

**Readings Today: AM: Romans 12:9-13 Be Diligent**

**PM: Psalm 24:7-10 King of Glory**

**Elders:**

Bob Alley Jerry Brinkley  
Cary Ashton Gary Watt

**Evangelist:**

Steve Wolfgang

**Deacons:**

Curt Frechmann Bryce Cann  
Loren Hueter Greg Jones  
Dave Malcomson Eric Paige

**Worship Service Schedule**

**Sunday**

Bible Classes 9:00 A.M.  
Worship Service 9:55 A.M.  
Worship Service 6:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.

Phone (630) 968-0760

Web Address [www.dgcoc.org](http://www.dgcoc.org) 901



**Downers Grove  
church of Christ  
1236 63rd St  
Downers Grove IL 60516**

**HIGH LIGHTS**

**"THE LORD SHALL BE THINE  
EVERLASTING LIGHT"**

**July 19, 2015**

**Complacency**

There are times when going to worship services is nice and comfortable, attendance is good, the people are friendly and things seem unlikely to change. Complacency can set in and take root in situations like this making efforts to contact outsiders evaporate into no effort at all. When the attendance numbers are good and thinking that they always will be is a dangerous train of thought. Experience shows that membership is a pendulum that swings high to a comfortable number but inevitably it swings back to a low where nervous despair can set in and work for the Lord gets put aside.

The plague of complacency can consume a congregation, before you know it lethargy takes over. Lack of confidence is its follow-up. It is also a mistake to be complacent when membership is low in suggesting that there is nothing we can do because this is a difficult area and there are not many people who desire to go to church. "Woe is us and we must just sit for there is nothing we can do" or "maybe someone will move into the area from another church and our numbers will be restored" are nothing but defeatist thoughts.

The work of spreading the Gospel to show others the way to God, to have them join with us in our worship is and must be an ongoing effort by all members all the time.

There is always a worry when you hear of people moving out of a congregation. Whether it is relocating due to work opportunities or retiring to some other state where the grandkids are or for whatever reason it can cause unsettling feelings. Confidence in the Lord is what is needed continue spreading the word and everything will be fine. —Bob Alley

Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.



Give God thy heart, thy service, and thy gold; The day wears on, and time is waxing old.

<b>Order of Worship Today</b>	<b>Morning services</b>	<b>Evening services</b>
Greeting and Announcements	Gary Watt	Gary Watt
Song Leader	Dave Malcomson	Singing
Scripture Reading	Wade Kinney	Gary Watt
Prayer	David Ashton	Blair Elam
Contribution – Leader	Walter Purcell	
Contribution – Prayer	Brian Jaros	
Lord's Supper – Leader	Walter Purcell	Bill Brinkley
Cup – Prayer	Bill Brinkley	Brian Jaros
Assist	Nick Pippenger	
Assist	Justin Elam	
Assist	Jim Kolze	
Speaker	Ethan Riffle	Steve Wolfgang
Closing Prayer	Ramon Rodriguez	Curt Frechmann
Greeters — Peter Jetton and Trevor Copeland		
<b>Welcome to our Visitors: Please fill out a white visitor card - and give it to a greeter at the close of services.</b>		
Wed. Evening 7-22-15: Song-Jetton; Speaker-Dutton; Prayer-Wolfgang		

## In the News: John the Baptist's Finger?

The cable news television station, CNN recently ran a series titled Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Forgery. The programs are typical fare. Supposed scholars and researchers intersperse comments with a dramatic reenacting of Bible events, trying to "separate truth" from the gospel accounts and church legend. There is no respect for the inspiration of scripture. The resulting program is a skewed, skeptical view of the life and ministry of our Lord.

One aspect of this series is the examination of "Christian" relics as an adjunct to the narrative. In this they attempt to establish the authenticity of such items as the Shroud of Turin, the ossuary of the "brother of Jesus", and bones claimed to be from John the Baptist. Of course, each time such a relic is shown to be inauthentic, it emboldens some to claim another victory against the "superstition" that is the Christian faith.

Allow me to save them the trouble. I don't believe the claims concerning any of these relics. It is doubtful that any of the relics, whether claimed to be from Jesus, Peter, John the Baptist, or any ancient Christians are in any way legitimate. We have no pieces of the cross, no bones of any of the apostles, and no burial shroud of the resurrected Lord. And, we don't need them. Such relics are the byproduct of superstition and idolatry. They add absolutely nothing to our faith. They are not necessary, nor are they helpful.

During the show I watched, scientists drilled a hole in a bone which was believed by some to be a finger bone of John the Baptist. Using the material extracted from the bone, they determined through testing it was probably from the 7th century, thus not belonging to John the Baptist. Of course, if it was dated from the 1st century, and DNA tests indicated it was from a Semitic man, there still would be no proof that it was authentic. However, such would be enough for some to revere it, and claim that it in some way legitimized their faith.

The veneration of relics is a form of idolatry. They become talismans, with protective and magical properties in the eyes of the possessor. They detract from, rather than enhance the person and mission of Christ. They are vestiges of the middle ages, and have no part in true faith. The scriptures teach the power of gospel to save the souls of man (Romans 1:16). It, and it alone should be our focus in seeking to convince the hearts of those who are lost in sin.

Something to think about the next time we decide to put a cross around our neck, or a fish on our car, or a WWJD bracelet on our wrist. Instead, let us open our Bibles, and share the message of Christ with our neighbors and friends!

—Stan Cox April 4th, 2015

# News and Notes

## Prayer List

### **Our Members:**

Those coping with on-going health and mobility difficulties:

- Jean Freeman.
- Steve Richardson has a serious heart condition.
- Sal Scarpitti is in Provident Healthcare and Rehab facility, 3450 Saratoga Ave. Downers Grove, 60515 (630-969-2900) room 10A and he welcomes visitors.
- Mary Brown has been confined to home for some time and enjoys visits, cards and calls.

## Prayers for Loved Ones

- Blair Elam's mother, Helen, (Elaine Petry's sister) coping with multiple medical issues is in a facility that deals with Alzheimer's patients.
- Walter Purcell's brother-in-law, Louis Woods, dealing with serious health issues.
- Mary Hall's sister in Wis. Sula Maxey, and her bro-in-law in Alabama, Joe Basham, dealing with health issues.
- Juanita Saladino's mother is in hospice care in KY.
- Lyna Fowlkes son, Daryl recovering from a stroke.
- Melissa Brinkley's co-worker hurt in a car accident.

## Edification Group

**Group 3** will meet today in the library.

## Children's Bible Study

This class meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 5:30 P.M.

## Travelers

Those that are away traveling or recently returned.

- Donna & Brian Richardson will be away until late July. Steve will be joining them for part of the trip.
- Rebecca, Samantha and Jonathan Hill are in CA until Aug.7.
- The Jones' family is away this week.
- The Phil Prince family is in Colo. preparing for their move there in August.
- Kevin Paige is in TX for a few weeks.

## Congregational Meeting

The elders are seeking your input for a solution to our Wed. evening issue of people leaving directly after class and are suggesting that we begin with the invitation portion at 7:15 and then go to class at the 7:30 buzzer and then all leave at the end of class at the 8:15 buzzer. There will be no gathering upstairs, etc. We would like to try this for a trial period of 3 months and determine its effectiveness. Please let the elders know so an announcement can be made at the congregational meeting next week.

## Head count Needed

A trip is planned for our young people to visit the Oriental Institute on Wednesday and a "HEAD COUNT" BY TODAY of those who will be attending is necessary. Please see Steve Wolfgang to confirm, or for more information. Young people may feel free to invite friends to go.