

## The Ministry of Deacons by Sam Willcutt

In Philippians 1:1, among those Paul addressed were “deacons.” Deacons comprise a unique office and function in the local church. God organized the church to have deacons—special servants to carry out certain tasks within the work and organization of the local church. Yet, Jesus recognized servanthood as greatness. Therefore, deacons are special because of their ministry in the kingdom. While some deacons in the brotherhood have a title, but no job assignments, others have job assignments but are not carrying out their duties. In each extreme case, deacons and the congregation must cooperate to fulfill each role in the congregation. The term deacon simply means “servant” or “minister.” Their role pertaining to leadership is unique in that on one hand, they are not leaders. While they must have certain characteristics to serve in a particular function (cf. 1 Tim. 3:8-13), they are simply servants with responsibilities. On the other hand, they are leaders, because their responsibility (and the leadership inherent within such responsibility) makes them leaders. For example, in Acts 6, the apostles encouraged the congregation in Jerusalem to select seven “servants” to be responsible for the daily ministry to the widows, solving the problem that had arisen in the process. Did they serve? Of course, they did. Yet, did they lead? The position in which the apostles placed them inherently carried with it responsibility, and with such, an amount of leadership. Such is also true concerning elders and deacons in the local church setting. To show such is true, deacons are to involve the congregation in their work, not simply do the work themselves. Proper delegation is very important in not only fulfilling the work of the church, but also executing proper organization in the entire body of Christ working as a single unit. When Paul described the church as a body in First Corinthians 12, he did so recognize the importance of every single individual member. Therefore, elders, deacons and ministers are not to do all the work of the church. Deacons especially must involve the members in their work. Deacons must exercise responsibility. One cannot be a deacon without understanding responsibility and dependability. The church will greatly benefit when congregations appoint deacons who understand these and exercise them in fulfilling their appointed roles. Therefore, while the seven men of Acts 6 were not necessarily deacons, they do serve as a model for such an office. When the church properly utilizes deacons and they work diligently under the supervision of the elders, great things will happen! “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).

Brushy church of Christ  
774 Hwy 48 South  
Centerville TN 37033



## The Brushy Beacon “Looking Toward the Son in 2021” November 21, 2021

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00
Sunday Morning Service	10:00
Sunday Evening Service	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

### The church of Christ at Brushy

Elders	Deacons
Ricky Atkinson	Paul Johnston Terry Banks
James Atkinson	Kevin Johnston Justin Atkinson
Tony Duncan	Caleb Truett

**Preacher:** Kevin Johnston

### The Nature of Worship by Dan Jenkins

It is often easy to lose sight of the very nature of worship and the result of this robs us of one of the great blessings God has for us. Before reading any more of this article stop and ask yourself, “Why do I come to worship each week?” There may be many reasons, but what is the fundamental, underlying reason you come to worship each week? Where is your mind when you worship?

If you think first in terms of, “I do it because He commands me to,” perhaps you should think more about it. Did not Jesus describe those who “...draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me”? We do come to worship because He commands us, but if that is the primary reason, we are robbing ourselves of the true meaning of worship. Think about the following verses and my comments about them. Psalm 100:2: “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.” Notice how godly men came to worship realizing that this was the place, above all others, where we are “in His presence.” We come with gladness and praise before Him. In worship we are truly in His presence. Psalm 95:2: “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.” Notice the plural pronouns in this verse. It is not a private time of praise David had in mind. It was “us” who came before Him in His presence. The next verse sheds even more reasons as to why we come to worship. “For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods.” We should stand in awe that this great God would so graciously allow sinful men to come into His presence. Ecclesiastes 5:1-2: “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools...let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore, let your words be few.” Every aspect of worship is important, but in most acts, we are actively involved. However, God designed worship as a time when by preaching He would speak to us! We are in His presence and should come motivated to hear His words. Psalm 100:1-4: “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name.” Worship is not just “making a payment” on a heavenly insurance policy. We do not come just to obey Him. Worship comes from hearts which long to praise Him in His presence.



## Family News and Notes

**Visitors** If you are visiting with us today, we want to hear from you. We are thankful for your presence. Please fill out a Visitor card and leave it in your seat.

**Congratulations to...** Mark and Bethy Butler on the birth of a baby girl, Emmy Ruth. She weighed 8 pounds and is 18 ½ inches long. She is the granddaughter of Travis and Debbie Irwin.

**Newly Appointed Deacons** Last Sunday was a special day at Brushy when Terry (Debbie) Banks, Justin (Emily) Atkinson, and Caleb (Paige) Truett were appointed as Deacons. We are so thankful for their desire to serve others and help lead our congregation in the right direction. Please continue to pray for them, their families, and our church family as work and labor together.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** We are looking forward to our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 24, at 7 P.M. There is a signup sheet on the table in the back for the men and young men to read scripture, lead songs and prayers. This years' service will focus on Faithfulness. We hope you will make plans to join us for this special evening of thanks giving! There is a paper tray on the table for you to return your 100 Thing to be Thankful For sheets. They are due today!

**4th Sunday Singing Night** Noel Stafford will be here to speak on the work that he and his wife, Jessica, will be doing in Africa. Hope you'll make plans to attend.

**Fruit Baskets** We are getting our list together for the fruit baskets to be distributed in December. If you know of someone in the community who is sick or shut in and would appreciate a basket, please let Nancy Bryant or Amy Johnston know their names!

**Thanksgiving Boxes** A big thank you to all who came out yesterday and helped to pack the Thanksgiving Boxes. Our Young People did a great job! We appreciate all the donations and work that has been done to prepare for this day. Especially to Cindy Atkinson and Cathy Duncan for organizing and putting this together.

**Our Deepest Sympathies to...** the family of Raymond Stoltz. Our thoughts are with his wife, Brenda, and their daughters. He is the father of Kim (Greg) Bates. His funeral will be today at 1:30 pm. at McDonald Funeral Home in Centerville.

### Upcoming Events

\*Wednesday, November 24 ~ Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 P.M.

\*Sunday, November 28 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night with Noel Stafford

### For the Record ...

Sunday Morning Bible Class	50	Sunday Morning Worship	77
Sunday Evening Worship	46	Wednesday Evening Bible Study	29
Contribution			\$2256

## Pray for Those Sick Among Us...

**Maylynn Campbell** is recovering after having carpal tunnel surgery last week.

**Walter Gilbert** is dealing with some health issues.

**Paul Gilbert** son of Walter and Lois, will have colon surgery on November 30.

**Dorothy Brown** mother of Tammy Forrester, will not have a treatment until December 2.

**Travis Irwin** is home after a hospital stay.

**Salvatore Barbalinardo** a teenager in Livermore, is still improving slowly.

**Soleil Duncan** daughter in law of Tony & Cathy, will have another chemotherapy treatment this week.

**Brandon Payeur** friend of Jim & Pamela's, has started taking treatments.

**Becky Herrington** sister of Jim Brooks, is about the same with the pain in her arm.

**Glen Herrington** brother in law of Becky (Jim's Sister), has colon cancer and had surgery last week.

**Morgan Laughlin** friend of Cecily Nunes, was able to go home and is no longer on dialysis.

**Grayson Morton** grandson of Jerry & Beverly Morton, his heart surgery went well.

### Continuing Prayer Requests

<u>Dealing w/Cancer</u>			<u>Special Request</u>	
George Peterson	David Dansby	Scottie Simmons	Dwayne Johnston	Jeff Lynn
Terry Hinson	Raymond Stoltz	Deborah Brazil	Fred Bowman	William Kirby
Ricky Kelley	Aaron Bell	Jamie Qualls	Evin Boyd	Ryan Horton
Daniel Spears	Wendy Pace	LC Bowen		

### Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Dickson Nursing Home... Larry Donaldson      Lewis County Nursing Home: Lee Freese  
Centerville Life Care Center... Alma Jean Skelton

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders who oversee, care for, and feed us spiritually.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A BABY SHOWER HONORING

*Dean & Cecily Nunes*

On Sunday, December 5, 2021 Following Morning Worship

We will have a potluck meal. They are registered at Amazon.  
 Please bring a book as a card. It doesn't matter if it is well loved  
 or brand new. Either way the book will remind baby Dustin of you!

Given by The Brushy Members