

*“...strengthen thy brethren”*

*Luke 22:32*



# **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**of Genesee County**

**May 26, 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.

[www.churchofchrist-geneseecounty.com](http://www.churchofchrist-geneseecounty.com)

## **Prayer List**

**Phyllis Bateman**-upcoming arm surgery, she will be having 2 plates and 8 to 10 screws. She is still recovering from other injuries from her fall.

**Helen Summers**

**Lauren Weidner**

**Austin, Tracey and Grace Clark**

**Scott Bateman**-in need of prayers. He is in and out of the hospital.

**Donna West**—Bill's Aunt— Brian Tumor

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

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

**Dale Taylor Jr.** –cancer.

**Gary Bowman** –Joyce's friend -heart problems.

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

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

**Judy Wilkes**-diagnosed with cancer.

## **Sermons**

**(AM) What Grace Demands**

**(PM) The Skeptical World**

## **Seminar at Webberville church of Christ with Rusty Stark**

**Date: June 28, Time: 7–9 p.m.**

### **Ideal Church Growth - In Quality and Quantity**

The church which Christ said he would build (Mt. 16:18) was blood-purchased (Ac. 20:28). It was not to be a static institution, but rather a vibrant, growing body. The tremendous responsibility of the church as “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15) in taking the gospel to “every creature” in “all nations” (Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-20) necessitates growth. And, everyone who considers himself as a faithful member of the body of Christ must demonstrate a vital interest in such growth if he would maintain God’s approval. But just as church growth is necessary, it is also necessary that it be God-approved growth.

An example of Ideal Church Growth is found in connection with the work of Paul and Timothy. Paul came to Derbe and Lystra and took Timothy with him. As they went through the cities they delivered the decrees which “were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. The church growth which resulted from their efforts is described this way: “And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily” (Ac. 16:15). This growth was twofold in nature. It involved: GROWTH IN QUALITY. The churches were “established in the faith.” The ASV says, “Strengthened in the faith.”

The means for growth in faith have been abundantly provided. The all-sufficient word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17), when “heard” (Rom. 10:17) serves as the basis for a growing and mature faith. As the church grows in faith it becomes more aware and concerned with regard to the opportunity and responsibility of propagating “the faith.” It is understandable then that Peter would exhort: “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2).

**GROWTH IN QUANTITY.** The churches “increased in number daily.” We should strive for growth numerically but that growth must be the result of an “established faith.” When growth in number occurs as a result of something other than growth in quality, it is not the right kind of growth and may in fact indicate a serious problem. When the church is strengthened in the faith God will give an increase in number (1 Cor. 3:6). We see instances where churches become more concerned about numerical growth than growth in quality. The result is a weakening of the faith due to a neglect of emphasis upon spiritual growth. A fact which we would do well to remember is that growth in faith will produce growth in numbers. On the other hand, a mere growth in numbers does not translate into growth in faith, or that essential quality.

HOW IDEAL CHURCH GROWTH MAY BE ENCOURAGED. If ever there was a time when we should be concerned about this matter, is NOW! The church is not growing in number but is reportedly declining, and that there is a general weakening in the faith is evidenced by the many false doctrines now being taught and the spirit of compromise and unconcern which now prevail. If God-approved church growth is to be encouraged, there is ONLY ONE WAY to do it. There must be a return to The Book! There must be a strengthening of the faith, leaving the increase in numbers to God. This will necessitate the abandoning of the gadgets and gimmicks which have been devised by the wisdom of men to help God out in giving a numerical increase. In the days when members of the church were known as “people of The Book,” the church grew both in quality and in quantity. God’s Word will produce the same results in our day.

Walter Pigg –Banner of Truth