



Where families worship,
serve and raise their
children

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

December 7, 2015
Volume 7 Number 45

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

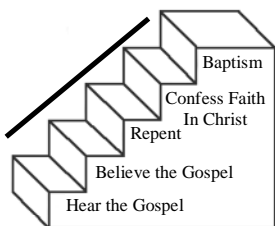
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Witness

Don Hatch

A witness is one who has a first-hand, eyewitness account of events which took place and can verify with accuracy these actions. Jesus chose the apostles to be his witnesses (Acts 1:8) and they were specially guided to give faithful and true accounts of the things of which they spoke by reason of the Holy Spirit, whose mission was to guide these special witnesses into all truth (John 14:17; 16:13). The Holy Spirit was not given to everyone in the first century. He was for the purpose of guiding into all truth (John 14:25-31) and therefore not all could be witnesses of the entire truth of the gospel. The word witness is used in a sense of the **forensic** (2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19), **historic** (Luke 11:48; Acts 3:15), about **martyrdom** (Acts 22:20; Revelation 2:13) or **personal viewing** (Acts 10:39, 41; 13:31). Each time the word is used it identifies items vouchsafed from personal knowledge or inspired understanding. **Never** is the word used to imply that one could be called to “**bear witness**” who was not there to actually view the processes or who had not been inspired to know accurately historical events (i.e. Moses’ account of creation). An example is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:6, those who **actually** saw Jesus after his resurrection could be called upon to be witnesses. No one else could be called witnesses.

Following the first century there were no witnesses in the true sense of the word. All who followed the last Apostle gave testimony of the transformation comprehended in the individuals who began to follow Jesus, to the **fulfillment** of prophecies, **divine approval**, **power** in the resurrection and **certification** of faithfulness. Following the Apostolic period one could not with accuracy **bear witness**, but could **only testify**.

False witnesses have abounded in history (Matthew 26:59-62). Those who are out of sympathy with God will bear false witness. The quickened (made alive) Christian, as in Ephesians 2:1-10, teaches the Scriptures. **Translation** out of the power of darkness was not brought about by a miracle, but rather compliance to the oracles of God vouchsafed by eye-witnesses of the first century (Colossians 1:9-23). One can verify that **prophecies** were fulfilled because of clear biblical teachings. No one would know such prophecies were fulfilled unless God said so. God confirmed them with signs and wonders (Heb 2:1-11).

The church can **verify** that it was **purchased** (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). She can **authenticate** that she is **preserved** because of the promises given (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:18-20). She can **corroborate** that she is **precious** in the sight of God, and **substantiate** that she is **privileged** (Ephesians 1:3-13; Hebrews 4:14-16). She can **justify** her statement of being **empowered to speak on the Lord’s behalf** (Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:18-20). She may **identify joy** (Philippians 4:4-7) and her **claims** to wear **the name of Christ** (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). In each specimen the only means of **assertion** must be **based upon what the Bible teaches**. Christianity is not a subjective, better felt than taught religion, but an objective one which uses book, chapter and verse to **authenticate** any **experience** taking place in lives of the believers. Its validity consists in certifiable, objective facts. In both Testaments, objective facts appear as a primary standard for establishing and testing claims of truth. **Uncertifiable subjective claims, opinions, and beliefs**, on the contrary, appear as inadmissible testimony. Even the testimony of one witness is insufficient—for *testimony to be acceptable, it must be established by two or three witnesses*.

The legal sense of a witness in the presentation of evidence plays a decisive role in the New Testament’s promotion of the gospel. In the New Testament, reliable historical evidence is a handmaiden to the significance of the gospel message. Eyewitness testimony was of utmost importance.

Confidence in the gospel teachings on salvation is directly proportional to the Bible’s historical reliability of the events themselves. It would have been incredulous for Jewish Christians (Apostles) to use the Old Testament legal procedure for establishing the legitimacy of the gospel via the testimony of multiple witnesses, if all the while knowing that historically the events had not given Jesus Christ glory and preeminence as the crucified, resurrected Son of God, seated at the right hand of the Father. Yet they gave **testimony** based upon the eye-witness accounts of others. **Transformation** in brethren was because of faithfulness and adherence to what transpired in the way they had claimed it was enacted. Obviously Jewish opponents of Christianity would have been able to find bonafide witnesses to refute the legitimacy of the Apostles’ claims if their statements were wrong. Therefore, believers facing persecution and possible martyrdom for **bearing testimony** to the Word of God and Jesus were able to **confirm** the reliability of the message preached. In modern times there are no eye-witnesses to the New Testament events. We believe because there is so much evidence presented by those of the first century. Beware of **false witnesses, even brethren** who **claim to be speaking the truth** (Gal 1:6-10). The Bible is beyond dispute. Trust it as a valid guide to hope, peace and the security of the soul.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

As we come to the close of 2015 let us think about the importance of courage. Ambrose Redmoon once said “*Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.*”

When we turn to the Bible we find in the second letter to Timothy, Paul made the marvelous declaration that “*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*”—**2 Timothy 1:7**. Paul understood that much of the dysfunctional behavior he observed in society could be attributed to a lack of courage needed to face life’s challenges effectively. The kind of fear that causes emotional paralysis and disables people from moving forward productively with their lives does not come from God. To the contrary, He is the one who provides the spiritual power that equips people to handle and difficulty that come their way. It is important not to confuse courage with recklessness. Those who enjoy taking risks are better classified as thrill seekers rather than courageous.

Courage is the inner capacity that enables a person to move ahead toward meaningful goals and objectives in life. It is not the absence of fear but the stamina to continue on course despite potentially debilitating fears. The Bible is filled with accounts of men and women whose faith and courage helped them overcome great obstacles in life. Before entering Canaan, Moses charged Joshua and the Israelites, “*Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.*”—**Deuteronomy 31:6**. Moses knew that an awareness of God’s abiding presence would kindle Joshua’s courage. **A sense of God’s closeness still ignites courage in believers today.** Daniel is a classic example of courage rooted in the right relationship with God. When he was taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, he grappled with many fears while adjusting to his new life. Daniel refused to be dominated by despair. Maintaining a covenant relationship with God was his top priority and the key to his future success.

So we should be courageous in our endeavors each and every day. We know that God loves us and is always close by. Next week we will talk again about courage and the love of God.

Jerry McKey

Watching an individual pass through doubts, danger and troublesome times will manifest the courage within. It is when the true utterances are wrung from the recesses of the soul that we know the deep and abiding faith within. All of life’s journeys are tested and brought into line. The occasional bumps or holes in the road are unpleasant surprises. There will be days when everything goes wrong and days when all is peaceful. When the world falls apart is when we turn to Him from whom all blessings flow (Jas 1:17). The Christian can step forward to enable a fellow sojourner brave the storms of life (Gal 6:1-10). Truehearted bravery is costly but there is no substitute for it. **D. Hatch**

Prayers In The Bible

The Old Testament, as a tutor, establishes a foundation, form and fruit of communication with heaven. The ancients constantly plied piety, humility and thanksgiving as they looked up and lifted their eyes to God from whence all blessing flow.

Prayer was more than a recital, it was an outpouring of souls in need, requesting wisdom, beseeching for fellowship, and were living testimony that God is unsearchable and that he cares for His creature. Beset by persecutions, wars, diseases, foes from within and without they naturally turned to one greater than all, believing His providence would supply and redeem them from earthly trials. They demonstrated the power of mediating on God both day and night.

Prayer is the desire, privilege and opportunity to talk with the Creator and Sustainer of life. In the early years of the human race mankind communicated with God. It was a correspondence with the throne of glory. The brief biographies of these ancient men and women vividly reveal that one can “walk with God”. Amos’ question was “can two walk together except they agree” (Amos 3:3). The manifestation of maintaining a common fellowship with God is seen being perpetuated in love and integrity.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboreth? I have seen the travail which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised therewith. He hath made everything beautiful in its time: also he hath set eternity in their heart, yet so that man cannot find out the work that God hath done from the beginning even to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them, than to rejoice, and to do good so long as they live. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy good in all his labor, is the gift of God. I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it; and God hath done it, that men should fear before him. That which is hath been long ago; and that which is to be hath long ago been: and God seeketh again that which is passed away (Eccl 3:1-15).

Whatsoever is under the sun there will be a place for justice to prevail and wickedness to be overcome, if not in this life, in the world to come. There is a time for the house of faith to have confidence in God’s manifest wisdom. There is a purpose for our every deed done in His name (2 Tim 3:1-16). When we set our hearts to fulfill His task and work mightily towards its completion we have a Helper and Sustainer. To the saints death is not the end; it is a new horizon and fresh new world wherein God will be praised. The spirit of man, made in the image of God is made to have fellowship with Him throughout eternity. What better thing to employ our lives than fulfilling His will?

Don Hatch

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

December 13, 2015

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy
Taylor

Back foyer: Henry Seidmeyer &
Thomas Rathbun

December 20, 2015

Front foyer: Don & Anne
Herriage

Back foyer: Bobby & Brenda
England

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 December

Mike Garrison & Walt LaHaye

Communion Preparation For December

Bobby & Brenda England

Sermon Titles

December 13, 2015

a.m: "A Man For His Time"

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-7

p.m: "Lord Search Me"

Scripture: Psalms 139:1-10

December 20, 2015

a.m: "A Champion"

Scripture: Micah 1:2-7

p.m: "Joy Bells Ring"

Scripture: Psalms 84:9-12

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, J.C.
and Dessie Ross, Don and
Margaret Lewis, Frances Tipton,
Diedra Sutton, Tom Prince,
Ruben Melendez, Tom Head,
David & Faye West, Willie
Alvarenga, Laquita Baker, Robert
Ruckman, Glen Kelly

Homebound Members:

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

Recovering at Home:

Don Herriage was sick last week.
Anne Herriage went to the doctor
last week as she has not been
feeling well.

Billy Joe Swain had a heart attack
last week. A stint was put in and
he is recovering at home.

Polly Roses is not feeling well.

Billie Prince has a cold and **Tom**
is also not feeling well.

Nursing Home:

Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft

Elsie Nanney is temporarily at
Avante – room #311 for rehab
after falling several weeks ago.

Special Request:

Bobby England's aunt, **Sheila
Smith** is having surgery on
Tuesday and has requested our
prayers on her behalf.

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

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

39'ers

The **39'ers** will meet on
December 14th this month at 6:30
p.m. in the Annex instead of the
usual 3rd Monday due to the
upcoming holiday. Please bring
food and enjoy the wonderful
fellowship.

NEW LESSON

On December 13th **Jerry Mckey**
will be starting a new study on
Ephesians in the small
auditorium class.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the
family of **Dorothy Smith**. She
passed away yesterday at Avalon
Alzheimer's Care Home.
Services are pending at this time.

Who am I?

My home was in the area of
Lystra and Derbe, cities of
Lycaonia, in Central Asia Minor
(Acts 14:6; 16:1)

I was imprisoned at one time
(Hebrews 13:23)

LADIES

Ladies please mark your
calendars for **Tuesday** morning
for **Ladies Bible Class**. Class
begins at **10 a.m.** in the Annex.
Lesson for **Dec. 8th** will be "**The
Merry Heart**". We will be filling
Goodie Bags. Please invite your
friends to join us.

**Please bring non perishable
items to go in the Goodie Bags.
We will be filling the bags on
Dec. 8th.**

Ladies this will be our last class
until the first of the year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/8/15 – Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

12/14/15 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday night time change starting on 1/6/16 – will be at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Grady Fowler – 12/1
- Ann Bruce – 12/5
- Lotah Franklin – 12/6
- Virginia Stull – 12/6
- Max Melton – 12/7
- Brent Howard – 12/10
- Elizabeth Garrison – 12/13
- Crystal Morris – 12/13
- Virgil LaFerney – 12/17
- Linda Matthews – 12/17
- Kim Mayer – 12/20
- Carol Lee – 12/24
- Kent Conner – 12/27
- Brenda England – 12/29
- Lovetta Smith – 12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Bill* & Carolyn Montgomery – 12/22
- David & Judy Odom – 12/31

*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>		12/13/15	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		
· Richard Renfro	· Thomas Rathbun		· Jerry McKey
· Curtis Vaughan	· Dale Cox		· Dale Cox
· Purman Cofer	· Nathan Allen		· Bill Matthews
· Dean Webb	· Robert Taylor		
· John Mayer			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Kenny Mayer			· Curtis Vaughan
			1 Kings 17:1-7
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
			· Ken Lee
			· Darrell Allen
			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
			· Alex Mayer
			Psalms 139:1-10
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Jerry McKey

LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)

- Nathan Allen
- Don Herriage

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Darrell Allen

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Jerry Baker

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	60	58	62	100
A.M. Worship	88	104	102	150
P.M. Worship	63	70	67	80
Wed. Class	58	50	59	85
Contribution	\$4350	\$7587	\$5601	\$5098

MISSIONS

- Glen Tattersall – Australia
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – 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
- 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**