

In Our Prayers:

Kevin Atkins, Dean Huprich passed away, Diann Bachmann, Gary Jones, Jody Main, Helena Tewksbury, Hazel Leep, Sandra Holmes (Hiliary's mother), Erma Endly, Ruth Ann Keith (John Keith's mother) she is having health issues, Larry Kidder.

Kevin Robinson (Nancy's Husband), Peggy Albright (friend of the Starrett's), Betty Cox (Diann Backmann's sister), Rodney Reeves (Erica Cunningham's father), Wilma Carpenter (Ardith's Sister), Pam Alchire (Friend of Lonnie), Beverly Wilson (Marley's Aunt) breast cancer, Sheryl Taylor is at home recovering, Amy Smith (Demetra's sister) Has cancer, Maggie Black (Granddaughter of former members Gary and Joyce Cooper) has cancer and will have all bone marrow taken out and replaced.

Updates:

Ruth Ann Keith / Ohio Valley Healthcare. 222 Nicolette Rd, Room 308, Parkersburg WV 26104.

Norm is back at Altarcare.

Church of Christ

1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge OH

October 18, 2026

Facebook: 10th and Clairmont church of Christ

Website: www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com

Email: info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com

Schedule of services

Sunday:

Bible Classes....9:45am

Morning Worship....10:30am

Evening worship....6:00pm

Tuesday:

Word watchers at 11 am

Wednesday:

Bible classes....6:00pm

Colton Ferrell, Minister Welcome! We invite you to all our services.

Announcements:

The next men's meeting will be November 8 at 5:15 pm.

Men's breakfast will be November 14.

Christian's new address: 1 Willard Ave, Moundsville WV,
26041.

Gaige's new address:

Student's full name

Green mail room address: 51 E. Oxbow Trail

Hall and room #: Ryors 221

Athens OH 45701

Gospel Meetings:

Be sure to check the bulletin board for more
information.

Where Are the Elders?

by Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

Walk into many congregations today and ask a simple question:

"Do you have elders?"

Far too often the answer is the same: "No...not yet."

Sometimes that answer has been given for 10 years...20 years...even 40-50 years.

But that should cause us to pause and ask a very serious question:

How did the early church appoint elders so quickly, yet many congregations today cannot find them after decades?

Something isn't right.

The First-Century Pattern:

The church began in Acts 2, around AD 30 (33). Within a relatively short period of time, elders were already functioning in the church in Jerusalem. By the time we reach Acts 11, the disciples are sending relief to the elders in Jerusalem. Not apostles only—elders.

Even more striking is what happened on the first missionary journey. When Paul the Apostle and Barnabas established congregations in places like Lystra and Iconium, they didn't leave those churches in a perpetual state of congregational business meetings. Instead, Acts 14:23 says they "appointed elders in every church."

Think about that.

Those congregations had only existed a short time, yet they already had qualified men who could serve. Contrast that with today. Many congregations have existed for half a century and still say, "We just don't have men who qualify."

How is that possible?

The Qualifications Are a Target for Every Christian Man:

Consider for just a moment the qualifications of elders given in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The Lord describes the kind of men who must shepherd His people. Look at some of the character traits given in Scripture:

Above reproach

Self-controlled

Hospitable

Gentle

Not greedy

Able to teach

Loves what is good

Just

Holy

Disciplined

These should not be characteristics found only in the "elite." These are the qualities every Christian man should be striving to develop.

Yes, some qualifications involve circumstances—being married and having faithful children. And I know the home is a proving ground. But the character traits listed there should be the goal of every godly man in the church!

If a congregation goes 30 years without elders, the real question is not, “Why don’t we have elders?” The real question is: “Why have we not been producing godly men?”

The Uncomfortable Reality:

Sadly, I suspect there is a reason some congregations never appoint elders—and it is uncomfortable to say out loud. Some men (and their wives) simply do not want to give up control.

In many congregations, the “men’s business meeting” has become the governing structure. Decisions are made by vote. Budgets are debated. Plans are approved. And some men like it that way.

But the New Testament never presents congregational democracy as God’s design for leadership. God’s plan was clear: qualified shepherds leading the flock. I have never heard a men’s business meeting discussing shepherding souls. It’s always about budgetary concerns, whether to hire a certain preacher, paint colors, etc.

When men resist appointing elders because they enjoy making decisions, they are not protecting the church—they are standing in the way of God’s design. God expected godly men to feed the flock!

We Have Confused Businessmen with Shepherds:

Another problem is that for decades we have sometimes used the wrong measuring stick. Instead of asking, “Is this man a shepherd?” we ask, “Is he successful?”

Does he run a business?

Is he good with finances?

Does he manage people well?

Those skills may be helpful, but they are not the primary qualifications. The Bible never says elders must be good businessmen. It says they must be able to teach, hold fast to the faithful word, and shepherd the flock.

Peter told the elders to “shepherd the flock of God” (1 Peter 5:2). That language describes spiritual care, not corporate leadership. What the church desperately needs are not board members. We need shepherds who know the Word of God.

The Training Ground Has Been Neglected:

Here is perhaps the most convicting part of this discussion.

Congregations that go 20–30 years without elders are revealing something deeper: they are not intentionally training young men to lead.

Young men should grow up seeing:

- *what godly leadership looks like
- *how to study Scripture deeply
- *how to shepherd hurting people
- *how to lead their families spiritually

They should be encouraged to aspire to the work.

After all, 1 Timothy 3:1 says, “If a man desires the office of a bishop, he desires a good work.”

But if no one is mentoring them...

If no one is training them...

If no one is setting that vision before them...

Why would we expect them to be ready someday?

The Church Deserves Shepherds:

The church belongs to Jesus Christ. Scripture says He purchased it with His own blood. That means the leadership structure He designed is not optional.

Congregations should be asking:

- Are we developing godly men?
- Are we teaching young men to love Scripture?
- Are we preparing future shepherds?

Because the truth is simple.

If a congregation goes decades without elders, it is not just a leadership issue.

It is a discipleship issue.

Time for a Change:

Imagine what would happen if every congregation started intentionally training young men to become shepherds. Imagine young men growing up thinking: “One day, I want to help shepherd God’s people.”

Imagine churches led not by business meetings but by wise, humble, Bible-saturated shepherds. That was the pattern of the first century. And it can be the pattern again—if we decide that producing godly shepherds is more important than maintaining the status quo. The church doesn’t need more managers. The church needs shepherds.

Serving in worship:

Greeters: John and Joyce Starrett

Announcements: Nathan Douglas

Song Leader: Jared Jamiel

Opening Prayer: Raymond Wayble

Lord's Table:

John Starrett

Andy Keith

R. Cunningham

Kevin Norris

Scripture: Mark Fowler

Sermon: Colton Ferrell

Closing Prayer: Russ Singleton

Question of the Month:

How much time have I given to God's word?

Ideas for Outreach:

We must think of ways to reach the lost. Imagine if everyone reached one lost soul and brought them to

Christ? Matthew 28:18-20

If you have any updates, let Colton know!

Ministers' info:

Phone Number: 304-941-4393

Email: coltonferrell316@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday – 9 am to 1 pm

Tuesday – 9 am to 1 pm

Wednesday – 1 pm to 7 pm

Thursday – 9 am to 1 pm

Friday – Off / Visits

Sermon AM:

Who will shepherd the church / 1 Tim. 3:1

Sermon PM:

Though the fig tree does not blossom / Hab. 3:17-19

Class material:

Sunday mornings – Raymond Wayble

Wednesday Evening – Ecclesiastes / 1 Kings

Future Projects

There is a sign-up sheet in the back for visitation groups. We are planning to put groups together to go out and visit. This will happen in March.

There will be a new convert's class resuming October 18th during Sunday school. If you interested, let Colton know.

Directory updates:

Peggy Decker

207 N. 7th Street Byesville, OH 43723

Dalton and Kami Taylor and Sadie May

71853 Old 21 Road Kimbolton, OH 43749

Dalton Cell: 740-680-3024

Micheal and Shelby Kinder

1017 Blaine Avenue Cambridge, OH 43725

Phone: 614-209-1484

Conclusion:

Who Shepherds the Church?

I. The Importance of having Elders and Deacons.

A. They are Protectors.

- a. Acts 20:28
- b. The Church is vulnerable without Shepherds and Deacons.
- c. 2 Peter 2:1

B. They are caretakers.

- a. Definition: a person who maintains a building of property, temporarily fills a position or office, or provides physical and emotional support.
- b. Acts 6:1, 3-4
- c. These men are ones who take care of the building and care for the members of the Lord's church.

Notes:

II. The Qualifications of Elders and Deacons.

A. Where has the Desire gone?

- a. 1 Tim. 3:1
- b. My question is, then what do you really desire?
- c. Titus 2:14

B. The Husband of one wife and able to teach.

- a. 1 Tim. 3:2
- b. Many denominations will say women can be Elders and Deacons. Paul here squashes that idea.
- c. If an Elder cannot teach, then they can't meet the qualifications.
- C. Not a novice.
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:6
 - b. An Elder or Deacon can be a new Christian because they are still a new babe in Christ.
- D. They must have a good stance before the outside world.
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:7
 - b. If a man desires this position but has a bad reputation outside, then that will not help the church in anyway.
 - c. They must have a good standing at work or anywhere outside these four walls.

Notes:

- A. Paul wrote so they would know how the church should conduct itself.
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:14-15
 - b. The Church must conduct itself according to what the word of God says. This includes the running of it.
- B. A proper Eldership and Deaconship will keep the church healthy.
 - a. Without shepherds, the church can find itself becoming unhealthy year by year.
 - b. This is a huge problem today. Not only are there places that have no Elders, but also bad Elderships.

Notes:

III. The Picture of the Church.