

COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Falling into Fellowship: Strength in Community
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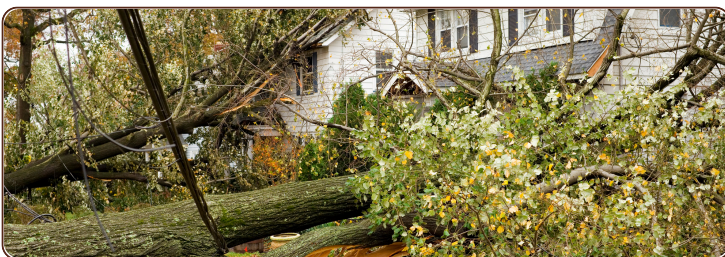
Falling into Fellowship: Strength in Community

Bishop Cecil Reid

Hebrews 10:24-25 – *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

As we move into the beautiful autumn season, the changing leaves remind us of God's creativity and the importance of fellowship in our lives. Just as leaves gather together to create a colorful landscape, we are called to gather as a community—supporting, encouraging, and walking alongside one another.

However, as we celebrate this season of togetherness, we are also mindful of those in need, particularly those affected by **Hurricane Helene**. In times of crisis, our fellowship becomes even more vital, as we come together not just for spiritual growth, but also to provide tangible help and hope to those who are hurting.



The Importance of Fellowship

Fellowship is more than just meeting for worship or small groups. It's about forming meaningful connections where we support each other through

life's ups and downs. In Acts 2:42-47, we see how the early church modeled fellowship by breaking bread together, praying for one another, and sharing their resources. They met both physical and spiritual needs—and God used their unity to grow His church. Note the following:

3 Reasons We Need Fellowship in Our Lives:

Fellowship Provides Encouragement

- Life's trials can be overwhelming, and when we try to face them alone, they become even harder. Fellowship allows us to bear one another's burdens, offering prayer, words of encouragement, and acts of service to lift each other up. As Hebrews 10:25 reminds us, we are not to give up meeting together but should encourage each other, especially as life's challenges increase.

Fellowship Strengthens Our Faith

- When we gather with other believers, we learn from one another's faith experiences. In moments of difficulty or doubt, hearing someone else's testimony can reignite our own faith. Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Fellowship helps us grow stronger in our faith as we share wisdom, experiences, and the lessons God is teaching us.

Fellowship Fosters Unity in the Body of Christ

- In fellowship, we are reminded that we are all part of the body of Christ. Each one of us has a role to play in the health and strength of the whole. This unity is especially important during times of crisis, like the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. Together, we can accomplish more than we ever could alone. Through fellowship, we can mobilize to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters who are struggling.

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Helping Those Affected by Hurricane Helene

As a church community, one of the most powerful ways we can live out our fellowship is by responding to the needs of those impacted by Hurricane Helene. Many families have lost homes, possessions, and even loved ones. In moments like this, our fellowship isn't just about gathering for worship—it's about taking action to provide relief and support.

Ways We Can Help:



Prayer:

Let's commit to fervent prayer for all those affected by the hurricane. Pray for their safety, their health, and for God to provide the resources they need to rebuild their lives. Pray also for the volunteers, relief workers, and organizations on the ground, that God would give them strength and wisdom as they serve.

Donations:

Your church can organize a Hurricane Relief Fund to support families who have been displaced or affected by Hurricane Helene. Consider donating financially or bringing in essential items like non-perishable food, bottled water, hygiene products, and clothing. Every contribution, no matter the size, can make a difference in someone's life.

Volunteer Efforts:

We can partner with local and national organizations to send teams to assist with relief efforts. If you feel called to volunteer, whether by helping pack relief kits or traveling to the affected areas, please sign up and participate in a mission program near you. Your time and service can be a powerful reflection of Christ's love in action.

Adopt-a-Family Program:

Through an Adopt-a-Family initiative, we can connect church members with families who have been directly impacted by the hurricane. This can include providing ongoing financial support, prayer, or helping with specific needs such as temporary housing or rebuilding efforts.

Our fellowship is a powerful tool God can use to bring healing, hope, and restoration—especially in times of crisis like Hurricane Helene.

We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and there is no greater display of that than when we come together as a church to serve those in need. In this season, let's make a commitment to fall into fellowship by supporting each other and extending our love and generosity to those beyond our walls.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- NWSE One Day Women's Conference
- 14th – 18th > Southern District Convention

NOVEMBER

- 28th > Thanksgiving

Find more information on www.cogainc.org



A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- "October is like a middle child—no one knows what to do with it between summer and Christmas."
- October: That weird month where you wear a jacket in the morning and regret it by noon.
- What's the best way to fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch!
- What's an autumn tree's favorite subject? History—because they're rooted in the past!
- Why did the apple stop in the middle of the road? Because it ran out of juice!

hello
October