

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: John Patchell

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Tyler Christian
Ben Grant

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Rob Sparks

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Canned pasta

Sermon Notes
Basis for Christian Unity

1.

11.

111.

April 23, 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 41 Issue 4

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

UPHOLD THE PLEA

James W. Boyd

The Lord's church began on the first day of Pentecost after the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. The characteristics of His church are revealed to mankind in the Bible. By those characteristics the church can be identified. It is called the body of Christ, the church of God, churches of Christ, the kingdom of God, the house or family of God, and other identifications that show possession. Its members are called disciples, Christians, saints, priests and other terms found in Scripture.

The governmental organization of the church is relatively simple. Christ is the head. Members are organized into local congregations. Congregations are organized with elders having the oversight, deacons who serve, preacher and teachers, and all the membership making up the body. Each congregation is autonomous or self-governing inasmuch as there is no super-ecclesiastical organization of the Lord's church larger than a local congregation.

The creed is Christ and the written creed (meaning what is believed) is the Bible. The worship consists of singing, praying, observing the Lord's supper, giving, and proclaiming the Word of God. The terms of entrance are hearing the Word, believing in Jesus as the Christ the Son of God, repenting of sins, confessing faith in Jesus as the Christ and being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins by His authority (in His name).

The church is united in mind, doctrine, practice, speaking the same things, speaking as the oracles of God, tied together by the bond of faith and fellowship in Christ.

The work of the church is to evangelize the world with the Gospel, edify and build up itself (the saved), recover those who may fall away and render benevolent and charitable deeds to those in need as opportunity presents itself.

The inspired history of the early church shows the Lord's

people doing the Lord’s work the Lord’s way. The New Testament gives us His pattern and blueprint to which we must adhere if we would be the Lord’s people and do the Lord’s work.

AN APOSTASY

As prophesied, there came a falling away from the truth (I Tim. 4:1-3; II Peter 2:1,2: Acts 20:28-30). The apostasy did not occur rapidly, but gradually over a long period of time. Many of the departures from truth occurred concurrently. There was first a change in the governmental structure of the church into an ecclesiastical hierarchy. The names of the church and its members were changed. Human creeds were introduced alongside of, and then instead of, the Bible. Traditions, doctrines of men, superstitions, and combinations of truth with pagan and heathen practices perverted the church away from God’s pattern. There was a change in the manner of worship, the terms of admission, the mission, purpose, and work of the church. Very little was left untouched by the apostasy.

Down through the years when these changes were taking place, there were voices that cried out against them, but to no avail. Many warned of the error involved, pleaded for people not to follow men but to return to God. But they were ignored, silenced by persecution and death, intimidated into retreat and the apostasy rolled on. Human history entered into the period historians call the Dark Ages.

REFORMATION

Eventually, after several centuries, there were those who could raise their voices in opposition to the ruling powers, primarily the Roman Catholic Church, and survive. Their voices were not silenced but heard. They would not be ignored nor intimidated. Such were Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, Ulrich Zwingli, and many others who are considered the “fathers of the Protestant Reformation.”

Moving rather rapidly now over history, suffice it to say that the Reformation Movement did not reform existing Romanism as was first intended. Rather, it produced Protestant denominationalism with its many names, churches, doctrines, creeds, practices, etc. All that characterizes the confused, contradictory, and chaotic religiously divided scene so evident today was produced to a great degree from the Reformation.

(From Seek the Old Paths Feb. 2005, Vol 16 No. 2. Will be continued next week - BTH)

By the Numbers

Attendance 4/16/23

Bible Class: 41

A.M. Worship: 65

Wed. B. C.: 24

Family News and Notes

John Patchell’s niece is struggling with her health. **Barry Hatcher** is still recovering from his procedure. **Solomon Harrington, Geraldine Harrington’s** son, is struggling with some health problems. **Nazreen Sahib**, coworker of **Jennifer Hatcher**, has passed away. **John Williams** is slowly recovering from knee surgeries and a broken leg. **Chuck Perkins’** coworker, **Mark Thibeault** is not doing well at this time. **Linda Williams’** mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry**, are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. She will be having surgery this week. 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 5 active duty members here at Cape Fear.

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

Bible Reading Plan

Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29
2 Sa 7-9	2 Sa 10-12	2 Sa 13-15	2 Sa 16-18	2 Sa 19-21	2 Sa 22-24	1 Ki 1-2
Ps 113	Ps 114	Ps 115	Ps 116	Ps 117	Ps 118	119:1-90

Events

Teachers’ Meeting: Next Sunday after morning worship.

See Bulletin board for the latest events! There are a number of gospel meetings in April we want to support.

