

**Elders:**

Rufus Barfield \* Donnie McDaniel

**Deacons:**

Paul Byas \* Chris Gorham \* Antoine Holloway  
Michael Myrick \* Sheldon Smith

**Evangelist:**

Antoine Holloway

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Bible Study/9:30AM

Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM

Sunday Morning Worship/10:30AM

Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

**Meetings:****Monday Sermon Recap**

December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

**2012 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Albert Dickson of Cincinnati, Ohio**

April 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Saturday Discipleship Class**

January 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Women's Thursday Bible Study**

March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

**2012 Vacation Bible School – Theme: TBA**

June 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 – Speaker: Brandon Trout of Severn, Maryland

**2012 Summer Lectureship – Remaining Faithful & Enabled For The Ministry**

August 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)**

Andrew Madison \* Bruce McDonald \* Isaac Parker \* Lewis & Ann Wise

**Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)**

Anne Harrison \* Steven Chung \* John Okonkwo \* Angelita Dillon \* Carlos Vargas \* Bruce McDonald

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

Paul & Sarita Byas \* Cindy Turney

**Prayer Requests**

- Please pray for Gloria Foster, **Andrew Madison's** sister. She has lung cancer & suffered a heart attack on Monday.

**Additional Announcements**

- If you are interested in joining a group to read the Bible in 2012, in a NIV Chronological format, please see **Damon Long** for details.
- On Sunday, January 15, 2012, there will be a congregational report given regarding 2011 works & 2012 outlook (Acts 14:27).

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

December 11 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,365-Contributions	135-Attendance
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$6,676-Contributions	133-Attendance

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

Hear The Gospel (Acts 15:7) \* Believe In Jesus (Acts 8:12) \* Repent Of Our Sins (Acts 3:19) \* Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God (Acts 8:37)

\* Be Baptized In Water (Acts 22:16) \* Remain Faithful (Acts 2:42)

**TODAY'S DATE: December 18, 2011**

**Wildercroft  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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**"A Going Church For A Coming Lord" – Romans 16:16**

# **Leadership Through Discipline & Restoration – Part 1**

- **1 Thessalonians 5:14** – “*And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.*”
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6** – “*Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness & not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.*”
- **2 Thessalonians 3:11-15** – “*For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command & encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly & to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, & have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.*”
- **Titus 1:6** – “*If anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, & his children are believers & not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.*”
- **Titus 1:10-14** – “*For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers & deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain that they ought not to teach. One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths & the commands of people who turn away from the truth.*”
- **Galatians 6:1-2** – “*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, & so fulfill the law of Christ.*”

At the very least, an Elder in the Lord’s church is called upon to be a disciplinarian to the disorderly & a restorer to the fallen. If he is not a disciplinarian & restorer, then how can he have the best interest of the sheep’s salvation? It is through discipline & restoration Elders serve God’s people in the area of leadership.

## **What Does It Mean To Be A Disciplinarian/Restorer?**

A disciplinarian is “an individual who enforces or advocates training & instructing to act in accordance with rules & punishment by way of correction.” A restorer is an individual who brings back a soul to an original or former condition.” As Christians, we are not only to be protected from those who are without, but we are to be protected from those who are within as well. We cannot have fellowship with darkness, even if the darkness is in the body (**2 Corinthians 6:14-16**). It becomes the responsibility of the Elders to assure the Christians under their oversight remain in fellowship with God by bringing brethren who are sinning to repentance, by removing brethren who are full of leaven from the congregation, & by restoring the fallen back to the fold through a re-established relationship with God. In order for a man to serve as an Elder scripturally, he must be a disciplinarian & restorer of souls. If a man is unable & unwilling to discipline the unruly & restore the wayward among God’s people in a spirit of love & divine preservation, then he is unqualified to serve as an Elder.

## **Why Does An Elder Have To Be A Disciplinarian/Restorer?**

An Elder has the responsibility to feed the flock (**Acts 20:28** & **1 Peter 5:2**). Feeding the flock is inclusive of providing instructive discipline (**Acts 20:27-30**). Instructive discipline seeks to correct issues by way of instructing. This is always the first form of discipline. To correct by any other means first is unscriptural. It is possible for Christians & even elders to spread false doctrines & live ungodly lives (**2 Peter 3:15-18**). Therefore, these issues must be dealt with swiftly.

An Elder has the responsibility to lead the flock (**1 Peter 5:3**, **1 Timothy 5:17**, **Hebrews 13:7**, & **Hebrews 13:17**). Leadership requires the flock is lead out of danger & not into danger. Elders are in place to fight off wolves. They are not in place to promote a situation, which teaches it is okay for sheep & wolves to co-exist in a flock together (**Matthew 7:15-23**). How many sheep can an Elder sacrifice? The answer is none. Therefore, after instructive discipline has been carried out to the fullest, then corrective discipline must take place (**Matthew 18:15-17**, **1 Corinthians 5:13**, & **2 Thessalonians 3:6**).

This is why leadership is needed in discipline & restoration. Do you have the desire to lead? If so, then rebuke, reprove, & exhort with all patience & teaching. – **More Next Week**.

**- Antoine N. Holloway**