

The Ministry of the Layman

The ministry of the layman is once again becoming an important part in the work of the Church. As in the early Church, in many places the layman is again a full partner with the minister in the evangelistic, educational and stewardship programs of the Church. The erroneous philosophy of "it's the minister's job—let him do it," has given way in many churches to a clear recognition that all lay members, and particularly elders and deacons, can provide a special vitality to the witness of the Church. Many tasks for Christ can be done more effectively by the layman, who can often find it easier to reach the unreached than the minister, or who can provide fresh ideas and suggestions or a special organizational know-how.

The "priesthood of the laity" has always been a cardinal belief of Presbyterianism, but for many it has been one of those beliefs which gets lip-service but sees very little service of any other kind. The Presbyterian form of government, giving a prominent place to the lay leader, lays special stress upon the priesthood of the laity. This has meant that the activity or inactivity of laymen in the Presbyterian Church determines the success or apathy of a congregation, and of the whole Church, itself. This is thought by some to be one of the key explanations for the tremendous growth and vitality exhibited in our Church during recent years—for lay leadership is no longer abdicating its responsibility.

In every Church court, from session through presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, the layman has his full share of responsibility. Of course, the great sessions—the great churches—are those in which the layman accepts this responsibility. On this Layman's Sunday, remember that God has given a solemn trust to the preacher in the pew, as well as the one in the pulpit.

Men Wanted

*God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor—men who will not lie.*

—Josiah Gilbert Holland

The Ideal Elder

The ideal elder is one who is deeply conscious that he is a trustee of grace and not of property. As such, he refuses to allow the manners and traditions of society to frustrate this grace of God. He loves nothing above the truth and is willing for it to lead him where it will. He believes strongly in freedom. He instinctively makes friends, he does not purposely make enemies. But in choosing principle above popularity he accepts opposition and hostility with good nature. The caliber of his love enables him to treat friend and foe alike. His mind is fascinated by changeless truths and by changing times. It distinguishes the difference between ways old-fashioned and the Way Eternal. His character impresses us that the faith of our fathers is just as firm in modern forms. The ideal elder is timeless. He shall be in the grand company of the saints on that final day.

—First Presbyterian Church News, Columbus, Ga.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL,
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S.

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H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS



October 21, 1956

Presbyterian
CHURCH

AIMWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ridgeway, South Carolina

Joseph D. Beale, Pastor

October 21, 1956

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

- Prelude Mrs. J. L. Coleman
- Call to Worship
- *Doxology
- *Invocation and Disciple's Prayer
- Responsive Reading Selection 32
- *Hymn 19 "Our God, Our Help In Ages Past"
- Scripture Reading
- Organ Meditation (Let us bow in silent prayer)
- Pastoral Prayer
- Hymn 395 "O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling"
- Announcements
- Worship God With Our Tithes and Offerings
- *Memory Hymn "We Gather Together To Ask The Lord's Blessing"
- Sermon by the pastor
- Prayer of Dedication
- *Hymn 296 "Soldiers Of Christ, Arise"
- *Invitation
- *Benediction and Choral Response
- Postlude

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Aimwell and Longtown will be on the air Oct. 25

It has been the oversight of your pastor on so many occasions to notify his members of the time of broadcast on WACA Camden. Our time is 9 A.M. October 25, 1956.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

The officers and people of this church bid you welcome to our sanctuary. It is a blessing we look forward to each Lord's Day as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ, to glorify God our heavenly Father and to enjoy Him forever.

Will you join with us in praise and adoration of Christ our Saviour? If you have not believed upon the only begotten Son of God and received the promise of God, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life, then come today and live in newness of life.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

As we joined in singing this wonderful hymn last Tuesday evening at the manse amid a tremendous pile of gifts, your pastor had to fight back emotion to remain a man. Surely the surprise of Christian friends and gifts were startling to your pastor but I give special thanks to Mrs. J.W. Starnes for suggesting this appropriate hymn of thanksgiving.

Today I deem it a blessing indeed once again standing in your pulpit to expound God's Word.

Hope you can come. Sing 3. Crumley

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

On Tuesday night October 23, at 7 O'clock, the women of the Church will hear a review by Mrs. C.E. McDonald of Winnsboro, on the Church Extension Book "Bright Future" by Dr. James Carr. This presentation will be made in our own church auditorium. Following the book review a Family Nite Supper will be served in the Fellowship Building by the Women of the Church. A Special offering for Church Extension will be taken.

EVERY FAMILY OF THE CHURCH IS CORDIALLY INVITED AND URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SPECIAL CHURCH CAUSE.

CHOIR WORK TO BEGIN MONDAY AND THURSDAY

The doctor says your pastor must not drive for one more week, so I am therefore asking the parents of our children to cooperate with us in bringing the choir members to the church at 4 O'clock Monday afternoon for the Cherub Choir, 4 O'clock Thursday P.M. for the Junior and Senior Choir.