

The Church of Christ at



Membership Handbook

903-509-8275

Website: www.scttyler.com

3415 Frankston Hwy.
Tyler, Texas 75701

Darryl B. Bowdre, Senior Minister

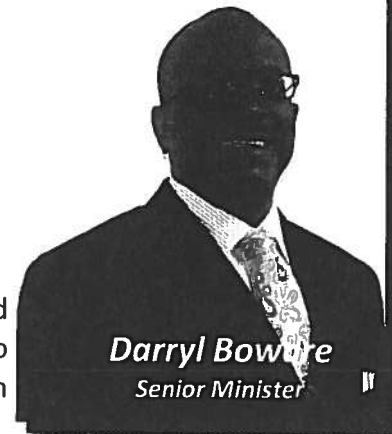
(published in March 2011)

A Message to From Your New Spiritual Leader

Welcome into the Family of God at SouthCentral!

Welcome into the Family of God at SouthCentral

You have become a part of a friendly, loving, caring and excited group of people. My prayer is that you will begin at once to acquaint yourself with the church, the people and the program of work that forms our ministry together.



Your decision to be a part of the congregation here is an important one, important for you and important for us as well. I hope that you will begin to live out your new commitment starting now. This packet was designed to give you as much assistance as possible.

Ultimately, however, "you" are the one who determines how and how well you grow in Christ. As minister I can do only so much. This takes a team effort, and at SouthCentral we stress being accountable to the Lord and to one another.

Begin by becoming familiar with this booklet. Enroll and begin attending Bible classes on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday night. We also like to carry new members through a process of orientation called SouthCentral 101, in which you will become totally familiar with the Church at SouthCentral, its organization and its mission.

If you continue to pray, study with us, and follow the process of orientation that is outlined in this book, I can assure you that you will not only grow closer to God, but you will become informed in the Word and stronger in the Faith.

I also urge you to become familiar with our website at www.sctyler.com. There you will find more information, details, announcements and news of any and everything going on at SouthCentral. You will also find our site to be fun, inviting and inspirational, so visit it often!

Me, the deacons, and my Executive Staff are always glad to answer any questions you may have concerning the church here. I am available for counseling, Bible study and teaching, and of course I am here to serve you as God's servant. I look forward to working with you and getting to know you and your family!

Your Preacher,

Darryl B. Bowdre

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Introduction

This Membership Handbook is intended to introduce you to The Church of Christ at South Central and to assist you with integration into the church community. It describes the history of South Central, the organization, and the various ministries available to its members. The SouthCentral members hope that you will use this handbook to join in the joy and fellowship awaiting you here.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Church of Christ at SouthCentral is to provide a place and environment where one—*anyone* -- can worship and serve the Lord. Our aim is to practice non-denominational, New Testament Christianity, believing that the Word of God is the standard in religious doctrine. We accept baptism, (immersion in water) as the only way to enter Christ. This act, preceded by repentance and confession of faith in Christ makes one a Christian and welcome into our spiritual family.

Vision Statement

SouthCentral Church of Christ values offering God spirited praise and worship. We're always building upon our loving, diversified, family atmosphere. We foster spirit-guided Biblical teaching, taking pride in our fellowship and inclusiveness. We teach and promote Christ in our community by empowering individuals to reach their fullest potential on earth and eternal life in Heaven.

Organization

The Church of Christ at South Central is a local, autonomous congregation of God's people, believers who have been baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, and who are committed to living by faith in Christ. We seek no affiliation with any organization larger than, smaller than, or other than this local congregation. When we have the opportunity to fellowship with other faithful congregations of God's people, these efforts are always done so as to protect the autonomy and independence of all the local congregations involved. One distinct feature of worship in the Church of Christ is the absence of instrumental music. In the New Testament, there is not a command, example, or inference of it being used in worship to God. Furthermore, early church history bears out the use of vocal singing in praise to God.

When you are going to be away . . .

SouthCentral is a spiritual family and as such, stresses accountability among its family members. Faithful attendance is taught and practiced among us, but we also understand that at times being away is unavoidable. However, when out of town, you are reminded that as a Christian you still have an obligation to worship God on the first day of the week.

Communication with the pastor, other church leaders or caregroup leaders is important. Pastor can suggest congregations with which you can worship in the city or town you are visiting. Other hindrances to worship like illness or things beyond your control (providential) sometimes occur, and you are urged to communicate with church members so that prayer can be made on your behalf.

History

SouthCentral's story is one of the journey of a congregation of the family of God that started from meager beginnings, and has grown into a vibrant spiritual experience.

In August of 1998, something wonderful occurred in the middle of a fiery trial and SouthCentral Church of Christ was organized. The Bowdre's first service was held in their home at the time, located at 612 N. Confederate. On that day our family prayed, sang and communed together, and later met at Paula Loftin's home at 825 Chilton and planned for the first public service the next week. A group of faithful dedicated staff of volunteers came with Minister Darryl Bowdre from North Tenneha Church of Christ. Gloria Bell, *Grace Dews*, Paula Loftin, Feleta Stewart were all an invaluable comfort and asset to my family then and continue to be. They are the ones who organized our first public worship, and on the second Sunday in August, after an extensive radio blitz on KZEY, 66 people met at On August 9th, we held our first service in the Days Inn in North Tyler. This number also included two visitors who heard about our first service on the radio. We sang and prayed and prayed and sang. We communed together, and studied from the book of I Peter. Our giving that day totaled \$904.00. Most of them placed membership at the new church, already named "SouthCentral." What happened in the next 7 days fortified our faith even further.

Like the saints of turmoil in the book of Acts, "prayer was made." (Acts 12:5) When we began to earnestly intercede, God began to seriously intervene. God began to let us see some "whys" and some "hows." He began to show us "why things happened," and He began to teach us how to become more than conquerors through Him. . . (Rom. 8:3)

We began to look for a more permanent location to worship from. Within the week that followed, God began to move and show us His favor over and over again. God pointed Minister Bowdre to the property on the Frankston Highway. The property formerly occupied by Paradise Chapel of the Roses Mortuary was vacant. Several local business people and friends, including State Senator Kevin Eltife, then Tyler's mayor, made inquiries for us. Within a couple of hours he called back with all the information needed. Now all we needed was the Lord to make a way. We were few in number. It was a gigantic vision and if we would be able to lease the property it would be another herculean challenge for the few of us. But we had to try and felt that if God said no to this location, it was simply because He had elsewhere in mind.

Again, we prayed. The late Reginald Dulin of Dallas and best friend of Pastor Bowdre came to Tyler and was informed of our vision and the real estate we had discovered. He immediately said, "Let's go see it and claim it then!" He and Brother Bowdre drove around the complex and got out of the car, touched it and prayed holding hands. Later that night Pastor Bowdre and his wife, Lynn came to the building, touched it, held hands and prayed for it. Later that week, "the girls" on staff met me at the property, and we touched it, held hands, prayed and claimed it. And the next Sunday we were meeting at 3415 Frankston Highway and have grown here ever since.

As the years followed, we have experienced both ups and downs, yet the downs have even strengthened us, humbled us and taught us to always depend upon God and remember that this is His church.

Knowing that a church is never any stronger than its teaching, one of the first things we did was plan and develop an educational ministry. Sister Gloria Bell has been a blessing to SouthCentral's growth. Being a professional educator, she trained and prepared teachers for each age group. Soon we had several classes meeting on Sunday and Wednesday nights.

Total Praise, our adult choir began shortly afterwards, which set the stage for SouthCentral becoming a singing and praising church. Their spirit and talent, along with God's grace formed a chorus that continues to set the pace for us musically. They became and are the ambassadors of the church, spreading the spirit of SouthCentral throughout East Texas and beyond.

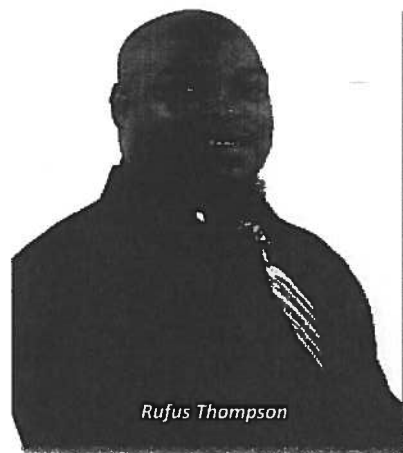
Soon others began to be added to our number. We baptized. We accepted new members. Contributions continued to grow, and other ministries were needed. SouthCentral was beginning to develop its own personality and atmosphere, and like Peter said on the Mountain of Transfiguration, we knew that it was "good for us to be here."

We launched a capital drive with hopes of buying the building and property we were leasing. (By faith, we had already purchased adjacent land, and were praying about more!) After going to the bank twice, we were approved for a loan, and in 2002 we became the owners of 3415 and 3411 Frankston Highway. All growth is not the same, nor does it all happen at the same time or in the same way. As the needs of the church changed and became larger, so did our vision. A leadership development series had been a part of our church structure since the very first year. From that class came the men who now serve as deacons. WE know that God is in this place, in spite of us and because He loves us. The Church of Christ at SouthCentral will continue to do everything to the glory and honor of God. After just the first ten years, and we are prayerful that our faith will increase and enable us to expect greater things from God that we might able to do greater things for God!

Since our beginning, we have baptized many souls and have reclaimed others who were lost in the world. We now number about 130, have ordained 5 deacons, a ministerial intern and have organized more than 10 different ministries and programs designed to seek, save and serve. SouthCentral has constantly been issued challenges, and has answered all by faith and faithful work. Our contributions have shown a steady increase, as have our attendance numbers. We have engaged many workshops during the years of our existence to equip the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13). We have also committed ourselves to the community, beginning with the St. Louis area of Tyler. We're proud to be a part of one of the most progressive districts of our ever-growing city. By dedicating ourselves, we also are dedicating this church to the community. With a prayer and our focus on Christ, SouthCentral Church of Christ is moving forward by faith. We have the vision of what God wants us to do. Our task is before us. We are committed to growth the Bible way.

Deacons

Deacons are an important part of the working program of the New Testament Church. A proper understanding of their responsibilities is vital to the success of church growth. The word deacon is derived from the Greek 'diakoneo' or 'diakonos' meaning 'servant or one who serves.' The deacon finds his identity not in what he does, but in who he is. Deacons minister in many different settings but regardless of where a deacon finds himself, it is there that he serves. Three New Testament passages in the King James Version that are used to rationalize the appointment of deacons are found in the texts of Philippians 1:1, and 1 Timothy 3:8, 12.



Ministry & Responsible Leader

Worship

Rufus Thompson

Education

Darryl Bowdre

Stewardship

Charles Craddock

Women's Ministry

Darryl Bowdre

Technology/Media

Darryl Bowdre

Music & Choirs

Darryl Bowdre

Menistry

Darryl Bowdre

The Game

Darryl Bowdre

CareGroup Ministry

Darryl Bowdre—Central
Rufus Thompson, Charles Craddock—North
Paul Watkins—South

YouthHood Ministry

Darryl Bowdre

Personal Evangelism

Darryl Bowdre

Committees & Chairs

Marquis Wallace
Arthur Campbell

Carolyn Green
Paula Loftin

Paula Loftin, Director

Lynn Bowdre, Coordinator

Jessica Hayes

Philip Garrett, Director

Art Williams, Coordinator

Paula Loftin, Coordinator

Janet Jones, Lynn Bowdre
Jessica Hayes , DeAndrea Choice
Renessa Wade , Paula Loftin

Ministry & Responsible Leader

Friendship Evangelism

Darryl Bowdre

Usher Board/Jr. Ushers

Darryl Bowdre

Children's Worship/Ministry

Darryl Bowdre

New Member Orientation

Darryl Bowdre

Facility & Grounds

Charles Craddock

Decoration & Design

Darryl Bowdre

Grant-Writing/Research Committee

Darryl Bowdre

Recreation Ministry

Darryl Bowdre

Greeters/Hosts/Hostesses

Darryl Bowdre

Total Praise

Darryl Bowdre

Praize

Darryl Bowdre

Committees & Chairs

Dena Williams

DeUndra Miller, Coordinator

Janet Jones, Jessica Hayes

Paul Watkins, Janet Jones

Thelma Holiness

Dena Williams, Kristal Como

Philip Garrett

Philip Garrett

South Central Church of Christ Ministry Guide

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – This ministry plans and helps to execute the worship service. It includes all praise leaders and the men who serve administering the communion and collecting the offering. It also has representation from the Usher Board. The Worship committee assigns men to serve and works collectively to organize the worship services. Members of this ministry also train and develop men to pray, speak publically and to work in various capacities during the worship service.

EDUCATION MINISTRY & PROGRAM- SouthCentral's Bible Classes are organized from infants to adults with sessions on Sunday mornings @ 9:00 and Wednesday nights @ 6:30. It is considered one of our major ministries because a church is no stronger than its teaching. It is impossible to grow without Bible study. The goal of this program is to constantly educate the entire church family with the Word of God. Teacher training workshops are held throughout the year.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – The members of this ministry are selected by the Pastor and members of the Board of Trustees. Their responsibilities include the counting and recording of church contributions as well as paying of bills. This committee helps to oversee ALL financial matters of SouthCentral.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Women are a mighty force and influential group in society and within our spiritual family. This program speaks to their spiritual needs, and also addresses other challenges and issues that women face. It is a great fellowship that works to include young women in their activities and events.

TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA – From operating the system that displays our songs and scriptures, to producing audio CDs of our services, the Tech Ministry is perpetually busy and always looking for those who are gifted in the fields of computer technology, music and recording. This ministry is also responsible for selling tech products in the main foyer after services.

The GAME — The GAME (Girlfriends Anointed, Motivated, and Excelling) is a ministry under the umbrella of Women's ministry. This group of woman and teenage girls who come together to support and strengthen the bond among a group of goal oriented women through social and community involvement.

MENISTRY – This ministry is designed to encourage the men of the congregation and the community. It is also a mentoring ministry that teaches and works to uplift the boys in the church. Events and outings help to build relationships between the men outside of the general church setting. All men and boys who attend SouthCentral are urged to be a part of MENistry!

CAREGROUP MINISTRY – The Church of Christ at SouthCentral is divided into 3 different geographical groups that help us to operate and communicate within the church family. We call them caregroups because this ministry provides and shows through prayers, fellowship, common meals and other activities. Caregroups (North, Central and South) report sickness or deaths to the office and pastor as well as any other need members of the church have.

The YouthHOOD MINISTRY – The Youth program of SouthCentral designed for all middle school and high school students.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM – The ministry charged with teaching individuals the gospel and about the church. This ministry, led by the pastor teaches home and personal Bible classes to those who visit our services and anyone who desires a better knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM – This program is one of the most visible, ministries at SouthCentral Church. If you like people and enjoy making them feel welcomed, this ministry could use your gifts. Friendship produces visitor bags for every first time visitor and sends “thank” you post cards and letters to those who visit our services. This ministry is successful in helping to establish good relationships with those who visit our church and in the community.

GREETERS/HOSTS/HOSTESSES This group is a part of the Friendship Evangelism team. This is the official “welcoming committee” of SouthCentral Church of Christ. These “friendly” men and women are located in the foyer before services to greet members and guests, register visitors and to direct them to ushers. They are the first faces visitor’s sees when they enter our doors.

TOTAL PRAISE—The combined Adult and Youth Choir of SouthCentral Church.

PRAISE - Much more than a choir or praise team, this ministry serves as our musical worship leaders. This musical ensemble has opportunity for singers to use their talent in both worship services and community activities.

THE SOUTHCENTRALITES: The choir for children, ages - - practice during the week to sing on Sundays and community events.

USHER BOARD/ JR. USHERS - The ushers are the “doorkeepers in the House of the Lord.” They help keep order and organization to worship service by seating worshippers and assisting them and the Pastor during the service. Junior Ushers are middle and high school age.

***CHILDREN’S WORSHIP/MINISTRY** – The ministry for children ages 4-10 that provides events, activities and TEACHING. It strives to make the Bible exciting and real on the level of the smallest of children. It is a caring, creative and dynamic program built with kids in mind.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION- This is a special class that explains the church and the workings of the congregation to new members and helps to incorporate them into the church family.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS – The ministry includes the Board of Trustees and any others who have an interest in the maintenance, usage and image of our church buildings and campus.

DECORATION & DESIGN – This ministry helps to beautify our church building on a regular basis. This team also helps to design and create decorations for special church events, dinners, banquets, etc.

***RECREATION MINISTRY**- This ministry helps people keep physically fit for life by offering a wide variety of team and individual sports activities. These activities are intended to serve as introduction points for our people to the community.

* Denotes ministries to be developed

Publications

The Church of Christ at South Central uses several methods to keep the membership informed. These include:

1. The SkyLight is the monthly bulletin published for each 1st Sunday. To submit an announcement to be published in the Skylight, please email information to ploftin@southcentralonline.org by the 15th of the month.
2. The church website located at www.southcentralonline.org
3. Email — info@southcentralonline.org
4. Public Announcements — If you have an announcement, SkyLight Information Forms are located in the foyer to be completed, approved and turned in to Feleta Stewart or DeUndra Miller.

<p>The Church of Christ at</p>  <p><i>South Central</i></p>	
Announcement Submitted By _____	Date Submitted _____
What is the Event? _____	When? _____
Where will it be held? (If applicable) _____	Time _____
Details or Additional Information: _____	

Please check all that apply:	
<input type="checkbox"/> SkyLight Announcement	<input type="checkbox"/> South Central Website
<input type="checkbox"/> To be announced publicly	Approved By: _____

Our Giving: What God Requires

New Testament giving is based upon the spiritual standard. (2 Corinthians 9) We are not commanded *what* to give, but rather *how* to give. We must adjust our attitude about our giving. Our gift (offering) must be given generously and willingly – not extorted, not wrung out of us.

Verse 6 *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

If we sow sparingly and grudgingly, we will also reap sparingly and grudgingly. If we sow generously – in order to be a blessing – we will also reap generously and with blessing.

Verse 7 *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Make up your own mind – purpose in your heart to give. You decide – you choose – when, where and how to give. Not reluctantly, not sorrowfully, nor under compulsion. God loves, takes pleasure in, prizes above other things and is unwilling to abandon, or to do without a cheerful, joyous, prompt to do it giver, whose **heart** is in his giving. God is not pleased with a grumpy, selfish minimal giver.

Verse 8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

For the generous cheerful givers – God is able to make all grace – favor, earthly blessing – come to you in abundance. So that you may **always**, under **all** circumstances and **whatever** the need - be self-sufficient. You will possess enough to require no aid or support and you will be furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation. When you are a generous, cheerful giver – you will lend and not borrow. You won't need anyone to help you, but you will be the one who has and who gives to those who have a need.

Verse 9 *As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

The benevolent person scatters abroad – he has a lot to give to a lot of people. He thinks of others and gives to the poor. His giving amounts to deeds of goodness, kindness, benevolence and justice. His giving has eternal consequences – the results of his giving go on and endure forever.

Verse 10 *Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*

God provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater. God will provide seed and also multiply your resources for giving. If you are a giver – God will get stuff to you to give. He will increase the fruit of your righteousness. The fruit of your righteousness is active goodness, kindness and charity. The more you give – the more good and kind and charitable you become. The more good and kind and charitable you become – the more you give. It's a wonderful cycle of blessing and increase in every area. Giving will change your heart for good. Make a decision to give and keep on giving – you will get free – you will begin to enjoy your life!

Verse 11 *You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

God will bless you and enrich you in **all** things and in **every** way so that you can be **generous**. Your generosity glorifies God – it brings forth **thanksgiving** to God.

Verse 12-13 *This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.*

People will glorify God for your loyalty and obedience to the Gospel of Christ and for your generous-hearted liberality to them. You can **say** that you believe the Gospel, but your giving **proves** that you do.


Verse 14-15 *And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

Where Should I Be in My Giving?

If I Make. . .		Then I should give more than. .
\$100.00	10%	\$10.00
\$200.00	10%	\$20.00
\$300.00	10%	\$30.00
\$400.00	10%	\$40.00
\$500.00	10%	\$50.00
\$1,000.00	10%	\$100.00
\$2,000.00	10%	\$200.00
\$3,000.00	10%	\$300.00
\$4,000.00	10%	\$400.00
\$5,000.00	10%	\$500.00

Contributions

The Church of Christ is a non-profit corporation under the Internal Revenue Service provision 501 c(3). Section 501(c)(3) is a tax law provision granting exemption from the federal income tax to non-profit organizations. This exemption does not cover other federal taxes such as employment taxes. Note that "tax exempt" also does not excuse an organization from maintaining proper records and filing any required annual or special-purpose tax returns. In our effort to maintain efficiency and good records, we ask that "consistent givers" please use a contribution card each week. It is imperative that we record all income and expenses. Please help us comply with this federal rule. This is also the ONLY record that we keep of your giving for tax purposes, therefore it is IMPERATIVE that you remain consistent in this matter. Tax Statements are prepared by contribution cards **ONLY** on an annual basis. To request your year end statement of giving, please see **Sister Janet Jones or Feleta Stewart.**

3415 Frankston Hwy. Tyles, TX 75701 Ph. 903.509.8275		The Church of Christ at 	
Date: _____			
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____
General Contribution <i>(Tithes=10% + of Gross Income)</i>		\$ _____	
Building Fund		\$ _____	
Pledge		\$ _____	
Other _____		\$ _____	
Special _____		\$ _____	
Total Contribution		\$ _____	

Schedule of Services

Sundays

Sunday School

9:00 a.m.

Praise & Worship

10:15 a.m.

(4th Sunday)

Men-istry

8:00 a.m.

Wednesdays

Mid-Week Bible Classes

6:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Ladies Class

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name:

Date of birth:

Email:

Phone:

Current address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

From What Religious Affiliation or
Congregation:

Member of Church since

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer:

Employer address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

MINISTRY INTERESTS

What ministry(ies) would you like to be involved in?

Hobbies:

Other Interests

SPOUSE INFORMATION

Name:

Date of birth:

Email:

Phone:

Baptized?

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer:

Employer address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

NAMES OF CHILDREN