

**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**June 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm**Saturday Discipleship Class**June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am**Elders/Deacons Meeting**June 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm**Women's Thursday Bible Study**July 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm**2011 Vacation Bible School**June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**2011 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Mark Russell of Valparaiso, Indiana**October 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**2012 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Albert Dickson of Cincinnati, Ohio**April 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)**Virginia Fowler \* Nancy Lingerfelt \* Andrew Madison \* Bruce McDonald \*  
Ann Wise \* Lewis Wise**Prayer Requests**

- Georgia Rose Marie Blake's niece was born this past week 4 months earlier & is fighting for her life. Please pray for the survival of this precious soul.

**Additional Announcements**

- Antoine Holloway will be preaching a gospel meeting & VBS, along with training for area churches in Barbados June 25<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Anne Harrison \* Steven Chung \* John Okonkwo

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

Paul &amp; Sarita Byas \* Calvin Mitchell \* Axel Persuad \* Tyrone &amp; Kalandra Williams

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	\$4,335-Contribution	115-Attendance
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,495-Contribution	88-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: May 29, 2011****Wildercroft  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**6330 Auburn Avenue  
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(301) 474-7460[www.wildercroftcoc.org](http://www.wildercroftcoc.org)Call BIBLE MOMENTS  
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Updated Every Monday &amp; Thursday

**A GOING CHURCH FOR A COMING LORD - ROMANS 16:16**

# Inner Strength, Inner Light

***Colossians 1:10-11 – That you may walk (live & conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him & desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work & steadily growing & increasing in & by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, & clearer insight, acquaintance, & recognition]. [We pray] that you may be invigorated & strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance & patience (perseverance & forbearance) with joy. – The Amplified Bible***

The beauty of strong inner character is most clearly seen during times of difficulty. Just as it is true that hardship builds character, it is also true that hardship demonstrates character that has already been built. And one of life's most refreshing experiences is to see someone show unexpected dignity & strength in the face of pain, demonstrating far more character than we think they are - & often stronger than they think they are. Difficulty gives us a glimpse of what people are actually made of.

But how is "difficulty" to be defined? It should be seen as any circumstance in which honor calls on us to think, say, or do something that requires extra effort. When the right thing & the easy thing are not the same thing, "difficulty" is what we face. And looking at it this way, we can see that there are many more difficulties in life than the obvious ones, such as pain, grief, & fear. Indeed, comfortable circumstances face us with some of life's most difficult choices. Living in an age when there is more "ease" to be enjoyed than ever before, we probably have to deal with more "positive" difficulty than we do that of a "negative" nature. It takes just as much character to deal honorably with affluence as it does with poverty, & there is much to be said for learning "**how to abound**" (**Philippians 4:12**). But whether confronted with the difficulties of prosperity or pain, our character is shown by the choices we make between the easy & the honorable.

We often interact so superficially with people that we do not know what strength of character they may have. Perhaps we do not know ourselves in this respect, either. It may take some adverse experience for us to learn how strong we are & how strong we wish to

be. Our desire should be to acquire such true strength of inward character that difficulty will not defeat us but only make us more decisive.

*"People are like stained-glass windows; they sparkle & shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within." – Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*

***-Gary Henry (From His Book – Diligently Seeking God)***

Since arriving here in April 2009, the Elders of this congregation has asked me to write my own articles weekly & this I have done with very few exceptions (an article from a visiting preacher for a gospel meeting, a series of articles the Elders want to present to the congregation which they have written themselves, or a member wanting to participate in this good work). Well, this article does not fit in any of these categories. Nevertheless, it fits in the category of "being beautifully written & extremely needful to not only the saints here, but myself as well." Here is brother Henry's biography as printed in the 2011 Florida College Lecture Book.

Gary Henry was born in Hope, Arkansas on January 31, 1950. He has two sons, Brock & Grant. He received his formal education at Florida College (A.A., 1970; Certificate of Achievement in Bible, 1972) & Western Kentucky University (B.A. in Religious Studies, 1976; M.A. in Humanities, 1979). Brother Henry began preaching at the Manslick Road congregation in Louisville, Kentucky in 1972. He has worked with congregations in Mississippi, Kentucky, Indiana, & Texas. He is currently one of three preachers working together at the Broadmoor congregation in Nashville, Tennessee. His books include "Diligently Seeking God" (2003), "Reaching Forward" (2009), & "Enthusiastic Ideas" (to be published in October 2011). Some of his devotional writing was excerpted by Zondervan in "Today's Devotional Bible" (2006). Gary's scholarly work on Elie Wiesel was selected by Yale literary critic Harold Bloom for inclusion in his study on Elie Wiesel's "Night" (2009).

I contacted brother Henry seeking permission to use this article from his book & he granted it. May God continue to bless Gary, his family, & his work in the kingdom, which has blessed the lives of many.