

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Brynn Hatcher

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Dale Wiles
Steve Pool
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Jonny Lee

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

N/A

Sermon Notes *Looking Into the Home*

I. _____ *by God*

II. _____ *Traits*

III. *Godly* _____

September 5, 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

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Scot Parchman
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacons
Steve Pool
John Williams

Volume 34 Issue 10

The Cape Fear Crier

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

WORK of the Church (pt 3) **Edification**

Another aspect of the work of the church is edification. The Greek word *oikodome*, from which is translated our New Testament word "edification," means "(the act of) building, building up -- in the N.T. translated as edifying, edification, i.e. the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness, happiness" (*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*, p.440). Edification refers to the spiritual strengthening of the church, doing that which results in the body of Christ being built up.

This is a topic that ought to be of great interest to each of us, because it is certainly a topic that is of great interest to Christ. This is evidenced in Ephesians 4:7-16, where the apostle Paul discusses matters that pertain to spiritual (miraculous) gifts that were in use in the first century. One queries: Who gave such gifts? When did He give them? To whom did He give them? For what purpose did He give them, and for how long did He give them? In the context of his discussion of such spiritual gifts, Paul wrote, "*And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers*" (4:11). What was the point of the Lord giving such gifts? The next verse gives the answer: "*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*" (4:12).

The ultimate goal for using those spiritual gifts was to build up or spiritually strengthen the body of Christ. The age of such miraculous gifts has come and gone. In our time, through the word of God we can be built up without such gifts (Acts 20:32). However, the church is still the church. The church is still the body of Christ, and the Lord still desires for the church to be strengthened. How does that come about?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 there are three words of instruction about edification: "...edify one another." We often speak about serving

one another, helping one another, or loving one another. This passage says that Christians need to *edify* one another. This reminds us of what the Bible says in 1 Samuel 23:16 in reference to what Jonathon did for David. The record says that Jonathon “strengthened his hand in God.” We are instructed to “exhort one another daily” (Heb. 3:13). By exhorting one another to do that which is right in the sight of Jehovah, we are really encouraging one another and provoking one another unto love and good works (Heb. 10:24). Thus, the church is strengthened or edified when its members exhort one another to do that which pleases the Lord.

A second means by which the church can be edified is through worshipping God in spirit and in truth. We recognize that the context of 1 Corinthians 14 deals with the proper use of miraculous gifts. But as we study that chapter we must keep the big picture in mind. Again, the ultimate goal of having the spiritual gifts of that day was not simply to use them. The ultimate goal was to use those gifts to build up or edify the body of Christ. Throughout the text of the chapter, in discussing speaking in tongues, prophesying, and interpreting tongues, Paul's message is, “Let all things be done unto edifying” (14:26). We must not lose sight of the fact that 1 Corinthians 14 is not only a spiritual gifts setting but it is also a worship setting. Where were the Corinthian saints using their gifts of speaking in tongues, prophesying, and interpreting tongues? Verse 23 notes that it was when the whole church came together in one place. Verse 15 speaks of singing, and that is worship. Verse 15 also speaks about prayer, and that is worship. Then, verses 29 and following speak of preaching, which is also part of a worship assembly.

Edification also comes about when we come together to study God's word and when strong preaching is heard from the pulpit. Strong congregations exist only when there is a strong emphasis on Bible study and preaching the whole counsel of God. “*And now, brethren, 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 which are sanctified*” (Acts 20:32). What is God's word able to accomplish? Build us up. To what extent? Halfway? Three-fourths? God's answer is that His word can build us up to the point that we can receive an inheritance. Which inheritance is that? The one that is “*incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you*” (1 Peter 1:4). If the word of God can build us up and give us that type of inheritance, then why in the world would some try to deceive the religious world and some of our own members by showing episodes of the *Andy Griffith* and *Barney Fife* comedy during what has been designated and advertised as a period of Bible study? Such is insulting and degrading. If we try to attract people with games, gadgets, and gimmicks, then we will have to have *Guber* and *Gomer* in order to keep them. Such is a far cry from preaching the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:5). In the end, it is not entertainment, but edification that is a work of the church.

By the Numbers

Attendance 8/29/21

Bible Class: 32

A.M. Worship: 52

Wed. B. C.: 30

Family News and Notes

Debbie Smith's parents' are not doing well at this time. **Brent Pollard** has been moved to a nursing home in Athens, GA, and is improving some. Linda Williams' mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **John's** daughter and granddaughter have Covid in Louisiana. **Jack** and **Sondra Wain**, Kim Perkins' parents, are dealing with serious health issues. Her sister-in-law **Rhonda Wain** needs prayers as well. **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. Let's remember one another in prayer. 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, Deborah Ross Alex Freshley, Frances Salaz, Tylia Landrum, Gwen & Sarah 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! Please keep **CCSOP** in your prayers.

Bible Reading Plan

Sept 5	Sept 6	Sept 7	Sept 8	Sept 9	Sept 10	Sept 11
1 Chr 14-16	1 Chr 17-19	1 Chr 20-22	1 Chr 23-25	1 Chr 26-29	2 Chr 1-3	2 Chr 4-6
Ps 66	Ps 67	Ps 68	Ps 69	Ps 70	Ps 71	Ps 72

Events

Ladies Event: Watching Cold Harbor Road Ladies' Day at the building. Sept. 25th.

Regular Bible Classes: Children 6th grade and under are in the Fellowship Hall, and High School students are in room 11 on Sunday morning.

Sunday Fellowship Meal: Today after the morning worship. Please bring food for a hamburger/hotdog cookout. Thanks to Winkler for taking care of the grilling!

Men's lunch: Thursday at 11am @ Golden Corral

