

# Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

*Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry*

*December 19, 2021*

*Scripture Reading: Luke 2:9-11*

## **Our Senior Pastor, Part 2** by Duane Patton

The previous article pointed out that the New Testament offers no support for the role or title of “senior pastor” in the local church. However, as the Bible student reads through the text of the New Testament Scripture, one will discover such a title and role being attributed to someone! But who? Here are the words of Peter as he wrote to encourage the leadership of the local churches:

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when *the Chief Shepherd* appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away” (1 Peter 5:1-4, NKJV, emphasis added, DP)

According to at least one official spokesman of the New Testament, there is only one “senior pastor” who leads not just one congregation but who is the head of all who belong to Him. While multiple qualified men are to “pastor” God’s flock (lit. serve as a shepherd, one who guards, guides and folds the flock under the direction and by the discretion of Jesus Christ, who is the ultimate overseer of our souls, cf. **1 Peter 2:25; Psalms 23:1; Matthew 2:6; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 40:11; John 10:11, 14**). While the word “senior” is not found in the above quoted passage, the idea is certainly there. The word “Chief” is from the original language whose meaning is “to designate the one who is placed over the rest that hold the office” (Strongs NT 757), and it “denotes something as begun by someone, others following: Acts 27:35f” (Winers Grammar, § 65, 7 d.).

After this brief but careful examination, we ought to find that there is no such office in the Lord’s church to be held by humans such as is designated and defined by the term “senior pastor.” This title and office belongs only to the risen, ruling Lord of eternal glory, Jesus Christ. Let’s support and encourage those whose work it is to follow His example until He comes to claim His own (**Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:4; 1 Corinthians 15:25-28**).

### **Seeking first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness...**

#### **Services:**

##### **Sunday**

9:00 AM Bible Class  
10:00 AM Worship

6:00 PM Worship

##### **Wednesday:**

6:00 PM  
Prayer & Bible Study

#### **Local Works of Faith:**

Sunnybrook Children’s Home  
Gulf Coast Bible Camp  
Local Food Pantry  
Annual Youth Events  
Back-Pack Buddies  
The Gospel of Christ TV (Fox 25)  
(Every Sunday at 6:30 AM)

#### **Foreign Missions:**

Guyana, South America  
India

#### **Local Wi-Fi Network Access:**

**SSID:** 2Wire029

**Key:** 3995723302

**E-mail:** [vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org](mailto:vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org)

**Web Site:** <https://www.vancleavechurch.org>

#### **Subscribe to these on YouTube:**

*Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries*  
*The Mississippi Gospel Minute*



The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. ~ Psalms 34:15

### **Recent Prayer Requests:**

- ➔ **Frank Sentelle:** Still awaiting possible treatments for cancer.
- ➔ **Jeffrey Richardson:** To have surgery on the 29<sup>th</sup> for blood clot related issues.
- ➔ **Cindy Stevens:** Scheduled for several doctor visits to handle multiple medical issues.
- ➔ **Amy Stevens:** Diagnosed with cancer and not doing well
- ➔ **Lindsey Grant:** Doing well. Feeding tube working as it should and eating has improved!
- ➔ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Continue to Remember These in Prayer*

David Hines	Joan Martin	Tonya Organ	Joe Dorris Box
Harvey Goldensup	Jack Hayes	Roy Corbin	Mike Kenney
Mary Culbreth	Mark Damron	Paul Langham	Mary McDaniel
Linda Kenney	Maxine Robinson		

*Have requests or other announcements? Send email to [vcocministry@vancleavemchurch.org](mailto:vcocministry@vancleavemchurch.org)*

**Announcements:** After services this Wednesday (12/22), Robin and Trisha Lyons will host a Christmas party at 2312 Potocaw Road. All are welcome to attend!

**WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT:** While this time of year can bring sorrow to those who have lost loved ones, and to those who feel isolated, our Lord has promised constant companionship and strength to all who trust in Him! "Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER ABANDON YOU" (Hebrews 13:5, NAS)

### **Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021, Week 48**

- MONDAY** 1 Thessalonians 1-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3  
Be watchful, ready, living in the light until the Lord comes. What does this mean in your life?
- TUESDAY** Acts 18:19-28; 19:1-41  
Paul found disciples of John who had not yet been baptized into Christ. Why was this a big deal?
- WEDNESDAY** 1 Corinthians 1-4  
What does this passage tell us about division in the church? What kind of unity is truly important?
- THURSDAY** 1 Corinthians 5-8  
We have been given much freedom in Christ. But, is there such a thing as too much freedom?
- FRIDAY** 1 Corinthians 9-11  
In 9:24-27 Paul refers to a race and a prize. What practices might you adopt to run a stronger race?
- SATURDAY** 1 Corinthians 12-14  
In view of our various and valuable difference, how might we offer true love to one another?
- SUNDAY** 1 Corinthians 15-16  
"Evil companions corrupt good morals," Paul wrote. Let's be sure to monitor our own influence.

"...they received the word with all readiness of mind..." (Acts 17:11)