

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

April 3, 2017
Volume 9 Number 14

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

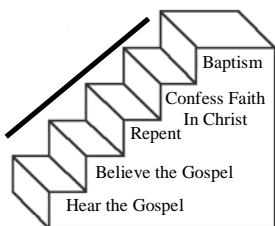
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Knowing History- Knowing Self

Don Hatch

Trying to plan for the future without a good view of the past is like trying to plant a pruned limb and expecting it to be a vine. The branch that does not bear fruit is cleansed from the vine (Jn 15; Rom 11). History could have been written in a number of ways at any point, just as our own lives could be written. One thing leads to another. No one lives unto self or dies in a vacuum (Rom 14:7). Actions force other reactions and consequences. This seems self-evident but it is not.

Nothing today is exactly like the past. No reasonable person lives in the past. Everyone lives in the present. Finding fault with the past is easy. Confrontations and sets of circumstances faced were unique and could have turned out differently.

There are no self-made persons. Americans love this expression. Everyone who lives is affected, changed, sharpened, helped, hindered or encouraged by others. People from every walk of life are reminded of families, friends and teachers who opened their eyes of understanding (Eph 1:18). The sense of direction, worth, value and place in history helps to straighten one when on the wrong path (Matt 7:13, 14). Maybe a word fitly spoken, a deed performed or vivid examples of living give guidance. The Christian is not a rival of others, rather a fellow-companion along the pathway of life. People who lived long ago have an effect on our lives. Their quotes, gestures, lives and history shape us in one way or another. The country we live within, the language we speak, the institutions we favor and those which favor us, the laws which benefit are all the works of others who went before us. We should never take them for granted. To be indifferent is shabby and to ignore is uncouth. How can we not want to know who went before and made our lives possible? We have freedom, citizenship in a great fellowship of believers built on those who went before. It is not just a birthright received but what others suffered in their struggles, dying that the next generation might be benefited.

Those who wrote the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776 were mere men. They had flaws like all mankind before and those who follow. They could recriminate themselves a thousand times over. Some are known by failings, others by capacities to rise to the occasion and exhibit a sense of direction and strength. Our advantage is that we see in the stillness of history how character is molded and shaped. Those who were chosen to write the Bible faced the daunting task of creating a perfect document which reflected Christ, the founder of Christianity, without coloring it by their own mistakes. It is good for us to understand they wanted the Bible to pass on Christianity as a document and a living legacy which if lived correctly would improve the world one generation after another without being altered itself. Christianity unlike America does not need to be fixed. America needs to remember history and be guided towards a brighter future with Judeo-Christian principles.

Where others failed America has succeeded. The old world with its jaded views of Christianity has never risen from its ruins. America allowed the Church to return to its Ancient Order and restore the Old Paths. One of the traits we share is that the past had a fetish desire for being better. Nothing is better than first century Christianity, unless it is present Christianity defined by Scripture, purified by prayer, restored by repentance and dedicated to the Redeemer who declared the church independent from sin, having been pardoned by His blood. The 18th century American had never seen or experienced nation making. The past only told them that a search must be employed and failures of the past avoided. The church of Christ had a better example upon which to build. Those who lived righteously deserved to succeed.

No other country can really know the date of their beginning. America knows the exact date. The church of Christ knows when it began, who were its members and knows today how far its fellowship extends.

By and large many are illiterate of church history. There is no denying it. Teaching the church should impress one that the greatest entity known to man is still Christianity. It should be taught that therein is found grace, peace, piety, and purity. The church reaps from the past, plants for the future and lives in the bounty of the present.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

I would like for you to see some of the emails that I receive from many of the Mission Printing tract readers:

Hello Richard,

George Ongondo communicating from Africa (Kenya). The meeting that you held in Kenya with us, through bro. Michael Reese at a place called Ahono Church of Christ really touched my life. It was when you said that there are some elderly ladies 80 - 100 years, holding up some tracts and that their prayers were that at least one soul would be saved by those tracts. The first time I heard about the church of Christ was when I was a member of a Baptist church. Then I found a tract that convinced me after reading it that I was unsaved. I searched for the brothers who were distributing it and they were staying in another village. I found them and ask them to baptize me into Christ. I worshipped with them for five years and they helped me plant a congregation in my village. I am very thankful for those who pray for the gospel to spread through the tracts because I am a Christian today, with many others through that great work.

I have moved to another village with my family, helping a young congregation here in 'Ndwarra'. We are conducting a gospel campaign in August, but we lack tracts to give. Please send tracts because this will reach many people than we visit. I also train some men here, how to be preachers of God's word, but I lack material to equip them more. I pray that your plan of sending tracts to us may succeed. It will really help me with evangelism, like with the elementary school teachers with whom I meet with. Tracts will help them read about the church. I hope to receive some tracts when you send the tracts through the container that you plan to bring into Kenya. Greet for me, your fellow workers and the congregation you attend.

Your brother in Christ, George

Dear Sir, I am a subscriber to your publications and wish to renew my subscription for the year. The Lord has been doing a lot of work through our local evangelistic efforts here and your materials have been of immense help in this regard. I look forward to receiving these publications very soon. May the Lord continue to use you to reach more lost souls in Jesus name Amen. Okechukwu Nwoko (Elder) Aba Church of Christ

Abia State, Nigeria

Beloved in Christ, We greet you all at Mission Printing in the name of Jesus our Lord, hope this email meet you in good health. I wish to testify that the use of your printed materials is profited and of immense important to our congregation evangelism effort. One of our recent converts who was a Mormon for 17 years, read "Why I Left the Church of Jesus of the LDS" and it really built him up in the faith. We have encouraged him to enroll in a church of Christ associated Bible college for more knowledge in the Word since he was a priest in the LDS. Our preacher "Mojima Etokudo" exposed us to your materials and we are happy indeed. We are a small congregation in the rural area of south Nigeria, now 14 years old, with an average of 50 in attendance including children. We are very evangelistic through our preacher who has a burning spirit for it. We have planted 6 new congregations in other villages within this space of time and hope to do more Lord willing. We need your resource materials for evangelism, edification, for our church library and used Hymnals for our use. More about our local congregation will be made known to you if you require more. Church of Christ. Ikot Odiong, Ukanafun Local Government Area. Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

Justice

The most adsorbing part of the Bible is judgment. Inescapable judgment is portrayed as God's justice. It bears eloquent testimony to the truth that God is the Judge of all the earth, He must do right. If there is no judgment upon nations or men for their sins, as the Bible claims, then God is not just. Therefore He would not be a perfect Being. Hence the Bible gives vivid illustrations of God's justice and judgment. The Bible says God is just and right (Deut 32:4). He is excellent and plenteous in justice (Job 37:23). Justice is found in His throne (Isa 45:21). His power holds the sword and His justice the balance to measure right and wrong.

Justice means all men, good or bad, will receive their just due (Deut 2:7). God's justice is the rectitude of His nature wherein His doings are righteous and equal. God is neither a respecter of persons (Rom 2:11) nor is He partial. Where engaged in the necessary punitive part of justice. God weighs all circumstances in the scale of righteousness. He never acts rashly or indiscriminately. Principles govern His justice. Because of who He is God cannot be anything other than just. His holiness is the cause of His justice. He is unflinching in holiness. God can no more be unjust than He can be unholy. He is perfect, wise and good. He will do nothing but what is just. He loves righteousness and hates iniquity (Heb 1:9). Men may judge unjustly because of external forces or bribes, but nothing can move God. God is justice itself. All perfection is found in Him. His justice proves we never have to question His reasons for actions. God has all authority on His side and is equitable. His judgment is beyond our understanding (Rom 11:33).

God is not unrighteous to forget labors on His behalf. Though we may lose all in this world, we will gain riches in eternity beyond any upon the earth. His ways are secret, but never unjust. Many of the trials and tribulations of the godly serve to refine and purify. The best among God's people have blemishes that must be removed. Pride, self-will, injustice and other pitfalls deserve punishment, but God's mercy intermingled with justice is a ready remedy... "in thy faithfulness...thou has corrected me" (Ps 119:75). No matter what judgment our sins may merit God puts compassion and mercy into our lives whereas He might have filled it with fire and brimstone.

God is just in punishing the sinner. He gave certainty in the face of uncertainty with His law (Rom 5:12-21). The Bible is pervaded with hope, joy and victory over sin in Jesus Christ. In the dark background is a bright ray of anticipation. God is "no respecter of persons, but in every nation, he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness, is acceptable" (Acts 10:35, 36).

It seems as though sinners continue and even prosper. God allows all to seek exoneration from sin or become inexcusably devoid of judgment (Rom 1:26,27). God gives space for one to repent (Rev 2:21). God is always just in His judgments (Ps 51:4). He extends mercy to sinners and then if they do not repent, His patience is a witness against them and His justice is a dreadful act. The eternal God has time enough to reckon with His enemies. While justice overcomes sinners, their sins will be the cause of eternal despair.

There are times when courts pervert justice, "decree unrighteous decrees" (Isa 10:1). God's laws would be useless where there is no one to enforce them. Injustice lies in either not punishing the guilty or punishing where there is no guilt. God can never pervert justice. It is because He is perfectly just that a day of judgment is awaiting those who rejected His mercy (Act 17:31). The sinful must drink of the cup of God's unmitigated wrath, which has not one drop of injustice. All final judgment will vindicate God's justice.

Sin was judged upon the cross of Calvary. The Lord Jesus Christ who knew no sin became sin on man's behalf (Gal 3:7-14). Once and for all time sin was dealt with, now sin can be put away and guilt removed (1 Jn 1:9, 10). Jesus secured perfect salvation. God chastises to yield peaceable fruits (Heb 12:1-13). God is just! **Don Hatch**

FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line

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

APRIL ASSIGNMENTS

GREETERS:

April 9 – Front Foyer – Robert & Cathy Taylor
Back Foyer – Glen Kelly & Myrtle Wade

April 16 – Front Foyer – Don & Anne Herriage
Back Foyer – Henry Seidmeyer & Doris Selby

Communion Preparation: Dorris & Janie Walker

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly & Nathan Allen

SERMONS

April 9 – a.m. “Who Is Jesus Of Nazareth”
Matthew 16:13-16
p.m. “He Went About Doing Good”
Acts 10:34-43

**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, Sissy Allen, Grady Fowler, Daryl Gerardo, David Hawkins, Beverly McKey, Jerry Catlin

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 April 4th**. 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 CONCERNS

Richard & Carolyn Renfro are both feeling better. **Anita Melendez** has requested prayers for her brother **Daryl Gerardo** as he has cancer.

Don Hatch will be going in the hospital today, April 3rd for three days to regulate his pacemaker.

Henry Seidmeyer is not feeling well.

David West's sister, **Edith Profit** is in the hospital in Childress, Texas.

Thomas Rathbun is scheduled for some medical procedures.

Matt Flournoy, son of **Dan and Emily** is recovering

from having surgery.

There are many of our number who are struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your daily prayers so that they may once again be back at services with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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**.

Merlene Stoker placed her membership with us on Sunday. She has just moved to Irving. Her address is:
2930 W. Pioneer Dr. Apt. #116
Irving, Texas 75061
Phone: 214-289-9528

Bobby Allen would like to thank everyone for their continuing prayers on behalf of **Sissy**.

Our new Church Directories are now available.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/17/17 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 pm
 4/22/17 – Teen Work Day
 4/29/17 – Ladies ½ Day – 9 a.m.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Glen Kelly – 4/1
 Rebecca Andrepont – 4/1
 Mary Wise – 4/2
 Jerry Grantham – 4/2
 Vern Lundquist – 4/6
 Billy Beverly – 4/7
 Sissy Allen – 4/12
 Bobby Allen – 4/16
 Henry Seidmeyer – 4/16
 Nelda Bell Newton – 4/17
 Jeanene Heilman – 4/19
 Alice Worthy – 4/20
 Thomas Rathbun – 4/21
 Mary Walker – 4/22
 Don Hatch – 4/25
 Faye West – 4/30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Sissy Allen – 4/18

*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>		4/9/17	<u>SUNDAY PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		A.M. – Richard Renfro Thomas Rathbun Henry Seidmeyer
John Mayer	Vern Lundquist		P.M. – Dale Cox Darrell Allen
Nathan Allen	Bobby England		
Dorris Walker	James Gilliam		
Curtis Vaughan	Robert Taylor		
Alex Mayer			
Purman Cofer			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>
Glen Kelly			A.M. – Bill Matthews Matthew 16:13-16
Thomas Rathbun			P.M. – Don Herriage Acts 10:34-43
<u>SONG LEADERS</u>			<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>
A.M. – Darrell Allen			Robert Taylor
P.M. – 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	57	49	56	100
A.M. Worship	101	75	86	150
P.M. Worship	51	58	57	80
Wed. Class	59	52	56	85
Contribution	\$4449	\$6218	\$5180	\$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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**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
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 AT IRVING, TEXAS**