

# The McLish Avenue Messenger

This is the message we have heard from Him... God is Light (1 John 1:5).

August 23, 2009

MCLISH AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST • 607 McLish SW • Ardmore, OK 73401



This New Testament passage quotes an Old Testament passage. Where is the Old Testament passage found?

“...that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.’”

Matthew 8:17 (NKJV)

Evangelist

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 am

Worship ..... 10:30 am

Worship ..... 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm

Part one

## The Nature of the New Testament Church

Ben Bailey

Two thousand years after the institution of the Lord's church, the ideal pattern for the New Testament church has almost become lost. In a world where an individual can find a denomination that believes and practices almost anything, it has become increasingly difficult to identify the New Testament church. To identify the Lord's church in the midst of all this denominational chaos, we must first identify what the church is not.

**Not A Building.** The Church of Christ is not composed of walls, ceilings, and pews. The bold martyr Stephen proclaimed, “God does not dwell in temples made with hands...” (Acts 7:48-50). Even during the time of the Israelites God did not want his people to trust in the temple. In Jeremiah, the people were crying out “The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord” (Jer 7:4). Yet, their trust in the building did not save them from the impending Babylonian exile (Jer 25:9-12). Buildings burn, temples fall, yet the church of the living God will stand forever because it is comprised of individuals (1 Cor 12:27). May we never let our sanctuary become our cemetery. The Church of Christ is not a building.

**Not a Denomination.** The word denomination by its very definition is in direct contradiction with the New Testament pattern. Denomination means to call by or name something after another. In the New Testament, the idea of naming the church after a person other than Christ is strongly condemned. Paul said to the Corinthians, “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among

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# Nature

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you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor 1:10). In this context, Paul is dealing with the root problem of denominationalism. Some were saying, “I am of Paul, or I am Apollos, or I am of Cephas” (1 Cor 1:12). Paul points out that denomination is division by asking them, “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or, were you baptized in the name of Paul” (1 Cor 1:13)? For anyone who desires to have a church named after them, Paul sets down two simple criteria. First, one must be crucified as a sinless sacrifice for his followers. No person on earth today can serve as a sinless sacrifice (Heb 10:12, Rom 3:23). Second, the leader of any group must have the God given authority to command baptism in his name. In the New Testament there is no authority for baptizing into any man’s name, except Christ (Matt 28:18-20). Therefore, denominationalism violates the pattern of the New Testament church. The Church of Christ is not a denomination.

**Information needed** Melba is working on a new directory and is missing several birthdays and anniversaries. Please check the list on the back bulletin board and see if she is looking for yours.

Today, we can and must be the church of the first century. To identify the New Testament church we must put aside all bias, denominationalism and human creeds. We must go back to Bible, and study the original blueprint in restoring the New

**Media available** *There is a sign up sheet on the back bulletin board if you would like to have a complete set of Ben's lessons on Revelation.* If you'd like a copy of another specific lesson taught from the pulpit, please write down your name and which lesson(s) you are interested in and give to Melba Wallace. Don't forget that tracts are available in the tract racks at the back of the auditorium and in the hallway to the offices. These can be used in discussing religious matters with friends and neighbors. **The Gospel of Christ** CDs and DVDs are available at the back of the auditorium for use in your own Bible study or in evangelistic efforts. If there is a CD or DVD that is not out that you'd like copies of, please use the order forms in the tract rack on the right side as you are facing the back. Also available are transcripts of **The Gospel of Christ** media. Don't forget to check out [www.thegospelofchrist.com](http://www.thegospelofchrist.com) to access all the media available through that effort.

## Outreach Groups

### Group 1

Chock & Mary Aldridge  
Ron & Peggy Jones  
Ray & Tomi Harness  
James & Tammy Gravelle  
Ronnie Byrd  
Steve Mann  
Scott & Tina Saner  
Jaccie Pirtle

### Group 2

James & Dana Meece  
David & Linda Johnson  
Ben & Christie Bailey  
Betty Higgins  
Harold & Martha Dillard  
Pat Ballard & Vickie Fletcher  
Bill & Gail Stewart  
Earl & Sue Mann

### Group 3

Vernon & Arlene Castleman  
Sharon Ryan & Christy Murray  
Cecil Hargrove  
Lovel & Mary Hughes  
Lonnie Harris  
Rick & Suzanne Tidwell  
Tom Matlock  
Sharlene Wallis & Rebecca



**Debra Williamson** had emergency surgery on Wednesday. **Tabitha Ray-Barton** will start the next level of her treatment in a few weeks. **Earl Mann** is scheduled for back surgery on September 8th. Daylon Lewis broke his thumb last week. **Glenda Vinson's mother** is having problems with her heart. **Bill Cavins**, Melba Culbreth's brother who is in his 90s, fell recently, breaking a bone in his neck,

cutting one eye and giving himself many bruises. Ruth Parker's 85 year-old friend, **Beth Fincher**, has an inoperable brain tumor. Ruth Minyard requests prayers for two nephews. **Roger Parker** has liver and lung cancer and **Donald Parker** has advanced liver and brain cancer. **Judy Grammer** got a good report from her tests. **Jan Barlow**, Sue Creecy's daughter and Tammy Gravelle's sister, will have additional tests this week. Please continue to remember:

**Jerry Vinson**. • Mildred Pennington's sister **Geneva Long** and sister-in-law **Billie Gilliam** • **Carrie Leonard**, Earl Mann's 30 year-old cousin • **A.L. Hargrove**, Cecil's brother • **Lisa Brown**, friend of the Gravelles • **Dana Meece** • **Debra Thomas** • **Betty Higgins** • **Olga Stinson** • **Nancy McClanahan** • **Gary Dillard**, Harold's son, • **James Johnson**, an employee of the Manns • **Kenneth Overby** • Jamie Feroli's sister, **Dara Robison** • **Wayne Price**, Jennifer Johnson's uncle • **Murray Goforth** • **Tom Matlock's two brothers-in-law** • **Rebecca Stafford** • Glenda Vinson's sister, **Marie Daube** • **Harvey Grant**, Glenda Vinson's brother • **Jim Bowman** • **Debra Thomas' mother** • **Earl & Sue Mann** • **Marty Stinson** • **Pat Morrison**, Olga Sue Stinson's sister • **Virgie Burchfield** • **Dorthea Phillips** • **Madeline Minyard** • Sharon Ryan's mother, **Mary Griffeth** • Larry Ryan's mother, **Lorraine** • Peggy Jones' sister, **Mary Warner** • **Pat Ballard's mother** • Jamie Feroli's mother, **JoAnn Watson**, and grandmother • and those shut in/nursing home members.

**Meeting** The Lone Grove congregation will have a meeting September 11-13 on the topic of Archaeology and the Bible. Dewane Bryant will be the speaker. Look for additional information on the back bulletin board.

**Need a ride to services?** If you need the van to pick you up for services, please see **Steve Mann**, **Scott Saner**, or one of the elders.

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

### August

- 24 Roslyn Dotson
- 25 Andy Smith  
Gavin Lewis
- 29 Jerry Vinson  
Martin & Roslyn Dotson

### September

- 2 Sharlene Wallis
- 5 Aaron Mann  
Bill & Virgie Burchfield '74
- 6 Allison Hicks
- 7 Joshua Gravelle
- 9 Zaylon Boyd
- 10 Joseph Tipton  
Cecil Hargrove
- 13 Tony Brinkley
- 14 Ronnie Byrd  
Lacie Aldridge
- 15 David & Liz Aldridge
- 16 Scott Saner
- 17 Lindsay Patrick
- 18 George Jones
- 20 Sue Mann
- 21 LaToya Dotson  
Clay Brinkley
- 25 Eva Mae Gibbs  
Linda Johnson  
Robert & Nancy McClanahan '07
- 28 Jason Willingham  
Esther Godwin
- 29 Tom Jones
- 30 Raymond Boutwell  
Lovel & Mary Hughes

