

**Elders:**

Rufus Barfield \* Dan Jackson \* Donnie McDaniel

**Deacons:**

Paul Byas \* Chris Gorham \* Antoine Holloway  
Rhett Moeller \* 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:**

**Men's Leadership Class**

August 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

**Saturday Discipleship Class**

August 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Women's Thursday Bible Study**

August 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

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

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

**2012 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Philip Mullins of Ashburn, Virginia**

October 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**2013 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Ethan Longhenry of Venice, California**

April 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

**Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)**

Beth Anderson \* Thelma Findley \* JoAnn Harrison \* Andrew Madison \*  
Bruce McDonald \* Isaac Parker \* Lewis & Anne Wise

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

Anne Harrison \* Steven Chung \* Carlos Vargas

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

The Mitchell Family \* The Morrison Family (July 28<sup>th</sup>-August 6<sup>th</sup>) \* Shane  
Sallee (July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 11<sup>th</sup>) \* Cordel Shaw

**Additional Announcements**

- POTLUCK – Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> @ Bladensburg Waterfront Park in between services.
- Mary Dinges' New Phone Number is (662) 429-3081 & her new email address is 1luelle@att.net
- Annandale COC Gospel Meeting – October 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> w/ Chuck Durham

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	\$3,500-Contribution	128-Attendance
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$5,333-Contribution	154-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: July 29, 2012**

*Wildercroft*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**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***

# Understanding Fellowship

The word, "fellowship," is found 8 times in the ESV New Testament. This word "fellowship," according to 'The Student Bible Dictionary' is defined as "*The family feeling & partnership between Christians. Translates the Greek word "koinonia." Association, close relationship, participation with, sharing. You experience fellowship when you share life events, commitment, trust, & understanding with other Christians. Fellowship expresses like-mindedness, communicates acceptance, helps believers grow, encourages the sharing of the work of the church, & includes bad times as well as good. The Bible points out the dangers of fellowship with wrongdoers, with unbelievers, & with demons. The person who lives in sin does not live in fellowship with God.*" Although there are some minor things incorrect with this particular definition, it is how this definition is applied that contributes to the misunderstanding in religion today. The rest of this article will clarify the inconsistencies. Here are some facts about fellowship...

## **Fellowship Is Between Individuals & Not Congregations**

In speaking with other Christians, have we ever been asked the question, "Who are you in fellowship with?" In other words, which congregations in the area does Wildercroft associate with? This question assumes that fellowship is something that can take place between congregations. However, it is not. Fellowship is a word, when used Biblically, only addresses the spiritual relationship between man/man & man/divine.

As Christians, we have fellowship with God. In **1 John 1:3**, the Bible reads, "***That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.***" This Scripture also teaches that we have fellowship with Jesus & so do many others (**1 Corinthians 1:9** & **1 John 1:6**). As Christians, we have fellowship with the Holy Spirit. In **2 Corinthians 13:14**, the Bible reads, "***The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***" In addition to having fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Ghost, we have fellowship with one another, as in other faithful Christians. In **1 John 1:7**, the Bible reads, "***But if we walk in the light, as he is***

***in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:3 & Galatians 2:9).***

## **Fellowship Requires Devotion**

In **Acts 2:42**, the Bible reads, "***And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.***" The question is, "Devotion to whom?" It is devotion to the Divine & devotion to our brethren. Our devotion to the Divine is limited to living according to His will. Our devotion to our brethren is limited only to those among us who are presently in fellowship with God. When we learn & understand this principle from the very beginning, then we will never find ourselves unequally yoked, in partnership with, in accord with, sharing with, &/or in agreement with unbelievers & wayward brethren (**2 Corinthians 6:14-16**).

## **Fellowship Is Spiritual & Not Social/Recreational (Romans 14:17)**

This is one fact that is hard for many in the Lord's church to understand simply because we are spiritual beings residing in physical bodies. Due to these bodies, all of our interaction is physical & sometimes, involves social & recreational activities. Therefore, we merge the two together & believe that fellowship is "anything" Christians do together. This is simply not true. According to Scripture, fellowship is when Christians come together to partake of the Lord's Supper & not a common meal (**1 Corinthians 10:16**). Fellowship is when benevolence is provided for needy saints & not those who are outside of the body of Christ i.e. the community, hospitals, & orphanages (**Romans 15:26**, **2 Corinthians 8:4**, & **2 Corinthians 9:13**). Fellowship is when Christians greet one another (**2 Corinthians 13:13**). Fellowship is when truth is share among believers (**Ephesians 3:9** & **Philemon 1:6**). Fellowship is when Christians financially support the preaching of the gospel (**Philippians 1:5**). Fellowship is sharing & sacrifice among believers (**Hebrews 13:16**). If we call something "fellowship," then it is fellowship at all times & not when we want it to be. These acts are considered fellowship because it carries out the spiritual work of Christ on Earth & it brings glory to our God in Heaven.

**- Antoine N. Holloway**