

**Privileged to Serve**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:  
Presiding: Scot Parchman

Assisting: Brynn Hatcher  
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

*Those serving Wednesday*

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

**Pantry Item**

N/A

Sermon Notes

*Where Is The Authority?*

*I. Authority is \_\_\_\_\_*

*II. Unreliable \_\_\_\_\_*

*III. True \_\_\_\_\_*

December 12, 2021

Volume 35 Issue 11

Welcome!

Cape Fear  
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr  
Fayetteville, NC  
28304  
Phone:  
(910) 425-1108  
Website:  
[capefearcoc.org](http://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

Deacon  
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

**Are You “Church of Christ?”**

One of the things Christians are to be careful of is the usage of our language. We are exhorted to *“let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man”* (Col. 4:6). With that profound encouragement in mind, let us consider the way in which we sometimes hear people refer to those who are members of the body of Christ. I have had my brothers and sisters in Christ at times start a conversation about someone they know by saying, “He (or she) is 'church of Christ,' or perhaps even more unnerving is to hear one who claims Christianity refer to another in the body of Christ as a 'church of Christer.' Sometimes we all are guilty of using terminology that is at best questionable and at worst very poor judgment for the saved of God. In the case of referring to one's self or others as “church of Christ,” I believe it is a flagrant statement of misunderstanding and that those who use such terminology should choose their words more sensibly.

To say that someone is “church of Christ” is as denominational in its application as saying someone is a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, or filling in the denominational blank. Such language is unscriptural as it pertains to the righteous -- those who are bought with the precious blood of Christ. If we claim to be a people who will call “Bible things by Bible names,” then let us do just that. Nowhere in the New Testament do we find individuals who were “church of Christ.” The church of Christ is the collective body of believers and indicates a plurality of people. As individuals, we are Christians who are members of the church of Christ.

There are many scriptural designations given to define the distinction of New Testament Christianity. After the conversion of the Gentile Cornelius and his household, the Bible records that *“the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”* (Acts 11:26). Actually before the term “Christian” was used, Ananias referred to members of the church as “saints” (Acts 9:13). The word saint means one who is “blameless, pure, consecrated, and holy.” There are additional terms

used in the New Testament describing individual Christians: saved, righteous, holy, kings, priests, fellowlabourer, fellowsoldier, yokefellow, obedient children, elect, members, and the faithful (Rev. 21:24; 1 Peter 3:12; 4:18; 1:16; Rev. 1:6; 1 Peter 2:5; Philemon 1-2; Phil. 4:3; 1 Peter 1:2; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:2). Nowhere in the New Testament can an individual Christian be found referring to himself or other members of the body of Christ as “church of Christ.” In fact, when Paul referred to Phoebe (a sister in Christ), he wrote that she “*is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea*” (Rom. 16:1). Paul referred to an individual as a part of the collective body, not as the collective body! The body is one and has many members (individuals) according to 1 Corinthians 12:12.

The church of the New Testament in a universal sense is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23). The Apostle Paul sent greetings to his Roman brethren by stating, “*The churches of Christ salute you*” (Rom. 16:16). Paul was issuing a congregational salutation that obviously entailed the greetings of more than one person. The church for which Jesus died is also referred to as the “*church of God*” (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 2:1). The collective body of believers is known as the “*church of the firstborn*” (Heb. 12:23). The church of Christ is referred to scripturally as the “*Israel of God*” (Gal. 6:16). We also understand that the collective body of Christ is sometimes referred to in the New Testament based upon the region or city in which it was located. For example, when Paul wrote to the Galatians, he began his letter by stating, “*unto the churches of Galatia*” (Gal. 1:2). When writing to the Thessalonians, Paul penned at the start of both letters, “*unto the church of the Thessalonians*” (1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:1).

If you hear yourself saying you or someone else is “church of Christ”, please catch yourself and reconsider your terminology. We sometimes have need to discipline ourselves (and our tongue) so that we change bad habits to good ones (James 3:5). Solomon wrote, “*The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips*” (Prov. 16:23). Certainly we want to better train our mouths to speak properly in a spiritual sense. In fact, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God*” (1 Peter 4:11). Certainly in keeping with the power of that verse we would not want to be so careless as to utter that which is scripturally indefensible in regard to how we refer to individual members of the body of Christ.

A person who is a Baptist is one who claims allegiance to a Baptist Church, but a Christian claims allegiance to the church of Christ -- the only church authorized and taught in the New Testament. An individual person cannot be “church of Christ.” Believing in the oneness of the church and having obeyed the true New Testament plan of salvation does not make one “church of Christ,” it makes him a Christian whom the Lord has added to His church (Acts 2:47).

- BTH

### By the Numbers

Attendance 12/5/21

Bible Class: 30

A.M. Worship: 45

Wed. B. C.: 22

### Family News and Notes

**Rick and Robin Caldwell** will have procedures in January. **Matthew Vann**, friend of Elaine Turnage, is in critical condition. **Debbie Smith's** parents' are not doing well at this time, especially her dad. Linda Williams' mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **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 and Robin Caldwell**, and **Thelma Adams**. Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

### Bible Reading Plan

|         |           |           |        |          |          |          |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| Dec 12  | Dec 13    | Dec 14    | Dec 15 | Dec 16   | Dec 17   | Dec 18   |
| Hos 7-9 | Hos 10-12 | Hos 13-14 | Joel   | Amos 1-3 | Amos 4-6 | Amos 7-9 |
| Pr 12   | Pr 13     | Pr 14     | Pr 15  | Pr 16    | Pr 17    | Pr 18    |

### Events

**Holiday Get-together** - Sunday December 12th at 5pm.

**New Years Eve:** Fellowship and singing. Friday, Dec 31st at the building.

**Ladies' Bible Class:** Not meeting on the 21st or 28th of December.

