

State of the Church

COMMUNITY GROUPS (Sunday, February 1)

1. A review of our **current situation**
 - a. Christian Chronicle headline: "Church in America Marked by Decline" (January 2009)
 - b. 21st Century Christian's Directory of Churches of Christ
 - West Virginia, 1980 – 2008 Loss of 8,155 members
 - Wood County, 2006 – 2008 Gain of 51 members
 - c. ARDA (Religious Data Base of claimed church membership)
 - West Virginia, 1980 – 2000 Loss of 6,330 members
 - Wood County, 1980 – 2000 Loss of 634 members
 - d. Correcting 21st Century Christian's count (omissions and old information)
 - Wood County, 2006 – 2008 They've missed at least 200 members

2. **Ten Challenges** that were planned to be addressed in the State of the Church sermon on January 18 (not all mentioned due to time constraints; available online).

<input type="checkbox"/> Worship & Assemblies	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Groups
<input type="checkbox"/> Shepherding	<input type="checkbox"/> Finances
<input type="checkbox"/> Missions	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication/Outreach
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Demographic Ministries

3. **Community Groups:** Encourage spiritual growth and connection to the Body of Christ

4. **Need:** Increased opportunities for members and friends to strengthen fellowship & connection to the Body of Christ

5. **Specifics:**
 - Greater emphasis on the "empty chair"
 - Continually identify, train, and prepare leaders
 - Emphasize need for groups to develop an outward focus

6. **Measurable Goals:**

▪ Community Groups as of January 31, 2009:	17
▪ Community Groups as of January 31, 2010:	20 – 22
▪ Community Groups as of December 31, 2010:	24 – 30

7. **Why these goals** (follow-up to question):

▪ Current teens – adults members & attending	340 – 400
▪ Current groups	17
▪ Ratio, Potential Group Members to Groups	20-23.5 : 1
▪ Ideal Ratio, Group Members to Group	8 – 12 : 1
▪ Attendance Goal by December 31, 2010	450 – 550
▪ 70% participation by Dec 31, 2010 (12:1)	26 – 30