betty Shelby and family in our prayers.
- Brett and Gina Stewart, the Neal's family, lost
- **Service men and women:** Jenna Sullivan; Jacob Littlebear; David Stills; Ken Whittington (Ben & Selene's brother-in-law)

Long Term Prayer List: Eric Vaughan (heart); Barbara Vaughn (physical therapy); Henry Lack; Stephanie White (pain); Dolores Scherman; Alan Trimble (ALS); Wayne Morgan; Rosalie O'Neal; Ruth Henry; Kathy Henry; Shelby family; Billie English (cancer); Bob Howard (respiratory); Linda Arroyo (brain cancer); Bynum family; Jackson Horvath (deformed heart); Jackson Lilly (lymphoma); Bill Path, Sr.; Hunter Hargrove (cancer);); Lexie Brill's grandfather (broken back); Cindy Johnson's mother (poor health); George Payne (brain tumor)



FROG ROAD CAMP

The date for Faith week at Frog Road Camp is June 11-16. Applications are available on the web site and are due **by tomorrow!!**

YOUTH GOALS:

- **ROMAN MARTINEZ** can quote **John 3:16**

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Our young men will be leading our Wednesday evening devotional this week.

BABY SHOWER

A Baby Shower for Jennifer Wetzel is planned for Sunday, June 4 at 3:00. Steven & Jennifer are having a baby girl and they are registered at Amazon.com and Buy Buy Baby.

CONGRATULATIONS IT'S A BOY!

We are happy to announce that Shawna Caddell had a baby boy this past Tuesday weighing 8lbs 2oz and 21 1/2" long. His name is Cayden Lee Caddell, all are doing fine.

LADIES MEETING

There was a Ladies meeting last Sunday, which was well attended. Sandra Tenison put some jobs before us that needed leaders and helpers. If you are interested there is a flyer in the bulletin holder in the foyer with information or you can contact Sandra.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Toni O'Neal, May 17	Zac & Rachel Tenison, May 20	Zack Treat, June 3
Makenzie Causby, May 17	Lydia Jones, May 22	Richard & Becky Senn, June 3
Alyssa Whittlesey, May 17	David Talley, May 22	
Haden Brill, May 18	Morgan Talley, May 26	
Steven & Jennifer Wetzel, May 18	Darrel & Dana Kent, May 31	

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

Song Leader	Matt Caldwell
Opening Prayer	David Tenison
Table	1. Sonny Pulliam 2. Steve Wetzel 3. Keith Riggs 4. Jesse Byers 5. Todd Khoury 6. Jared Collett
Scripture Reading	Joseph Whittlesey
Closing Prayer	Jerry Morgan

SUNDAY PM DEVOTIONAL

Song Leader	Matt Caldwell
Opening Prayer	Zac Tenison
Table	1. Keith Riggs 2. Steve Wetzel
Closing Prayer	Jerry Buller

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONAL

Song Leader	Young Men
Opening Prayer	.
Devotional	.
Closing Prayer	.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sunday Contribution	\$5,803
Budget	\$4,755
Over Budget	\$10,039

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday Bible Classes	140
Sunday AM Worship	190
Sunday PM Worship	111
Wednesday Bible Classes	92

COMMUNION PREPARATION

5/14	Renee Whitchurch
5/21	Barbara Girod
5/28	Mickey Hecht
6/4	Valerie Whittlesey
6/11	Lexie Brill

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

5/14	Bobby & Shirley
5/21	Tammy C. & Dana
5/28	Jennifer W. & Renee
6/4	Melissa & McKenzie
6/11	Deb & Sandy

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Classes / 9:30 am
 Worship / 10:30 am

SUNDAY EVENING

Devotional & Classes / 5:00 pm
WEDNESDAY
 Devotional & Classes / 7:00 pm

Series: Shepherds After My Own Heart

Lesson 4: "The Leader's Character"

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Benjamin Williams

Sunday Evening Devotional: Psalm 139

Sunday Evening Classes:

A Study of First Peter (Benjamin Williams)

Evangelism (Bruce Rothell)