

God has truly blessed the Gulf Shores church of Christ family! We have nearly doubled our attendance over the past ten years. Our community is becoming more aware of our work and evangelistic outreach. We have prepared a building program (Phase #1 is complete, Phase #2 begins Fall 2016). We are also developing new ministries and strengthening old ones. As these things take place, we have decided to search for more deacons.

We are publishing this form because the eldership would like your input on the selection process and ministry work. Our current deacons are **Larry Rideout** (Technology, Worship), **Barry Shackelford** (Men's Service Assignments), and **Ken Wilkerson** (Building & Grounds). We are grateful for the work that these men do for the church family. They are doing a wonderful job! However, as we look around we see additional work that need to be done and men that are already fulfilling the role of deacons without the "title" attributed to them. We would like to change that.

The word "deacon" comes from the Greek word *diakonos*. This word occurs a number of times in the Scriptures, but only five times to describe what we would consider to be the role of a "deacon" in the church today (**Philippians 1:1, I Timothy 3:8, 10, 12, 13**). The Greek word *diakonos* means servant, minister, waiter, or attendant. In our congregation, we would consider a "deacon" to be one who serves the church, ministers to the membership, and leads an organized congregational ministry. The apostle Paul gives us a list of qualifications and what to look for in these men: They are men of dignity (**I Timothy 3:8**), not double-tongued (**I Timothy 3:8**), not addicted to wine (**I Timothy 3:8**), not fond of disreputable gain (**I Timothy 3:8**), holding to the mystery of faith (**I Timothy 3:9**), have a clear conscience (**I Timothy 3:9**), have been tested (**I Timothy 3:10**), are beyond reproach (**I Timothy 3:10**), the husband of one wife (**I Timothy 3:12**), good managers of their children (**I Timothy 3:12**) and good managers of their household (**I Timothy 3:12**).

It should be evident that church attendance and support of church functions and ministries must be a top priority. For instance, in Acts chapter six, the apostles instructed the congregation to select seven men who were to be appointed to the task of daily serving the needs of the congregation (**Acts 6:1-7**). While these men did not wear the title "deacon" they did serve in a similar way. They waited on the people. They served the widows. They rendered active service toward solving a problem. This would be a great example of what it means to be a deacon (*diakonos*). They were available, accountable, and responsible.

Whether a person is to be an elder, deacon, or even an evangelist in the church, a man's personal qualifications must carefully be considered. It should be remembered, however, that these are qualifications for men, not angels! No one is perfect, except Jesus Christ. God is pleased with those who accept this role. The Scriptures tell us those who have served well as deacons will "*obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus*" (**I Timothy 3:13**). While it may prove to be a difficult task to accept this responsibility, it is both noble and exemplary. These men will have the potential to lead many others to use their talents more effectively.

After you have prayerfully considered the godly men, ministries of our congregation, and the qualifications listed in Scripture, whom do you see in the role of a deacon at Gulf Shores? Please fill this out and give it to one of the elders or submit it to the church office. THANK YOU!

NAME: _____	MINISTRY: _____
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Benevolence</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Evangelism</li> <li>▪ Fellowship</li> <li>▪ Finances</li> <li>▪ Hall Monitors</li> <li>▪ Involvement</li> <li>▪ Ladies Ministry</li> <li>▪ Men's Ministry</li> <li>▪ Missions</li> <li>▪ Nursery</li> <li>▪ Outreach</li> <li>▪ Security</li> <li>▪ Seniors/Golden Agers</li> <li>▪ Snow Birds</li> <li>▪ Social Media</li> <li>▪ Transportation</li> <li>▪ Visitation</li> <li>▪ Website</li> </ul> |
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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AGE GROUP: [ ] Teen [ ] 20-29 [ ] 30-39 [ ] 40-49 [ ] 50-59 [ ] 60-69 [ ] 70-79 [ ] 80-89 [ ] 90+

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).  
 The Bible teaches us that we should bear fruit (John 15:1-8) and use our talents (Matthew 25:14-30) in the kingdom.  
 Which ministry appeals to you the most? Where would you like to get active bearing fruit?*

## LOVE

- Attended Nursery
- Babysitting Services
- Family Retreats
- Free Car Washes
- Good Samaritan Projects
- Handing Out Bottled Water
- Mother's Day Out
- Parent's Night Out
- Social Media Updates
- Special Needs Ministry

## PATIENCE

- After School Program
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Building Maintenance
- Community Clean-Up
- Grounds Maintenance
- Mentoring Ministry
- Missions Ministry
- New Converts Ministry
- Tutoring Ministry
- Transportation Ministry

## FAITHFULNESS

- Bible Correspondence
- College Age Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Church Role/Attendance
- Ladies Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Senior Saints Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Young Couples Ministry
- Youth Ministry

## JOY

- Barefoot Project
- Baptistry Garments
- Block Party
- Church Library
- Education Ministry
- Fellowship Ministry
- Pen-Pal Program
- Singing (or Song Leading)
- Teaching Bible Class
- Wedding Planning

## KINDNESS

- Benevolence
- Clothes Pantry
- Dorcas Day Giveaway
- Emergency Management
- Handy-Man Projects
- Honor Community Heroes
- Honor Veterans & Military
- Inner City Ministry
- Invite People To Services
- Meals On Wheels

## GENTLENESS

- Bulletin Prep/Mail-Outs
- Christmas Gift Giving
- Greif Support Group
- Greeters Ministry
- Involvement Ministry
- Lads to Leaders
- Outreach Ministry
- Personal Evangelism
- Snow Bird Ministry
- Ushers Ministry

## PEACE

- Calling & Caring Ministry
- Card Ministry
- Church Service for Shut-ins
- Habitat For Humanity
- Hall Monitors/Security
- Hospital Visitation
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Prepare Communion
- Shut-in Ministry
- Widows/Widowers Ministry

## GOODNESS

- Back to School Bash
- Church Directory
- Collect School Supplies
- Flowers/Gift Giving
- Photography
- Recreation Ministry
- Teacher Appreciation Day
- Technology/P.A. System
- Yard Maintenance
- Website Design & Updates

## SELF-CONTROL

- A.A. & Celebrate Recovery
- Building Program Planning
- Family Counseling
- Finances/Stewardship
- Greif Counseling
- Marriage Counseling
- Prayer Ministry
- Pre-Marital Counseling
- Vision Casting Committee
- Weight Watchers