

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Frank Thompson

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Phil Byrd

Assisting: Kyle Pool
Tyler Christian

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Cameron Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Green Beans

Sermon Notes
God Strengthens (pt. 2)

1.

11.

111.

November 19, 2023

Volume 43 Issue 8

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

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Thankful for the Church Bulletin!

Many congregations of God's people publish a weekly bulletin. Some may wonder why the local church even bothers with such an antiquated item. After all, it's like a printed newspaper, and where are they now? It requires time and work to prepare a bulletin. Besides the energy, the paper and ink used to print them are not cheap. Some of them just get thrown down on the floor or left in the pew. Children sometimes turn bulletins into paper airplanes or a coloring book. This is the reality of the weekly bulletin! Still, bulletins have the potential to be a great aid in the Lord's work.

Church bulletins ought to have one thing in common: to be used as a means of communication. First, they are a tool to teach the Bible. This is one way of carrying out the Great Commission (Mark 16:15). Simultaneously, it is a means of edifying or building up the church (Rom. 14:19).

Second, they provide information to the congregation. If we are to meet the needs of the sick or those with special physical needs (Matt. 25:35,36), then we need to be aware of those needs and opportunities. Providing such information in bulletins is an additional means to get the word out to all the members. Announcements repeating what is printed in the bulletin should help the members arrange their plans to support the activities of the church. We know we are to rejoice with those that rejoice and weep with those that weep (Rom. 12:15), showing support for both those members of the body that suffer as well as those that are honored (I Cor. 12:26). Again, printing information about these matters in a bulletin helps keep a congregation better informed and prepared to serve others in the body.

From “the Great Commission” and other New Testament passages, we conclude that a local church is authorized to prepare, produce, print, and pass out a church bulletin. The leaders of a local church give consideration to what type of bulletin arrangement is most expedient for a local flock of God’s people. Those leaders then determine the size, format, and frequency of producing a bulletin for the needs of a local congregation. Bulletins really can be edifying, encouraging, and useful in a number of senses.

Church bulletins can also be quite revealing. Many church bulletins reveal attendance tendencies. I am appalled at some of the attendance statistics that I see in the bulletins of congregations that have had a reputation of being sound in the faith. It is not uncommon for some of them to have an average Sunday morning Bible class attendance or mid-week attendance that is barely 50% of the average Sunday morning worship attendance. In many cases there are special health and other issues that affect a congregation’s attendance, but 50%?! We all need to take seriously the charge to seek first the Lord’s affairs (Matt. 6:33) and set our interests on spiritual matters (Col. 3:2). When God and His affairs have first place in our hearts, our attendance at the services of God’s church will be a natural thing for us.

Church bulletins reveal a local church’s emphasis. What is predominantly seen in a bulletin’s “teaching section,” is it quotes from the Bible, or quotes from “religious scholars” of our day? Is it humor, or Bible?

Church bulletins also reveal the fellowship tendencies of a congregation. Brethren, we are not to have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11). When we publish in our bulletins every announcement that offers to support unfaithful congregations, we become partakers of their evil deeds (II John 9-11).

Church bulletins can be extremely helpful to the Lord’s Cause. I personally benefit from a number of bulletins that I receive. I thank God for them. Other bulletins that I have seen through the years have been, to say it kindly, woefully lacking when it comes to providing any true spiritual benefit. May every congregation of the Lord’s church that produces a bulletin be committed to using it for God’s glory, for the strengthening of His church, and for the eternal salvation of souls.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance week of 11/12/23
B. C.: 37 A.M. Worship: 56 Wed.: 37

Family News and Notes

Margaret Langston is in Village Green for rehab. **Paula Perrin** is recuperating at home. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, had a setback, as well as her mother. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **John Patchell’s** brother was injured from a fall. **Kim Perkins’** father is doing a little better. **Chuck Perkins** is having some health challenges right now. **John Williams** is having trouble with inflammation in his neck. Wade Hedgepeth’s two brothers, **Mark & Dwight**, have some health challenges. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo and she had a procedure done last week. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem.

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 6 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

Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25
Gal 1-3	Gal 4-6	Eph 1-2	Eph 3-4	Eph 5-6	Phi 1-2	Phi 3-4
Ps 139	Ps 140	Ps 141	Ps 142	Ps 143	Ps 144	Ps 145

Events

Holiday Baskets: December 8th to assemble, 9th to deliver. Please start bringing candy, gum, and individual personal items.

Holiday Party: Saturday the 16th. Noon-3pm @ the Hatcher residence. See Jennifer for details. Address and directions are in the church app.

