

# Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

December 14, 2015  
Volume 7 Number 46

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**

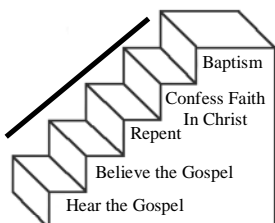
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham  
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

### **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)



## **Equipped For Service**

Don Hatch

The prophet Elijah confronted Ahab king of the Northern kingdom which was outwardly prosperous but was inwardly corrupt. The religious policies reeked of idolatry's foul actions. The false faith was a mockery of God and His holiness. The religion of Jehovah had been waging it combat with the old Canaanite worship (god of nature). The heathen's ancient altars were found in countless places in the green hills, verdant valleys and among the groves of trees. The Northern tribes flagrantly violated God's covenant. Faithful followers of Jehovah were persecuted unto death. The school of prophets was hounded and force into hiding. In the face of this danger the worship of Jehovah was secretly carried on by a few brave souls. In Jerusalem, it for all practical purpose sank out of sight. Efforts of Elijah to recall the people to Jehovah faithfulness were met with greater and greater hostilities. At last seven thousand in the nation had not been their knee to Baal (1 Kg 19:18). God directed Elijah to crown Hazael king over Syria in Damascus, Jehu king over Israel and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-mehoiah the prophet in his room (1 Kg 19:15-18). Wars would break out because of Hazael, Jehu and Elisha and God would allow the 7,000 in Israel who had not worship Baal to remain. These three would unite to execute judgment upon guilty Israel and the judgment due them would fall upon the unfaithful. Elisha was not a prophet of peace; the very vision of peace was removed and reserved for a later prophet for whom he would prepare the way.

Elijah passed by where Elisha was plowing and cast his mantle upon him (1 Kings 19:19). This was to prove that Elisha was called by God to a great task. Those called by God are always fitted for the task. The younger prophet immediately offered a sacrifice to God. He slew oxen, offered them and followed the older prophet Elijah.

Elisha **shared in the victory** of his master, Elijah. Elijah rolled up his mantle and smiting the waters they passed over Jordan on dry ground. Elijah said "...ask what I shall do for thee, before I am taken from thee" (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha wanted only one thing from Elijah "...a double portion of the prophet's spirit". He loved being with the master and now wanted to

be like him.

Elisha **followed in his master's footsteps**. He made a bold statement, "as my soul liveth, I will not leave thee" and followed his master from Bethel, to Jericho, to Jordan and the place where Elijah was to be taken up (2 Kings 2:1-12). Personal devotion kept him walking close to his master. Each time Elijah sought to leave Elisha behind he would say, "as my soul liveth, I will not leave thee". This bond was stronger than life or death. It was also manifested in the "sons of the prophets" who followed Elijah to the river. When Elijah was taken up in the whirlwind and Elisha crossed over Jordan on dry ground this proved that the spirit of Elijah rested upon Elisha.

Elisha **witnessed the appearing** of the chariots and horses of fire which parted asunder and watched Elijah's ascension into heaven in the whirlwind. He cried out "...my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof!" and saw him no more. As he went to pass over Jordan he smote the water with the Elijah's mantle and it parted. The sons of the prophets said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." Elisha manifested the likeness of his master.

The Christian is called to **leave all and follow** the Lord (Matt 16:24; Lk 9:23-27). One must follow the footsteps of Jesus, which are in the light (1 John 1:5-10). Personal devotion keeps the disciple closely following the Saviour through "the narrow gate and straitened way" (Matthew 7:13, 14). An example to us is when Peter followed "afar off" and the consequences were catastrophic. Jesus won the **victory** over death; it has no more dominion over him (Romans 6:1-11). The Christian is also a conqueror and has **victory** in Christ (Romans 8:31-39). Followers of Jesus love to be in his presence and do not want to depart from him.

Every Christians **wants** to have the same spirit as Christ. Christ displayed a spirit of **total compliance** to the Father's will. When one is baptized into Christ the gift of the Holy Spirit is received, which is an earnest to seal us for realms above (2 Corinthians 1:21, 22; Ephesians 1:13, 14). Those who saw Jesus ascend to heaven were told that He would come again (Acts 1:11). Those who watch as Christians live know that they seek a better place, a heavenly realm. Christians are trying to live holy lives and are desirous of being overcomers of this world. Their earnest desire and prayer is that others are watching and that they will see something worth emulating.

The Christian rises from darkness to light, from self-will to surrender to the Lord's will, out of self-life into a life for God, forgetting the things that are behind, pressing onward to the reward which is before.

## FAMILY CARE

### A Message from Our Shepherds

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 2015 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 2016. God bless! **Jerry McKey**

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*Continued from right column....***Leaders need to know** in order to fulfill plans for the future of a local congregation. God's plan was not that a percentage of the congregation fulfills the requirement of giving while another part piggy-backs on what others gave. Giving should be divided among the entire congregation. If one gives himself first all the rest of his life will follow (2 Cor 8:5). The question one should ask is "have I really given myself to the Lord?" A classical example of one who had great wealth was the rich young ruler (Matt 19:16). He knelt at Jesus' feet asking for knowledge of what it would take to have eternal life and then rejected the commandment. In less than 40 years the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome. Did he remember Jesus as the city was plundered? Did he lose all when he could have gained all? **Don Hatch**

## Giving

**God is deeply interested** in how one gives. It is not enough to employ one's wealth or income to holy uses. It is of primary importance that giving be done in a manner approved of by God.

**Giving is not for reasons of vain-glory.** Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount warned of such desires (Matt 6:1-4).

**Giving cannot be done grudgingly** (2 Cor 9:7). It would be a violation of God's law for one to permit another to high-pressure (extort) him into giving to the Lord or anything else.

**Giving marks a character.** Giving is because of what a person is and not because of a great sales talk. Paul sending Onesimus back to Philemon said, "...without thy mind, I would do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were, of necessity, but willingly" (Phile 14).

**Giving cannot be done deceitfully.** Ananias and Sapphira are New Testament examples of this falsification (Acts 5). To pretend liberality in the presence of God has consequences for the soul. It would be a fearful thing to fain as if one was liberal in giving when such is not the case.

**Giving cannot be without love** (1 Cor 13:1-3). Nothing wonderful, spiritual, wholesome, or good can come from a loveless gift. True giving cannot be practiced without a feeling. When there are no feelings, a wholesome gift will not be forthcoming. A parable of the rich man and Lazarus is given by the Lord as an exhibition (Lk 16:19-31).

**Giving is hampered** when there is an alienation from a brother (Matt 5:23, 24). Such is a command and cannot be disregarded with impunity.

**Giving should be with simplicity.** Knowing what the good, acceptable and perfect will of God is becomes a lubricant for giving. An ostentatious giver makes it obvious that the recipient is somewhat beneath their contempt. It reeks with vanity and conceit.

**Giving is in the name of the Lord.** "For whosoever shall give a cup of cold water in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Mk 9:41). Christians should do all in the name of the Lord (Col 3:17). Doing it through the local congregation is the enhancement of the body of Christ.

**Giving "... upon the first day of the week..."** (1 Cor 16:1, 2) identifies that it should be systematic. It is a regular part of the five acts of worship on the Lord's Day. Continually giving is better, by far, than gifts poured out after long periods of neglect. Sustained giving is a habit and keeps the spring of charity fresh and vibrant.

**Liberal giving means** there is "singleness of heart" (2 Cor 8:2; 9:11). It is given because it has been given (Lk 6:38).

**Sacrifice is the way we display our living** (Rom 12:1-5). It is not enough to give the crumbs, no matter how needful, where a feast has taken place. It means one will give that which is well pleasing to God.

**The noblest part of giving** is in the cheerfulness with which the gift is given (Rom 12:1; 2 Cor 9:7). Cheerfulness is derived from pleasing the Lord and imitating the giver of all good and perfect gifts (Jas 1:17). Underneath the divine commandment is the great principle of benefit to the one who obeys. The miser is rightly called miserable.

**Purpose means a deliberate intention** has come to fulfillment (2 Cor 9:7). Purpose shows that giving should be accompanied by an inward intention which out straps the mere thrusting of one's hand into the pocket and giving only what the hand finds to give. (*continued in left column*)

# Family News:

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

## GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

### **December 20, 2015**

*Front foyer:* Don & Anne  
Herriage

*Back foyer:* Bobby & Brenda  
England

### **December 27, 2015**

*Front foyer:* Richard & Carolyn  
Renfro

*Back foyer:* Nancy Pond &  
Myrtle Wade

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## 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.

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## Contribution Counters For December

Mike Garrison & Walt LaHaye

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## Communion Preparation For December

Bobby & Brenda England

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## Sermon Titles

### **December 20, 2015**

a.m: "A Champion"  
Scripture: Micah 1:2-7  
p.m: "Joy Bells Ring"  
Scripture: Psalms 84:9-12

### **December 27, 2015**

a.m: "Call To Prayer"  
Scripture: Psalms 103:1-7  
p.m: "Taste And See"  
Scripture: Psalms 34:1-8

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## **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, Laquita  
Baker, Robert Ruckman, Glen  
Kelly

### ***Homebound Members:***

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

### ***Recovering at Home:***

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

### ***Hospital:***

**Hannah Guajardo's** father,  
**Randall Morris** is in Mansfield  
Methodist Hospital – room #410.  
He had kidney failure, kidney is  
now working. He also has some  
other complications.

### ***Upcoming Procedures:***

**Mike Garrison** will have a  
procedure done on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Nursing Home:***

Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft  
Frances Tipton is now in room  
#214-B at Arbrook Plaza.

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

### ***Special Request:***

**Diedra Sutton** daughter of **Mike  
and Elizabeth Garrison** will  
have surgery on Tuesday  
December 15<sup>th</sup> at Baylor Irving,  
and they have requested our  
prayers.

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There will be **NO LADIES  
CLASS** until the first of the year.  
Happy Holidays!

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

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## NEW LESSON

On December 13<sup>th</sup> Jerry Mckey  
started a new study on Ephesians  
in the small auditorium class.

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## SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the  
family of **Dorothy Smith**. She  
passed away last week at Avalon  
Alzheimer's Care Home.  
Services will be on **December  
19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** here at the  
church building.

We also extend our sympathy  
**Nancy Pond and family** on the  
loss of her cousin, **Doris Petty**.  
Her funeral services will be on  
Wednesday in Waco, Texas.

We also extend our sympathy to  
**David and Faye West** on the  
passing of their grandson, **Jerry  
Swindell** yesterday due to a  
massive heart attack.

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## CHANGE OF TIME

**Wednesday night services** time  
will be changed to **7 p.m.** instead  
of 7:30 p.m. starting on **January  
6, 2016.**

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## THANK YOU

I want to thank you so much for  
the generous and much needed  
gift. I continue to fight this  
illness, so one day soon we can  
return to our family at Beltline. I  
keep praying that God keeps  
blessing you all. I thank you all  
for your prayers. We love and  
miss you all.

**The Melendez Family**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NO BULLETIN FOR (Dec. 21 & 28)

**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**

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## THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		12/20/15	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Jerry McKey · Don Herriage · Mike Garrison
· Richard Renfro	· Thomas Rathbun		
· Curtis Vaughan	· Dale Cox		
· Purman Cofer	· Nathan Allen		
· Dean Webb	· Robert Taylor		
· John Mayer			
· Kenny Mayer			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u> · Bill Matthews Micah 1:2-7
· Nathan Allen			
· Don Herriage			
<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u> · Jerry Baker · Henry Seidmeyer
· Robert Taylor			
<u>A.M. SONG LEADER</u>			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u> · Thomas Rathbun Psalms 84:9-12
· Jerry McKey			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u> · Darrell Allen – Denzil Myers

### FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
<b>Sun. Class</b>	58	71	62	100
<b>A.M. Worship</b>	104	98	102	150
<b>P.M. Worship</b>	70	72	67	80
<b>Wed. Class</b>	50	54	54	85
<b>Contribution</b>	\$7587	\$4589	\$5580	\$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