



## Officer Nominations

*By Mr. Alexander S. Brown, Minister*

**T**HIS month we will be receiving nominations for the office of Elder and Deacon. It's an exciting time for our church as we begin this process. We have been wonderfully served by a "borrowed" Session of men from other churches in our Presbytery, along with Dan Reed our "resident" Elder, but it is certainly not an ideal situation, nor a permanent one, and so the time has come for us to nominate, and hopefully elect, Elders and Deacons of our own.

The process that we will be using is a thorough one that will last a few months, so let me take some time to lay it out for you: For the duration of September we will be receiving nominations, on the forms available in the foyer. Once these have been collected, the Session will then, at their October meeting, consider whether or not those nominations are in order. All those who make it through this first round of vetting will then go on to have an interview with the Session in November, to examine Christian experience and why the nominee desires the office of Elder or Deacon.

Those who make it through this second round will then go on to six weeks of training covering doctrine and the role of church officers, which will be concluded with a final examination. All those who make it to this point, will then be placed on the ballot and voted on by the congregation.

It is a long and thorough process, but the election of officers is one that deserves a thorough treatment. These are the men who are being placed in the position of leadership over the congregation, and so it is vital that we are rigorous in our process.

But the first step in this process is the step that we come to this month – nominations. And the first question which must be answered is, *who is eligible for nomination?*

***“As we enter this process, let us soak it with prayer.”***

According to the Book of Church Order,

“It belongs to those in the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of doctrine or morals enter therein.” (8-3)

In other words, their duty is to be the shepherds of the congregation.

As a shepherd, the Ruling Elder is called to feed, protect and lead the congregation of God's people. They are responsible for what is taught in church, and they are responsible for the pastoral care of church members. This is reflected in the qualifications for eldership, which Paul gives to Timothy:

*The elder must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to much wine, not violent but gentle, nor quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children*

*(Continued on the next page)*

## September Calendar

### Sundays

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
*The Gospel in Life*

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Exodus: God, our Savior*

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship  
*Jeremiah: Judgment & Restoration*

Children's Church,  
Nursery available

- Sun 9/2 Communion, AM Worship
- Wed 9/5 Fall Kick Off!  
6:00 p.m. at GIPC
- Tue 9/11 Stated Session Meeting  
6:00 p.m., IPC-Savannah
- Sat 9/22 GIPC Work Day  
(see pg. 2)



BBQ provided by the church • Bring a side dish to pass • Enter a pie in our Pie Bake-Off! Prizes awarded for best fruit, best cream and best all-around Pie • Church Calendar presentation and Ministry sign-ups.

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## Officer Nominations

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*obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. (I Timothy 3:2-7)*

**D**EACONS, however, are called to be men who serve rather than lead. At times the office of Deacon is understood to be “trainee elder,” but this is not an accurate understanding of what the Deacon is to do. The Deacon has a role which is distinct from, and complimentary to, the Elder and which requires a different set of gifts. Describing the office of Deacon as of “sympathy and service,” the BCO goes on to describe it like this:

“It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church... [and] they shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation.” (9-2)

Despite the difference in roles, the qualifications are similar, according to Paul:

*Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.*

*In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers, but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. (I Timothy 3:8-13)*

And the BCO:

“To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.” (9-3)

**F**INALLY, the men who should be nominated for these positions are men who are already doing the work of an elder or a deacon. We should not expect that once a man is given a title that he will then conform to the mold of the office – rather, when we are considering men for the office of Elder, we are to look for men who are already committed to the public worship of God, able to teach, who exhibit a pastoral heart and concern for the congregation; and when we are considering men for the office of Deacon, we are to look for men who are already living lives of service and compassion.

As we enter this process, let us soak it in prayer. May the Lord guide us as we move forward and may He provide officers for His church! ■

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## Building and Grounds

### Work Day! 4th Saturday in September (9/22)

9:00 a.m. until...



On Saturday, September 22nd the B & G Committee will sponsor a Work Day to deal with a number of issues inside the building, ranging from painting (prep and finishing), to changing light bulbs, to relocating the Nursery— to name a few.

Additional details will be shared at the **Fall Kick Off** on September 5th.

## Christian Education

The CE Committee wishes to thank all those who have pledged a contribution toward the hiring of a nursery worker for Sunday mornings. We were overwhelmed with the response and want to thank all who volunteered to contribute toward this cost.

## Finance Committee

### GIPC Monthly Update— Loan Balance

Loan Balance 1/1/12	\$840,102
Principal Paid YTD	\$ 21,099
Loan Balance	\$819,003
September Payment:	
Interest	\$ 2,515
Principal	\$ 2,736
Total Payment	\$ 5,251

## Significant Sessional Actions

- the Session concluded its review of the Church Membership Roll;
- the Session approved the process of Officer Nominations to begin in September;
- the Session approved vacation for Mr. Brown, October 1-17.

The next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11th, 6:00 p.m. at IPC in Savannah.

**SEPTEMBER**

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul." (Psalm 19:7)

**Family Worship**

**Old Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>I Samuel</i>	25	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		29,30	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<i>II Samuel</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		4,5	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		8,9	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	<i>I Kings</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SEPTEMBER**

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**Family Worship**

**New Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>I Corinthians</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	<i>II Corinthians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	<i>Galatians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		6	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SEPTEMBER**

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul." (Psalm 19:7)

**Private**

**Old Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Ezekiel</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
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23		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		32	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		33	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SEPTEMBER**

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul." (Psalm 19:7)

**Private**

**Psalms**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Psalms</i>	40,41	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		42,43	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		44	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		45	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		46,47	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		48	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		49	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		51	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		52-54	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		55	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		56,57	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		58,59	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		60,61	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		62,63	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		64,65	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		66,67	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		68	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		69	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		70,71	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		72	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		73	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		74	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		75,76	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		77	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		78:1-37	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		78:38-72	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		79	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		80	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		81,82	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Week beginning  
SEPTEMBER 2**

**John 6:35**

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.'

**Week beginning  
SEPTEMBER 9**

**I Corinthians 10:13**

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**Week beginning  
SEPTEMBER 16**

**I Corinthians 10:23-24**

All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

**Week beginning  
SEPTEMBER 23**

**Isaiah 30:18**

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.

**Week beginning  
SEPTEMBER 30**

**Isaiah 40:8**

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.