

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

November 4, 2024

6pm – 7pm

Attendees: Steve Walker, Don Fitzgerald, Brad Stevens (chair), Bret Blackford, Dave Weiler, Steve Awtry, Jeff McGlawn (visit), ~~Ross Brown~~ (visit)

Note – due to heavy rain meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Next mtg.: Monday November 18 – Bret Blackford chair

1. Candidate Weekends (15-min Steve Walker & Steve Awtry)

Candidates Jason Mundie and John Gunter are scheduled to meet the McKnight church in November.

Summary Candidate Document [here](#) – with resumes, references, and sermons.

Draft schedule and plan noted at **Attachment A**.

2. Administrative Minister: (10-min Steve Walker)

Steve Walker has recently taken this position, and we should hear from Steve how it is going so far.

- How are you spending your time? [Getting to know the staff, which has been helpful. Tom Hunsaker looking at Ameren rebate for RTU-9. Kaylynn was at worship workshop with Marian and Carrie. Focus on team-building w/inigram\(?\) workshop. Next Steps – several new visitors. 25 hours seems about reasonable once gets settled.](#)
- Any surprises or areas that need attention?
- Any feedback from staff on how things are going during this liminal interim period?

3. Children's Minister: (10-min Jeff McGlawn)

Jeff McGlawn has been the interim minister since April 2024. He is also involved in the following ministries: Sunday AV ([PP7 transition & looking at new Mac Mini and streaming hardware](#)), Small Group Leader, Christian Formation Team ([Kryder was taking lead but now McGlawn more active](#)), and Missions Team ([positive with France and Mauritius](#)).

[Children's Ministry – trunk or treat. More outreach for Advent! Rebranding to "Fall Festival" – which is a combo of Trunk-or-Treat and chili cookoff, and moving to Saturday.](#)

[Advent signs out in lobby for voting at building on Tuesday 11/5/2024.](#)

We need to hear from Jeff McGlawn if all of this is sustainable. How he is doing.

[Generally good.](#)

4. Don Fitzgerald Transition: (5-min Don Fitzgerald, 5-min Brad Stevens)

Don Fitzgerald plans to step down as a Shepherd sometime in 2025. We need to know if Brad Stevens needs to update any of the 501(c)(3) documents. If Don is currently an agent, we'll need to replace him.

Also, we'll need to understand when Don plans to step down (hopefully after we have found the replacement Sr Minister).

Dave Weiler – after new minister would be a good time for Don's transition (flexible)

Shepherd-emeritus

5. Aging Congregation: (7-min Bret)

McKnight, like America, is ageing. This is a macro demographic reality. While NextGen remains an important focus, we should also lean into serving our older visitors (also knowing that [America has an aging population](#)). Consider having Don Fitzgerald, Steve Awtry, or Jeff Kryder preach on the theme of "retirement." Retirement is not a time for selfish self-fulfillment, but a time to focus resources more completely on church and family.

6. Shepherd Oversight and Review: (5-min Bret)

Recently, it was confirmed that the elders will review and provide input on the following items before implementation. This is especially important as we are preparing for a new Senior Minister. Previously, Jeff Kryder had oversight for most of 1-3, but Jeff had over 30 years of background and experience with McKnight and Mid-County.

1. Annual Church Calendar
2. Sunday Classes
3. Sermon Series
4. Annual Budget

7. Hospitality: (15-min Steve Awtrey)

Steve Awtrey mentioned the importance of the elders modeling hospitality. Trying to find ways to get smaller groups of the congregation in our homes or provide other opportunities for fellowship. Hospitality is considered a topic for preaching in January & February 2025.

See draft purpose and need for hospitality – [here](#) and **Attachment D**.

Discussion on this item was tabled until next meeting. This is an important topic that needs more time and attention than we were able to give during this meeting.

8. Observations from Lane Hamm: (10-min Steve Walker/all)

See email from Lane Hamm [here](#)

9. Unplanned Requests to Speak from Podium: (5-min Bret)

There are multiple avenues available for members to share prayer requests or updates with the elders, including opportunities to speak with an elder on Sunday mornings before service. Given these options, I believe we should strongly discourage unplanned speaking from the podium.

If someone wishes to address the congregation, I propose that an elder immediately meet with the individual to discuss their request. The elder can then determine if it is appropriate to incorporate the message into the closing comments and prayer, ensuring we maintain an organized and respectful flow of our worship service.

10. People: (20-min all)

{{ various }}

11. Misc

- Flooding at rental property
1346 N. Rock Hill Road 63124 – [video here](#)
- Flooding at MX (classrooms off gym) – [video here](#)

Other documents:

- Sr Minister Search Summary Document – [link](#)
 - 2024 Q4 Preaching Schedule – [link](#)
 - [Rooftop Community Church Statement on Gender and Sexuality.](#) - [link](#)
 - What Do Elders Do? – [link](#)
 - McKnight Crossings Shepherding Model – [link](#)
 - McKnight Crossings Shepherd’s Covenant – [link](#)
 - McKnight Crossings Core Beliefs – [link](#)
 - Note: includes the following statement:
*We affirm that **marriage is ordained by God as a covenant made between a man and a woman, which is the foundation of the family and representative of Christ and His church.** Eph. 5:22-33; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:23-24*
 - McKnight Crossings – Gender Summary (Fall 2014) - [link](#)
 - Note: includes the following statements:
*We, the leadership, have asked ourselves whether we want to be among those contributing to the benefit of the next generation? If so, how? Our answer is that **we would like to do our part to strengthen the body of Christ and the mission of God, by allowing women every role our current understanding of the Scripture will enable***
*Therefore, as a leadership, at this time, **we do not believe that a woman should be the primary teaching minister (which necessarily requires leadership) for the church or serve in the role of an elder.***
*If our principles **allow women to use their gifts more fully ... We will encourage and build upon an inclusive use of gifts ... including leading worship and preaching a sermon.***
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“This is my Bible.

I am what it says I am. I have what it says I have. I can do what it says I can do.

Today I will be taught the Word of God.

I boldly confess: my mind is alert, my heart is receptive, and I will never be the same!”

— Jerry Jones

DRAFT CANDIDATE SCHEDULE

Candidate Summary Document - [here](#)

	Jason Mundie & Family	John Gunter & Family
Dates	November 15-17	November 22-24
Cost estimates:	\$2,300.00	\$1,500.00
• Travel (plane/car)	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
• Car Rental		
• Hotel	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00
Total Estimated Costs:	\$2,950.00	\$2,050.00
Note: additional costs expected for lunches and diners	\$ 280.00	\$ 280.00
Friday evening: • Candidate (& wife) and Staff	15,Nov	22,Nov
Saturday Morning: 9am • Candidate & spouse with all Elder couples	16,Nov	23,Nov (kids in adjacent room)
Saturday Evening: 6-8pm • Ministry leaders, Elder couples, candidate & spouse	16,Nov	23,Nov
Sunday Morning: God's Faithfulness • Candidate preaches and teaches class	17,Nov	24,Nov
Sunday after worship: • Candidate meet and greet congregation in gym	17,Nov	24,Nov

Attachment B

Below notes from Jeff McGlawn, noting scheduled classes for remainder of 2024.

Notes
CFT Meeting
July 8, 2024

- NT Wright series seems to be going well.
 - People are in different places in their faith journey; some still are questioning.
- There is no plan for collecting Back to School Supplies
 - Betty will check with Barb Eickele about the possibility of providing supplies for Food Pantry patrons.
- **The schedule for “But What Does It Mean – Part 2” class is set.**

Date	Name	Topic
29-Sep	Steve Awtrey	Repentance
6-Oct	Travis Myers	Faith
13-Oct	Kaylynn Myers	Kingdom
20-Oct	Todd Mayberry	Justification
27-Oct	Betty Vaughn	Grace & Mercy

- **The next class after the Part 2 class will be “[Living God’s Love](#)”.**
 - Start date: 11/3
 - Teachers: Jeff Fogarty, Jeff McGlawn (if able), Tim Nicholson
 - Class Meeting Dates: 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29

2024 Advent Schedule

This flyer was given to our Trunk-or-Treat visitors.

Note: the topics listed next to the dates are not the sermon topics but the Advent theme.



DRAFT – HOSPITALITY - DRAFT

Elder Hospitality at McKnight Crossings:

The Elders recognize the importance of setting an example of hospitality for our congregation. By practicing hospitality, we not only connect more deeply with our church family but also create opportunities to reach out to our neighbors and the unchurched.

To make this meaningful, hospitality should become a regular practice, not an occasional event. We’re proposing a sustainable hospitality model focused initially on gathering with members in smaller groups, where genuine conversation and fellowship can flourish. While large events have their place, smaller gatherings provide the personal interaction that builds lasting connections.

We encourage each elder to host quarterly hospitality gatherings, either in their homes or other welcoming spaces. The goal is for hospitality to become a lasting and defining feature of McKnight Crossings—one that we as elders are committed to modeling.

Background - The Importance of Hospitality:

Hospitality is a deeply significant aspect of Christian life and community. Throughout the Bible, hospitality is emphasized as both a spiritual gift and an essential practice for believers, rooted in the idea that welcoming others reflects God’s love and grace.

- 1. Biblical Foundations:** In the Old and New Testaments, hospitality is both commanded and modeled. Abraham’s hospitality to strangers in Genesis 18 and Jesus’ interactions with a wide range of people are examples of how welcoming others embodies God’s care. In the New Testament, Jesus emphasizes this in passages like Matthew 25:35-40, where He equates welcoming strangers with welcoming Him. The Apostle Paul also instructs believers to “practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13) as a tangible way to show love.
- 2. Early Church Practice:** In the early church, hospitality was essential for supporting traveling Christians, including missionaries and teachers who depended on the generosity of local believers. Hosting others helped build community, encouraged discipleship, and facilitated the spread of the Gospel.
- 3. Spiritual and Relational Value:** Hospitality goes beyond social kindness; it serves as a bridge for deeper fellowship and discipleship. By inviting people into our lives, we create opportunities for meaningful relationships, service, and the sharing of faith. It is an invitation into God’s love, which can be especially meaningful for those who may feel isolated.
- 4. Contemporary Importance:** For the modern church, hospitality remains a powerful tool for outreach and community building. It helps break down barriers,

fosters belonging, and provides comfort. By opening our homes and church doors, we live out a Gospel that is relational and compassionate, making others feel welcomed and valued.

Hospitality is especially important for church elders, as it is explicitly mentioned as a qualification for their role in the New Testament. In both 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:8, the Apostle Paul lists hospitality as a requirement for elders, highlighting its importance in leadership. This expectation reflects the idea that elders are called to lead by example, showing love and openness that invites people into the church community.

Here's why hospitality is so critical for Elders:

- 1. Modeling Christ-like Leadership:** Elders are not only responsible for teaching and guiding the church but also for embodying Christ's love in their actions. By being hospitable, they demonstrate the warmth and inclusivity that should characterize the church. Their openness sets a standard for the congregation, showing that everyone is valued and welcome.
- 2. Fostering Community and Trust:** Through hospitality, elders create spaces where church members feel safe and known. This helps deepen relationships and build trust within the church, which is crucial for spiritual growth, accountability, and discipleship.
- 3. Strengthening Connections with Newcomers and Members:** A hospitable elder actively reaches out to newcomers, making them feel welcomed and cared for. This goes a long way in making the church feel like a family, encouraging people to stay and engage in the community.
- 4. Providing Spiritual Care:** Hospitality allows elders to engage more personally with members of the congregation, enabling them to understand their struggles, joys, and spiritual needs. This personal connection is vital for shepherding, as it allows elders to provide more effective counsel, prayer, and encouragement.
- 5. Reflecting God's Heart:** Elders are entrusted to reflect the heart of God to the people, and God's nature is profoundly hospitable. By opening their lives and homes to others, elders embody God's invitation for all to come to Him.

For Elders, hospitality is more than just a qualification; it's a ministry that fosters unity, love, and spiritual depth within the church. Through this practice, they provide a living example of Christ's love in action.



DRAFT 2025 Calendar Presented by Steve Walker

MX Calendar 2025

MX Church Event | Holiday | Camp Neotez | NextGen | CFS | Options | ***TBD (non-MX event)

<p><u>January</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fri 24 - Level 50 Game Night – NGS <p><u>February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat 1 Area Wide Leadership Conference • Sat 8 - Father Daughter Date Night – FDDN Committee • Sat 22 - Variety Show – Steve H. & Jeff M. <p><u>March</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat 15 - CFS Marriage Seminar – Eric Mcpherson • Sun 30 - NextGen Sunday – WM (Lead)/NGS (Support) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Church Bowling – Staff <p><u>April</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fri 4 - Camp Neotez Dinner • Sun 6 - Faith in Action – Elders (Awtrey/Fitzgerald) • Sun 20 - Easter – Staff (WM Lead) <p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 Church Retreat – Fellowship Team (Lead)/Staff (Support) • Sun 11 - Mother's Day – Staff (WM Lead) • Sun 18 - Graduation Sunday: Passing the Torch – Staff (YM Lead) <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-4 Vacation Bible School – Staff (CM Lead) • Fri 6 CFS Golf Tournament • 8-14 Camp Neotez: High School • 9-11 Middle School Mission Trip • Sun 15 - Father's Day – Staff (WM Lead) • 15-17 Camp Neotez: Pre-Camp • 22-28 Camp Neotez: Middle School • Sun 29 - NextGen Sunday – WM (Lead)/NGS (Support) 	<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-11 High School Mission Trip • 6-12 Camp Neotez: Boys • 13-19 Camp Neotez: Girls • 20-26 Camp Neotez: All Teen <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun 17 - Back to School Blessing – Staff (WM Lead) • Sun 31 - NextGen Sunday – WM (Lead)/NGS (Support) <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ***Sun 7 - Neotez Volleyball Tournament • Sun 14 - Worship in the Park – Fellowship Team (Lead)/Staff (Support) • ***Sun 21 - CFS Celebration • Sun 28 - Parent Commitment – Staff (CM Lead) <p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat 11 - Women's Prayer Breakfast – WPB Committee • Sat 25 - Fall Festival – NGS (Lead)/Staff (Support) <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun 2 - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Faith in Action – Elders (Awtrey/Fitzgerald) ◦ Fall Food Drive – Food Pantry • ***Sat 8 - CFS Trivia Night • Sun 16 - Snowflakes for Warmth – Staff • Sun 30 - NextGen Sunday – WM (Lead)/NGS (Support) <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun 14 - Pancake Breakfast – Elders (Lead)/Staff (Support) • Wed 24 - Christmas Eve Service – Staff (WM Lead)
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Not Needed on Calendar Handout

- Potential Fellowship Meals
- Mother's + Father's Day

Event Leads

CM – Children's Minister | YM – Youth Minister | WM – Worship Minister | NGS – NextGen Staff (CM+YM) | Staff – CM+YM+WM+Admin