

INCREASE OUR

REACH

BURKE AND BEYOND

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

This Journal Belongs To:

KNOLLWOOD  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR CHRIS



KNOLLWOOD FAMILY,

As we enter this exciting season together, I'm reminded that everything we do as followers of Jesus flows out of what He has already done for us. His grace is the reason we serve, the reason we give, and the reason we move forward with faith.

For nearly 50 years, God has been faithful to Knollwood. We are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us—people who sacrificed, prayed, and invested so that we could experience the life-changing message of Jesus. Now, it's our turn to carry that same mission into the future.

This is what *Increase Our Reach* is all about: responding to God's goodness by boldly stepping out in faith so that more people in Burke and beyond can know Him. Mary and I are excited to walk this road with you, trusting that as we link arms together, God will do more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Let's take this next step with courage, faith, and joy—because the best is still ahead.

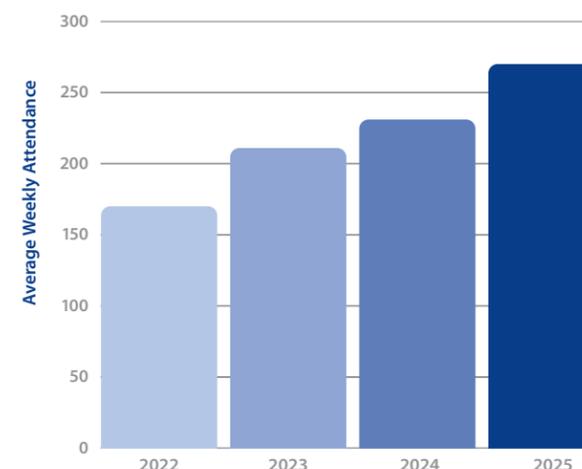
Blessings,

*Chris*  
Pastor Chris



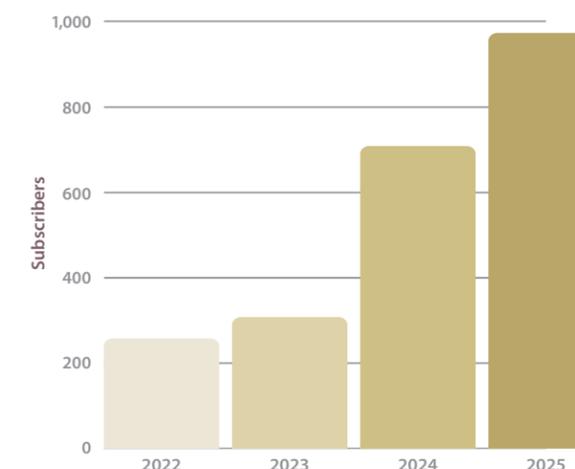
# WHERE WE ARE NOW

## Average Weekly Attendance



**59% Growth  
in weekly attendance  
since 2022**

## YouTube Channel



**278% Growth  
in YouTube Subscribers  
since 2022**

## 2025 KNOLLWOOD HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 15 baptisms (highest recorded)
- ▶ 2025 Average Sunday Online Engagement – 116 Viewers, with one Sunday of over 200 Viewers
- ▶ 26% more teenagers reached
- ▶ Largest Teen Summer Camp with 45 campers
- ▶ Largest VBS to date with 156 participants
- ▶ 210 people in Community Groups
- ▶ New Young Adult Ministry launched with over 20 participants

# WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

## A SNAPSHOT OF OUR CHURCH HISTORY

### ALMOST 50 YEARS OF IMPACTING LIVES

For almost 50 years, ordinary people have stepped out in faith, trusting a big God to do what only He can do. From our earliest days, Knollwood has been a place where people find hope, grow in Christ, and experience the love of a true church family.

Through the decades, God has used Knollwood to make a lasting impact—in our community, in the lives of families and children, and in the hearts of countless people who have encountered Jesus here.

As we look to the future, we believe God is calling us to build on this strong foundation. Our story is still being written, and we are confident that the best is yet to come.

**December 1976**

First Services of  
Knollwood Baptist Church;  
Dr. W. Barker Hardison, Pastor



**1980**

Preschool  
Established



**April 1979**

Sanctuary  
Dedicated



**1999**

Marriage Vow  
Renewal Ceremony



**Early 1990s**

Name Changed to  
Knollwood Community  
Church



**2000**

Knollwood attempted to  
move location but God  
made it clear to stay



**2012**

New Worship  
Center  
Dedicated



**2013**

Stop Hunger Now  
Project



**2015**

Chris Mendez  
Ordained



**2018**

Downstairs  
Family Center  
Dedicated



**2021**

Chris Mendez,  
Senior Pastor



**2025**

Largest  
Easter  
Services  
and VBS  
attendance



# WHERE WE ARE GOING

## OUR PRIMARY GOAL

### 100% ENGAGEMENT

We are praying for all-in engagement from those who call Knollwood home and inviting everyone to go on a journey of the heart in this season. In God's eyes, our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a heart transformation. You can use "The Giving Ladder" as a tool to chart where you are now and how you might experience new joy in trusting God with your giving.

#### THE GIVING LADDER

I am/We are stepping up to:

CHECK ONE

- GENEROUS GIVER**  
**What does God want me to keep from God's resources?**  
 Generous givers believe God owns everything. They give sacrificially, keeping only what they need and investing the rest in His Kingdom.
- PERCENTAGE GIVER**  
**What does God want me to give from God's resources?**  
 These givers commit to a specific portion of their income, seeing generosity as a spiritual discipline and an act of trust in God.
- CONSISTENT GIVER**  
**What does God say to do with God's money?**  
 Consistent givers give faithfully as a form of worship, though they may not yet commit to a specific percentage.
- OCCASIONAL GIVER**  
**What do I do with God's money?**  
 Occasional givers are exploring biblical generosity. They give from time to time but without a regular pattern or percentage.
- FIRST TIME GIVER**  
**What do I do with my money?**  
 First-time givers are beginning to trust God with their finances by making their first gift to His Church and Kingdom.

## OUR SECONDARY GOAL

### REACHING BURKE & BEYOND: \$2 MILLION

A two-year operating budget of \$2 million ensures every ministry thrives—fully funding kids, students, adults, and our ongoing community and missional outreach. This investment funds life-changing ministry, sustaining the work God is already doing through Knollwood.

### INCREASING OUR REACH: \$1 MILLION

We're trusting God to provide \$1 million to help us "Increase Our Reach" and propel Knollwood forward in three key ways: **increasing our financial flexibility** to remove financial barriers and invest boldly in the future, **increasing our ability to welcome guests** to create a more welcoming and inspiring space, and **increasing our community influence** to strengthen families, deepen relationships, and connect more people to Jesus. This is more than a financial goal—it's a step of faith to ensure Knollwood thrives for generations to come.

### HOW WE CAN REACH \$3 MILLION TOGETHER

As you pray and discern how God is leading you to give, use this chart as a guide. It shows one way our church family could work together to reach our \$3 million goal over two years.

Number of Households (HH)	2-Yr Gift Total Per HH	HH 2-Yr Gift Amt Per Year	HH 2-Yr Gift Amt Per Month	2-Yr Gift Level Total
1	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$300,000
1	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$250,000
1	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$150,000
1	\$125,000	\$62,500	\$5,208	\$125,000
1	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$100,000
5	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$375,000
15	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$750,000
25	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$625,000
10	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$100,000
15	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$112,500
15	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$75,000
10	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$25,000
10	\$1,250	\$625	\$52	\$12,500
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$3,000,000</b>

2-YEAR GIFT CHART

# WHAT IS A "ONE FUND" INITIATIVE?

You may have been a part of church campaigns in the past during which you were asked to give a second gift above and beyond your usual gifts to make special initiatives like new buildings and new ministries possible.

Usually, you gave that gift to the 'Building Fund,' and you also continued to give offerings to the 'General Fund.' This type of giving can confuse people new to giving, and it can be hard for you to celebrate your total giving to Knollwood with a single number. We believe that all giving goes to ONE MISSION—and that mission is to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. So, for this next season of ministry expansion, we will give our gifts to Knollwood into ONE FUND and celebrate the totality of our generosity growth as disciples of Jesus.

The *Increase Our Reach* initiative will last for two years. In those two years, every gift given will go to the key components of this initiative: our general ministry budget, ministry expansion to continue reaching those far from Jesus by increasing our financial flexibility, increasing our ability to welcome guests, and increasing our community influence. These areas are explained in detail in the pages of this booklet.



We've included a snapshot of the commitment card so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God.

Please take time to think and pray through this, and we will provide you with a commitment card on **Commitment Sunday, October 5** during the Worship Service.

\$	<input type="text"/>	What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, special projects, missions, etc.)
+ \$	<input type="text"/>	My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of the <b>Increase Our Reach</b> initiative
= \$	<input type="text"/>	x 2 years <span style="font-size: 2em;">}</span> <span style="font-size: 2em;">↓</span>
		\$ <input type="text"/>
	Gifts from my/our stored resources	+ \$ <input type="text"/>

*"I will not offer as a sacrifice to the Lord my God offerings which cost me nothing."  
2 Samuel 24:24*

**TOTAL 2-YEAR COMMITMENT**

\$

October 2025 - October 2027

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **If I commit to *Increase Our Reach*, how does this affect my regular giving to Knollwood?**

During this two-year period, every gift given to Knollwood will go toward *Increase Our Reach*. This “one fund” approach means your generosity will fund all that God is calling us to: supporting our ongoing ministries and outreach and propelling us forward with the additional \$1 million goal to increase our financial flexibility, strengthen our ability to welcome guests, and increase our community influence.

## **What are you asking me to do?**

We are asking every person at Knollwood to take part in this journey. First and foremost, pray — ask God what He is leading you to give, do, or sacrifice during these two years. Then listen for His voice and courageously obey. Beyond prayer, join in with your community group to walk this road together. Our primary goal is 100% engagement, with each of us taking a step of faith and growing in discipleship through generosity.

## **Are there ways to give besides cash?**

Yes. Many people give through cash or checks, but there are also creative ways to give—such as stock, property, cryptocurrency, or other assets. Some may choose to contribute from stored resources or savings as God leads. If you would like to explore these options, please contact the church office for assistance. There may also be tax advantages when giving from these resources.

## **How long is the commitment?**

*Increase Our Reach* is a two-year journey. Commitments will be made on Commitment Sunday, October 5, 2025. Participants will give their first gifts on First Fruits Sunday and will continue for the next 24 months.

## **What is First Fruits Sunday?**

First Fruits Sunday, October 19, 2025, is when we’ll bring our first and best gifts toward our *Increase Our Reach* commitments. It’s a powerful way to demonstrate faith and trust in God from the very beginning of this journey.

## **What if my financial situation changes during the campaign?**

We understand that life circumstances change. Your commitment is between you and God, and you can adjust it at any time if your situation changes. What matters most is that you are prayerfully engaging and responding in faith as God leads you.

## **What if I’m in debt right now — should I still give?**

We encourage you to prioritize paying down debt, but we also believe giving is an important part of discipleship at every stage of life. The amount is not what matters—it’s about seeking God and trusting Him with what you have. If you need help with budgeting or financial guidance, we’d be glad to connect you with resources.

## **What if I’ve never given before?**

Then this is the perfect opportunity to start! *Increase Our Reach* is about discipleship, not just fundraising. If you’ve never taken the step of regular, intentional giving, we invite you to begin now. The giving ladder (included in this journal) can help you see what that first step looks like. Your first step of generosity will be a huge part of your spiritual journey—and First Fruits Sunday will be a great moment to take that step.

## **What if I’m new to Knollwood?**

Welcome! We believe there’s no better time to jump in. *Increase Our Reach* isn’t just about a financial goal—it’s about uniting our whole church around the mission of Jesus. If you’re ready, we’d love for you to make this the moment you put down roots and call Knollwood your church home.

## **What if I can’t give a large amount?**

That’s okay. This campaign isn’t about equal gifts; it’s about equal sacrifice. What matters most is that you ask God what He’s calling you to do and then follow His lead. Every step of faith matters, whether it looks big or small in the eyes of the world.

## **Is my commitment confidential?**

Yes. Your commitment will only be seen by our financial team for record-keeping purposes. What you give is between you and the Lord.

## **How will this affect our church budget and ministries?**

Our regular ministries, staff support, missions, and outreach will continue to be funded—in fact, they are part of this campaign. *Increase Our Reach* is designed to fund everything we already do and allow us to take bold steps forward in reaching more people with the hope of Christ.

## **What happens if we raise more or less than our goal?**

If more is given, we’ll be able to extend ministry impact even further and accelerate future opportunities. If less is given, leadership will prayerfully evaluate priorities and adjust plans while continuing to move forward in faith. Whatever the outcome, our focus will remain on funding our core ministries and faithfully pursuing the vision God has put before us.

## **How will we know the results of the campaign?**

We’ll share regular updates with the church family throughout the two years—celebrating stories of life change, progress toward the goals, and the many ways God is at work in and through Knollwood.









# KEY DATES

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## ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT

September 21, 2025

## COMMITMENT SUNDAY

October 5, 2025

## FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY

October 19, 2025



INCREASE OUR  
**REACH**

BURKE AND BEYOND

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