

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

October 1, 2012
Volume 4 Number 38

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

Web site:
<http://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..Sep.-Apr.
*See page 4 for current
meeting time.

Evangelist

Don Hatch
Email:
don-hatch@sbcglobal.net

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

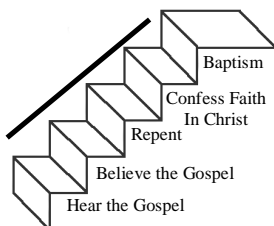
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Prayer and Fasting

Don Hatch

Christians' worship of God is voluntary. Their worship is structured and can be spontaneous. At appointed times the Christian will worship in decency and order joining joyfully in worship with a congregation, unless providentially hindered. The first day of each week is a time for structured worship, wherein the five acts of worship are observed. On other occasions the individual may sing, pray, study, render acts of kindness and appropriately be engaged in worship of God. There are no rituals in Christianity. Acts of worship are to be governed by a "thus saith the Lord". The New Testament is the completed word and will of God, to guide those who seek to be well pleasing in His sight.

Fasting and praying is a time when an individual's decide to present themselves before God, focusing on God. Often individuals have taught that such actions change God. The case must be made for abstaining from food and drink for spiritual reasons. There are no compulsory fastings prescribed or required for Christians today. The New Testament seems to take it for granted that Christians see a need to "afflict their souls" (Lev 16:31; Isa 58:3). It is never compulsory and always guided by a voluntary desire, portraying humility before God. Caution must be taken against improper motivation in fasting as a form of worship. Hypocrisy is never an acceptable manner (Mat 6:6). Fasting and prayer must arise out of an intense need, not as a mere practice.

Fasting and prayer was practiced at the time Moses received the law (Ex 34:25-30). Fasting and prayer are beneficial in the times of personal sorrow. David illustrates fasting and prayer when he heard of Saul's death (2 Sam 1:1-12). Nehemiah engaged in fasting and prayer over Jerusalem (Neh 1:1-10). Fasting and prayer is fitting when a family member is touched with critical circumstances (2 Sam 12:1-19). Often repentance is outwardly, in a genuine manner, manifested by fasting and praying (1 Sam 7:1-10). Darius fasted until he heard of Daniel's welfare in the lion's den (Dan 6:10). Anna was known for her worshiping night and day, fasting and prayer (Lk 2:37). John the baptizer taught his disciples to fast (Mk 2:18). Jesus Christ fasted prior to

His encounter with Satan (Mat 4:1-15). Brethren fasted before they sent Paul and Barnabas off as missionaries (Acts 13:1-5). Paul was known for his prayer and fasting (2 Cor 6:5; 11:27). No New Testament Christian paraded fasting as a sign of spiritual elevation (Mat 6:15-20). Misuse of fasting and prayer are disgustingly manifest by individuals who falsely believe it makes them appear godly setting all others apart as "lesser" (Lk 18:9-14). The Pharisees fasted twice a week but were unjustified in their actions. There is some measure of benefit in voluntary fasting when done in a sincere and spiritual manner. One can pray without fasting and fast without praying. The aim of either is to focus on fellowship with God. Any activity of this nature should be dedicated to God's glory. Having a time of fasting and prayer is not a way of manipulating God into doing one's desires. Rather, it is a time of focusing our reliance on God for strength, necessities and provisions to do His will. The sacrificing of time and food does not make one holy. Typically fasting and prayer should draw the individual into a focal point of those things which matter.

Voluntary fasting conjoined with prayer are also times dedicated to seeking God's will. Full effectiveness is having a time to focus on spiritual matters. It is never a time of seeking to impress others of one's holiness or dedication to God. It should be a private activity wherein the actions go unnoticed by contemporaries (Mat 6:1-19). The New Testament does not specifically command that believers spend time in fasting. Nevertheless there are some examples of those who voluntarily engaged in it. Making time to take our eyes off the world for an extended time is not a method of punishing the body or a dietary measure. It is a time to focus on the spiritual in order to renew the inner man (2 Cor 4:16-18). Honoring God in word and deed takes spiritual consideration and dedication. A spiritual life is not accidental. The spiritual life must be built through contemplation, ardor and applying spiritual values. Fasting and prayer are not an engineered method to manipulate a situation or create a circumstance. Many have gone through life never fasting and successfully lived the Christian life. The Bible never advocates fasting and prayer for the mere sake of self-righteousness. Mastery of the flesh is important (Gal 5:16-24). Diverting attention to things spiritual is very valuable. Care must be taken anytime one decides to go without food for a period of time. We are taught that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and not to be abused (1 Cor 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20). Never harm it! Take time to study fasting and discern the reason for its practice. Engage in it only with consideration and thoughtfulness. God promises to bless His servants.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

Sunday was a wonderful day at the Belt Line Rd. church of Christ:

We met to partake of the Lord's Supper. Acts 20:7 "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."

We gave as we had prospered. 1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."

Our song service was wonderful morning and night Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Our prayers were offered to God. Acts 10:4 "And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God."

The scriptures were read to teach us God's ways. Luke 24:45 "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."

This congregation is continually blessed by good sermons from our Bro. Don Hatch. Romans 15:4 "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

Tim Fowler came forward Sunday morning to be restored and to ask for the prayers of the church. Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

Katherine Davis was immersed into Christ Sunday night. Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

We are thankful that Tim and Katherine made the commitment to be dedicated disciples of Jesus. Acts 13:52 "And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

Next Sunday we will start our Gospel Meeting with Bro. Ken Hope. The subject will be "Building up the Body of Christ". We need to encourage others to join us, pray for a successful meeting and read the book of Nehemiah for preparation to the lessons.

Have a great week in the Lord. Richard L. Renfro,

Gospel Meeting

In the first century individuals assembled to hear the "good news" [gospel] preached. Within the proclamation of this good news were found the words of salvation. Jews and Gentiles alike became obedient to the plan of salvation (Rom 1:16, 17; Eph 1:3-15). Preaching is a time honored means of telling others of the salvation found in Jesus Christ (Act 4:12). "Gospel Meeting" refers to asking individuals to assemble to hear the gospel of Christ preached. A Bible example is when Philip went to Samaria and preached the "good news". His preaching successfully converted men and women wherein they were baptized (Act 6:1-42). There was great joy in the city. Such "gospel meetings" are age-old ways of placing the plan of salvation before a large group of people at one time. Gospel Meetings have continued through the centuries.

"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly; but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the spirit, Seen of angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory" (1 Tim 3:14-16). **The gospel teaches individuals an exemplary way of life.** Where the church of Christ is established such efforts to set Christ before mankind is known as preaching "the truth of the gospel of salvation". The nature and purpose of meetings have not changed over the years. Some meetings were held for many weeks, even months. The **protracted meetings** lasted until it was decided to go elsewhere to preach. There never was a social gospel for appealing to popular segments of the society. These meetings had only one aim, preach Jesus, His life, death, resurrection, ascension to the right hand of the Father and the beginning of the church of Christ (Acts 2).

Reading the history of the "**Restoration Movement**" in books like "**In Search of the Ancient Order**" by Brother West we find the early preachers in the United States had a unique plea, "Back to the Bible, preach Christ, the church and redemption's sweet story". Cross sections of these men give a broad overview of "Gospel Meetings". The "Gospel Meeting, Protracted Meeting, Tent Meeting and Revival" were large efforts on the part of a local congregation. Sometimes there were cooperative efforts on the part of several smaller congregations providing funds and a meeting place. From these meetings often came debates about doctrines. The brethren used Court Houses, Schools, Tents, Brush Arbors and occasionally denominational buildings. Usually large numbers of the locals came and there were many baptisms. Because the preaching was so true and biblical it touched the heart and souls of the listeners. The preaching was distinctive and forceful. Obedience was emphasized in clear language with Bible examples used to prove what was being preached.

Brother Ken Hope is a man who will have Bible lessons emphasizing Jesus and redemption. He will build up the church. Be sure to attend and bring a friend. The date of our **Gospel Meeting is October 7-10, 2012.** **Don Hatch**

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

October 7, 2012

Front foyer: Roberta Price & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Nancy Pond & Jerry Grantham

October 14, 2012

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Back foyer: Max Melton & Myrtle Wade

Sermon Titles

October 7, 2012

a.m: "The Power of Godly Sorrow and Personal Resolve"

Scripture: Neh. 1:1-3

p.m: "The Importance of Proper Assessment and Sharing Blame"

Scripture: Neh. 1:4-11

October 14, 2012

a.m: "Appointed Me"

Scripture: 1 Tim. 1:12-17

p.m: "Ye Are The Sons Of God"

Scripture: Hosea 1:10-11

Contribution Counters For October

John Mayer & Bobby England

Communion Preparation For October

Mike Batot

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet **Sunday** in Rm #116 at 5:15 p.m. Come and learn some new songs.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Frances LaFerney, Jan Smithson, Maxine Prude, Hank Henry, Elsie Nanney, Laquita Baker, Roy & Helen Thomas, Marion Grantham, Carolyn Renfro, Tim Fowler, Marietta Houser, Thomas West, Mary Walker, Nancy Pond, Billie Myers, Shelia Martin, James Brown, Beverly McKey

Those In Need Of Prayer

•**Max Melton** fell on his shoulder and is recovering at home.

•**Leo Townsend** got a good report from his tests.

•**Kati Mimms** has an incurable problem with her elbow.

•**Don Herriage** is to have a consultation for back surgery.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Ladies Bible Class will be taught by Fay Yeldell on Tuesday, **October 9th**, at 9:30 a.m. Her lesson will be "**Salvation By Grace Through Faith In the New Testament**".

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Gospel Meeting is scheduled for **October 7-10, 2012** with Ken Hope of Garland, Texas as our Speaker. His topic will be "**Building Up The Body Of Christ**".

Be sure to take some advertisements and give them out. Plan on attending and bring a friend.

LUBBOCK LECTURSHIP

Theme is: **Vanity of Vanities, All Is Vanity**". It will be held on **October 14-17, 2012** at the

Southside Church of Christ in Lubbock.

39'ers

39'ers will meet **October 15th**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex. Please bring food and enjoy the wonderful fellowship.

THE WHITE ROCK FUND

Reporting and Fund-Raising Day will be **October 20th**, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at I-35 and Mockingbird in Dallas. This will be from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Further information is on the bulletin board.

SYMPATHY

Jessie Lee Caskey passed away Tuesday night. Her service and visitation was Saturday morning at the North Davis Church of Christ, Arlington, TX. Please pray for the Caskey family in their loss. Jessie Lee was an inspiration to so many as she served Mission Printing from its beginning.

Harold Keller's brother E.L. Keller passed away last Thursday. Memorial services were held yesterday in Allen, Texas. Please keep this family in your prayers.

RESPONSES

Tim Fowler came forward stating "I am a sinner. I pray that the Lord will forgive me, and I pray that I can be a better influence on other people of my peers".

Katherine Davis came forward to be baptized. She is the niece of Jerry and Laquita Baker. Her address is: 2815 Medlin Drive, Arlington, Texas 76015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10/9/12 – Ladies Class – 9:30 a.m.

10/15/12 – 39'ers – 6:30 p.m.

UPCOMING OCT. BIRTHDAY'S

Anne Herriage – 10/5
Gearldean Jones – 10/8
Mike Mathews – 10/11
Mary Bowen – 10/12
Carolyn Renfro – 10/14
Juanita Melton – 10/15
Brandon Howard – 10/18
Janie Walker – 10/19
Marinell Zaun – 10/20
Jan Smithson – 10/22
Stephanie Howard – 10/22
Richard Renfro – 10/22
Roy Martin – 10/24
Letitia Beverly – 10/26
Bobby England – 10/30
Sandy Hall – 10/31

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

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

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
Please contact Mike Batot at:
(972)741-2397*

BELT LINE RD. CHURCH OF CHRIST

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

·Mike Batot
·Don Herriage
·Brandon Howard
·Glen Kelly
·Bill Matthews
·John Mayer

Rear Table

·Bobby England
·Dorris Walker
·Roy Martin
·Nathan Allen

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

·Bill Paschall
·Thomas Rathbun

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

·Bill Paschall

A.M. SONG LEADER

·Jerry Baker

10/7/12 SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

· Richard Renfro
· Darrell Allen
· Thomas Rathbun

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Kenny Mayer
Neh. 1: 1-3

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

· Don Herriage
· Mike Batot

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Bill Matthews
Neh. 1:4-11

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· 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	83	87	78	100
A.M. Worship	140	150	147	150
P.M. Worship	65	72	68	80
Wed. Class	78	85	79	85
Ladies Bible Class	25	n/a	25	25
Contribution	\$4496	\$4198	\$5170	\$5470

MISSIONS

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Australia
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
Glen Tattersall – Australia
Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Dan Keele – Kayenta, AZ – Navajo Nation
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India
Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

1202 N. Belt Line Rd. - Irving, TX 75061

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
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