

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:

Men's Leadership Class

May 26th @ 9:00am

Saturday Discipleship Class

May 19th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

May 13th @ 5:00pm

Women's Thursday Bible Study

May 17th @ 7:00pm

2012 Vacation Bible School - Theme: All Aboard The Kingdom Express

June 18th-22nd, 2012 – Speaker: Brandon Trout of Severn, Maryland

2012 Summer Lectureship – Remaining Faithful & Enabled For The Ministry

August 1st-5th, 2012

2012 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Philip Mullins of Ashburn, Virginia

October 11th-14th, 2012

Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)

Beth Anderson * Thelma Findley * Norene Klemm * Andrew & Adrian
Madison * Bruce McDonald * Janet Ostroff * Isaac Parker * Lewis & Anne
Wise

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Angelita Dillon * Bruce McDonald

Prayer Request (Traveling)

The Holloway Family * The Turney Family * The Vargas Family

Additional Announcements

- Congregational Meeting Immediately After Evening Worship TODAY (Elders are presenting plans for the Renovation of the Restrooms)
- Gettysburg COC Bible Forum – May 24th-27th with Buddy Payne

Contribution & Attendance Figures

May 6 th	\$4,170-Contribution	130-Attendance
April 29 th	\$4,785-Contribution	122-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 13, 2012

**Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**6330 Auburn Avenue
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Updated This Week By Calvin Mitchell

***"A Going Church For A Coming Lord, Which Does
All The Lord Authorizes" – Romans 16:16***

The Battle At Jericho

In Monday's, April 23rd, Washington Post, there was a story entitled, "*A house of God divided.*" To understand this title, there was a subtitle of "The congregation of a Prince George's megachurch held separate services Sunday, reflecting the split caused by an ongoing battle for control of Jericho City of Praise." Here is timeline of events from the beginning in order to understand this local drama.

- **July 1963** – Reverend Pastor James R. Peebles, Sr. starts Jericho Baptist Church in the basement of Rohoboth Baptist Church in Washington, DC with 6 members.
- March 1967 – Jericho Baptist Church moves into their first church building.
- **Year 1977** – Jericho Baptist Church moves into their second church building, which seats 800.
- Year 1984 – Dr. Betty P. Peebles was ordained as co-pastor of Jericho Baptist Church with her husband, James R. Peebles, Sr.
- **Year 1987** – Jericho Baptist Church moves into their third church building, which seats 2,000.
- September 1989 – Reverend Pastor James R. Peebles, Sr. was elevated to Bishop over Jericho Baptist Church.
- **Year 1996** – Bishop James R. Peebles, Sr. dies. Pastor James R. Peebles, Jr. (the oldest son) now serves as pastor of Jericho Baptist Church.
- Year 1997 – Pastor James R. Peebles, Jr. dies. Pastor Dr. Betty P. Peebles (James Sr.'s wife) now serves as pastor of Jericho Baptist Church.
- **December 1997** – Jericho Baptist Church moves into their fourth building, which seats 10,000 & changes their name to Jericho City of Praise (8501 Jericho City Drive Landover, MD 20785 – located directly across from FEDEX Stadium).
- April 2000 – Dr. Betty P. Peebles was ordained as an apostle.
- **November 2009** – Apostle Dr. Betty P. Peebles writes a will & establishes a Board of Trustees to govern Jericho City of Praise.
- October 2010 – Apostle Dr. Betty P. Peebles dies. Since then, Assistant Pastor Joel Peebles (son of James Sr. & Betty) & the Board of Trustees appointed by Betty Peebles have been in court fighting over control of Jericho City of Praise according to Betty's last will & testament. The Board argues that it was not the will of Betty to have her son, Joel, pastor the church upon her passing until he sat under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Freeman (Founder & Senior Pastor of Spirit of Faith Christian Center & member of the board for Jericho City of Praise). The Board further argues that they are in authority to appoint the next pastor of Jericho City of Praise. Joel Peebles argues that he is the rightful pastor of Jericho City of Praise because it was his mother's will to keep the leadership of this ministry in the family & he has served faithfully under her mentorship since 1997 as assistant pastor.
- **October 25, 2011** – Board of Trustees win ruling as the governing body

for Jericho City of Praise.

- April 19, 2012 – Board of Trustees fire Assistant Pastor Joel Peebles from Jericho City of Praise & excommunicate thousands of members.
- **April 22, 2012** – Joel Peebles starts a new church in New Carrollton @ the Metro Points Hotel with 3,000 members called City of Praise Church Ministries.

Any student of the Scriptures can see why this was doomed to fail since July 1963.

1. In **Joshua 6:26**, the Bible reads, "**Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up & buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, & in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.**" This word was carried out in **1 Kings 16:34**, where the Bible reads, "**In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, & set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.**" Therefore, Hiel was cursed before God. Jesus was the only one authorized to build the church (**Matthew 16:18**), yet men are building things without God's authority. Hence, their labor is in vain (**Psalms 127:1**). This "work" was destined to fail because a) when God destroys something, then it is not His will to rebuild it, b) 6-15,000 souls have been destroyed by this vain work since 1963 (how does the death of the wicked glorify God? – **Ezekiel 33:11**), & c) just like Joshua desired to save good people from Jericho by their faith i.e. Rahab & her family, Jesus desires to save those in Jericho City of Praise, if they will only have the faith which comes only from the word of God (**Romans 10:17** & **Hebrews 11:6**).
2. *Whenever we walk towards Jericho, then disaster is waiting to happen (Luke 10:30). Have we learned nothing from the Scriptures?*
3. When we do not have authority for our existence, then we will lack authority in many other things, such as the things taking place at Jericho City of Praise (Calling men reverend – **Psalms 111:9**, Woman pastor – **1 Timothy 2:11-15**, Making a distinction between pastor, elder, & bishop when it is the same office – **Acts 20:28**, **1 Timothy 3:1**, & **1 Peter 5:1**, Board of Trustees overseeing a work instead of the Eldership – **Acts 20:28**, a pastor from one church overseeing the affairs of another church – **1 Peter 5:2**, One person rule instead of a plurality – **Philippians 1:1**, there are only false apostles today – **2 Corinthians 11:13**, & wearing an unbiblical name – **Acts 4:12** & **Romans 16:16**). Therefore, Know Jesus – Know Peace; No Jesus – No Peace!

When Joshua fought the battle at Jericho, the walls came tumbling down. Jesus is clearly fighting this battle right before our eyes locally & "**Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up**" – **Matthew 15:13**. Let us stay true to God's word & pray for an opportunity to teach these souls who are lost & hurting.

- Antoine N. Holloway