

**Privileged to Serve**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:  
Presiding: Sibio Farrington

Assisting: Ben Grant  
Ron Austin

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: John Patchell

**Pantry Item**  
Canned Corn

*Sermon Notes*

*Societal Threats to the Home*

*I. Feminist Movement*

*II. Homosexual Agenda*

*III. \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda*

*IV. \_\_\_\_\_*

*V. \_\_\_\_\_*

July 23, 2023

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  
Wade Hedgepeth  
Byran Hatcher

Volume 42 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

**Applause in Worship?**

A few weeks ago one of our dear sisters placed membership with us. While we greatly rejoice in this, a few people broke out into applause. Even though I addressed this in a brief statement, I thought I would also write something in the bulletin to further explain our position on the subject of applause and hand clapping in the assembly.

Today we are living in an entertainment crazed society that is expecting to be entertained. Hand clapping, whistling, and yelling are done at plays, ball games, the theater, and at other forms of entertainment to show our approval and satisfaction of the entertainment. This influence of the world has crept over into the church where people today want to clap during the worship or at a baptism to show their approval of the “entertainment” they are receiving. The one thing to remember about our corporate worship is this: we are not in the worship service to be entertained, but to give our worship to God.

God is High and Holy. We are told “*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth*” (Psa. 96:9). We are to be “*perfecting holiness in the fear of God*” (II Cor. 7:1). Since Our God is awe-inspiring, “*Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him*” (Psa. 33:8). In our society, hand clapping is done when we have been entertained but it shows utter disrespect and lack of reverence for God in our worship services. “*God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him*” (Psa. 89:7). The vast majority of the denominational world believes their man-made worship to God is acceptable, but Jesus says, “*Howbeit in vain do they*

worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Mark 7:7). When we ignore what God says and do things our way our worship becomes vain. If we expect to be pleasing to God and go to heaven, we must pay attention to what God says in His holy word as to how He is to be worshipped.

The sincere Christian demonstrates the utmost reverence, that is respect and honor, to God in worship. “Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; for our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:28-29). If our worship is not acceptable to God, then the end result will be eternal separation from the object of our worship.

We are told, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:17). To do all in the name of the Lord Jesus is to do all things by His authority. Where in the Bible has God authorized hand clapping in worship to Him? It is not there. If the Lord wanted hand clapping to be included in our worship, He would have authorized it, but He didn’t. Hand clapping in worship is not authorized just as playing a mechanical instrument of music is not authorized in worship to God.

If we are going to clap in worship, why don’t we also whistle, yell, scream, and holler to show our approval? Why not boo (or throw tomatoes at the preacher!) when we don’t approve of something? Or why don’t we clap during the Lord’s supper or as a prayer is being led? For the simple reason that we are not in worship to applaud the words or actions of men. Our worship to God is not for our entertainment. We are not the audience, God is. God is the one being worshipped and glorified, not us. “Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I Cor. 10:31). We glorify and honor God when we do what He tells us, how He tells us, when He tells us, the way He tells us, where He tells us, and for the reason He tells us. We are to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). Jesus says that those who worship God “must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). Brethren, hand clapping in the worship service is not according to truth.

Going to Heaven must be our number one priority in this life. Let’s make sure we are worshipping God “in spirit and in truth,” the way He has authorized, and God has not authorized hand clapping to be included in worship to Him.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 7/16/23  
Bible Class: 40  
A.M. Worship: 60  
Wed. B. C.: 30

Family News and Notes

**Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is undergoing cancer therapy. **Geraldine Cook** is having some health challenges. **Laurence Shaver’s** brother had successful ribcage surgery in Arkansas. **Carlee Pool, Kyle Pool’s** grandmother, is doing some better but please keep her in prayers. **Dustin Pool** goes for an MRI this week to get a diagnosis on his knee. **John Patchell’s** niece is struggling with her health. **John Williams** is doing much better. His last knee surgery has been rescheduled for August 22nd. **Margaret Langston** fell again, she is very sore. **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 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

|           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| July 23   | July 24   | July 25   | July 26   | July 27   | July 28   | July 29   |
| Jer 22-24 | Jer 25-27 | Jer 28-30 | Jer 31-33 | Jer 34-36 | Jer 37-39 | Jer 40-42 |
| Ps 22     | Ps 23     | Ps 24     | Ps 25     | Ps 26     | Ps 27     | Ps 28     |

Events

**Men’s Training:** Today after morning worship.  
**Teachers’ Meeting:** Sunday July 30th. After morning worship. For **all** teachers.  
**One Day Lectureship** - August 26th. Loris, SC. Flyer on bulletin board.

