

# Police subdue church feud

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Two church elders asked Caruthers to step aside earlier this week. Wednesday's confrontation developed when Caruthers showed up to lead weekly Bible study classes anyway.

The elders, Excell Lewis and Lavern Gulley, declined to explain their action.

Some church members think Lewis wants to be pastor.

Asked if he's interested in leading the congregation, Lewis said: "It's their decision."

Founded in 1956, the church has grown from 100 members to about 300 since settling at its current location in the late 1960s.

Charles Horton, one congregation member who supports Caruthers, said the pastor's

## What's next

Members of the West Side Church of Christ are invited to vote on whether to retain pastor Jeff Caruthers at a service scheduled for 11 a.m. Sunday at the church.

critics are trying to control the church's financial base. He estimated the church collects \$3,000 a week.

Horton said the pastor is liberal about spending money to provide services, while other members want a tighter hold on the purse strings. "They're trying to take control," he said. "And that's not going to happen."

## West Side Church of Christ

■ **1956:** Church founded at 922 Morgan St. by four former members of Kilburn Avenue Church of Christ.

■ **1969:** Church moves into new air-conditioned facility at 1523 Morgan St. on land donated by nearby J.I. Case Co.

■ **1975:** Arkansas clergyman Eugene Echols takes over as pastor, replacing Arthur Fulson Jr. after seven years.

■ **1979:** Under another pastor, W.C. Edwards, church launches volunteer tutoring campaign to combat illiteracy.

■ **1990:** Jeff Caruthers, a clergyman with experience in Texas and California, becomes pastor.