

Elders:

Rufus Barfield * Dan Jackson * Donnie McDaniel

Deacons:

Paul Byas * Chris Gorham * 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 25th @ 9:00am

Saturday Evangelism Class

September 8th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

September 9th @ 5:00pm

Women's Thursday Bible Study

September 20th @ 7:00pm

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

October 11th-14th, 2012

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

April 18th-21st, 2013

2013 Vacation Bible School w/ David Graham of Cincinnati, Ohio

June 17th-21st, 2013

THEME: TBA

Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)

Thelma Findley * JoAnn Harrison * Andrew Madison * Bruce McDonald *
Janet Ostroff * Isaac Parker * Lewis & Anne Wise

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Steven Chung * Carlos Vargas

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Lillie Foreman

Additional Announcements

- Annandale COC Gospel Meeting – October 5th-7th w/ Chuck Durham

Contribution & Attendance Figures

August 12 th	\$3,764-Contribution	144-Attendance
August 5 th	\$6,780-Contribution	175-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: August 19, 2012

Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST



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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***

Mainline Denominations Embrace New Marketing Efforts

The following is an article from U.S. News & World Report from June 3, 2009.

"The United Methodist Church, still the nation's largest mainline Protestant denomination, has sponsored a new \$20 million marketing campaign, including a website, TV ads, even street teams in some cities. The effort aims to rebrand the church from stale destination to "24-7 experience." "The under-35 generation thinks church is a judgmental, hypocritical, insular place," says Jamie Dunham, executive of the marketing firm that designed the UMC campaign. "So our question is: What if church can change the world with a journey?" Other mainline Protestant denominations are posing similar questions in like-minded campaigns. The ELCA has TV ads spotlighting the church's charitable work & encouraging Lutherans to take pride in & to share their faith with friends. And the Episcopal Church recently launched a website called "I am Episcopalian," where a half-million church members have uploaded videos explaining their faith. But not all religious scholars are convinced the effort will work. "In the competitive spiritual marketplace, mainline churches are trying to reinvent themselves," says Stephen Prothero, a professor of religion at Boston University. "(But) study after study has shown that religions that grow are the ones that are hard-core in some way. They have something that differs sharply from the culture in which they operate. That's the problem with mainline Protestantism: It's not different enough from mainstream America."

On the front of this bulletin, under the church's address, we see the following statement: *"A Going Church For A Coming Lord, Which Does All The Lord Authorizes."* To those who are unfamiliar with this statement, let me explain. As Christians, we are commanded to "go" (**Matthew 28:19**). When Christians from a particular locality get together for the purposes of assembling to worship God & save souls, then these Christians become a local church (**Romans 16:16, Hebrews 10:24-25, John 4:24, & 1 Timothy 3:15**). If we have obeyed the gospel, then God has already added us to His church (**Acts 2:47**), nevertheless, we must join a group of believers in order to carry out His work (**Acts 9:26**). When a congregation is busy worshiping God & saving souls, then this is a church on "the go."

The purpose for our "going" is because Jesus is "coming" again. Jesus ends a parable in **Luke 18:8**, by saying, **"I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find**

faith on the earth?" Jesus also said in **Matthew 24:46**, **"Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."** Faith pleases God (**Hebrews 11:6**). Will He find faith among us? If we are doing what God would have us to do, then we will be blessed by Christ when He comes again. However, it is not enough to do, but we must do all by the authority of Christ (**Colossians 3:17**), with the ability He has given us (**1 Peter 4:11**). Being "a going church for a coming Lord, which does all the Lord authorizes" should be our constant & enduring theme. This way, we will not lose focus like the denominations around us have already done & how many churches of Christ are following in their ways.

What contributed to Israel's demise was their desire to be like the other nations around them (**1 Samuel 8**). God was their king, but they wanted a king like the other nations. Christ is the head of His church (**Ephesians 5:23**), yet many want a head like all other religious organizations. When we realize that man's way does not work (**Proverbs 14:12**), instead of turning back to God, we attempt to find another way to overcome the mistake of doing it our way in the first place (**Romans 10:1-3**). This brings us to the article found in the U.S. News & World Report.

Although this article is 3 years old, Methodists, Lutherans, & Episcopalians still refuse to go back to the Bible, by abandoning man-made names, creeds, organization, & work. A reported \$20 million is being spent, not on evangelism, but advertising, in an effort to increase membership, which in turn increases the financial contribution. As the church of Christ in this community, if we ever find ourselves in a situation, which results in decrease membership, dwindled enthusiasm, & a diminished treasury, then the solution is not marketing; it's evangelism. The solution is not being like the world, but separating or remained separated from the world. The solution is not trusting in the wisdom of men, but depending solely on God. We must continue to call Bible things by Bible names. We must continue to do Bible things Bible ways. We must continue to speak where the Bible speaks & remain silent where the Bible is silent. Like Dr. Prothero eloquently said in the article, *"Religions that grow are the ones that are hardcore in some way. They have something that differs sharply from the culture in which they operate."* We are living in a culture that is moving further away from God. Many individuals are seeking the Lord to guide them, the Savior to deliver them, & God who created them, but those claiming to know Him act no differently than they do. This is confusion & God is not the author of it (**1 Corinthians 14:33**). Everything we preach, teach, believe, & live has to be centered on Christ & Him crucified (**1 Corinthians 2:2**). The goal is to have men drawn to Christ, but this can only be accomplished by lifting Jesus up (**John 12:32**).

- Antoine N. Holloway