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Editor's Notes

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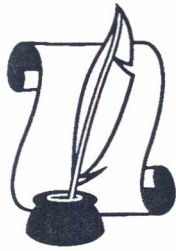


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Editor's Note

This issue marks our first of the second cycle in publication. It took us longer than we had hoped to reach this point, but feel confident that from this point on we should be able to bring to you four issues per year. The early days of **Leaven** have been full of learning experiences. Realistic schedules for an all-volunteer publication, editorial processes and tasks, software compatibilities, billing and circulation matters, and countless other details have provided us a challenge that we underestimated.

The good news, however, is that we have learned from our mistakes and our learning should provide a better and more consistent product in the future.

I am excited about this issue and those that follow in this publication year. Wayne Dockery, Paul Watson, and Wendell Willis have put together a helpful issue on church organization. The role of elders in our tradition has come under magnified scrutiny in recent times. Are they "shepherds?" What does that mean? What kinds of authority do they have? One contribution this issue makes to this discussion is that it asks us take notions of power within the "community of faith" seriously. This issue also allows us to hear practical words of advice from some elders who are respected for the service they provide their congregations.

As with all of our issues, the "features" section of the journal is outstanding. Of particular interest is Leonard Allen's historical sketch of a neglected figure from our past, Robert Richardson. Book reviews and resources of varied kinds will continue to be at the heart of **Leaven's** purpose.

Our next three issues will focus on the "Ministry of Consolation," "The Restoration Ideal," and "Children in the Church." Each promises to bring biblical, theological, practical, and devotional insight to the topic under discussion.

You can help us make this year a success by renewing your subscription and being prompt with your payments. Thank you for the numerous letters of encouragement. Please pray for this endeavor so that the contents of our issues will have a leavening influence for the growth of the kingdom.