



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

August 25, 2014  
Volume 6 Number 31

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

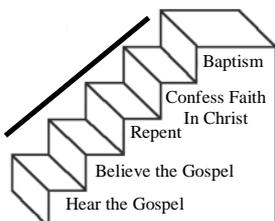
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham  
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

### 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)



## No Middle Ground

Don Hatch

**God exists or He does not exist!** That is the question! This is established by the law of the “middle excluded”. There can be no middle ground. One cannot logically affirm both existence and nonexistence. When it comes to God’s existence **agnostics** lament that there is not enough evidences to prove and make a decision on the matter. **Skeptics** doubt that there is enough proof for the reality of God. **Atheists** boldly state that there is no God.

**Advocating God’s existence** is based upon adequate evidences which are reasonable beyond doubt. God is not demonstrated scientifically in the same fashion that one might prove gold, silver, oil or that the eye of man has unique features. Empirically the proof of God is the five senses. The most effective argument for God is what is called the “**cosmological argument**”. All acknowledge that the universe is real. Why is there something rather than nothing? If an entity cannot account for its own being it is said to be “contingent” [*because it depends upon something outside of itself*]. The universe is inadequate to cause itself or to explain its existence. Logically for a thing to exist there must be a “first cause”. Who or what was the first cause of the universe? The universe is an effect with an antecedent cause. Admittedly the universe is a contingent effect. What caused the universe? Something greater than the universe existed. It was a Creator and Sustainer. The law of “cause and effect” scientifically proves that there are no exceptions that the thing created did not create itself. Every material effect must have an antecedent cause. All of science crumbles if there is no law of cause and effect. Scientific investigation requires that this law be upheld. The law of causation is indispensable to all practical parts of life. Jurisprudence [Law] would become meaningless if those who searched for truth are not able to find a cause for the effect. It is meaningless to say something is a cause if there is no effect. It is likewise meaningless to say something is an effect if there were not an adequate cause. Effects without adequate causes are unknown. God is the only adequate cause great enough to bring into existence a universe.

The universe is **not** eternal. It did **not** create itself. The universe **is** a creation. These three

statements form the foundation of “exclusion of the middle ground”. Dr. Robert Jastrow [Director of Mount Wilson Observatory-not a creationist] claims that the universe cannot be an effect without an adequate cause (**Until The Sun Dies**...pg 21). Scientists may not admit how the universe began, but there are two things that are true: (1) the universe had a beginning and (2) the universe will definitely end. All attempts to prove the universe created itself have failed. Modern science denies an eternal existence of the universe, either in past or in the future [Arthur Eddington-British Astronomer]. “It is common knowledge that the universe isn’t eternal but had a beginning...” [Kitty Ferguson **Science Writer**].

**The theory of something** from nothing has a flaw. If there could be an empty flat vacuum space and time it would be a complete zero. In complete emptiness the measurements would read zero. When you measure emptiness and the emptiness is zero that is the precise measurement. It cannot change from zero to something. No principle can deduce **zero** to read **matter**. Nothing forced to be something is **unscientific**. If we have nothing at the beginning of the universe, what was it and what will it become? Zero is a very precise measurement and a measurement of two zeros in a vacuum must equate to an empty space with no matter.

**The universe is neither eternal**, nor did it create itself. It therefore must have been created. Creation implies a Creator. Either the universe had a beginning or it did not have a beginning. Such is correct philosophically and scientifically. Nothing causelessly happens. Since there is a universe and it could not create itself there must be an “Infinite Superior” cause and it must be something (Someone). It had to exist before. There was some uncaused “First Cause”. The creation cannot be greater than the Creator and must be of a different nature. Everything that exists is either mind or matter. Something exists now, so someone existed eternally. Therefore, either matter or mind is eternal. Matter is not eternal, thus it is mind (Spirit) that is eternal. Everything is either dependent [contingent] or independent [non-contingent]. The universe is not eternal. It is therefore dependent. It must have a first cause to exist. The universe is a product of an eternal first cause [God] that is not dependent upon matter, space, time and outside power. Only God fulfills that which is needed to create a universe. The universe exists, laws are enforced, and man cannot change one law in the universe. Mankind did not create the universe. Mankind cannot sustain the universe. The universe operates in accordance with exact scientific laws designed by God. The evidence of a Supreme Designer is stamped on the entire universe (Ps 148:1-14).

**FAMILY CARE**  
**A Message from Our Shepherds**

We at Belt Line Road continue to be a blessed congregation, and continue to be a shining light in this community and elsewhere. Thanks be to God for every member who pitches in, and does many good things in his service. Mission Printing continues to be a well supported work with many participants. Our Bible Study teachers continue to do outstanding work. We have a wonderful group of Teachers that prepare interesting and needful lessons each week for all of us. We commend them for their outstanding love, and effort to share with us more of God's true Word. We have an ongoing Love at Belt Line, and continually hear from visitors that Belt Line is a very friendly congregation. This is a great compliment, and you have earned this impression by doing good. This is practicing God's truth in action and by example.

The Gospel is truth: In the Ephesians epistle Paul said, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man "truth" with his neighbor: for we are members one of another" (Eph 4:25). Christians are admonished to put away falsehood and speak that which is truth (real & complete). Paul also said, "to whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you" (Gal. 2:5). This Gospel (truth) is God's Word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The truth is God's word active which must be obeyed as first century Christians obeyed according to I Peter 1:22, where Peter said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren". Jesus said if a man desires to enter the Kingdom of God, he must be born again" (John 3:5). James tells us that we are begotten (born again) by the word of God, "Of his own will begat he us with the Word of truth" (James 1:18). We are to walk in the truth as Gaius, "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth" (John 3:3).

Are we pleased with our attendance record during the Wednesday evening summer series? Are we making plans to attend our upcoming Gospel Meeting October 12-15, just six weeks from now? Do we remember the responsibility of not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25)? When we do our part, we are obeying the Lord's commands. Mark 12:30-31 says, "and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment". "And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is no other commandment greater than these".

We want to remember our sick and shut-ins in our prayers. Some have gotten better while others are being added to the list. Pray for all of them!

**Dean Webb**

**Token Of Salvation**

There are reasons to be thankful for **fellowship in the Gospel**. Thanksgiving causes a person to reflect on blessings which increase joy. Each individual should be thankful for the safeguarding and sympathetic participation in the preservation of the gospel.

This is a **fellowship of grace**. This is not a manmade fellowship of neutrality, an organization like a club or social event. It is sovereignly affected by Christ as Lord (1 Corinthians 1:9), displayed in scripture by the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:1) and sent from the Father (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1). Apart from the Godhead this fellowship is impossible. Jesus Christ, like a magnet, draws all men to Him via the cross (John 12:32). The crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, coronation and place at the Father's right hand attract the elect to deeper fellowship. This is a very close association

This is a **fellowship of faith** by obedient believers approaching communion through a living faith. Faith commemorates Christ by seeking to do His good will. This **fellowship** is one of **prayer** and **thanksgiving** (Philippians 1:3, 5, 9-11). Prayers are offered individually and collectively glorifying God for such a delightful fellowship. Jesus drew men to himself and to each other in the preciousness of faith. The faithful preserve fellow-believers in their hearts and yearn that they will be blessed (John 13:34; Philippians 4:2).

This is a **fellowship of helping** others and contributes to their needs (Acts 2:43-47; Romans 15; 26; 2 Corinthians 8:4). Those in this precious fellowship make it a practice to supply the needs of missionaries and their families (Philippians 4:14-20). This is a **fellowship of promoting the gospel**. It is an active and hearty cooperation (Philippians 1:5; 1 Corinthians 9:23).

This is a **fellowship of separation** and a great paradox. Attachment to Christ is a detachment from the world, in words, purpose and deeds. What fellowship could there be between light and darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 John 2:15)? In this fellowship of war we struggle side by side against a common foe (Philippians 1:27-30; 2:25).

**With these things in mind we thank God for the fellowship in the gospel.** Emphasis is put on a hearty **cooperation** in the work of the gospel and a **sympathetic participation** throughout the years. This fellowship has room for all the faithful. It is no greater than God allows, nor smaller than he demands. It is **exceptionally kind** and **dignified**. However, there is a **spontaneity** and **opportunity** to give freely and joyfully according to our means (2 Corinthians 8:3). It is not a matter of impulsiveness, but of a lasting principle "from the first day until the present". Each should live in confidence that God began a good work and will help us carry it out to a completion. God is not passive in using us as his instruments for good. This work was good in origin, quality, purpose and result (Ephesians 2:1-10). Each should reflect on the work of grace in our lives and manifest increasing joy for opportunities to have **fellowship in the Gospel** (1 Thessalonians 1:2-5). Day-by-day Christian living should be regarded as unquestionable evidence of election and eternal purpose.

**Don Hatch**

# Family News:

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

## GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

### August 31, 2014

*Front foyer:* Bill & Linda Matthews

*Back foyer:* Henry Seidmeyer & Jerry Grantham

### September 7, 2014

*Front foyer:* Richard & Carolyn Renfro

*Back foyer:* Thomas Rathbun & Doris Selby

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## Sermon Titles

### August 31, 2014

a.m: "Grievous Times"  
Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1-7  
p.m: "Fifth Sunday Singing"  
Scripture: TBA

### September 7, 2014

a.m: "His Word"  
Scripture: Titus 1:1-4  
p.m: "Know The Father"  
Scripture: John 14:7-14

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## Contribution Counters For August

Glen Kelly & Purman Cofer

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## Communion Preparation For August

Robert & Cathy Taylor

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## MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet *Sunday* at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium to collate booklets. Please come help us and enjoy the Christian fellowship.

## PRAYER LIST

### *Ongoing Health Concerns:*

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, Joann Hatch, Serena Hatch, J.C. and Dessie Ross, Denzil Myers, Tom Prince, \*Tom Head

### *Homebound Members:*

Roy and Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Gearldean Jones, Frances LaFerney

### *Recovering at Home:*

**Serena Hatch** has a broken bone associated with her hip replacement.

**Grady Fowler** is suffering with bronchitis.

**Elizabeth Garrison's** son, **Mac Dwyer** was released from the hospital.

*Hospital:* None at this time.

### *Other Requests:*

**Sharon Wilkinson's** (a close co-worker of **Donna Davis**) mother has been diagnosed with colon cancer. Prayers have been requested on her behalf. They are strong Christians who have given this over to God.

### *Nursing Home:*

Billie Myers – Northgate Plaza  
Fauna Garrett – Emerall Hills Rehab Center  
Dorothy Smith – Avalon  
Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft

### *Military:*

Chris and Abigail Mathews

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## SUMMER SERIES

8/27/14 – **Travaris Armstrong** will be speaking to us on "Virtues In Practice" – **Romans 12:9-21**

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**Hannah Guajardo** has a new phone number: 469-216-9543

## TEACHERS

The new quarter starts on Wednesday night, **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** and Sunday, **September 7<sup>th</sup>**.

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## GREEN CANS

If you have not done so already, please bring your filled green cans no later than Sunday **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night Singing

There is a sign-up sheet in the front foyer if you would like to request a song for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night Singing on Sunday, **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

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## CHRIST'S HAVEN FOR CHILDREN

Christ's Haven **Fall Work Day** is Saturday, **Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>**. If you can help in this effort, please register online at [www.ChristsHaven.org](http://www.ChristsHaven.org). The volunteers are invited to enjoy lunch with the Christ Haven families and staff at the conclusion of the Work day!

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## LADIES CLASS

**Ladies Class** will begin on Tuesday, **September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 10 a.m. at the Annex. We will be studying about **Bible Women**.

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## THANK YOU NOTES

There are new thank you notes on the back bulletin board.

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## RESPONSE

**Lovetta Smith** came forward to be restored and place membership with us. Her address is:

116 W. Shady Grove  
Irving, Texas 75060

Phone: 469-648-0087

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

8/27/14 Tavaris Armstrong – speaker

9/3/14 Ken Hope – speaker

**AUGUST BIRTHDAY'S**

- Elsie Nanny – 8/2
- Frances Tipton – 8/2
- Dorothy Smith – 8/3
- Amber Vaughan – 8/5
- Marjorie Bennett – 8/8
- David Odom – 8/11
- Kaitlyn Howard – 8/17
- Dolores Ramsey – 8/18
- Stacey Cook – 8/22
- Charlotte Nigh – 8/22
- Tiffany Garrett – 8/22
- Donna Davis – 8/25
- Ann Smith – 8/26
- Melody Lundquist – 8/31

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- Dorris & Janie Walker – 8/5
- Brent & Samantha Howard – 8/14
- Derrol & Kelly Allen – 8/20
- Bill & Linda Matthews – 8/22
- Dale & Katherine Cox – 8/30
- Jerry & Laquita Baker – 8/31

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

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**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY**

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		8/31/14	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Dean Webb
· Richard Renfro	· Robert Taylor		· Jerry Baker
· Dean Webb	· Toby Howard		· Don Herriage
· Jerry McKey	· Bobby England		
· Darrell Allen	· Derrol Allen		<b><u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u></b>
· Glen Kelly			· Bill Matthews
· John Mayer			2 Timothy 3:1-7
			<b><u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u></b>
			· Bill Matthews
			· Dale Cox
			<b><u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u></b>
			· Henry Seidmeyer
			TBA
			<b><u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u></b>
			· Jerry Baker

**LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)**

- Mike Batot
- Richard Renfro

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

- Mike Batot

**A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Darrell Allen

**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>	68	71	68	100
<b>A.M. Worship</b>	86	130	115	150
<b>P.M. Worship</b>	63	69	64	80
<b>Wed. Class</b>	67	78	69	85
<b>Contribution</b>	\$3882	\$4466	\$4911	\$5331

**MISSIONS**

- Haiti – Printing
- Glen Tattersall – Australia
- Roland & Rose Moshen – France
- Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma – Australia
- Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
- Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
- David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT
- Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
- Roy Conner – Brown Trail Preaching Student
- 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
- Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

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1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE  
PAID  
AT IRVING, TEXAS**