

# It's Time

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On January 6, 1980, the Karns elders, Harold Duncan, Frank Huber, and Stan Hornbaker asked me to deliver the Sunday morning sermon. They thought a new elder should "preach" as part of his appointment to the eldership. On the Saturday night before, there was a winter storm and only Margaret, our three children and a handful of hearty members were present to hear that sermon.

A very wise man wrote, *There is a time for every purpose under heaven* (Eccl. 3:1). It is March 5, 2017, and now is the time for me to step down from the Karns eldership.

Why now?

I suppose every elder desires to step down when the congregation he serves is united and growing and has good leaders. The remaining six elders are all capable and faithful men. The three elders recently appointed have meshed well with the others. I love and respect all of these men. The congregation has 21 deacons, including eight who were recently appointed, to support the growing membership. The many good and faithful members of the Karns congregation continue to serve and sacrifice for the Lord and His church. They love the Lord and each other.

The Karns congregation is poised to become a leading church in this area. The ministers, Steve Higginbotham and Justin Morton, are among the best. No additional adjectives are needed. The school of preaching, Southeast, under the direction of Will Hanstein, will continue to build upon the good work of those who have preceded him. Southeast's best days are ahead.

Serving as an elder of the Karns congregation has been an honor and a rewarding experience. Being selected to serve as an elder on two separate occasions is extra special. But, now is the time for Margaret and me to take our seats in the pews with the other three men who have served as elders of the Karns congregation. This is not a goodbye but a transition from leader to supporter of the elders, deacons and ministers and co-worker with the Karns members.

-- Don Denton