

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm

TUESDAY

Men's Bible Class 9:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Ladies' Bible Class* 10:00 am
Bible Study 7:00 pm

*September through May

Please contact Kendra Walker @ 708-829-2081 or via email at kendrabw@aol.com with **prayer requests or announcements.**

There is also a **Suggestion**

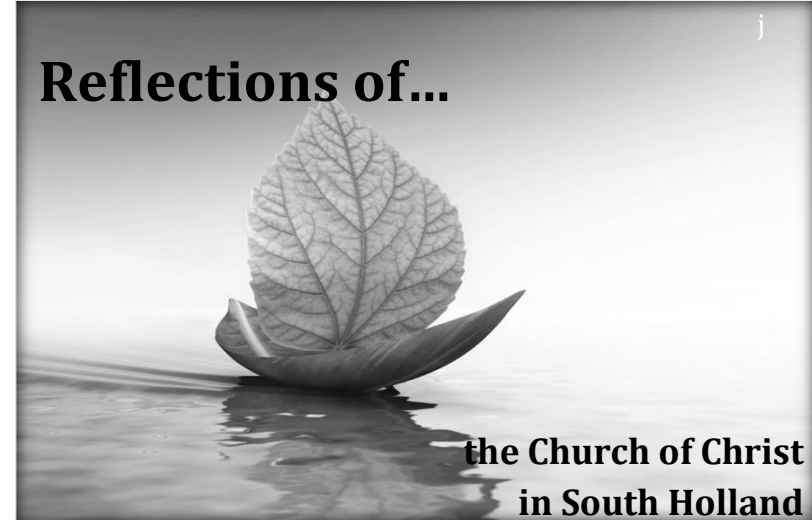
OUR WEEKLY RECORD

Sunday AM Bible Class 46
Sunday Attendance 103
Contribution \$2,637
Budget \$2,774

Transportation to Sunday morning worship service can be provided for those in need. Also, for those who are unable to attend services, **communion** can be shared. Please call John Davis at 708-748-5413 to make arrangements.
To receive a **Bible study by mail**, call Robert Webster at 708-331-2615 or email him at robster67@gmail.com

SERMON NOTES:

May 1, 2016



Welcome, visitors...



We are grateful to have you join us in worship today. If there is any way that we can be of help, please use the visitor's card to let us know. To learn more about churches of Christ and some of the work done here, please take a look at our website. Thank you for visiting with us today!

ELDERS

Ed Singleton John Davis Peter Bumpass
Kessler
815-464-6584 708-748-5413 708-331-1971
662-0668

DEACONS

(Assoc. Minister) Derrek Reese Scott
708-957-5850 219-

MINISTER

Robert Webster
708-752-5589

Office Hours:
Wed 10am-1pm Fri 10am-1pm

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

- **HEAR...**the Gospel of Christ. Rom 1:16; 10:17
- **BELIEVE...**in Jesus. John 8:24
- **REPENT...**of my sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- **CONFESS...**my faith in Jesus Christ. Matt 10:32; Rom 10:9-10
- **BE BAPTIZED...**for the forgiveness of sins. Acts 2:38; 22:16

Church of Christ in South Holland

15925 South State Street, South Holland, IL 60473 ph 708-331-2615 fax 708-331-4179

www.churchofchristsh.org Minister's email robster67@gmail.com

Is it Necessary for a Christian to Declare Membership with a Local Congregation?

- R. Webster

The New Testament indeed authorizes every disciple of Christ to become a member of a local congregation. Why is it necessary and where is this taught in the New Testament? Firstly, the individual Christian ought to declare membership in a local congregation to assure the leaders that he is subject to their authority. Heb. 13:17 states, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." The rulers (leaders/elders) of the local congregation have a responsibility to watch for the souls of individual Christians. Christians also have a responsibility to make their job easier by submitting to their authority and judgment. However, when a member "freelances," it inhibits his relationship with the elders, since they only have authority over members of the local congregation. If the individual Christian seeks to please God in obeying (Heb. 13:17), he will declare membership in a local congregation.

Secondly, the Christian sends a clear and vivid message that he is ready to work with the church when he decides to place his membership. The church is a saved body of people who have been commanded to work in saving and edifying souls (Matt. 28:19-20). Every congregation, therefore, is to facilitate its members to do the work of the church, so that each can fulfill their ministry (Col. 4:17). A Christian's intentions are made clear about wanting to be involved in the church's work when he expresses his desire for membership. It also enables the congregation to better plan its approach to its work, better assess its manpower for the tasks and have better accountability. Declaring membership therefore, augurs well not only for the work of the church but also for the spiritual benefits for the member.

Lastly, one the most important aspects of any congregation's stability is its fellowship, without which no Christian can receive the benefits therein. The notion that fellowship is merely about playing games and eating a meal together is totally false and travesty of this very important doctrine. The real blessings come when we study the scriptures together in Bible Classes, when gather together for worship, when we pray together, rejoice and weep together, when we financially support the work of the congregation and assist the needy together. We should never, therefore, place ourselves in a position where we are unable to be encouraged fully from the fellowship of the church. This was indeed a cornerstone doctrine of the first century church. Acts 2:42 "And they continued

steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Therefore, when a member places his membership, it indicates his desire to be in complete fellowship with the body of Christ.

Clearly, nothing is wrong for a member to worship with any local congregation at any time, however, if he is going reside in the vicinity, he would be well-advised to place membership. To the Corinthian members, Paul says "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (I Cor. 12:27). The blessings are too important to forfeit and the consequences too detrimental for the soul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome to our church family several who placed membership with us last week: **Sandra Muthleb** and **Victor and Vivian Simmons**.

Laura Singleton and Connie Burke are having a meeting today in the Conference Room after worship services to discuss the menu for the Sunday meal during our gospel meeting.

Keep the **upcoming gospel meeting** in your prayers, especially remembering our speakers and the visitors that will be attending.

Peter is preaching this morning in Joliet and will be back for the 6 pm worship.

The **elders are meeting** this coming Wednesday evening after Bible class.

Congratulations to Rachel Voznak

Please remember to **silence or power off any electrical devices** during worship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ann Marie's mother has been ill and asked for our prayers. Her address is 59 Hartwell Gardens, May Pen, Clarendon, Jamaica.

If you have a **request for prayers**, please fill out the back of a visitor's card and hand it to one of the men during communion.

Please continue to remember **Bruce Cartwright, Ken & Ursala Ware, Shults-Lewis Children's Home**, our **college kids**, our **mission efforts**, and our **military personnel** in your prayers.

CELEBRATIONS!!!

Happy Birthday...

May 1 – Mason Jarrett

May 3 – Liz Shelton

Happy Anniversary...

May 2 – Ron & Donna Ewell #18