

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: John Williams

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Scot Parchman

Assisting: Steve Pool
Dustin Pool

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Brynn Hatcher

Evening Worship

Song Leader: N/A

Opening Prayer: N/A

Sermon: N/A

Lord's Supper: N/A

Closing Prayer: N/A

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: N/A

Scripture: N/A

Reading: N/A

Invitation: N/A

Pantry Item

N/A

Sermon Notes *The Poorest Substitute*

I. Damaging _____

II. Diminutive _____

III. Dangerous _____

March 28, 2021

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
Steve Pool
John Williams

Volume 32 Issue 13

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Mayberry Morality

In June 1998, a congregation of the Lord's church in Huntsville, Alabama "began a weekly Bible study based on episodes of *The Andy Griffith Show*." An article in the Cleveland, TN, *Daily Banner* (9-1-99) indicated that a denominational "ministry" called "Heart of Atlanta Network" has also started using "The Gospel According to The Andy Griffith Show" approach. In addition, the newspaper article said some 50 "church congregations" have contacted the Huntsville, AL church about using this form of "study." The original article that our brethren published last year about the church in Huntsville reported that the class "begins each week by watching a 20-minute episode of the classic sitcom." Then, the class discusses moral issues, based on the TV show they watched. At one point the article's author spoke of the actions of sheriff Andy Taylor in one of the episodes and made this observation: "This is a Christian example, admit it."

First of all, though some of the characters in this often hilarious TV series may at times have acted in harmony with the teaching of Jesus Christ, to my knowledge there is no indication in any of the episodes that any of the characters portrayed were Christians. Thus, it is certainly out of place to refer to their behavior as "a Christian example." The New Testament uses the word "Christian" in three passages (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). We must be certain that we use the word "Christian" only in reference to those who are truly in Christ (Gal. 3:27), and thus members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). To apply the word "Christian" to individuals who are not in Christ is to fail to

speak "as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

Second, this "Mayberry mentality" shows that some brethren have simply lost track of what attracts people to Jesus Christ. "Mayberry Morality" smacks of trying to draw people by the ways of the world (1 John 2:16). One can come to the Christ only if the Father draws him. How does God draw or attract men to His Son? *"And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me"* (John 6:44,45). Men hear and learn from the Father through the teaching of the Scriptures. Thus, God draws or attracts men to Christ through the Bible. The early church continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42). Have we "advanced" so far that we cannot see the difference between Barney and the Bible, or Andy and the apostles' doctrine? What does it say about our hearts when we want to turn to a secular program instead of the Book?

Third, spiritual shepherds of the flock of God have the God-given duty of feeding or tending the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1,2). With what must the elders do this feeding? With that which makes the sheep (members of the church) grow. What is that? The word of God. *"But desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby"* (1 Peter 2:2). Paul's exhortation to first century overseers is still appropriate for bishops today: *"I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified"* (Acts 20:32). The design of "Bible classes," which are under the oversight of elders, is to teach and study the Bible, not watch some sheriff smile and laugh at a drunk man in jail!

Finally, all the foolishness that is taking place in the church today under the guise of building up or edifying the church ought to make us all renew our commitment to a serious study of the Bible. Jesus charged the Jews of His day to *"search the Scriptures"* (John 5:39). Our Lord constantly prefaced His remarks with *"it is written"* (such as when Jesus was tempted, Matt. 4:4,7,10). It is he who meditates in the law of the Lord day and night that is blessed (Psalm 1:2). These passages, and scores of others, point us to the Word of God for our guidance and strength and not to some modern invention of men. It is time for all of us to give more diligence to be people of the Book.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 3/21/21
Bible Class: 32
Contribution: N/A

A.M. Worship: 56
DB Readers: N/A

P.M. Worship: N/A
Chapters Read: N/A

Family News and Notes

Rodger & Ashley Kurhurst lost their house and belongings in a fire. Steve and Becky have their info if you can help. Linda Williams' mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all dealing with Covid. Wayne is in ICU. **Jack** and **Sondra Wain**, Kim Perkins' parents are dealing with serious health issues. **Jamie Phillips** is caring for his mother and going through a hard time. **Claudia Farrington** is having a difficult time right now. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. **Vicky Carver**'s son, **Joe**, needs our prayers right now, but is doing a lot better. Keep **Trevor Moore**, and **Jonny Lee** in prayer while in their training! We have been blessed thus far that none of our members have had serious complications with Corona Virus, though we have all been affected negatively. 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.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston**, **Vicky Carver**, **Alex Freshley**, **Lettie Gray**, **Frances Salaz**, **Tylia Landrum**, **Gwen Jennen**, **John and Linda Williams**, the **Pollard** family, **Claudia Farrington**, **Rick Caldwell**, and **Thelma Adams**. Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3
Heb 12-13	Jam 1-3	Jam 4-5	1 Pet 1-3	1 Pet 4-5	2 Pet	1 Jo 1-3
Ps 88	Ps 89	Ps 90	Ps 91	Ps 92	Ps 93	Ps 94

Events

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: Resuming April 7th at 7pm. Adult Bible Class only.

Ladies Bible Class: Meeting again at 10am

Sheffield Drive Lectures: May 1st. 9-3: lunch provided. Theme: "Biblical Leadership"

