

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

“...churches of Christ salute you” (Rom 16:16)
Established 33 AD

October 19, 2015
Volume 7 Number 39

1202 N. Belt Line Road
Irving, TX 75061
972/790-8606
972/790-3897 (fax)

Web site:
www.beltlinechurch.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday:
Bible Class..... 9:00 a.m.
AM Worship...10:00 a.m.
PM Worship.... 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:
Bible Study.... 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday:
Ladies' Bible Class(Sept.–Apr.)
Class meets at 10 a.m.

Evangelist

Don Hatch
Email:
don-hatch@sbcglobal.net

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

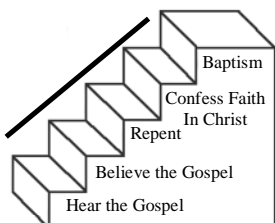
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

CUSTODIANS

Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

**THE GOSPEL PLAN
OF SALVATION**

Hear-Romans 10:17
Believe-John 8:24
Repent-Acts 17:30
Confess-Romans 10:10
Be Baptized-Acts 22:16
Saved - in Christ (Galatians 3:27)



Religion

Don Hatch

The word religion is from a compound word meaning to **read over again, binding fast, reflect upon** or to **study** a sacred volume in which the acts of religion are portrayed. Religion furnishes a true ground of obligations. Religion commonly means there is a set of beliefs, practices and associated laws which govern those within its convictions. These beliefs are bound fast and held as supreme. Judaism is translated religion (Galatians 1:13, 14) and supports the view that there was a revealed set of beliefs, practices and associated laws which govern an entire nation.

Nature cannot give man a proper idea of God, nor inform man of worship which will be accepted and does not tell him how he can recover from sin. Nature affords no intelligent idea of immortality, soul, and resurrection, future state of man, happiness or misery. True religion is not a result of man's investigation, but an extraordinary communication from God and is therefore infallible. Christianity is not merely reasoning or anything which originated with man's study, but a result of divine revelation. The means God choose to confirm the revelation were miracles, signs and mighty works (Heb 2:1-5).

The acts of true religion are generated by a sacred volume studied. Hence, Christianity refers to devout concepts and practices derived from the New Testament. As a religion Christianity has certain beliefs and practices centered on Christ and what His church must do to be pleasing.

The primary presupposition of Christianity is Jesus Christ. He is proved from within the sacred pages and without by historical items which cannot be confounded or refuted.

Christianity had as its fountainhead the Jewish people, practices and sacred volume (Old Testament). These are undeniable. Moreover the Jewish Bible had been proven to be authentic through it prophecies and subsequent fulfillment. Therefore the Jew practiced a revealed religion. They were set apart from the pagans who invented theirs (Acts 17:22-34). When the New Testament church began its claims were based upon the facts that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. Miracles were performed to prove what was being said as

authentically from God.

Miracles were performed in the first century miracles to confirm what was being taught and practiced. Once confirmed they need not be reconfirmed. Such miracles were undeniable in their days. Those far removed from such events cannot deny them because they were not there to prove or disprove. They must take the word of those upon whom the miracles were performed or who were eyewitnesses of the event (often times over 500 people or more 1 Corinthians 15:1-10). Modern man is forced to believe in miracles during the first century because they were minutely scrutinized and investigated. None done by Apostles or those upon whom they had bestowed the power to perform miracles were ever proven to be false. The false were quickly discovered and discredited. The Apostles claimed miracles performed in Jesus name were because of His divinity, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father (Acts 2; 3; 4; Romans 1:1-7). Miracles were credentials for the bearer of the good news. They were signs of a special mission and realization of the purposes of God in regard to humanity.

A rigid monotheistic **religion** like Christianity leaves but one way to escape the authority of miracles, denial. Once they had been acknowledged as such and demonstrated as not being merely a sleight of hands they must be accepted. Not being able to renounce the miracles, doubters, consequently must say they worked such by the power of Beelzebub (Devil). Skeptics, historical critics, rationalist, modernist and "free-thinkers" have never been able to escape the harmony of miracles and a higher order (God).

Religion is divided into seeing things to worship in the natural world [birds, snakes, animals] and divinely revealed in the context of the Bible. Natural religion acknowledges and respects a god because of the things found in nature. Performing items designed by man is inferior to the revealed religion. Manufacturing religious practices falls short of revealed religion (Rom 1:18-23). Exercising of our rational faculties invents god and what we want him to be. By revealed religion it is understood that the holy scriptures define what is pleasing to God in worship and personal living. Natural religion accurately speaking fails to find how to worship God in spirit and truth. Without revelation, history reveals that mankind is destitute of divine wisdom and will eventually turn to barbarism and evils of every kind. As far as has been observed nature cannot give us a proper idea of God, enlighten us into what is acceptable to him and how we can be recovered from sins. The greatest moralists fail to find God. Search the scriptures (Jn 5:39).

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

Psalms 85:4-7 NKJV

⁴Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your anger toward us to cease. ⁵Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? ⁶Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? ⁷Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation.

This prayer asks that God “restore” the nation of Israel. They wanted to be “revived” again. They knew that they were not pleasing to God in their present state. They were not enjoying the wrath of God and wanted help from Him to revive their love and devotion to the all Mighty. We all need a revival in our personal lives from time to time. It is especially needed in the times that we live in now. We must start from within ourselves to be dedicated to the commitments that we have made to our Lord and Savior. We must serve Him to show our love and appreciation for His mercy and grace. This week the elders are trying to help all of us with a revival of our spirits through the lessons from our Brother Stephen Bailey. Sunday’s lessons were inspiring and exciting from a gifted minister of God’s word. Please do not miss this week’s opportunity of enriching your soul with a revival that will last through eternity.

Genesis 45:27 NKJV

But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

Jacob was revived when he first heard that Joseph was still alive. We should be revived each day as we remember Jesus’ promise of eternal life with God for each obedient follower. Start your morning with a prayer for more dedication and service to the King and end the day with a prayer of thanksgiving for the Master’s love. The Belt Line Road Church of Christ can be revived and grow again, it’s up to you and me. The elders and the preacher can’t do it alone, it takes individual faithful Christians to help make this congregation grow. The revival starts within each one of us. Will you pray to God to help you be one of that number?

Nehemiah 4:6

So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work.

Revelation 2:23

I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

May God find faithful minds and hearts in us.--Richard Renfro

“And now, brethren, I know that in ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But the things which God foreshowed by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing (*revival-dh*) from the presence of the Lord; and that he may send the Christ who hath been appointed for you, even Jesus: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, whereof God spake by the mouth of His holy prophets that have been from of old” (Acts 3:17-21).

A Guest- Don Hatch

As a guest in our midst what does a first time visitor see in a worship service of the church of Christ? Most visitors do not have any experience in worship as it is conducted in a faithful congregation of the Lord’s church. Some visitors may have been led to believe we have no music, while others have a misunderstanding concerning the manner of worship. They might have been told that we are cold, formal and rigid, lacking joy and spirituality in our order of worship because we do not clap, raise hands, sway back and forth or “ad lib” during the songs. Some of our own preachers have even called the church of Christ offensive to the “unchurched”. Much has been made about the simple form used calling it merely the “traditions of the church of Christ” (i.e. prayer, songs, prayer, songs, Lord’s supper, contribution, lesson, song of invitation, final song and closing prayer). **Little is ever said about the fact that this form can be replicated in the poorest or richest of situations, in any part of the world.** All that is needed are willing hearts, the Bible, fruit of the vine, unleavened bread and if desired song books (some places in the world sing from memory, not having song books). What we hope all will see is a faithful congregation of the church of Christ where Christ is exalted, God is worshiped and spiritual folks are doing spiritual acts arising from spiritual direction found in the Bible (just as they did in the first century church).

The absence of artifacts, statues, paintings, choir and loft, musical instruments, processional and recessional music, mourner’s bench, genuflecting before a cross, holy water, altar, rites, rituals, dedication of babies, special fount for baptism, “clergy” in special robes and many other activities may be perceived as odd. These activities and actions are foreign to the Bible and the church of Christ. However, many of our religious neighbors see them weekly while never giving much consideration to them until they find out we do not use them.

What we hope to show is a forthright service toward God, without diversions and a simple message that all are to engage into the fellowship and worship. There are no distractions, only an awareness of self, others and the purpose of gathering.

As men arise to serve, in leading prayer, songs, etc. the impression to the visitor is that these men are members of a congregation but **momentarily rise to the level of leadership and then return to being a part of the congregation.** The feeling of joint participation and essential equality of all members must appear meaningful and fruitful to the building up of the body of believers in love.

Upon entering a place of worship there is a feeling of community, concern and mutual love is being manifested with each one being greeted in love and respect. By a simple visual survey, the visitor should see children present and have not been shuffled off to another area because the worship is too deep for them. **Children can and do learn how to worship in a congregational setting by seeing families together, older members still involved and hearing prayers for various members in hours of need or rejoicing.** Concern and support of various programs are recognized and promoted in order that all may benefit.

Finally the congregation, taking time to make each visitor welcome in a genuine and affectionate manner, speaking volumes about hospitality and visitors must feel that we have asked nothing of them but reverence, decency and order. Our only desire is that they will come back to learn more about God.

As they leave we want our visitors to take with them the gospel message of Christ’s life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, kingship, being head over the church and the truth which can make them free. We are not so strange after all.

Family News:

News at Belt Line.
Call in your information to the office at:
972-790-8606 by Sunday evening.

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

October 25, 2015

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: Donna Davis & Doris Selby

November 1, 2015

Front foyer: Thomas Rathbun & Nancy Pond

Back foyer: Dale & Katherine Cox

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium to collate tracts. Please come help us and enjoy the Christian fellowship.

Contribution Counters For October

Robert Taylor & Darrell Allen

Communion Preparation For October

Jerry Grantham

LADIES

Ladies please mark your calendars for each **Tuesday** morning for **Ladies Bible Class**. Class begins at **10 a.m.** in the Annex. Lesson for **Oct 20th** will be **"Work VS Laziness"**. Please invite your friends to join us.

**HAVE YOU INVITED
SOMEONE TO WORSHIP
THIS WEEK?**

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, J.C. and Dessie Ross, Don and Margaret Lewis, Frances Tipton, Diedra Sutton, Vera Gleghorn, Tom Prince, Virginia Stull, Ruben Melendez, Tom Head

Homebound Members:

Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, J.C. & Dessie Ross

Recovering at Home:

There are many dealing with short term health issues. Please remember them in your prayers.

Hospital:

Laquita Baker was admitted to MCA Hospital in Arlington. She is in room #240.

Robert Ruckman is in Parkland Hospital with 4 broken ribs as a result of a fall.

Nursing Home:

Dorothy Smith – Avalon
Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft
Donna Ruth, sister-in-law of Don Hatch was moved to The Villages on MacArthur for rehab.

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

Special Request:

Rachel Moran's (visitor) sister passed away in Alabama. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Prayers have been requested on behalf of **Mel Stinett** as he is having quadruple by-pass surgery.

Linda Head's daughter, **Debra Gomez** will be starting cancer treatments and needs our prayers.

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Ken Lee** and family on the

passing of his mother. Funeral services were today in Gruver, Texas

Sermon Titles

October 25, 2015

a.m: "God Is Triumphant"

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-4

p.m: "Effective Communication With God"

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-8

November 1, 2015

a.m: "The People Of God"

Scripture: Romans 4:17-25

p.m: "Habits"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

THANK YOU

Dear Belt Line,

Thank you so much for your kindness, calls, and visits during Bo Elston passing.

The Elston Family

We would like to thank you so very much for all the cards, visits and calls during Tom's stay in the hospital. The kindness to us helped and made our long stay easier to go thru.

In Christian Love,

Tom & Linda Head

NEW ADDRESS

We are sad to announce that the Melendez family will be moving in with one their daughter's in the next two weeks in Colorado. They have asked for our continued prayers and hope this is only temporary.

Address will be:

Ruben, Anita, Malina Melendez
704 N. Pine Street
Colorado Springs, CO. 80905

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10/27/15 – Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Anne Herriage – 10/5
- Gearldean Jones – 10/8
- Annette Kaiser – 10/10
- Walt LaHaye – 10/11
- Mary Bowen – 10/12
- Carolyn Renfro – 10/14
- Brandon Howard – 10/18
- Janie Walker – 10/19
- Marinell Zaun – 10/20
- Tori Morris – 10/21
- Jan Smithson – 10/22
- Richard Renfro – 10/22
- Stephanie Howard – 10/22
- Letitia Beverly – 10/26
- Bobby England – 10/30
- Sandy Hall – 10/31

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Bobby & Brenda England – 10/9
- Robert & Betty Ruckman – 10/10
- Richard & Carolyn Renfro – 10/15
- Darrell & Melissa Allen – 10/24

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
please contact Curtis Vaughan:
(469) 216-7580*

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
(USPS 110820) published weekly except the first 3 weeks of July and the last 2 weeks of December at 1202 N. Belt Line Rd., Irving, Texas 75061. Periodicals postage paid at Irving, Texas.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Belt Line Rd. Church of Christ, 1202 N. Belt Line Rd., Irving, Texas 75061

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		10/25/15	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Richard Renfro
· Dean Webb	· Bobby England		· Jerry Baker
· Nathan Allen	· Robert Taylor		· Dean Webb
· Kenny Mayer	· Dale Cox		
· Robert Ruckman	· Curtis Vaughan		<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· John Mayer			· Don Herriage
· Purman Cofer			Exodus 12:1-4
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
			· Jerry McKey
			· Don Herriage
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Mike Garrison			· Kenny Mayer
· Thomas Rathbun			Philippians 4:4-8
<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
· Robert Taylor			· Jerry Baker
<u>A.M. SONG LEADER</u>			
· Darrell Allen			

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	51	67	62	100
A.M. Worship	103	105	102	150
P.M. Worship	66	79	67	80
Wed. Class	43	43	60	85
Contribution	\$5441	\$6345	\$5432	\$5098

MISSIONS

- Glen Tattersall – Australia
- Roland & Rose Moshen – France
- Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma – Australia
- Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
- David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT
- Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
- Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
- Christ's Haven Children's Home – Keller, TX
- Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
- Ted Lingren – Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
- Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
- Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – Wotutu, Cameroon
- Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
- Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo
- Mike Batot – Southwest School of Bible Studies – Austin, TX
- Carlos Tario – Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, TX
- Daniel Garza – Southwest School of Bible Studies – Austin, TX
- Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID
AT IRVING, TEXAS**