



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 16, 2019  
Volume 11 Number 47

1202 N. Belt Line Road  
Irving, TX 75061  
972/790-8606

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.

## MINISTER

Randy Reagan  
Email:

randy.reagan@beltlinechurch.com

## ELDERS

Jerry McKey  
Richard Renfro  
Dean Webb

## DEACONS

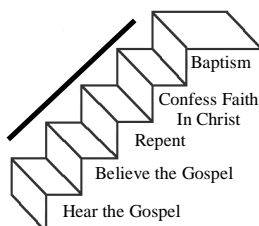
Darrell Allen  
Glen Kelly  
John Mayer

## SECRETARIES

Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham  
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

## 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)



## What about Christmas?

Many Christians have struggled with how they should respond to Christmas. Some Christians will not acknowledge the holiday in any shape, form or fashion, fearing that even giving gifts would violate their conscience and lead to sin. This belief is based on Rom. 14:23. (“But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.”) Other Christians go all the way on the other side and celebrate the “birth of Jesus” on December 25th. So, what is the truth and what does the Bible say about a celebration of the birth of Christ?

First, I want to include all the verses in the Bible that use the word Christmas. ( ) Second, I want to also include all the scriptures in the Bible that command Christians to remember and celebrate the birth of Christ. ( ) That is the totality of what the Bible says and/or commands us to do concerning the observance of the birth of Christ.

What is the truth about Christmas? The English term Christmas means “mass on Christ’s day.” The Bible never specifies the date of Jesus’ birth; however, in 221 A.D. a man by the name of Sextus Julius Africanus “selected” December 25 as the birth date of Jesus, and over time this was “accepted” as the day Jesus was born. Pope Julius I officially named December 25th for the Catholic church. The celebration would evolve over the centuries with various characters added at different times.

Paul would address the observance of pagan holidays by Christians in Col. 2:16 when he said, “...let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths,” but also warned “...when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain” (Gal. 4:8-11). Finally to the saints at Rome, Paul wrote, “One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.” (Rom. 14:5) Although there is no clear prohibition by Paul, it can certainly be a dangerous area if we are not careful.

The holiday season is an excellent opportunity for Christians to practice Christianity to the glory of God. (Matt. 5:16) We can do good to all (Gal 6:10); we can practice “pure religion” by reaching out to widows and orphans (James 1:27); and we can be grateful and humble for all of God’s blessings. (1 Thess. 5:18) Regardless, we must insure that whatever we say or do is in compliance with God’s word and specifically what is authorized in God’s word. (Col. 3:17)

A Christian should not celebrate a date or event as part of worship or spiritual service outside of God’s word. Can a Christian celebrate peace, good, love, and charity? Absolutely.

**Randy Reagan**

## FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line

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

### DECEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

#### **GREETERS:**

**Dec. 22** – Front Foyer – Richard & Carolyn Renfro  
Back Foyer – Billy Joe Swain & Doris Selby

**Dec. 29** – Front Foyer – Mike & Sharon Haynes  
Back Foyer – Bill & Linda Matthews

**Communion Preparation:** Bobby & Brenda England  
**Contribution Counters:** Billy Joe Swain & Kenny Mayer

### SERMONS

**Dec. 22** – a.m. “The Promise Of My Father”  
Acts 1:4-5

p.m. “They Made Their Hearts Like  
Flint”  
Zechariah 7:8-14

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

**Ongoing Health Concerns:** David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Nellie Melvin, Grady Fowler, Paul Kelly, Polly Roses, Barbara Reagan, Alice Worthy, Sherry Hodge, Bill & Linda Matthews, Anne Herriage, Dale Cox, Elaine Neill, Patsy Swain, Jennifer Sassano, Vernon Sartain, Bret & Sara Rudd, Debra Alonzo, Jean Forbus, Henry Seidmeyer, Ray & LaFon Simpson, Cloreecce Wilson, Vera Gleghorn, Marinell Zaun, Joe Farley

**Home Bound Members:** Helen Thomas, Mary Walker

**Nursing Home:** Nellie Melvin – Avalon Memory Care      Dale Cox – Avante

**Military:** Chris & Abigail Mathews      Andrea Daniel (Air Force)

### 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 and also on **WEDNESDAY** at 5:30 p.m.

Please come help us and enjoy the wonderful Christian fellowship.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### LADIES

**Ladies Bible Class** is **Tuesday morning December 17**. Meet and greet is at 9:30 a.m., class is at 10:00 a.m. This will be in the Annex. The lesson will be “**The Second Coming**”. Please plan on attending and invite your friends and neighbors.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ladies Quarterly Bible Study** will start **December 21, 2019** at 6:45 in the annex. The study topic is “**Hospitality**”.

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRAYER CONCERNS

**Vera Gleghorn** is now home from the hospital.  
**Sandra Williams** mom is home from the hospital.  
Preacher **Brother Stephens** at Beckley Heights church had a heart attack last week. He had heart

surgery on Wednesday. Please keep him in your prayers.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

“**The Gospel of Christ**” is a TV show similar to the “Truth in Love” program, which is no longer produced. “The Gospel of Christ” program comes on at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings on the UPLIFTV network. If you have Spectrum it is on channel 472 and on Frontier it is on channel 226.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday singing** will be on Sunday **December 29<sup>th</sup>**. A sign-up sheet is in the front foyer for you to request your favorite song.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mark your calendar for **Sunday January 12, 2020**. We will be having a Farewell Get-Together for **Curtis Vaughan** as he will be leaving for Navy Boot Camp. It will be after services on Sunday Night.

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be **NO Bulletin** for the next two weeks.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Grady Fowler	12/1
Virginia Stull	12/6
Barbara Reagan	12/12
Crystal Morris	12/13
Elizabeth Garrison	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
Mike & Sharon Haynes	12/24
David & Judy Odom	12/31

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,  
please contact Alex Mayer:  
(972) 602-8480*

**Men** who serve on the Lord's Table on Sunday mornings, please go to room #116 **five minutes** before services.

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY**

**LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)**

12/22/19

**SUNDAY PRAYERS**

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b><u>Front Table</u></b> | <b><u>Rear Table</u></b> |
| • Kenny Mayer             | Vern Lundquist           |
| • Billy Joe Swain         | Glen Kelly               |
| • Purman Cofer            | Robert Taylor            |
| • Dean Webb               | Bobby England            |
| • John Mayer              |                          |
| • Thomas Rathbun          |                          |

- |      |                |
|------|----------------|
| A.M. | Jerry McKey    |
|      | Richard Renfro |
|      | Mike Haynes    |
| P.M. | Kenny Mayer    |
|      | Ken Lee        |

**SCRIPTURE READING**

- |      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| A.M. | Don Herriage     |
|      | Acts 1:4-5       |
| P.M. | Dean Webb        |
|      | Zechariah 7:8-14 |

**LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)**

Alex Mayer & Darrell Allen

**SONG LEADERS**

- |      |             |
|------|-------------|
| A.M. | Jerry McKey |
| P.M. | Jerry Baker |

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

Thomas Rathbun

**FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
<b>Sunday</b>	49	53	55	100
<b>A.M. Worship</b>	89	85	88	150
<b>P.M. Worship</b>	55	64	62	80
<b>Wed. Class</b>	57	56	52	85
<b>Contribution</b>	\$4582	\$6555	\$5300	\$5300

**MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED**

- Glen Tattersall** – *Australia*
- Jose & Miriam Suarez** – *Mexico*
- Roland & Rose Mohsen** – *France*
- Gary & Nadya Workman** – *Ukraine*
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma** – *Australia*
- Willie & Del Gley** – *Ghana/Togo, Africa*
- David & Paula Tarbet** – *New Milford, CT*
- Matthew & Emma Idowu Fola** – *Lagos, Nigeria*
- Ted Lingren** – *Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia*
- Rohan & Sandra Jones** – *Cape Town, South Africa*
- Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory** – *Wotutu, Cameroon*
- Dennis & Beth Johnson** – *Chennai Teacher Training School – India*

**OTHERS SUPPORTED**

- Paper Pulpit** – *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
- William Garcia** – **Luis Loera** – **Jaelyn Downing**

## **A Message from Our Shepherd**

We started a conversation about courage last week and since this is the last article for the year let us again revisit this wonderful subject.

**Courage is the heart and soul of encouragement.** Like Peter, modern Christians will find that some days they behave with more courage than others. When courage is activated, it enables ordinary people to uphold their convictions and accomplish their dreams. By overcoming bad attitudes, mistaken beliefs, and negative expectations, you can begin living courageously.

Courage is a divine resource needed by all people. It is not reserved for prophets or police officers. The lives of ordinary people may not be as glamorous as those in high risk or high-profile occupations, but their need for strength to deal with day-to-day struggles is no less real. It takes courage to discipline children in a permissive society. It takes determination to decline lucrative job opportunities that infringe on family life. It takes nerve to seek fulfillment as a homemaker in a liberated world. Courageous men and women endure, bear up, tough it out, and keep on keeping on.

Courage is what it takes to follow through on goals despite hardships or difficulties. It enables students to study when they would prefer to play. It empowers athletes to work out when they would like to sleep in. It inspires dieters to eat sensibly when they would rather indulge. Impressive displays of courage are exhibited every day in the lives of regular people.

More than anyone else, Christians should recognize that courage is needed on a daily basis. What should a person do when asked by the boss to falsify information on insurance forms? How does a Christian respond to group pressure to participate in immoral or unethical behavior? It takes backbone to walk down an aisle and request baptism or the prayers of the congregation. It requires boldness for a Christian to share his faith with friends and co-workers. It takes guts to contend for the faith against false teaching. Courage makes it possible for an individual to stand up for what he or she believes even when it is unpopular.

So, as we come to the close of 2019 let us be courageous in our lives and realize that it is God who we are to please and not man.

May everyone have a great 2020. God bless!

**Jerry McKey**

**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.

**BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 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