

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher
Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman
Lord's Table:
Presiding: Eric Austin
Assisting: Steve Pool
Phil Byrd
Kelton Fell
Sermon: Byran Hatcher
Closing Prayer: Dustin Pool

Evening Worship

Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer: Bill Rose
Sermon: Byran Hatcher
Lord's Supper: Calvin Austin
Closing Prayer: Abel Abraham

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Byran Hatcher
Scripture: Pro 4:15-21
Reading: Jon Williams
Invitation: Chad Futrell

Pantry Item

Chicken Noodle Soup

Sermon Notes

It Is Finished

1.

11.

111.

December 3, 2017

Volume 21 Issue 10

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304
Phone:
(910) 425-1108
Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!

Service Times

Sunday:
B. C. 9:00am
Worship 10:00am
Evening 5:00pm

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Scot Parchman
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacons
Brian Godfrey
Steve Pool
John Williams

The Cape Fear Crier

"Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 12:6

Who Runs This Place?

Regarding any organized group of people, there must be leadership or people who take the initiative in matters of direction. The scriptures are explicit and very plain regarding the superintendence of the local congregation. Scriptural elders are men who meet certain necessary qualifications that are set forth in the scriptures and are to be selected and appointed to serve in the local church where they also are members (Acts 14:23; I Tim. 3:1-8; Tit. 1:5-9). These men are not figure heads, but they are to actually "rule" or, put another way, "run" the local church where they serve. The writer of Hebrews penned, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (13:7). The rule of these men is compared to the rule of a husband, or father, of his household (I Tim. 3:4-5). Members are to "obey" these men as they act according to God's directives (Heb. 13: 17). These men are not to be dictators, but they are to take the leadership and exercise superintendence over the local church (I Pet. 5: 1-4) This scripture also points to the fact that Jesus is the "Chief Shepherd," He, and He alone, is to be the head of the local church (Eph. 1:22, 23). This is God's ordained arrangement. However, man has often rejected God's way and substituted his own "wise" (i.e. foolish) way. This is true in the denominational world and in too many churches of Christ.

What types of organizational systems has man devised? Here is a listing of a few organizational structures:

The "Pastor". The so-called "pastor system" is very common in the denominational environment. The local preacher becomes the head of the local church. He makes most of the important decisions and often acts independently relative to the local church. The "Pastor System" is

not only absent in the New Testament, it is contrary to what the scriptures actually teach concerning leadership in the Lord's church. One will never find, nor read of "The Pastor." A group of pastors (not one man), who met certain requirements, ruled the early churches. **The Deacons.** Some denominational churches are run based on what they call the "Deacon System." While a class of men called deacons are certainly taught in the scriptures, you never read of deacons having rule, they are servants who serve under the elders (I Tim. 3: 8-13).

The local Diotrefes. Diotrefes was the man mentioned by John in his letter to Gaius (3 John 9). There is a sharp contrast between Gaius and Diotrefes. Gaius was a faithful Christian, one who was characterized by love and unselfishness; while Diotrefes was the uncaring, selfish church boss. Frequently, the church "Diotrefes" is the one holding the purse, or the one giving the most, and so has made hostage of the congregation by way of money.

The women. While the women or sisters in the local church are of great importance, they are never seen in the scriptures in leadership or ruling roles in terms of the local church. While some congregations would never have women leading from the front, some rule through their husbands.

The young people. One serious impetus of exerting control and running local churches involves the young people. Some local churches have over stepped their bounds in trying to keep their young people in church and out of the bars. Such influence has changed the complexion of religion today. Some churches have more toys, game rooms, and fancier basketball courts than professional recreation centers. They have basically ceased being institutions to study and teach the Bible and have become providers of fun and frolic.

Committees. Some local congregations are subdivided into any number of active groups, all of which have the authority to run the church. In business meetings these committees report on decisions they have made for the congregation and the direction they are going based on the popularity of their particular activity.

Some time ago a preacher moved to a local work. At the first Men's Business Meeting he attended he brought up the necessity of an eldership. One of the older men (who was not eligible to be an elder) said; "We don't need them. What we have now has worked for 50 years, no need to change anything." What a sad commentary on the attitude of many concerning the organization of the Lord's church.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 11/26/17

Bible Class: 49

Contribution: \$2,979.25

A.M. Worship: 101

DB Readers: 8

P.M. Worship: 59

Chapters Read: 180

Family News and Notes

Sherri Parchman's step sister, **Lisa Suarez**, has cancer and is having surgery on the 6th. A sister in Christ in Las Vegas, **Debi Groven**, is also facing cancer surgery next week. **Vera West** has fallen several times. She will be moving to a different location in Chattanooga. Please send her a birthday card this week. Her address information is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Linda Williams brother, **Willie "Wayne" Pipkins**, still needs our prayers. Tylia Landrum's parents, **Walter and Blanche Landrum**, are not doing well at this time. **Tylia** also struggles with severe back pain. **Rudy Gray** is declining in health. Lettie is doing her best to care for him at home. Both miss being here very much. Active military: Pray for our active duty military members; they could be called to a conflict area at a moment's notice. Remember to pray for their families as well. Please pray for CCSOP and all those dedicating their lives to proclaiming the gospel of Christ.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vera West, Vicky Carver, Gloria Emerick, Carolyn Pierce, Rudy and Lettie Gray, Gay Mathis, Robbie Sprayberry, Francis Salaz, Tylia Landrum, Gwen and Sarah Jennen, John and Linda Williams**, the **Oliver** family, the **Pollard** family, **Claudia Farrington, Monica Ullom** (in Women's State Prison in Raleigh), and **Thelma Adams**. Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

Special Recognition

Our young people did an exceptional job at drill down on Wednesday night. Old Testament Geography was the subject and very challenging, but everyone did well. The High School class came out on top this quarter! Congratulations!

Events

FOM: Please sign up on the table in the foyer, deadline is December 3. Class begins Saturday, January 6th @ 3pm

Holiday Gift Baskets: We will be assembling gift baskets Friday December 8th

Ladies' Day - Meeting on Sunday the 10th after morning worship

Youth Devotional: Sunday, December 17th at the Hatchers'

Please Note: There will not be a "game night" in November or December

