

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: John Patchell

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Sibio Farrington
David Carver

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: Brynn Hatcher

Pantry Item

Canned/microwave pasta

Sermon Notes

Leave & Cleave

1.

11.

111.

January 15, 2023

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

Volume 40 Issue 3

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Unity In The Church!

Last week we discussed discouragement in the church. This week, let's focus on unity in the church. A serious responsibility of the Christian is to cooperate with other Christians. Man is usually a helpless creature when alone. God did not endow us with the same natural instincts and abilities as He did the animals. For this reason man usually learns to depend upon and to trust other human beings for help. Men seldom fight wars alone. Even the bully is quiet when he doesn't have his cronies to back him up. Solomon said, “Two are better than one” (Eccl. 4:9). Ben Franklin said, “Let us stand united; for divided we shall fall,” but it was Jesus who said, “And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:25).

God has designed a place of safety, comfort and strength for His disciples; it is called the church. For the church to remain strong, it requires the cooperation of all its members. One of the first problems Paul dealt with at Corinth was their division, “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*” (1 Cor. 1:10). The church at Corinth was ineffective because of division.

Paul teaches cooperative work by using the human body as an illustration, “*For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?.... And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.... Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular*” (1 Cor. 12:14-27).

Some members don't cooperate because they have the wrong disposition. In Paul's illustration of the body's members, the foot underestimates its value because it is not the hand (v.15). The ear has the same problem because it doesn't have the job of the eye. These kinds of members don't do anything because they either waste their time wishing they were as talented as another or, are jealous because they think someone else is going to get more glory. On the other hand, some think they have no need for anyone else because they think they are so much better than all the other members (v.21).

Paul says each member should supply its part, *“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love”* (Eph. 4:16). This illustration teaches both individual and cooperative activities for the good of the whole (“whole body fitly joined together” and “every joint supplieth” and “maketh increase of the body”). The functions of the various parts of the human body brings to mind a story of a blind man and a cripple man who needed to get to town: The crippled man climbed onto the strong back of the blind man and started their journey. The blind man did the walking, and the cripple man did the seeing. Through cooperation, they both got to town.

Solomon teaches the wisdom of cooperation by referring to the locust, *“The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands”* (Prov. 30:27). Man has hardly seen any more destructive insect than the locust because they work together. God's people should be banded together with such force upon the world. If we did, billions more could hear the Gospel of Christ.

To truly be one, God's people must be united in His Word. Paul began to handle the division of the Corinthians by first reminding them to be united in teaching, mind and judgment, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (1 Cor. 1:10). What they were to speak was the pure word of God.

God's people are to walk by the same rule (Phil. 3:16). We are to *“earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”* (Jude 3, ASV). There cannot be a right union nor proper cooperation without strict adherence to God's word.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 1/8/23
Bible Class: 46
A.M. Worship: 60
Wed. B. C.: 28

Family News and Notes

John Patchell's niece, is struggling with her lupus. **Sarah Collier, Julie Carver's** niece, is seriously ill. **Solomon Harrington, Geraldine Harrington's** son, is struggling with some health problems. **Nazreen Sahib**, coworker of **Jennifer Hatcher**, has stage 4 cancer. **John Williams** is slowly recovering from knee surgeries and a broken leg. **Chuck Perkins'** coworker, **Mark Thibeault** is not doing well at this time. The **Perkins** family has been dealing with COVID. **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. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. Let's remember one another in prayer.

Pray for our world leaders at this time. 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**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
Gen 29-30	Gen 31-32	Gen 33-34	Gen 35-36	Gen 37-38	Gen 39-40	Gen 41-42
Ps 15	Ps 16	Ps 17	Ps 18	Ps 19	Ps 20	Ps 21

Events

Silver Linings: Friday @ 11. Bring Your lunch!
Teachers' Meeting: Sunday, Jan 29th, after morning worship.
Christian Evidences Seminar: March 3-5. Jeff Miller speaking

