

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

March 20, 2017
Volume 9 Number 12

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.... 7:00 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

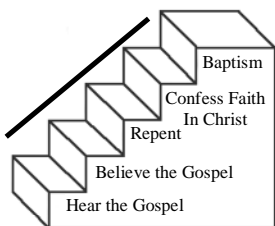
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



A Pattern

Don Hatch

Some are resolute that the church of Christ must be without structure. They are restructuring congregations in accordance with “traditions of men” removing all vestiges of the Ancient Order while still wanting it to be the “church of Christ”. They seek to position her in the likeness of other churches of the modern era. Many boast of “traditional”, “contemporary” and “modern” worship with the hope that some will approve of what they have become. Using every device known to modern man some dress the church in “filthy rags” hoping to be appealing by deceitful enticements. Once the premise is accepted that the church can be changed at the whim of men there is no authority for the church to exist. If the Bible is denied and fellowship is without bounds there is no reason to be a church of Christ. No one can deny that there are shortcomings in many congregations. Yet it does not follow that a restoration of the 1st century Christianity cannot be effectually placed into the modern era. Shortcomings of the 1st century are not restored, but only that which manifestly pleased God.

The New Testament Church is designed. If not there are wasted terms that characterize, recognize, portray and explain what the plan of God was from the foundation of the earth (Eph 1:3-13). The **appellations** used for her are self-explanatory. **The Church of God** identifies her as belonging to Jesus Christ who was God with us (Matt 1:18-20; 1 Cor 1:2; 10:31; 15:9; 1 Tim 3:5; Acts 20:28). It would be ludicrous to assume that what was planned and named is left up to man to change because of changing social outcries. **The body of Christ** cannot go through **cosmetic surgery** to add several other bodies to a single head. It would be a freak and destined to being in a sideshow in history (Col 1:18,24; Eph 4:12; 5:23). **The Kingdom of God** was established and remains unshakable (Heb 12:28; Mk 9:1; Acts 1:3; 8:12; 19:8; Jn 3:1-7). If man can change the kingdom it must follow that they have overthrown it. If Christ were not King, having all authority in heaven and earth, He

would not be God. Man has no authority to change one item in the kingdom. To be in the **Kingdom of the Son of His love** is because one has been translated out of darkness into the light (Col 1:13). Such a statement would be meaningless if those who serve the devil gain control over the church and can restructure her to suit modern worshipers. The words conversion and convert are useless if there is not a pattern that is followed to become converted (Acts 3:19). Why did Gentiles of the 1st century become converts and Jews leave the Law of Moses? How were they converted if there was no pattern for conversion (Acts 28:23-29)?

The **church of the Lord** is meaningless if Jesus Christ is not sovereign over her (Acts 20:28; Rev 19:16). Christ has never delegated to mankind any means for change. The **temple of God** in the Old Testament was built by a pattern. Can the **Temple of God** in the New Testament be any less patterned (1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:17-20)?

The word church signifies a body of people who have been “**called out**”. It would be a shift of paradigms and a great irony to believe that having been called out of darkness the church would go back into fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness (Col 1:13; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Eph 5:3-15). If she were called to leave sinful practices like **doctrines of men** why would she in modern times return to the mire (2 Pet 2:22)? There are countless illustrations of Israel leaving the old paths and being apostate. Was God justified in punishing her (Heb 12:1-13)?

The pattern of the restoration theology is to have the church rest on the premise of seeking to restore the “**true church**” which is detailed precisely by the mind of God. She functions on the pattern that the 21st century church of Christ can duplicate and in succeeding generations continue to manifest Christianity as found in the Bible. What she looks like, her mission and purpose would remain unchanged. She must have a **backward look** at that which was once for all delivered and be steadfast (Jude 3; 1 Cor 16:13). She must have an **inward look** to examine herself in the light of one faith (Eph 4:1-16; 2 Cor 13:5). She must have a **forward look** to see the fields for the spreading of the gospel, the coming of the Lord and eternal reward. Christianity has a pattern that must be followed. We can know God’s word as He revealed it in the Bible (1 Cor 2:10-14). How important is a pattern?

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Yes, prayer is a force in our lives. The disciples were privileged to hear Jesus pray and what an awesome privilege that was. For over three years they had seen Jesus in many situations and they had heard Him teach, seen Him heal the sick, and watched Him bless the children. Nothing they witnessed was equal with His prayer life. It is more than a “form”; it is a “**force.**” Jesus did not teach His disciples “to say a little prayer.” **Saying a prayer and praying are two different things.** Jesus prayed and He taught the disciples to pray. Although Jesus was present with them, they saw their dire need for prayer. **If Jesus needed prayer, how much more do we?** If prayer was central with Jesus, it must also be with us. Therefore, the work of the church is prayer.

We must not reduce prayer in church to “invocations and benedictions.” Our public prayers must be to God and not to man. It is said by some that too many prayers are “phony” and clichés must be watched. Do we pray to “God’s heart” or man’s ears”? Do we seriously listen to our own prayers? Do we pray what is expected or what is needed? Someone also once said “If it sounds good, it is probably phony!” The house shook when the early church prayed - *“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31.* The disciples knew that Jesus had something and they wanted what He had.

We must not fail to pray as God would want us to pray today. Prayer reveals our true selves; therefore, like Adam, we prefer to “*hide in the bushes.*” Yes, prayer is the most practical and powerful thing a Christian can do. Again, someone once said “you may preach too long, but you will never pray too much.”

Prayer Is Form. You might ask, what is that? Although the disciples asked, “*Teach us to pray,*” the “*how*” is involved. So many today are not very interested in truth, doctrine, or form. Jesus began with a model, and outline and a form. Anything in life must begin with the basics. Jesus got our attention when he covered the entire gamut of prayer in but a few words. It is called the “Lord’s Prayer” because Jesus authored it. It is biblical because it is in the Bible. You see, with God all things are possible—**Matt. 19:26** “*But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*”

In our last article for the month we will talk about how prayer is perseverance and how we must be willing to receive the blessings from praying. See you next week.

Jerry McKey

Spiritual Blessings

Ephesians is a book extolling God’s graciousness toward mankind, filling hearts to overflowing with joyous responses. Humility, sincerity and thankfulness lead to praising God. Divinity has broken the shackles of sin in a very decisive way. The pattern of authority is found in the scheme of redemption (1 Cor 11:1-16). Without this insight we would not comprehend the greatness and cost of our salvation (Phil 2:1-11). Jesus’ human sojourn placed Him in subjection to the Father. Due to His faithfulness Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth (Mat 28:18-20).

The enormity of Jesus’ sacrifice when He became “God with us”, living, dying, being resurrected and ascending back to glory is a view of the scheme of redemption which was worked out before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3-15). The particular purpose of Ephesians is to give the church divine insight into how great the sacrifice was to infuse into mankind new life, making them new creatures in Christ (Eph 2:10-23). Via Christ every spiritual blessing flows to the redeemed. If Christ is the Son of God’s love it follows that God is love (1 Jn 3:1, 2; 4:7-21).

The list of spiritual blessings is extensive. Ephesians gives 21 blessings: chosen in Him (1:4), adopted into the family of God (1:5), accepted in the beloved (1:6), redeemed by His blood (1:7), forgiven (1:7), given an inheritance (1:11), given words of truth (1:13), quickened from the dead (2:1, 5), raised with Christ (2:6), saved by grace (2:5,8,9), became His workmanship (2:10), given peace (2:14), given boldness (2:12), strengthened by His Spirit (3:16), His power is in us (3:20), hope (4:4), grace (4:7), made a new man (4:23,24), loved (5:2), made children of light (5:8), given God’s armor (6:10-16). This is not an exhaustive list.

God chose us in Christ (Eph 1:4). Those who are chosen become living epistles because they have been taken out of this world and made prepared vessels who know God’s will is that they become imitators of Jesus Christ (Mat 20:16; 2 Cor 3:2,3; Jn 15:19, Col 1:13; Acts 19:5; 2 Tim 2:21; Acts 22:14; Rom 8:28; 1 Jn 3:2). As living epistles they seek to be blameless during their sojourn as chosen heirs of salvation, heirs of the kingdom, who are rich in faith showing forth the praise of God as precious ones by making their calling and election sure (2 Cor 3:2, 3; Eph 1:4; Eph 2:10; 2 Thes 2:13; 2 Tim 2:3; Jas 2:5; Jas 2:5; 2 Pet 1:3-11).

Lavish gifts of favor work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:27, 28). Divinity is ever the teacher taking mankind as little children and making earthly values of lesser consequence than spiritual ones (2 Cor 4:18). Physical bounties are tangible, spiritual ones are invisible, both combined manifest the scope of God’s enormous love. The vastness of these blessings exceeds all we ask or think about. They are worked in the church according to divine power (Eph 3:20, 21).

The foundation of one’s relationship with God is based upon being in Christ. Faithfulness and obedience to the gospel puts one in Christ (Gal 3:27; Eph 1:1; Rom 16:26; 2 Thes 1:3-9). These spiritual blessings outweigh all other blessings (Eph 1:3). Being chosen of God indicates our need for following His every commandment (Eph 1:4). Within this relationship God is able to bestow His grace freely (Eph 1:6; 2:5, 8, 9). The redemption of one’s soul magnifies the darkness of damnation and gives rise to joyful hope (Eph 1:7). The summing up of all things in Christ becomes the assurance of our everlasting heritage (Eph 1:9-13). Only in Christ is love so well defined (Eph 1:15). The spiritually dead, being quickened (made alive) in Christ has a new direction in life as a new creature (Eph 2:13-15). In Christ the faithful around the world are made into a temple where spiritual worship takes place (Eph 2:21, 22; 1 Cor 3:16-18; 6:18, 19). **Don Hatch**

News at Belt Line

FAMILY NEWS:

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

MARCH ASSIGNMENTS

GREETERS:

March 26 – Front Foyer – Thomas Rathbun & Myrtle Wade
Back Foyer – Dale & Katherine Cox

April 2 – Front Foyer – Donna Davis & Nancy Pond
Back Foyer – Bill & Linda Matthews

Communion Preparation: Dale & Katherine Cox

Contribution Counters: Bobby England & Mike Garrison

SERMONS

March 26 – a.m. “Substitutes”

2 Timothy 3:1-9

p.m. “Working Together For Good”

Romans 8:26-30

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

Ongoing Health Concerns: Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, Dessie Ross, Don & Margaret Lewis, Carol Swinney, David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Mike Garrison, Nellie Melvin, Alice Worthy, Sissy Allen, Grady Fowler, David Hawkins, Beverly McKey, Don & Anne Herriage

Home Bound Members: Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Dessie Ross, Gearldean Jones

Nursing Homes: Max Melton – Irving Nursing & Rehabilitation

Military: Chris & Abigail Mathews

EVENTS

MISSION PRINTING – Mission Printing will meet every **SUNDAY** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium to collate and staple tracts to be sent all over the world. Please come help us and enjoy the wonderful Christian fellowship.

Ladies Bible Class will meet on **Tuesday, March 21st**. Fellowship at 9:45 and lesson at 10:00. There will be questions and answers on the lesson from last week. Ladies make plans to attend and bring a friend.

PRAYER CONCERN

Mike Garrison fell last Tuesday and spent most of the night in ER. He broke his nose and both of his cheek bones.

Elizabeth Garrison's daughter **Deidra Sutton** had surgery again last week.

Jerry Catlin fell Wednesday night and fractured his foot in three places. He fell again Thursday and is in Baylor, Irving. Please keep Jerry and Vicki in your prayers. Also, no visitors at this time.

Grady Fowler is also in Baylor, Irving. That is all we know at this time.

There are many others who are struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your daily prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

50th Wedding Anniversary

For: Jerry & Beverly McKey

Date: Saturday March 25th

Time: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Church annex

It's a come & go party – no gifts necessary.

Our **Teen Workday** will be on Saturday, **April 22nd**. Please let Darrell Allen know if there is anything that the teens can assist you with on that day around your home.

LADIES we are collecting items for the Ladies ½ Day gift bags. Please bring them by Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

We want to extend a very special **Thank You** to all the **Teens** who helped prepare breakfast for the congregation on March 11th. A good time was had by all who attended.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Kenny Mayer – 3/2
 Xavier Kaiser – 3/6
 B.C. Fowler – 3/6
 Don Overturf* – 3/7
 James Gilliam – 3/7
 Vicky Askins – 3/8
 Dana Hodgkins – 3/11
 Jerry Baker – 3/18
 Kay Overturf – 3/19
 Phillip Whitlock – 3/22
 Carol Swinney – 3/25
 Pansy Yankey – 3/30

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Don* & Kay Overturf – 3/12
 Grady & B.C. Fowler – 3/17
 Jerry & Beverly McKey – 3/24
 Gary & Nadya Workman – 3/29

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

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		3/26/17	<u>SUNDAY PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		A.M. – Jerry McKey John Mayer Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly	Bobby England		P.M. – Mike Garrison Dale Cox
Don Herriage	Alex Mayer		
Mike Garrison	Curtis Vaughan		
Kenny Mayer	Xavier Kaiser		
Thomas Rathbun			
Walt LaHaye			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>
Curtis Vaughan			A.M. – Thomas Rathbun 2 Timothy 3:1-9
John Mayer			P.M. – Curtis Vaughan Romans 8:26-30
<u>SONG LEADERS</u>			<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>
A.M. – Jerry Baker			Glen Kelly
P.M. – Jerry McKey			

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	40	58	56	100
A.M. Worship	80	80	85	150
P.M. Worship	66	65	58	80
Wed. Class	50	58	56	85
Contribution	\$5073	\$4587	\$5154	\$5220

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

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
 Ted Lingren – Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
 Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
 Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – Wotutu, Cameroon
 Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo
 Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

OTHERS SUPPORTED

Paper Pulpit – Hurst, Texas
 The Truth In Love – Hurst, Texas
 Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
 Christ's Haven Children's Home – Keller, Texas
 Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, Texas
 Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution

STUDENT PREACHERS SUPPORTED

Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, Texas
 Dolcey Patino, Roberto Ortiz, Joseph Harris, Nathan Boyd
 Southwest School of Bible Studies – Issac Umana

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