

Readings Today: AM: 1 Pet. 5:6-12 How to Get Home
PM: Psalm 25:1-7 Prayer for Guidance

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 902

When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry.

When a father helps a son, both smile; but when a son must help his father, both cry.

| Order of Worship Today | Morning services | Evening services |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Greeting and Announcements | Gary Watt | Gary Watt |
| Song Leader | Bryce Cann | Eric Paige |
| Scripture Reading | Wade Kinney | Gary Watt |
| Prayer | Mark Ames | Trent Dutton |
| Contribution – Leader | Trevor Copeland | |
| Contribution – Prayer | Josh Holland | |
| Lord’s Supper – Leader | Trevor Copeland | Jim Kolze |
| Cup – Prayer | Jim Kolze | Josh Holland |
| Assist | Dakota Fuss | |
| Assist | Tony Kelly | |
| Assist | Steve Solomon | |
| Speaker | Steve Wolfgang | Ethan Riffle |
| Closing Prayer | Cary Ashton | Dave Malcomson |
| Greeters – Jerry Brinkley and Eric Roper | | |
| Welcome to our Visitors: Please fill out a white visitor card - and give it to a greeter at the close of services. | | |
| Wed. Evening 7-29-15: Song–Malcomson; Speaker-J. Ashton; Prayer-C. Whitby | | |



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

HIGH LIGHTS

“THE LORD SHALL BE THINE EVERLASTING LIGHT”

July 26, 2015

Our Congregational Meeting

This congregation maintains a consistent practice of being regularly informed of the actions and plans in which we are all expected to participate. Before the elders can know in which direction to lead, they must make plans with meetings that include the preacher, deacons, teachers, and the other members, as we all play a part in the growth of the church.

Few matters and in-depth plans can be worked out to move the church ahead without serious discussion, information and feed-back. Having too much information holds a fonder position than “nobody mentioned that before”. “I’ve already heard that at previous congregational meetings” lacks regard for other members that are new or maybe didn’t realize what was presented and are still expected to participate.

Lest there be any confusion, this is not a congregational business meeting. It would be unscriptural to make this a decision making meeting. (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5, 1 Tim. 3:2,4; 1 Cor. 14:34-35) But, it is an updating and information providing meeting of what has been decided or about to be started that is good for the congregation and from the congregation.

As elders we must use every opportunity to stimulate the spirit and growth of the church, by initiating teaching, preaching and training programs, and even changes in the order of worship. Sometimes the decisions made might make some uncomfortable but our love for them and their soul is our main focus. The long range effects of the seemingly small variations of our behavior cause firm decisions now to keep the flock from straying and protect it from predators that will seize every opportunity to weaken and destroy it.

The good work of all its members makes for a strong congregation that is informed of the “overall plan” of heaven as our goal. —BA

How To Get Home From Here

Peter's first letter is a remarkable production for a man who as an early disciple of Jesus fought so strenuously against allowing any notion of suffering into his vision of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:22). His answer to his Lord's enemies was not the other cheek but the sharp edge of a sword (John 18:10). The successful arrest of Jesus was an experience so shattering as to send him into the night denying he knew Him, and, truly, in a real sense he did not.

Like so many others in those days Peter saw the kingdom of Christ in terms of victory in this world. By power invincible the culture of heaven was to be made the culture of earth and all who resisted would become the outlanders and aliens. He and others who had followed Jesus would at last be "in."

The cross, and the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, changed all that. He began to see suffering, not just as acceptable, but as essential to the kingdom, and this world, though the backdrop for a critical spiritual war, as a temporary stop-off on a longer journey. He had learned that not only would God's people never fit in here but that their task was to get successfully through and out of this place to a heavenly homeland.

All God's people were once quite at home in this world, citizens of a culture conceived and constructed by the devil, a hellish place of selfishness, lust, and pride. The only trouble was, we were strangers to God, aliens to His gracious promises, and without hope (Ephesians 2:12). So, we totally changed directions, experienced a new birth (1 Peter 1:23) and took on a new identity and culture (Philippians 3:20). Once aliens to God we became "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19).

Our task, as Peter by the Holy Spirit so ably states it in his first letter, is to so conduct ourselves in this alien land that we can get through it to our true homeland, and on the way bring as many people with us as possible (2:12, 3:1,15). He urges us in the face of the seductive culture that surrounds us to remember who we are, "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special People" (2:9), what we are to do, "proclaim the praises of him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light" (2:9), and where we are going, "to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for [us]" (1:4).
—Paul Earnhart

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.

Edification Group

Group 4 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.

- Rebecca, Samantha and Jonathan Hill are in CA until Aug.7 and Tom is in Channahon until Aug.
- Kevin Paige is in TX for a few weeks.
- Juanita Saladino and the Fuss family are in KY.
- Gary Watt traveling on business.

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.

We will have a shortened worship service before the congregational meeting.