

<u>WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS</u>																															
<p><b>Elders</b> Red Coleman Butch Lecrone Tim Maxcey Jim McLeod</p> <p><b>Deacons</b> Kyle Dusenberry Kermit Peters Bobby Scott James Vercelli</p> <p><b>Ministers</b> Levi Walker Kevin Wright Bob Young</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Laura McDonald</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Pam Bundy</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, July 4</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>AM Assembly</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Welcome</b></td> <td>Kyle Dusenberry</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Kid's Time</b></td> <td>Levi Walker</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Congregational Singing</b></td> <td>Tim Maxcey</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Opening Prayer</b></td> <td>Gary Kennedy</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Lord's Supper Prayer</b></td> <td>Red Coleman</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Communion:</b> Kyle Dusenberry, Charlie Ellsworth, Rick McCracken, Jerod McCracken, Steve Rosso, Steve Williams, Lynn Edwards, Jerry Banker</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Contribution</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Message</b></td> <td>Kevin Wright</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Prayer for Responses/Needs</b></td> <td>Tim Maxcey</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Nursery Attendant</b></td> <td>Marsha Morgan</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, July 4</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>PM Assembly</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Song Leader</b></td> <td rowspan="5" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">   <b>Holiday Devo</b> </td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Opening Prayer</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Closing Prayer</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Nursery Attendant</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Bus Driver:</b> Mike McDonald</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Sunday, July 4</u>	<u>AM Assembly</u>	<b>Welcome</b>	Kyle Dusenberry	<b>Kid's Time</b>	Levi Walker	<b>Congregational Singing</b>	Tim Maxcey	<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gary Kennedy	<b>Lord's Supper Prayer</b>	Red Coleman	<b>Communion:</b> Kyle Dusenberry, Charlie Ellsworth, Rick McCracken, Jerod McCracken, Steve Rosso, Steve Williams, Lynn Edwards, Jerry Banker		<b>Contribution</b>		<b>Message</b>	Kevin Wright	<b>Prayer for Responses/Needs</b>	Tim Maxcey	<b>Nursery Attendant</b>	Marsha Morgan	<u>Sunday, July 4</u>	<u>PM Assembly</u>	<b>Song Leader</b>	 <b>Holiday Devo</b>	<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	<b>Nursery Attendant</b>	<b>Bus Driver:</b> Mike McDonald
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MISSIONS</b> Shawn &amp; Barbara Gary, Mexico EOSC/Wilburton Bible Chair Prison Ministries: Marvin Dowell</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shawn &amp; Barbara Gary's Website</b> <a href="http://leonwork.blogspot.com">http://leonwork.blogspot.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEARCH TV</b> (<a href="http://www.searchtv.com">www.searchtv.com</a>) Ardmore/Ada-KWHB, Ch. 10 Sunday - 6:30 AM CHANNEL 12 Sunday - 7:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</b> <u>SUNDAY</u> Bible Classes 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Evening Worship 5:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDNESDAY</u> Bible Classes 7:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OFFICE HOURS</b> MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM</p>																															

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Fax: 918-423-4780 ~ Email: [mococ@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mococ@sbcglobal.net) ~ Web Address: [mainandoklahomacofc.org](http://mainandoklahomacofc.org)

**Main & Oklahoma Church of Christ**  
**PO Box 1004**  
**McAlester, OK 74502-1004**  
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# The Light

*"... put on the armor of light." Rom. 13:12*



## Bits From Bob..... Fewer Christians, Fewer Congregations, and Less Evangelism: Ten Reasons for the Decline

Early in 2006, I saw the updated numbers. Over a three year period, we experienced a net loss of about 12000 members (1%) and almost 200 congregations (1½%). These numbers suggest decadal loss rates of 3-5%. (Membership decreased from 1,276,621 to 1,265,844; the number of congregations declined from 13155 to 12963.)

These numbers say one thing. **We are losing more members than we are gaining.** There are fewer Christians and fewer congregations. Membership loss occurs in three ways: (1) deaths, (2) members who move away, and (3) members who "drop out". Membership gains occur in three correlating ways: (1) births, (2) members who move in, and (3) conversions. This simple explanation suggests that several cultural and demographic factors may be at work. (1) Our entire nation is graying, and the birth rate is down among the demographic groups that primarily make up our churches. We are experiencing more deaths than births in most congregations. (2) As the population in the rural communities in which a majority of our churches exist plateaus or declines, the church experiences more "move outs" than "move ins". Churches in growing, larger metropolitan areas may experience more "move ins" than "move outs". This leads to a phenomenon which has been described as rural "feeder churches" providing members to urban "receiver churches." When a church member moves from one church to another, no net gain occurs. In addition, studies show that some members who move also drop out during the process. (3) The dropout problem is not being overcome by a sufficient number of conversions. **For this reason I included a decline in evangelism in the title of this article.**

Don Petty surveyed and summarized reasons for the decline. He focused on the decline in the number of Christians and congregations. Many of the reasons he cited apply also to the decline in evangelism. He compiled a list of 225 reasons from college and university professors, church members, and conversations and discussions at various church events. His summary of ten primary factors appears below.

### Satan is at work.

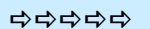
For two or three decades after World War 2, the church was active in evangelism and missions. Thousands were baptized into Christ. Satan does not ignore such success. The church grew through the help of our Lord. Churches were planted all over our nation and around the world. God used us in our weakness to preach the gospel. Satan continues to work hard so that we will weaken and give in, grow weary and lose our mission.

### We have lost our commitment to restoring the church: the biblical message of salvation with God adding the saved to the church and the importance of the church as the body of the saved.

We have stood by while the church in the eyes of the world, and sometime in our own eyes, has become another denomination of believers without the distinction the Lord intended it to have.

### We have quit emphasizing teaching (doctrine).

Doctrine is not preached. We have emphasized the life of the church and the needs of the members rather than making the goal the reaching of the lost and soul-saving activities.



(Don Petty, *Ten Reasons for the Decline*, continued from p. 1)

**We have selected unqualified leaders.**

We have selected elders who rule as if they were running a company. Elders must meet the qualifications God sets forth, not the criteria human beings may add. Qualified leaders will function as the Bible describes, not according to historical precedent, traditions, cultural desires or human needs.

**We do not know the scriptures.**

We have quit studying and have let others, inside the church and outside, influence our beliefs. We do not know what the Lord says on primary points of doctrine.

**Leaders and members are not evangelizing.**

We have focused on our own needs and desires for an easy Christianity which is fun and enjoyable. We have hired ministers to meet our own needs. The church as a whole does not work to reach others. That would be too hard. Further, we have been convinced that evangelistic endeavors such as gospel meetings, door knocking and home Bible studies are no longer effective.

**Preachers are not being trained as evangelists.**

Ministers graduate from our ministry training programs without taking an evangelism class. Rare is the pulpit person committed to evangelism. The training in our schools does not emphasize soul-winning.

**We are looking inward, not outward to our lost world.**

We heap onto ourselves socials and fellowships, comfortable and even elaborate buildings, and ministries that require little time. We do not have programs for studying with lost persons. We are unwilling to sacrifice a TV night, a ball game, or leisure time in order to teach a soul the way to Christ.

**Christians are worldly, secular, and materialistic.**

We measure our life and productivity by the standards of the world—our jobs, successes, accomplishments, travel experiences, raises and promotions, and position in the eyes of our peers and superiors at work. We impress with our stamina or strength or speed, or how well we play a game. We have let the world lead us down a trail with no spiritual value, a trail that often leads to sin.

**We want entertaining worship.**

We are not content with sober worship, serious heart-felt singing, thoughtful prayers and celebration of Christ's sacrifice. We want outward enthusiasm, humor and levity, stories that tickle our fancy, more like a concert or entertainment production.

You may disagree with the conclusions of Brother Petty. The reality of decline is undeniable. If these are not the reasons, what are the reasons? I challenge you to draw your own conclusions and go to work on them in your home congregation and in your personal life.

**Holiday Office Schedule**

Please note that the church office will be open on Monday morning, July 5, although this day is an official holiday. The church office will maintain the normal schedule (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with a flexible lunch break) for the remainder of the week.

**Sunday, July 4, 2010**

**REMINDER: There will be a hamburger & hotdog cookout at noon. Please bring condiments, side dishes, and desserts. Please do not bring food that needs to be cooked or warmed because the FLA stove is currently out of order.**

**THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayer requests are immediately shared by email and placed on the church website [www.mainandoklahomacofc.org/knee-mail.html]. Requests received since the last bulletin are included here. Military and cancer prayer requests are published monthly.

**July 1 UPDATES - Cancer:** Doy Adams, Jay Benson, Hayden Bryan, Joe Chappel, Carol Durant, Jo Glover, Shirley Hammer, Dewayne Higbee, Shawn Kidd, Marsha McAbee, Tommy Ricks, Richard Robinson, Diane Segelquist, Bonnie Sturgeon, Jean Sturgeon, Chuck Tippitt, Brian Weatherford, Junior Wilson. [Note that cancer prayer requests are forwarded monthly--updated as information is received. Please assist us with updates.]

**Homebound:** Carrie Adams, Mary Carlton, Bettie Chapman, Doris Coffee, Jo Glover, Juanda Gossett, Brian Hayes, Rena Kerr, Birdie Riggs. [Note that the monthly calendar includes a list of those homebound and in need of prayer, cards, calls and visits.]

**June 30**

Please add my good friend, Dr. Stacy Hardy, to our church prayer list. She fell and broke her wrist some time ago and has been having problems. Thanks, Jayna S.

**June 28** Bobbie Jones, a long-time member at Main and Oklahoma, passed away Sunday afternoon. Please keep her children, Kevin and Vickie, in your prayers as they grieve her loss. Services will be Friday, at 2:00 p.m. at the church building.

**June 26** Jill Davis' brother, Mark Bynum, passed away unexpectedly. Jill is coming back to the US for the funeral which will be Wednesday, June 30, in Wichita Falls, TX. Please pray for Jill and her family during this difficult time.

**June 24** From Carrie Eddy: "Could you please add my dad to the prayer list. As you know he has multiple myeloma which is an incurable bone/blood cancer. He is in remission and has hopes of staying that way, however, he has developed pneumonia. They gave him a shot yesterday and again today. If he doesn't show results they will hospitalize him which is taking an extreme risk in itself. His immune system is very weak because of his chemotherapy and other conditions so we need prayers. My family believes in the healing power of prayer and God has pulled him thru much worse. Thank you and we love you all. Carrie Eddy" Charlie Stites is recovering after surgery and is doing well.

Charlie Ellsworth has asked that we keep his stepdad, Bud Schaefer, in our prayers, as Bud faces a number of health issues.

Hayden Bryan is scheduled to receive a blood transfusion on July 15. This is a scary procedure because it requires him, a young boy, to wear a mask, be absolutely still and there are risks of brain damage. Please keep Hayden in your prayers.

Richie Fassino is having problems with his kidneys, post-transplant.

Fred Ingraham's son, Mike Ingraham is suffering from large kidney stones.

From Marvin Dowell—there were 6 baptisms this week at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary as part of the prison ministry.

Please keep Kevin and Courtney Wright in prayer as they travel to Mexico for a missions effort. They return a week from today.

**June 23** Congratulations to Kodi and David Bloomer. On Sunday, they were a family of two. Now, they are a family of three with the birth of a beautiful little boy, Lincoln David Bloomer. Keep this family in your prayers.

Georgia Cain's uncle Loyd Williamson is in ICU at MRHC with pneumonia, stroke, and irregular heart rhythm. He's very weak. Please pray for Loyd, Georgia, and family.

**2010 STATS**

Wednesday, June 23

Bible Study N/C

Sunday, June 27

Bible Study 112  
AM 169  
PM 72

Weekly Budget \$4,750  
Budget YTD \$123,500  
Contribution \$4,902  
Contribution YTD \$116,734