

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 Discipleship Class
January 3rd @ 7:00pm January 8th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

January 2nd @ 5:00pm

2011 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jim Jonas of Centreville, Virginia

April 7th-10, 2011

2011 Vacation Bible School

June 20th-24th, 2011

2011 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Mark Russell of Valparaiso, Indiana

October 6th-9th, 2011

Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)

Rudale Blake * Andrew Madison * Ann Wise * Lewis Wise

Prayer Requests

- David Ashabranner is relocating to Hawaii in January 2011.
- Mary Dinges is recovering from being ill on last week.
- Thelma Findley is back home from being hospitalized on last week.
- Dorothy Eldridge (Brenda McCrea's sister) is having breast cancer surgery on January 10th.
- Eugene Byas' (Paul & Sarita's son) wife was hospitalized on last Thursday.

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Steven Chung * Angelita Dillon * John Okonkwo

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Additional Announcements

Contribution & Attendance Figures

December 26 th	\$2,524-Contribution	90-Attendance
December 19 th	\$2,715-Contribution	111-Attendance

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear The Gospel * Believe In Jesus * Repent Of Our Sins * Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God * Be Baptized In Water * Remain Faithful

TODAY'S DATE: January 2, 2011

Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST



**6330 Auburn Avenue
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Updated Every Monday & Thursday

A GOING CHURCH FOR A COMING LORD – ROMANS 16:16

New Year Brings New Challenges

Proverbs 24:10 - If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

Below is an excerpt from Keith Harrell's, "Attitude Is Everything For Success." It was a gift given to me by my sister in Christ, Noreen Klemm, upon my arrival almost 2 years ago.

CHALLENGE: FACE IT! Definition Of Challenge: A demand; a call to engage in a contest or fight.

Life is full of challenges. There's no limit to how many of them will come your way, so get ready, be ready, & stay ready. As I heard Garrison Keillor say on the radio recently, "Life is like war—if things get too quiet, you're losing." Of course he was making a joke, but the truth is that when the road gets too smooth, you have the tendency to become complacent. You won't be able to know what you're made of & grow stronger if everything in your life comes easily without bumps that challenge you to find new ways to resolve issues. If all of your relationships evolved perfectly & you never had any arguments, disagreements, or even differences of opinion, you'd never learn anything. You wouldn't be equipped to successfully handle difficult situations &, in essence, you'd be defeated. The fact of the matter is that challenges are a part of life, but God can use them to make you a better person by sharpening the qualities within you that are able to overcome those obstacles.

In the corporate world today, businesses want to increase profits, improve productivity, & reduce overhead. Many of my friends who work in this environment are called upon to do more with less—they're working longer hours with the same pay & fewer resources. Unfortunately, many of the companies they work for are being downsized or "right-sized"—so my friends can only face this type of challenge by having the right attitude & the ability to know they'll get through it. Almost everyone I know who ever lost a job looks back on the experience as a gift & a door to a better, greater opportunity.

Challenges break you out of your mold & help develop your character. And it's through them that life hands you new opportunities for success that you may never have experienced otherwise.

In 2009, our average Sunday morning attendance was **76**, **9** of which were visitors, reaching a peak attendance of **98**.

In 2010, our average Sunday morning attendance was **93**, **19** of which were visitors, reaching a peak attendance of **117**. On Sunday evening, our average attendance was **64**. On Wednesday evening, our average attendance was **67**. We had a total of only **2** baptisms for the year.

What do these numbers tell you? I know what they tell me. These numbers tell me, we have a lot of work to do. These numbers tell me, in 2011, we have some challenges on our hands.

Let us address the disturbing statistics first & what our deliberate plan of action must be in 2011. We have **99** individuals listed in the directory. Our average attendance is **93**. If we take away the visitors, then our average attendance is really **74**. Therefore, we have **25** individuals who identify with this congregation who have something better to do on Sunday mornings than to worship God in spirit & in truth. An even sadder number is the decline in attendance of almost 30 individuals on Sunday & Wednesday evenings. The solution to this problem is a better understanding of **Hebrews 10:23-25** & those who are faithful, especially our Elders & Deacons, to start holding the congregation, as a whole, accountable to this basic Biblical principle. We must pray; we must call; & we must visit as consistently as the forsaking is taking place. I am not ignorant of members getting sick, getting stuck on the Beltway, working late unexpectedly, or being out of town. However, we must all be reminded God knows our hearts & He knows the real reason behind all things (**1 Samuel 16:7**). Therefore, let us keep in remembrance: "Visitors Welcomed, Members Expected!"

Finally, let us address the good news. I have watched this congregation grow numerically, financially, but most importantly, spiritually. Nevertheless, we have a long way to go, for God is still working on us. Going from **76** to **93** in attendance is impressive. Watching more & more visitors from the community show up for worship from **9** to **19** is exciting. Yet, this only translated itself in only **2** baptisms. Church, I know we can do better than this. We have an Evangelist committed to the work of this area. I beseech you: PLEASE USE HIM! Two members did last year & baptisms were the inevitable results. In order for 2011 to be a breakout year for this congregation, we have to turn our activity into productivity. We can have an average over **100** for each service, IF we are willing to face the challenge. We can have an average over **25** visitors weekly, IF we are willing to face the challenge. We can have an average weekly contribution of **\$3,500**, IF we are willing to face the challenge. We can have at least **1** baptism/month, IF we are willing to face the challenge. The servants of the church are available, training classes are in place, saints are still praying, & God is still on the throne. So, let us get people to heaven in 2011.

"A challenge is nothing but an opportunity turned upside down."
— Toni Mallet

-Antoine N. Holloway