

What Do Deacons Do?

In my 45 years of life as a pastor, I often encourage brothers and sisters to fulfill their civic duties. As Christians living in this world under the grace of God, we should also care about what's going on in the world. I am not one who is particularly keen on politics, but I want to have some idea about current political developments. I spent some time watching the recent presidential debate between the Democratic and Republican candidates. After the debate, huge numbers of comments came from all directions. I didn't have a sense of who will win the race, but I could sense that both candidates were working hard that night to tell the American people: "I can do a better job than my opponent."

Last Sunday, the general membership meeting of our church was successfully concluded and a list of the new deacons for the next term was announced. Thank the Lord, no matter whether they are newly elected or incumbent, we will have a group of deacons serving the church with their gifts at each campus.

ECC's general guidelines for the selection of deacons are based on 1 Timothy 3. When the early church was first established, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, the apostles elected seven deacons to manage the meals. The criterion they put forward was: "*who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom*" (Acts 6:3). Such criterion may make today's pastors and elders feel a little nervous. In fact, among these seven deacons, Stephen, "*a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people*" (Acts 6:8). He later became the first martyr for the Lord in church history. Another deacon, Philip, later became an evangelist. Having said that, the question is whether the standards for serving in ministry is too high and daunting. In Matthew 25, Jesus told the parable of three servants and how they served their master with their talents. In the parable, we learned that God only praised those showing goodness and faithfulness. Goodness is our basic mental attitude as Christians; faithfulness to the Lord is the way in which we should do our work. No matter whether one is the president of a country serving his/her people, or an employee working for an employer, only serving faithfully can s/he please those whom s/he serves. The same is true for Christians before God.

We should all pray earnestly for the deacons and co-workers of the church, hoping that they will all share the same attitude and dedication: "I will strive to do a better job in my service." I am convinced that we have a group of co-workers who will not only work hard to meet the expectations of pastors and elders, but will also have the right attitude to serve God in His mission.

On the other hand, it is not enough just to do things well for people. Thank the Lord, God has been gracious to our church and He gives us many gifted brothers and sisters who have strong abilities in various fields to do good works. We must always be reminded that it is God whom we are serving. Otherwise, we could become biased, insistent on our own opinions, discouraged, or lose our heart in service. It is my hope that fellow deacons will always remember our original intention is to serve God.

(Translated by Bob Tang)

REDMOND CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICE | 9/22/2024

Worship through Praise
Congregational Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
Worship through the Word
Worship in Response
Doxology & Benediction
Welcome and Announcements

*Offering is a part of our worship to God.
Free-will offering box is located on the Welcome Table by the Worship Hall doors.
Online Offering: <https://eccseattle.org/en/give/>*

Message from Pastor Steven MacDonald
"Yesterday, Today, and Forever"
1 Corinthians 13:8-13

*Missed a sermon or want to share it? Listen to it at
www.eccseattle.org/media/sermons*

SUNDAY SCHOOL	TOPIC	LOCATION
CHILDREN	Elementary Worship and Sunday School Message	9:30 AM Room 106
	Preschool	9:30 AM Rooms 114-116
YF (JUNIOR HIGH)	Summer Recess	
YSF (SENIOR HIGH)		
ADULT/COLLEGE		
SERVANT TEAM	TODAY	NEXT WEEK
SPEAKER	Steven MacDonald	Christopher Hui
WORSHIP	Jordan Ott	Sing Wee
MODERATOR	Billy Tang	Koby Leung
DOOR ROTATION	Samuel Kuo	

Prayers for Our ECC Community

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

REDMOND YOUTH CONGREGATION

- This past Summer, we had 2 fantastic retreats!
- Pray that this school year, we can connect well with the kids and help make YF and YSF feel like a home.
- Pray that this school year, we can provide a great time and space for the kids to learn about their faith and God.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Alex, Kristi, and their team have served in a sports ministry in Taiwan and other parts of Asia for 33 years. God led and blessed them with a fruitful sports ministry this summer in Kaohsiung. Despite several spiritual warfare incidents and the outside temperature being in the 90s – kids were getting dehydrated from the heat – God brought 2/3 of the 200 children and youth to Christ. Please pray for the 30 pastors who will be following up on these new believers and are waiting for a few who are still

undecided. Please pray for Pastor Amos Lin and their team. He is the key leader who connects Alex’s sports ministry with all the tribal churches. May God direct Pastor Amos to future church plants that started with sports.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- Please pray for southeast Asia as it cleans up after Hurricane Yagi. Please pray for God to be gracious to those who have suffered loss in the storm’s path and strengthen first responders as they rescue those trapped by the floodwaters.
- Please pray for Lausanne 4 being held in Seoul, Korea, this week. Held every ten years, it is the largest missions conference, bringing thousands of church leaders from around the world onsite and online. May the Lord unite the delegates and help them to discern how to lead their churches and organizations to fulfill the Great Commission.

“My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12:9



REDMOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD CONCERN BANGLADESH COUNTRY DIRECTOR SHARING

SEPT. 22 (SUN) TODAY | 11:15-12:30PM | SEATTLE CAMPUS, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BLDG

The Care Ministry is sponsoring Glorious Gragory Das, the World Concern (WC) Bangladesh Country Director, to speak on Sunday, September 22nd in Seattle. In recent years, ECC has supported WC by participating in their annual "Free Them 5K" Fund Run (<https://www.freethem5k.org/>) to help thwart human trafficking. Annual grants to WC from the Good Samaritan Fund have helped "One Village Transformed" projects in Laos and South Sudan. Live streaming of the event will be made available via this Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/0922WorldConcern>
A recording of the sharing will be made available.

MINISTRY & SMALL GROUP FAIR

TODAY | English Worship Hall (Immediately following worship service)

Come and learn more about our Redmond English Ministries and small groups and how you can get plugged in and involved at ECC!
Questions? Please contact: Sing Wee: sing_wee@outlook.com

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (YF 6TH-8TH) FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are currently seeking counselors, speakers, and game leaders for our upcoming Youth Fellowship (YF) group, which will begin on October 4th and be held the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fridays of the month. If you have a heart for serving youth and are available to volunteer, we would love to have you join our team. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of our youth.
Contact Winnie Chen: winnie.chen52@gmail.com

YOUTH CAMP POST RALLY

SEPT. 28 (SAT) | 7:00PM | ECC SEATTLE MAIN SANCTUARY

Calling all Youths - Post Rally is coming up! Come and remember the good times at Youth Camp, see everyone from all of ECC, and kick off the new school year!

2024 TAIWAN MISSION PINGLIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEAM SHARING

SEPT. 29 (SUN) | 12:30PM | REDMOND CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HALL (ROOM W106)

Join us for a time of sharing about our recent Taiwan missions trip as we reflect on God's work during our trip.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

OCT. 20 (SUN) | 11:15AM-2PM | ROOM W107

If you are interested in learning more about ECC's history and structure, becoming more committed to the ECC community, and being a part of the service, accountability, protection, and responsibility of our church, come to our upcoming membership class. Lunch will be provided.
Contact: Koby Leung: koby@pipingcold.com

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you have any questions or ideas for the ministry council, but don't know whom to talk to? Submit your feedback here!

Link: <http://bit.ly/ecc-red-e-feedback>