



"The Gift or Curse of Gab"

If a person is very articulate and can easily convince others with their points of view, you can say that person has the gift of gab. Gab is an informal way to say mouth. These people are generally very convincing and often use their "gift" to trick and manipulate others. There are numerous ways to describe someone who has the gift or curse of gab. The writer of Ecclesiastes says "...the fool multiplies words" (Ecc. 10:14). I recall a time early on in ministry after someone died. I met with the family and didn't know what to say, yet I felt like I had to say something. It seemed like the more I talked, the bigger the hole I dug. I left visiting with the family feeling like I did more harm than good.

Ecclesiastes describes the one with gab in not so pleasant terms (Ecclesiastes 10:12-14). There are many times the best thing to do is to be quiet. But that is hard for many of us, including guys like myself who make their living by talking or were born that way. Part of my problem is that I am a twin. I'm sure that while in the womb my communicating began – it might have been a kick or a nudge with the elbow, or some type of talking while swimming in mom's amniotic fluid. I don't remember much about it honestly. But my mom tells me I have always had the gift of gab. I would ask questions incessantly. Before she could answer one question, I was asking another.

The best time to be quiet is after a death. We can't go wrong by saying nothing. Just be there. Back to my first story, that family that was grieving when I kept talking. I said things like, "It was for the best." "It was God's will." Was the child killed by a drunk driver "God's will?" Was the suicide car bomb or the murder of a pregnant woman "God's will?" Was the cancer and death of a child "God's will?" Was it really for the best? God's ways are often beyond my ways. I should not begin to explain what I don't understand.

Then there are others who use the grieving of someone else as a time to focus on their own issues. "I know what you are going through." "Yes, it is painful. It happened to me." Then there is a detailed account of what happened, the misery they went through, and how they overcame it. It's like before you go into a surgery and someone tells you their story. "Oh yeah, I had back surgery too. It was awful. Lot's of pain, long recovery, and I'm not sure I would go through it again." Thanks for the help. These people are like Job's friends. Job said, "I have heard many things like these; miserable comforters are you all! (Job 16:2). Even if you have been through something similar, it is different. No two incidents are ever alike. So we should never say, "I know what you are going through." We don't.

So how do we comfort others? By saying little to nothing. Job's friends were the best comforters when they sat with him for seven days (Job 2:12-13). Unfortunately, his friends began to talk and this got them into trouble because they assumed things that were not true. While it is often good to say nothing, here are a few things you can say: I'm praying for you. I'm here if you need someone to talk to. I don't understand what you are going through, but I'm hurting with you. I'm so sorry. I love you. This is how God responds. He hurts when we hurt. "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Mark

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Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

2206 Tecoma Drive
Knoxville, TN 37917
865-523-1764

e-mail: office@acoc.comcastbiz.net
Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org



Find us on:
Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **parent/child training room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- An optional **children's worship** is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

	weekly budget	\$4,062
July 1	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	166	\$4,893

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God
Sunday, July 8, 2018

Elders: Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515
David Tiller Ph: 607-1945

Deacons: Bud Norris - *Worship Participants*
Charles Owens - *Bldg & Grounds/Security/Treasurer*
Keith Tatum - *Education/Picture Board/Family Camp*
Ronnie Weldon - *Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg*

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Ronnie Weldon recovering from surgery; Andrea James; Ben Cavin; Danny Davis; Danny Rider; Frances Maples; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen.

Friends and Loved ones: Sara Sykes' brother, Ted Fields; David Giles' mother recovering from hip surgery; Mark's dad, Jerry Brackney; Laura Owens' dad; Carolyn Stark's brother-in-law, Gary McEwan; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Edith Weldon's friend, Linda Graybeal; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Faith Tindell; Heather Ream's mom, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; Olivia Britt; David Hunter; Sheila Riggs co-worker, Amy Smith; Tracy Hart; Brad Owens; Claudia Wilson; Ben Ream's friend, Alice Bowen, battling cancer; Anita Drinnen's brother-in-law, Chuck Floyd; Teresa Combs friend, Susan Russell; Tina McDougal's dad.

Shut-ins: Lynda Elliott; Edna Hullender; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman; Jessie Rutherford; Dan Trent.

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- Please take a moment to **pick up a card or two** to mail this week from the Card Ministry table.
- **Small groups**, tonight at 6 p.m. Check with an elder to find the group that is best for you.
- **Connection night**, Sunday, July 15, 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share after our gathering in the auditorium.
- **Men's breakfast at Shoney's**, Thurs., July 19, 8:30 a.m
- **"Navitat at Night"** High Ropes Course at Ijams. We will meet at 7:30 p.m., July 21, for the 8 to 10 p.m. time slot. Cost is \$44.95 per person. If we get 10 or more to go, we will get 10% off. Please sign up or see Ben Ream for details.
- **Vacation Bible School** will take place July 20th, 6 to 8 p.m. and July 21st, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme is: **God Pitched His Tent With Us**. We will be having VBS at the nearby Kiwanis Fresh Air Camp just north of the Zoo Knoxville on Prosser Road that will facilitate outdoor activities. Please sign up on the board for a place to serve. You can also pick up a registration form and information flier in the lobby to register you child or take some to pass out to friends.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today Sunday Morning:

*Study in Ecclesiastes continued -
"The Gift or Curse of Gab" Ecc. 10:11-14*

Sunday Night: Small Groups

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Jedidiah Cavin, Bruce McQuaig
Joshua Brackney, Jonathan Brackney
Kevin Gillispie, John David Potter

Opening Prayer: W Holloway
Preside at Table: Steve Cooke
Greeters: B Pruet & D Chapman
Nursery: L Potter & R Riggs
Security: R Weldon & P Ramsey



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 9 Paul Cooke
July 11 Carol Newland
July 12 Annabelle Owens
July 14 Martha Jane Owens
July 14 Jay Estes
July 14 Jason McDougal
July 15 Ben Ream

Happy Birthday!!

Family Matters



- **Fifth Sunday Celebration of the Arts**, July 29, 6 p.m. Come for a night of singing your favorite song, reading spiritual poetry, or sharing a work of art or picture you took. God gave us the arts to glorify Him and encourage others.
- Dr. Joe Beam will be presenting a weekend seminar titled: **Love, Sex and Marriage** at the Hardin Valley Church of Christ on August 10 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and August 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early registration fee is \$20 per couple by July 18th. Late fee is \$30. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Register at: hvcocmarriage.eventbrite.com. Also, sign up on the board so we know who is going and can possibly carpool.
- **Prison Ministry Conference** at Hardin Valley Church of Christ on Saturday, September 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a free conference to discuss methods of expanding/coordinating inmate/prison ministries. See board for more details.