

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Barry Hatcher

Assisting: Ron Austin
Ricardo Alvillar

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Spaghetti O's

Sermon Notes

Flowers and Smoke

I. Life is a _____

II. Life is a _____

III. Life is a _____

IV. Life is a _____

V. Life is a _____

March 13, 2022

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
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacon
John Williams

Volume 36 Issue 11

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Two kinds of Authority

The church at Cape Fear meets in a building designed to hold hundreds of congregants. Yet, after pouring over the New Testament one finds no specific authority to use a building paid for by church funds. It is correct to state that we do not have "specific" authority for church buildings. However, the Bible authorizes in two ways, "specific" and "generic." For example: the Bible "specifically" authorizes preaching to all the world (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). But, it does not "specifically" tell us HOW that is to be carried out. We therefore call upon "generic" authority to aid us in carrying out the "specific" command to preach to all the world. We have "generic" authority from God to use whatever means we have at our disposal in carrying out the command to preach. Generic authority authorizes PA systems, radio, TV, newspaper, etc. Generic authority authorizes many different means of travel in getting to places in order to preach: walk, horse, train, car, plane, boat, etc. Both electronic devices and motorized vehicles expedite the command to preach to all the world. These means and modes are "expediencies" which help us carry out the "specific" command to preach.

It should be obvious that any "generic" means we use in carrying out a "specific" command must not violate any other command or principle of Scripture. For example: we are not authorized to rob a bank in order to have the money to buy a ticket to travel. We are not authorized to steal a horse which would provide us a means of transportation in going to preach. Committing sin to fulfill a command is not acceptable. In other words, the ends do not justify the means.

God gave Noah a "specific" command to build the ark. He was not specifically told to use a hammer, saw, axe, etc. However, these things were expediencies which would help him carry out the "specific" command to build the ark. They were authorized under the heading of "generic" authority.

We have "specific" authority to "sing" in worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). There is also "generic" authority in carrying out the command

to sing. This is the area in which we have authority for song books, a pitch pipe, a song leader, etc. These things expedite the command to sing; and, they do not violate any other principle of Scripture. Some want to include “mechanical instruments of music” under the heading of “generic” authority as an expedient in carrying out the command to sing. But, instruments of music are not expedients because they “add” an additional “kind” of music to that which God authorized. The Bible does not authorize “playing,” it authorizes “singing.” Some argue that instruments, pitch pipes and song books stand or fall together because they are the same. This is faulty thinking because a pitch pipe or song book adds nothing to the singing, but a mechanical instrument of music does. When a song book or pitch pipe is used, there is only singing heard -- nothing more, nothing less. But, when a mechanical instrument is used, there is more than singing. There is an additional “kind” of music. Therefore, mechanical instruments are additions, not aids or expedients.

What about church buildings then? Where does the Bible specifically give authority for the church to own a building? The Bible no where gives “specific” authority for the church to own a building. However, that does not mean the church has no authority to own a building. If it did, then we ought to get rid of our buildings. The church, on the other hand, has “generic” authority to own a building, and the rooms to put in the building (i.e. classrooms, kitchen, baptistry, bathrooms, etc.).

The church has “specific” authority to assemble and worship on the first day of the week (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 20:7). In carrying out the “specific” command to assemble, we can use whatever means at our disposal in obeying that command. This is “generic” authority. Assembling demands a place to assemble. The church, therefore, has “generic” authority to provide a place to assemble. Since the Bible does not “specifically” specify HOW this is to be done, we are left with “generic” authority to use our good judgment in seeing to it that the church has a place to assemble. The church therefore can borrow, rent, own, etc. Neither of these means violates any other principle of Scripture AND, expedites the command to assemble. Therefore, there is Bible authority (generic) for the church to own a building.

How elaborate and expensive can or should the building be? This must fall under the realm of human judgment since God has not specifically mentioned the details of the place the church meets. In my opinion, many congregations spend far too much money on human comfort and eye appeal. I believe so much of the Lord's money is wasted and could have been (and should have been) used far more wisely in spreading the Gospel than on “creature comforts.” However, this realm is human judgment -- human opinion. Each congregation will have to answer for how they spend the “first day collection.”

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 3/06/22

Bible Class: 30

A.M. Worship: 60

Wed. B. C.: 30

Family News and Notes

Vicky Carver had successful surgery Thursday. She is feeling much better as a result. **Ruth Hooker** passed away last Thursday morning. Her services were Tuesday at 2pm at Rogers and Breece Funeral Home. **Alex Elliot** broke her leg and is still trying to recuperate. Linda Williams’ mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. Let’s remember one another in prayer.

Pray for our world leaders at this time. Much of the 82nd Airborne is already in Europe in case war breaks out. Active military: Pray for all 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. We have 4 active duty members here at Cape Fear.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross, the Davis family.** Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Mar 13	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 19
Col 3-4	Philemon	1 The 1-2	1 The 3-5	2 These	1 Tim 1-3	1 Tim 4-6
Ps 72	Ps 73	Ps 74	Ps 75	Ps 76	Ps 77	Ps 78

Events

Gospel Meeting: Clinton Church of Christ. March 27-31. 7:00pm weeknights

B & G Workday: Saturday, April 9th, 9am till

Sheffield Dr. Lectures: Saturday, May 14. 9-3, lunch provided.

