

*“...strengthen thy brethren”*



*Luke 22:32*

## **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**of Genesee County**

**December 15, 2013**

**5284 Fenton Road, Flint Michigan 48507**

**Welcome All:**

We are thankful to have you with us today. The Lord's church here is dedicated to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, respecting both the authority and the silence of the Scriptures.

Again, thank you for worshipping God today.

**Schedule of Services**

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

**[www.coc-gc.org](http://www.coc-gc.org)**

Preacher: Michael Golwitzer (810) 771-4627

## **Prayer List**

**Drake Barringer**-he is a child that has been in and out of the hospital and prayers were requested for him.

**Barbara Johnson**

**Judy Wilkes** - completed chemotherapy.

**Elsie Jaques**

**Stan Bozich** - a friend of Chuck.

**Edith Taylor** - Bill's mother.

**Helen Summers**

**Lauren Weidner**

**Dale Gregory**

**Ried and Janet Davis**

**Ruth Blevens**

**Scott and Molly Bateman**

**Phyllis Bateman**

2 Pet 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue”

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## **Sermons**

**AM — “Master...for so I am.”**

**PM — Seek peace**

## THE PLACE OF SAFETY

The Psalmist wrote, *"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makes me dwell in safety"* (Psa. 4:8). In the midst of a world smitten with sin man needs a place of safety, security, and refuge. Such can only be found in the Lord. God has always provided such a place for those who love Him.

No one could have enjoyed peace and safety any more than Adam and Eve while living in the Garden of Eden. Not only was the garden a paradise on earth, it was also a place where the first couple had constant communion with God (Gen. 3:8). Wherever God dwells, those who live with Him are safe. After man sinned, he lost the peace and security that he once had with God. Yet down through the centuries a loving and gracious God would provide a safe haven for those who desired a relationship with Him.

According to Genesis, because of man's wickedness, God determined to destroy man from the face of the earth. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8).

Hence, God would save Noah from the devastation of the deluge. An ark was prepared according to God's specifications. This ark provided a place of safety for Noah and his family when the floodwaters raged. As a child, I was blessed to have a mother who read to me from the Bible. Whenever she read the account of Noah and the ark, she would conclude by reminding me that God has an ark of safety today. This ark of safety is the church of Christ.

Those who identify themselves as Christians acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Savior. However, most fail to realize what it means to be in Christ and in His church. Hence, such individuals remain in their sins. It is amazing how many scriptures speak of the necessity of being in Christ. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ...In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (Eph. 1:3,7).

Paul would add, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). So the place of safety for all men today is in Christ. Free from sin, the Christian no longer has to fear its

penalty. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). To be in Christ is to be free from the condemnation of sin (Rom. 8:1). Many religious people speak of their eternal security. However, only the New Testament Christian, one who has obeyed the gospel of Christ, can really be secure. In Him, nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:39).

But what does being in Christ have to do with the church of Christ? The church is comprised of those who are saved (Acts 2:47). Likewise, God's marvelous wisdom for saving man includes Christ and the church He purchased with His blood (Eph. 3:10-11). Those who are saved are found in the body of Christ, which is His church. Paul exhorted, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). How does one get into the church, God's ark of safety? He does so the same way he gets into Christ. "For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13).

The church is a refuge from the world. It provides security from the devil and sin. Isaiah spoke of this safe place when he wrote, The wolf shall also dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters that cover the sea (Isa. 11:6-9). Such is a highly figurative and symbolic language denoting the peaceful nature of the kingdom of Christ, which is the church. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and fear (Heb. 12:28). Since the kingdom or the church is eternal in nature (2 Pet. 1:11), and only citizens of the kingdom or members of the church will be saved (1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 5:23), let us implore all men to enter quickly into the fold of safety.

BARRY GRIDER Forest Hill News Bulletin July 18 2006

Editor's Note: The following manuscript was published in the 2006 "Truth in Love"