

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**

February 20th @ 7:00pm

Saturday Discipleship Class

March 10th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

March 4th @ 5:00pm

Women's Thursday Bible Study

March 15th @ 7:00pm

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

April 19th-22nd, 2012

2012 Vacation Bible School – Theme: TBA

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

2012 Summer Lectureship – Remaining Faithful & Enabled For The Ministry

August 1st-5th, 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 * Angelita Dillon * Carlos Vargas * Bruce McDonald

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Smith Family * Darrion Blake * Mitchell Family * Foreman Family

Prayer Requests**Additional Announcements**

- Southwest COC Gospel Meeting – March 9th-11th with Buddy Payne
- Centreville COC Gospel Meeting – April 13th-15th with Wilson Adams & David Lanphear (*A special women's study on the morning of April 14th with Julie Adams & Debbie Lanphear*) – No meeting on Saturday Night
- Exton COC Bible Study – April 16th-17th with Various Speakers
- Annandale COC Gospel Meeting – May 4th-6th with David Thomley
- Dulles COC Gospel Meeting – May 11th-13th with Antoine Holloway

Contribution & Attendance Figures

February 12 th	\$2,655-Contribution (Evening Only)	88-Attendance
February 5 th	\$5,256-Contribution	131-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: February 19, 2012

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Updated This Week By Calvin Mitchell

"A Going Church For A Coming Lord, Which Does All The Lord Authorizes" – Romans 16:16

The Church's Role In Discipleship

I remember when I first obeyed the gospel how the minister would always say, "If you feel you are going to miss heaven, then please don't miss us, for we are a taste of heaven on this side of eternity!" I used to think how this man may be a tad bit arrogant or even over confident in some way, but as I began to grow as a disciple in Christ Jesus, I realized this preacher had a vivid understanding of what discipleship is & the church's role in discipleship. So, what is the church's role in discipleship? The church is designed by God to be a little bit of heaven a long way from home. Listen to your Bible! In **Matthew 16:18-19**, the Bible reads, "**And I tell you, you are Peter, & on this rock I will build my church, & the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. It will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, & whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**" On many occasions, the Bible uses the word "church" & "kingdom" interchangeably. In other words, the church is the kingdom & the kingdom is the church. However, there is a difference, which we will not take time to dichotomize at this moment. In **Matthew 16:18-19**, Jesus is telling us how the church is supposed to be our home away from home (heaven). If we want to experience Jesus, we pray & have faith. If we want to see a picture of Jesus, we look at a Christian, but if we want to experience what heaven is going to be like, then this should be accomplished by us worshipping with the church. Unfortunately, too many of our churches have failed in this image. Far too many Christians are not the fragrance of Christ, but rather a portrait of the devil & the churches they are members of do not give humanity or other Christians a taste of heaven; instead they receive a bowl full of hell. As Christians, we need to return to the fundamental concept of making disciples. This is the primary aspect of how the church, & the Christians who make up the church, can regain its rightful identity. Unless, we, as the church of Christ, are making disciples, then we are failing to carry out our Biblical mandate (**1 Timothy 3:15**).

When it comes to discipleship, the church is involved in a cosmic conflict. What is a cosmic conflict? The Cosmic Conflict is a state of open, often prolonged fighting; a battle or war between spiritual forces. The church is involved in this cosmic conflict with the gates of Hades. Jesus made a decree in **Matthew 16:18** that hell was not going to prevail over His church. Why would hell even want to prevail over the church? It is

because the church is a taste of heaven right here on earth & it is the means by which Christ makes disciples.

First of all, let us please notice Jesus is on the offensive, not the defensive. Jesus is not trying to stop hell from advancing; hell is trying to stop Jesus. Jesus is the One doing the building, & hell is the one trying to resist Him.

Secondly, Satan is after the church because of the church's ability & mission to make disciples. Satan does not mind religious gatherings as long as they are not reproducing mature, committed followers of Jesus. Satan knows he cannot eradicate the church because Jesus built it & is still adding on to it. So, what the devil wants to do is render the church sterile & infertile, incapable of reproducing disciples.

Thirdly, the battle is not between Jesus & the devil as if they are two equal & opposing forces doing battle to see who wins. Jesus is the eternal, infinite God of all power & might. Satan is a created being who owes his very existence to the fact God did not crush him back in the garden. So let us not make the mistake in thinking God is trying to overcome Satan & win. Although Satan is on the defensive, he is still a force to be reckoned with, even though the outcome has already been decided. God has already won the cosmic conflict & if we stay in Christ, then we too are victorious.

When it comes to discipleship & accomplishing God's will, being powerless is not the way God designed the church to function. Throughout this study, **Matthew 28:18-20** has served as a foundational text. Jesus said, "**All authority (power) in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**" If Jesus has all power, then He not only has the right to command, but He is also able to provide strength to those who believe He has all power (**Philippians 4:13**). So, Jesus knows our ability & He would not command us to do something, we are unable to do (**1 John 5:3**). Jesus has commissioned & empowered the church to be a discipler of the nations. This defines the church's role.

- **Antoine N. Holloway**