

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 **Saturday Evangelism Class**

January 26th @ 9:00am January 12th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting **Women's Thursday Bible Study**

February 10th @ 5:00pm March 21st @ 7:00pm

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

2013 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Larry Wright of Savannah, Georgia

October 10th-13th, 2013

Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)

Virginia Fowler * JoAnn Harrison * Andrew Madison * Bruce McDonald *
Janet Ostroff * Isaac Parker * Earl Sellers * Lewis Wise

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Steven Chung * Bruce McDonald * Carlos Vargas

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Anne Wise

Additional Announcements

- Song Practice Today @ 5:00pm
- Congregational Report Meeting – January 20th @ 5pm

Contribution & Attendance Figures

December 30 th	\$4,082-Contribution	123-Attendance
December 23 rd	\$3,149-Contribution	115-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: January 6, 2013

**Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**6330 Auburn Avenue
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Updated Weekly By Various Brethren

***"A Going Church For A Coming Lord, Which Does
All The Lord Authorizes" – 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, Norene Klemm, upon my arrival almost 4 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 **2011**, our average Sunday morning attendance was **114, 24** of which were visitors, reaching a peak attendance of **143**.

In **2012**, our average Sunday morning attendance was **129, 26** of which were visitors, reaching a peak attendance of **175**. On Sunday evening, our average attendance was **89**. On Wednesday evening, our average attendance was **86**. We had a total of **14** 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 **2013**, we have some challenges on our hands.

Let us address the disturbing statistics first & what our deliberate plan of action must be in **2013**. We have **142** individuals listed in the directory. Our average attendance is **129**. If we take away the visitors, then our average attendance is really **103**. Therefore, we have **39** 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 approximately **40+** 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 **114** to **129** in attendance is impressive. Watching more & more visitors from the community show up for worship from **24** to **26** is exciting. Yet, this only translated itself in **14** 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! Five members did last year & baptisms were the inevitable results. In order for **2013** to be a breakout year for this congregation, we have to turn our activity into productivity. We can have an average over **150** for each service, IF we are willing to face the challenge. We can have an average over **30** visitors weekly, IF we are willing to face the challenge. We can have an average weekly contribution of **\$5,000**, IF we are willing to face the challenge. We can have at least **2-5** baptisms/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 **2013**.

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

Toni Mallet

- **Antoine N. Holloway**