

Noth Hamilton Church of Christ

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Announcements:

- **Thank you, Rick:** We regret that the time has come when Rick Essex feels that his health has now reached the point that he feels he is no longer physically capable of performing the duties of our benevolence deacon; therefore, he is resigning as deacon but expresses his willingness to assist his successor as they become familiar with their new role. Rick has done a wonderful job for North Hamilton congregation for many years. Not only has he overseen benevolence, he has also been the go-to person for the semi-annual food drive for the Tennessee Children's Home. Let Rick know how much he is appreciated and loved and keep him in your prayers that his health may improve.
- **Justin Tripp:** The elders are putting Justin Tripp before the congregation to consider as a deacon in the congregation. If no scriptural objections are received by the elders, Justin will assume his duties and be recognized as one of our deacons as soon as we can all meet together unless a valid objection is received, Justin will take over the duties that Rick Essex has performed for many years. Should anyone have a reason that Justin should not be appointed a deacon, let one of the elders know of your concern.
- **One Call Messages:** If you did not receive the congregation-wide phone message on Friday, please let Joel Laney know.
- **Gospel Meeting:** The Hooker congregation in Wildwood, Georgia, will host a gospel meeting with Milton Stephens from April 19 – 22. Complete information can be found on the bulletin board.

Our Sick & Recovering

James Actkinson is now at home and undergoing physical therapy on an outpatient basis following his recent spinal surgery.

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

24 – Saralyn Elsea

25 – John Blanks, Kaye Greer

no anniversaries this week

“What Our Eldership Needs During Covid-19”

David B. Smith

Think back to a few weeks ago. What dominated your mind? Upcoming spring break plans? The purchase of a new car or home? Putting a little money in the market for future use? Baseball? Softball? A trip to Disneyworld? A visit from/to family? We probably all had plans. We likely all had things on our mind. None of us were thinking then like we are today. In the blink of an eye, we've all changed our focus. Everything in the entire world now is centered on the Covid-19 virus that none of us really know much about. And that's the problem. The unknown is what drives so much of our fear (and panic in some). Our prayer is that this will soon be over with minimal damage done, and we can start picking up the pieces of things that are broken and fix ourselves quickly. Wouldn't it be wonderful if, after it's over, we went too far and exaggerated the needed response?

But things are different now and might be for a while. This is why we as God's people need to stop for a second and grab perspective, then move forward. We've already seen what panic does in some people, who, without consideration to the needs of others, hoarded essential items from stores. That kind of mentality cannot characterize the church at any point in this storm. While we are all responsible for caring for our families (1 Tim. 5:8; Matt. 15:1-9), we are also responsible for the needs of others. Most of all, we must put the church at the top of our list (Gal. 6:10). The church comes before the world, because we still have a mission. That said, I would like to remind us all of some men who particularly need our help right now: our elders.

I'm not sure that elderships have ever faced the decisions they have to make right now. Do they continue with scheduled services? Do they postpone services until the dust has settled? Do we follow every recommendation from the government or some or none (Rom. 13:1-7)? If there are services, how many? How do they keep people safe? How can they feed the flock if we are not meeting as consistently as we were? What about the works we are supporting? What kind of outreach are we doing at this time? How are we going to do it? There's a reason that Paul once talked about the weight of church-work (2 Cor. 11:28). Concern for the church is a heavy burden, and our elders carry a burden in these decisions. Here are some things they need from us during these trying times, so that they can work with joy (Heb. 13:17):

1. Our prayers. Pray for their wisdom. Pray for their health. Pray for their encouragement. Pray, pray, pray!

2. Our support. Elderships rule in matters of opinion (Heb. 13:17), since God decides doctrine. They are making tough decisions lately. Let's offer our support.

3. Communication. Shepherds need to hear from sheep. They are not omniscient. Just like a marriage, communication is the key to success. Let's be open and talk to our elders about needs and opportunities. The more they know from us, the better they can evaluate the strength of their decisions.

4. Our weekly contribution. Let's not forget that we must give as we prosper (1 Cor. 16:1-2). This act of worship funds the work of the church. We still have ongoing works that will suffer if we cannot assist. Notice what the early Christians did in a time of crisis, as an example (Acts 2-4).

No one likes trying times, because of the stress they bring to our comfort. But there are going to be incredible opportunities, and the world will get to see the church at work. Please, consider these words, and support our tremendous eldership.