

**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 Morning Worship/10:30AM  
Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM      Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

**Meetings:**

**Monday Sermon Recap**

February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

**Saturday Discipleship Class**

March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Women's Thursday Bible Study**

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

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

April 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

**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 \* Angelita Dillon \* Carlos Vargas \* Bruce McDonald \* John Okonkwo

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

**Prayer Requests**

**Additional Announcements**

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

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

February 19<sup>th</sup>      \$4,817-Contribution      120-Attendance  
February 12<sup>th</sup>      \$2,655-Contribution (Evening Only)      88-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 26, 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***

## Discipleship: The Ministry Of The Church

As Christians, we are very familiar with **Acts 2**. The reason why we are so familiar with this chapter in the Bible is because this is the historical & Biblical beginning of the church of Christ. In **Acts 2:42-47**, we learn in these 6 verses the role of the church after its first successful evangelistic effort (i.e. making disciples & what the church did for its new converts afterwards). Discipleship is not practiced if the church does not have a ministry. Ministry is what the church is doing when they are serving God through worship, serving themselves with the apostles' doctrine, serving one another through fellowship, & serving the community through evangelism. Hence, the four elements that needs to be present in every church if the church is going to do the will of God & make disciples are worship, the apostles' doctrine (teaching), fellowship, & evangelism.

The first element of the church's ministry in regards to discipleship is worship. The Christians of the first century understood worship is the celebration of God for who He is, what He has done, & what we trust Him to do. Disciples are worshipers first of all, because God is worthy of our worship & because He has decided that worship is the mechanism by which we connect with Him.

We must understand where there is no worship, there is no divine contact. Singing is a part of the worship, as is the message from God's word, but it is different in that it involves a more direct expression on the part of all the worshippers (**Ephesians 5:19**). Sermons give us truth about God, & worship brings us in contact with God so we can respond to the truth. Worship is designed to attract the lost to discipleship & keep those who are already disciples saved. This is the responsibility of the church regarding discipleship.

The second element of the church's ministry in regards to discipleship is the apostles' doctrine. In the first century, Christians had the actual apostles, but as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians, we have the complete written word of God, which includes the apostles' doctrine. In **1 Timothy 3:15**, the church is called, "**the pillar & buttress of the truth**" & this truth is found only in God's word. Therefore, this is what we must teach. The goal of the church is not to be popular with its teaching, although teaching should be relevant. The goal of the church is to deliver the mind of God. In **John 8:32**, Jesus said, "**And you will know the truth, & the truth will set you free.**" We must understand the mere existence of truth does not set people free. The church must teach the truth of God in a way it is understood & applied so as disciples of Christ, we can line our lives up with His revealed will. Discipleship is all about becoming more & more like Jesus. How can we make disciples of others if we are poor representations of the Master ourselves due to our lack of knowledge of God's truth?

The third element of the church's ministry in regards to discipleship is fellowship. Fellowship is a very misused term because many in the realm of religion have failed to view this term in isolation. Fellowship has a general definition, but is specified by its usage in scripture. Therefore, for the sake of this article & study, we will give fellowship the definition of "the sharing of the life of Christ among believers." Jesus is quoted as saying in **Acts 20:35**, "**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**" The reason this is important for the process of making disciples is when God blesses us, He wants to make sure that in being blessed we are a conduit (A means by which something is transmitted) to bring blessings to others. It is obvious this cannot occur if we are out here trying to live the Christian life alone, disconnected from the rest of the body. Then we become a cul-de-sac instead of a conduit, always taking in but never giving back. Christians who want all the rewards of fellowship without the work of fellowship are like leeches. In **Hebrews 10:24-25**, the Bible instructs us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together because we need to stimulate one another to love & good deeds & encourage one another. In others words, it is our responsibility to build each other up in the faith, support each other when one member suffers, & hold each other accountable for obedience to the truth. It is through Biblical & spiritual fellowship we as disciples can be strengthened. As a result, we become attractive to the lost & ultimately making disciples of them also.

The fourth & final element of the church's ministry in regards to discipleship is evangelism. Worship, Bible teaching, & fellowship are wonderful, but the good news has to go out beyond the walls of the church building. There has to be an outlet to the unsaved world, & we do this when we go & present the gospel to the world. In **Acts 4:20**, the Bible reads, "**For we cannot but speak of what we have seen & heard.**" Disciples are Christians who, like the apostles, cannot stop speaking about what they have seen & heard." What happens when the church is fulfilling its God ordained purpose? In **Acts 2:47**, the Bible reads, "**Praising God & having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.**" The church enjoyed favor with all the people AND they successfully made disciples of those who would receive the message. This was not because the church was soft-pedaling the message of Christ to make it popular, but because the disciples were out ministering & meeting needs. Just like God was working through them in miraculous ways, He will also work through us when we evangelize the lost (**Philippians 2:13**).

Therefore, when the church worships God, teaches His truth, promotes Biblical fellowship, & tell others the gospel, we will not have any problems producing disciples.

*- Antoine N. Holloway*