

January 2008

Dear North Shore Fellowship,

Happy New Year! I look forward to how the Lord will grow our participation in the gospel during 2008!

You are invited to a **Town Hall meeting** this Sunday, January 6, during the teaching group hour—that's 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary at our Mississippi Ave. location and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary at our Woodland Ave. location.

At these meetings we will 1) present a preliminary budget for 2008, 2) discuss a process for nominating new elders and deacons, 3) explain our developing vision for being one church in 2 locations, and 4) answer questions about how we are functioning as a church.

Let me introduce the process for nominating new elders and deacons. We invite all members of the church to make nominations for men in whom God's Spirit is clearly at work in their **character** and who are moving out in **mission** together with others in our fellowship.

The **character** necessary for overseers/elders is described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The character necessary for deacons is described in Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Please examine these passages carefully before making nominations to these offices. If you don't know someone's character well enough to know if they exhibit these fruits of the Spirit, then you should not nominate them.

Our **mission** *is to be a church longing to enjoy and embody Jesus Christ in the North Shore, Chattanooga, and the world.* Our philosophy of ministry is centered on the gospel lived out in community (Eph. 4:1-6) where our leaders "equip the saints for the work of ministry" (4:11-12). Our primary method of living out this mission is through **fellowship groups** caring for those a part of our fellowship and reaching out to our neighbors with Christ's love.

Often the consideration for elders and deacons stops with character qualifications, but also, we ask you to nominate men whom you have found to participate in our mission as a church. The best way to determine who to nominate is to ask: *1) whom have I witnessed giving spiritual care well? and 2) whom have I witnessed showing mercy and meeting needs well?* Those you think of for the first question should be your elder nominees. Those you think of for the second should be your deacon nominees. We want to consider men we have witnessed "eldering" and "deaconing" among us.

Nominations may be submitted this Sunday through the end of January. We will have a place in the foyer of both sites to collect nominations throughout this month. After nominations have been collected, our current session will further consider those nominated based upon **character**, **mission**, and our **need** for oversight and need-meeting in different areas of the city. Our most pressing locales in need of new elders and deacons are Signal Mountain, Lookout Valley, Downtown/Southside, and Hixson.

Please join us this Sunday to discuss this and the other issues vital to our fellowship!

See you there!

Gary Purdy