

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: John Patchell

Assisting: Ben Grant
Kyle Pool

Sermon: Barry Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Rice

Sermon Notes
The Faith of Abraham

I.

II.

III.

August 20, 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 42 Issue 8

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Church Fundraising

“Do you do any fund raisers with your youth group?” That is the exact question that a young woman recently asked me over the phone. She had called the church building in an effort to promote a product, or products, that her group was selling. We frequently receive such phone calls, as well as advertisements in the mail, which indicate that there are lots of companies or organizations out there that are trying to be “helpful.” They want to assist “churches” in raising money for their projects. Everything from selling T-shirts, pizza, doughnuts, and Bibles, is promoted as a way for religious groups to raise money.

It is an undeniable fact that the work of the Lord Jesus requires money. Money is needed to pay for Bibles, buy grape juice for the Lord's supper, support the preaching of the Gospel, and a multitude of other matters. We would be naive to think that the church can get by just fine without any incoming funds. God knows that the church needs money in order to carry out its activities. That is why He included first day of the week contributions as a part of the worship of His saints (I Cor. 16:2).

Sometimes it is necessary to make a special effort to raise funds for a special cause. We often call it “fund-raising.” For instance, those Christians that go overseas to teach the Gospel (mom and dad leave the 29th) usually have to raise support for their work. Some members of the church are able to finance their own evangelistic activities, but this is the exception and not the rule. The Bible teaches that those who “*preach the gospel should live of the gospel*” (I Cor. 9:14). That simply means that faithful Gospel preachers are worthy of support. In 1987, in an effort to raise funds for the projected work in Indonesia, dad visited or spoke at over 60 congregations in about six months (he drug us around for many of those visits too!). One thing never entered our minds when it came to raising funds for our work: not once did we consider asking a congregation to put on a bake sale, car wash, golf tournament, or any other such project in order to raise funds to help

support us.

In the New Testament, we read about the first-century church raising funds for its work. Once, the prophets of God predicted that there was going to be a famine. How did the church in Antioch of Syria respond? *“Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea”* (Acts 11:29).

Later, Paul went among the Gentile churches in order to collect *“a certain contribution for the poor among the saints”* that were in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:26, ASV). How did he raise those funds? Hear the Bible’s answer: *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay be him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come”* (I Cor. 16:1-2). The work of the first century church was funded by contributions from its members. There is no New Testament example of churches having special fund-raisers like bake sales, car washes, etc. There is no New Testament command to do such, there is no implication that such was/may be done, and there is no direct statement about such fund-raising projects. That simply means that there is no authority in the Bible for the Lord’s church to use such means to raise funds for His work.

I see how the denominations raise funds. I have heard of annual fund-raisers. Specific ministries might have an annual “BBQ or Spaghetti supper.” The public is invited to come and eat. Attendees must pay for their meal and the collected funds are used for the activities of the denomination. It was, indeed, a money-making venture. I also see from time-to-time, bake sales, raffles and auctions. Undoubtedly, these means bring in healthy amounts of money.

There was a time when there was a visible distinction between churches of Christ and denominational bodies. One of the clear-cut differences was that while denominations often employed bake sales, car washes, and other types of special activities to raise funds, the churches of Christ refused to use such man-imagined methods, pointing out that such activities are without scriptural authority. Sadly, things are different now. Yes, the denominations still have their fund-raising sales, etc. Sadly, some that identify themselves as churches of Christ are now following the course of the denominations and have their own car washes and fund-raising meals to help finance the work of the church.

It is a great tragedy that the influence of denominations is being seen more and more in the church of our Lord. This is a significant blurring of the lines. The Lord has a prescribed the way of raising funds for His work. It is via the free-will contributions that His children are commanded to make on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:1-2). That is the Bible way. Let us stick with it and stay away from all unauthorized fund-raising activities.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 8/13/23
Bible Class: 34
A.M. Worship: 60
Wed. B. C.: 38

Family News and Notes

Thank you to **Jermaine Patterson** for the wonderful painting of the building as it is today. What a talent! **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is undergoing cancer therapy. **Geraldine Cook** is having some health challenges. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **John Patchell’s** niece is struggling with her health. **Kim Perkins’** father is still struggling as the doctors are trying to stabilize his medications. **John Williams** last knee surgery has been rescheduled for August 22nd. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. **Barry and Melany Hatcher** are preparing to go to Indonesia for 3 months.

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

Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26
Dan 1-3	Dan 4-6	Dan 7-9	Dan 10-12	Hos 1-3	Hos 4-6	Hos 7-9
Ps 50	Ps 51	Ps 52	Ps 53	Ps 54	Ps 55	Ps 56

Events

One Day Lectureship - August 26th. Loris, SC. Flyer on bulletin board.

Education Program Fellowship - Aug 27th, for all students, teachers & parents

Wax Museum Night - Aug 30th. Bring ice cream, cookies & drinks

