

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

March 12th @ 7:00pm

Elders/Deacons Meeting

April 1st @ 5:00pm

Saturday Discipleship Class

March 17th @ 9:00am

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: All Aboard The Kingdom Express

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)

Beth Anderson * Andrew Madison * Bruce McDonald * Isaac Parker

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

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

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Additional Announcements

- Annual Clean Up Day – March 24th @ 9:00am
- Congregational Meeting immediately after morning worship – April 15th.
- Potluck in between services @ West Lanham Hills Recreation Center – 4/22/12.
- 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 Evening
- 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

March 4 th	\$5,413-Contribution	122-Attendance
February 26 th	\$3,286-Contribution	138-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: March 11, 2012

**Wildercroft
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**6330 Auburn Avenue
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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 Concern Of Discipleship: The Practice That Leads To Spiritual Maturity

Question: Since our goal as disciples of Jesus Christ is spiritual maturity, how do we get there? Well, there is a word the Bible uses that many Christians strive to stay away from, but if we plan to be spiritually mature on this time-side of life, then we must encounter this word & face it head on. The word is: TRIALS!

We are probably thinking, "How can going through trials be considered good news?" Well, it is good news, not because of the process, but rather due to its product. God has a purpose in allowing trials to enter our lives. Listen to your Bible! In **James 1:2-4**, the Bible reads, "**Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect & complete, lacking in nothing.**" The product of trials are patience, perfection, completeness, & in need of nothing. It appears trials may be worth it.

Why do we have to undergo testing? It is because God is not satisfied just to hear us say "Amen" to the truth. God knows saying "Amen" does not necessarily mean we got the message. All it means is we agree with it. God wants to know if we still agree with His truth when we have to choose it over another option. This does not suggest God needs to know where we stand for He already knows this, but this test is for the purposes of us to know where we stand with God. It is for us to figure out where we are at in our process of discipleship. We need to know where we are located in regards to spirituality.

Is there another way? What happens if we refuse to be tested? What if we choose to live a different lifestyle in order to keep the devil from rising up against us? If we refuse to submit to the test, we forfeit our opportunity to reap the benefits that come with passing the test. As disciples, we must understand the point of testing is not to frustrate us & knock us down, but rather to help us advance to the next level. Hence, we should welcome God's tests (God's test does not mean He brings the trials, but it does mean He allows them to take place). We

should welcome them with joy not because we enjoy the tests themselves, but because they are signs from God sent to show we are ready to move up to the next level of discipleship. We need to thank God He considers us worthy of handling these tests. It would be wise for us as disciples to not murmur & complain about what we are going through, but "**give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you**" (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**).

Let us ponder this for a moment. Jesus had called the Twelve to follow Him, & they had heard Him teaching about who He was & what He had come to do (**Mark 3:13-4:34**). Then He came to the Sea of Galilee & said to the disciples, "**Let us go across to the other side**" (**Mark 4:35**). It was time to test their understanding. A storm broke out & the disciples panicked. They came to Jesus, who was asleep on a pillow, woke Him up, & said, "**Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?**" (**Mark 4:38**). Now it is bad enough to be in a storm. But it is even worse when our Savior is sleeping through the storm & does not seem to notice we are about to go under. Is this not how we feel when we are in a storm & God seems to be sleeping on us? However, we must understand in this text Jesus was asleep on purpose. We do not take a pillow with us unless we plan on sleeping. In other words, Jesus intended to let the storm hit so He could wake up at the right moment, when the disciples were ready to learn the lesson He wanted them to learn. Jesus got up & stilled the storm, then taught the lesson. "**Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?**" (**Mark 4:40**). Why did Jesus ask the disciples these questions? It is because He had just said, "**Let us cross over to the other side.**" They had heard Jesus' words, but the message did not stick. So Jesus had to allow His disciples to be tested. Hence, if we are going to fear anything, do not fear the trial, for trials do not last forever. Fear God, who controls the trial.

What happens if we fail the test? The good news is God believes in retesting. In fact, He is so committed to our spiritual progress He will test us until we pass. So, it is through trials we become spiritually mature & spiritual maturity is the process to make us profitable disciples of & to our Lord.

- Antoine N. Holloway