

Elders:

Rufus Barfield * Dan Jackson * Donnie McDaniel

Deacons:

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

May 25th @ 9:00am

Saturday Evangelism Class

May 4th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

April 28th @ 5:00pm

Women's Thursday Bible Study

May 16th @ 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: It's A Blue Ribbon Life – A Study Of The Fruit Of The Spirit

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

October 10th-13th, 2013

Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)

Rudale Blake * JoAnn Harrison * Andrew Madison * Bruce McDonald * Janet Ostroff

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Darrion Blake * Steven Chung * Virginia Fowler * Anne Harrison * Bruce McDonald * Earl Sellers * Carlos Vargas * Lewis Wise

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Additional Announcements

- WELCOME to our New Brother In Christ – Joseph L. Holland, Jr.
- POTLUCK is TODAY @ Bladensburg Waterfront Park.
- STATE OF THE CONGREGATION ADDRESS – May 5th.
- Courthouse COC Gospel Meeting – April 21st-26th w/ Robert Harkrider
- Exton COC Bible Study – April 22nd-23rd w/ Various Speakers (Exodus)
- Annandale COC Gospel Meeting – April 28th-May 1st w/ Mark Moseley
- Centreville COC Gospel Meeting – May 10th-12th w/ Don Truex
- Dulles COC Gospel Meeting – May 17th-18th w/ Jason Hardin

Contribution & Attendance Figures

April 14 th	\$4,951-Contribution	141-Attendance
April 7 th	\$5,560-Contribution	132-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: April 21, 2013

Wildercroft CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Jargon



Jargon-- it is something that you hear all of the time. When you understand it, everything is well & good. When you are not "in the know," however, it can be quite frustrating!

Jargon is language specific to a particular group of people, generally understood in terms of specialties. There is medical jargon--CPT codes, the many long terms from Latin & Greek for various conditions & illnesses that always sound scary, pharmaceutical names, & so on. There is also legal jargon--that legalese in contracts that is very difficult to understand. There is

also plenty of jargon in the tech community--apps, HTML, CSS, PHP, Java, & all other kinds of terms that you either understand or you do not! Jargon can be found among almost every group of people, & in many cases, it serves necessary functions for those who understand it. It would be much more difficult for a lot of groups to function if they could not use terminology specific to their groups!

There is also a lot of jargon in religion, especially in the Church. Think about it for a moment: how many terms do you use among Christians that you would probably not use in any other circumstance? Baptism, gospel meetings, faith, repentance, justification, sanctification, hermeneutics-- all these are examples of jargon. Even whole phrases like "guide, guard, & direct us," "separate & apart," "watery grave of baptism," & so forth are examples of jargon.

Is it wrong or sinful to use jargon? No, not at all! Nevertheless, jargon can become a barrier hindering understanding for those who are not in Christ or who are not familiar with the terms. This can become a particularly acute problem when we assume that everyone else understands what we mean when we use this jargon &, in reality, they do not!

For a long time it was believed that the whole New Testament was its own form of jargon-- some suggested that "Holy Spirit Greek" was its own dialect of the language. Yet papyri discoveries over the past two hundred years have painted a very different picture for us. The New Testament was not written in some special form of language that was not understood; it was written using the common language of the people. God's message was communicated to the world in a form that was designed to be understood!

We see this push toward understanding throughout the book of Acts. When preaching to Jews, the Apostles used language & stories familiar to the Jews (cf. **Acts 2:14-36**, **Acts 3:12-26**, & **Acts 13:16-41**). When preaching to Gentiles, they used language & even quotations familiar to the Gentiles (cf. **Acts 17:22-31**)! Paul provides the general principle in **1 Corinthians 9:22-23**:

"To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak: I am become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some. And I do all things for the gospel's sake, that I may be a joint partaker thereof."

If we are to become all things to all men so that some may be saved, should that also not mean that we should communicate to our fellow man in ways that he understands?

The New Testament is clear: the message is to be taken to all men so that all men may understand & come to the knowledge of the truth (**Matthew 28:18-20** & **1 Timothy 2:4**). For them to understand, the message must be presented in a way that is understandable.

Yet how can the message of the Gospel be understandable if the people with whom we speak do not understand the terms that we use to describe the message of Jesus? We should give some thought to the version of the Bible we use in order to teach others. How effective will our teaching be if those whom we teach must first decipher the English in order to get to God's message?

Our main concern must be with the language we use in presenting God's message. We must come to grips with the fact that we live among a generation of people to whom Biblical terms & concepts might as well be a foreign language. On the whole, people do not know the Bible or the terms used in its pages. For example, what do people think of when they hear "gospel"? They might think of it in terms of a genre of music as much or more as "the good news of Jesus Christ." What is "baptism" to them beyond a religious ritual that many experienced as a baby (or not at all)? For too many, "faith" is nothing more than the opposite of "science." People might know what "sin" is, but what actions are defined as sin & the consequences of sin are not as well understood. Terms like repentance, sanctification, justification, Trinity, & the like are almost entirely unknown to many of those in the world.

But how can we present the message of God without using some of these terms? We really cannot, just like people in technical fields cannot describe their work without using some of their jargon. The issue is not the use of jargon in & of itself; the issue is making sure that people understand the message that is being communicated!

In terms of evangelism, therefore, we should give some thought as to how to explain the terms that we use, &, whenever possible, get away from jargon & use terms people understand. For example, if one of the main evangelistic events is a "gospel meeting," let us ask ourselves: do people know what a "gospel meeting" is? Would they know what to expect at a "gospel meeting"? How can we expect anyone to attend a "gospel meeting" if they do not know what it is?

Another example of this is the phrase, "the watery grave of baptism." For believers "in the know," it is a way of speaking of baptism in terms of **Romans 6:3-7**, making clear that it indicates immersion & what its purpose is. But if someone is entirely ignorant of Scripture & Christianity, what does "the watery grave of baptism" sound like? Does it sound like anything in which they would want to participate, or does it sound more like an event in a horror movie & therefore something to avoid?

We could go on & on, but the point ought to be clear. We are supposed to take the message of Jesus Christ to all people & help them to understand who Jesus is, what He has done, & why it should be of the greatest importance to them (**Matthew 28:18-20**, **Romans 10:13-17**, & **1 Timothy 2:4**). Would we ever dream of going out & trying to teach the message of Jesus in Greek to Americans who speak English? Of course not! Therefore, why would we try to teach the message of Jesus to people today in terms that people do not know or understand without any sort of explanation?

Jargon is a part of life. It is not wrong, but we must be careful to make sure that we "make the message plain" & make sure that people understand the ideas & concepts behind the message of the good news of Jesus Christ. We cannot assume that people automatically understand the words we use, & therefore we should give consideration how to best present the Gospel of Christ to all men. Let us do so, becoming the servant of all, so that some might be saved!

-Ethan R. Longhenry