

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Ben Grant
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Tyler Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Chili Beans

Sermon Notes *The Church At Laodicea*

1. Their Current _____

II. What They Should _____

III. The Glorious _____

February 23, 2025

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Sermons are
archived on our
YouTube page!

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 48 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

The Lord's Church Is Not A Denomination

The church of Christ is a unique religious institution. It is different from all other religious bodies on the face of the earth. One religious movement from which it is different is protestant denominationalism. In making this declaration, someone might ask, “What do you mean, the church of Christ (in a denominational sense) is different from protestant denominationalism? Isn't the church of Christ just a part of the protestant denomination movement?”

I know this is the way a good many people view the church of Christ, sadly, even some who are members of it; but such is not the case. I, for one, have deliberately refused to join any denomination and have chosen instead to be just a Christian. One can be a Christian without joining a denomination. But if one becomes and remains a Christian only, is he a member of a church at all? And if so, whose? The answer is — Christ's church, and Christ's church is not a denomination.

When Christ said, “*Upon this rock I will build my church*” (Matt. 16:18), He did not have in mind a denomination or a federation of denominations. Also, the “churches of Christ” about which we read in Romans 16:16, were not denominations. They were simply local congregations of people who had become Christians only. If one could be just a Christian, a member of Christ's church in the first century before there were any denominations, why can't one be just a Christian, a member of Christ's church, today, in the twenty-first century without being a member of any denomination?

But, someone says, “I thought a man by the name of Alexander Campbell was the one who started the church of Christ.” The truth is that Alexander Campbell was almost 1800 years too late to establish the church of Christ. Campbell was born September 12, 1788. But, as we have already noted, churches of Christ existed in the first century and the apostle Paul referred to them in Romans 16:16. Campbell obviously was not the founder of those churches of Christ. Yet the churches of Christ today are the same as the churches of Christ we

read about in the Bible. The fact is that Alexander Campbell, along with a number of other men in various denominations, in the late 1700s and early 1800s, came to the conclusion that, in religion, we ought to abandon human names and human creeds, human traditions and human religious bodies, and return to the New Testament as our only authority in religion. Campbell himself withdrew from the denomination in which he had been reared and for which he had begun to preach in order to be free of all human encumbrances and free to preach the Gospel as it is in the New Testament. The moving thought behind Campbell and a host of others was that we ought to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent. He contended that we ought to be Christians only (without being affiliated with any denomination) and thus members of the one spiritual body of Christ, the church. With such as his guiding principle, Alexander Campbell did not seek to establish another denomination, a new religious body, but rather his aim was to go back over the dark dismal past of departure to the original church of Christ that we read of in the New Testament.

Consider the following illustration. Abner Doubleday is credited with inventing the game of baseball. Suppose that for the next one hundred years no one played baseball and the game was forgotten. Then someone finds an old baseball guide book, lays out a playing field, puts two teams of players on the field, and starts playing baseball again. To observers at the time it might appear that a new game was being played, but those willing to do a little research would realize that such was not the case. They would know that nothing new had been started, only that something old and previously known had been restored. Yet, that is precisely what happened in the religious world in the early 1800s (and even earlier). Men picked up God’s “guide book” (the Bible) and started working toward the restoration of the original church founded by Christ. These men were not seeking to establish another denomination, but rather were seeking to restore the very church that one reads of in the New Testament. It was a movement far more glorious and significant than even the Reformation Movement of the 1500-1600s; it was the Restoration Movement.

Today, it is possible for one to hear of Christ (John 6:44-45; Rom. 10:17), believe on him as the Son of God (John 3:16; 8:42; Acts 8:37), repent of all sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30), confess faith in Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10), and be baptized in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6,17-18; I Peter 3:21), just as people did in the first century (Acts 2,8,16,18,22). Such will make of one today the same thing it made of one then — simply a Christian, a member of Christ’s church. All today who do this make up the church of Christ. If they remain true to New Testament teaching in doctrine, worship, practice, and daily life, they continue to be — even here in the complex twenty-first century — simply a church of Christ, but without being a denomination of any kind.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 2/16 11 Chapters Read: 298 B.C.: 24 Worship: 50 Daily Bible Readers: Wednesday: 24

Family News and Notes

Jan Keen is continuing her cancer treatments. Debbie Smith is having some health problems. She will have a procedure on Thursday. John McDougale, Geraldine Harrington’s uncle, is not doing well. Carole Pearson, Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke and hurricane damage to her home. Margaret Langston is in Carolina Inn. Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s dad, is in hospice care. Linda Jenkins’ son, Shannon, is struggling with mental health issues. Kim Perkins’ parents need prayers. Fishers’ of Men class continues today! Class is going well and there are several Bible studies being conducted as a result. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students! Also remember: Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Frances Salaz, Linda Hernandez, and the Davis family.

Bible Reading Plan

Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Mar 1
Le 17-18	Le 19-20	Le 21-22	Le 23-24	Le 25-26	Le 27- Nu 1	Nu 2-3
Luke 15	Luke 16	Luke 17	Luke 18	Luke 19	Luke 20	Luke 21

Events

New Education Quarter: begins March 2nd. Teachers take down visuals today, Spring quarter visuals up by Saturday. Men’s Lunch: Friday March 7 at Golden Corral @ 11am.

