

*“...strengthen thy brethren”*



*Luke 22:32*

## **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**of Genesee County**

**April 21, 2013**

PO Box 190406 Burton, MI 48519

(810) 771-4627 or (810) 629-9567

Meeting place: 3499 S. Linden Road, Flint, MI 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.

### **Prayer List**

**Scott Bateman**-in need of prayers at this time.

**Chuck Smith**-health problems

**Stan Bozich**-had a stroke, a friend of Chuck.

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

**Dale Taylor Jr.** -cancer.

**Barbara Johnson**-Joyce's sister.

**Andy Kelly**-recently diagnosed with cancer.

**Lauren Weidner**

**Betty Crewse**

**Helen Summers**-breathing problems

**Phyllis and Russ Bateman**

**Garry Atkinson**- in and out of hospital with blood pressure problems.

**Cindy Atkinson**- surgery went well this week

**Austin, Tracey and Grace Clark**

### **Sermons**

(AM) Finding God's Treasure

(PM) What's so great about heaven?

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## What is God's plan for church organization?

Jesus promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18) and the Father made Him head of that church, which is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23). Since Christ is the only Head of the church, there is no room for any human authority over the church. The only organization of the church specified in Scripture is that of the local congregation. There is no biblical authority for any organization above the local congregation, such as a convention, association, or synod.

Christ chose the apostles to direct the church in the beginning, promising that the Holy Spirit would guide them (John 16:13). The miracles they did demonstrated that they were from God. Since the apostles had no successors, there are no apostles today, nor anyone to stand in their place to speak authoritatively to the church. The system that God established to oversee the work of the church after the apostles were gone was one that allowed each congregation to be self-governed and independent.

Each congregation was to follow the Bible, being overseen by men that Scripture refers to as elders, bishops, pastors, or overseers. The number of elders in each congregation is always plural in the New Testament. There is no example of a single elder or pastor overseeing a congregation alone (e.g. Acts 20:17).

Deacons are special servants who work under the authority of the elders. Paul addressed a letter to “the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” (Philippians 1:1). Each congregation also had a plurality of deacons. Men such as Stephen, functioning as deacons, though not specifically called deacons, are first mentioned in Acts 6:1-6.

Paul's letters give very specific qualifications for the elders and deacons which must be carefully followed (1 Timothy 3:1-9; cf. Titus 1:1). These qualifications are not optional (“must be”).

The primary mission of the preacher, or evangelist, is to “preach the word” (2 Timothy 4:2). Timothy was not a pastor, or bishop; he was an evangelist. He preached the word, and helped congregations. There is no reason for congregations to be organized today any differently than they were in the first century, with elders overseeing the work of the church, with deacons and evangelists serving under their guidance. This is God's pattern. —Bob Prichard