

**Privileged to Serve**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Tyler Christian

Lord's Table:  
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Ben Grant  
Sibio Farrington

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Cam Christian

*Those serving Wednesday*

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Chad Futrell

**Pantry Item**

*Sermon Notes*

*Wonderful Words*

*I. Words of* \_\_\_\_\_

*II. Words of* \_\_\_\_\_

*III. Words of* \_\_\_\_\_

October 26, 2025

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!  
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 51 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

**The “Pastor” (Cont’d)**

It is interesting to note, however, that there is a specific group of leaders that are instructed to “shepherd” or “pastor” the flock of God. From 1 Peter 5 and Acts 20, we learn that the “elders” of the church were the ones instructed to “shepherd” or “oversee” the flock. If that is the case, what does the Bible say about elders? Thankfully, we have been given some very clear references to the spiritual office of “elders.” In Titus 1:5, the apostle Paul explained to Titus, “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.” The word translated “elders” comes from the Greek word presbuteros. While it is true that this word sometimes is used simply to describe those who are older as compared to those who are younger, it is also the case that it is often used to describe a spiritual office held by those who shepherded the church. This is established by the fact that Titus was instructed to “appoint elders in every city,” and Paul provided a detailed list of qualifications for those “elders” that included much more than one’s age. Thus we can know that a pastor (shepherd) was the same as an “elder” and this office was that of a spiritual overseer of a local church (in every city).

What might come as a surprise to some is that the term “bishop” is also linked to the terms “elder” and “shepherd” (or pastor). In 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Paul gives a list of qualifications similar to the one found in Titus, but he begins the list by stating, “A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife...” (3:2). The term “bishop” comes from the Greek word episkopos which means “overseer” (Danker, et. al., p. 299). Recall that in Acts 20:28, Paul called the elders from the church in Ephesus and explained that they were to take heed “to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.” The term translated “overseers” is from the Greek word episkopos. When we refer back to Titus, we see that Paul instructed Titus to appoint elders, and then after giving some of the qualifications, stated, “For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward

of God” (Titus 1:7). Here again the Bible uses the terms to speak of the same office. Thus, the elders, or shepherds (or pastors) were the bishops (or overseers) of the church. We do not find that these are separate offices in the church, but words that all describe the same leaders, simply giving subtle descriptions of what they do as the spiritual leaders, such as shepherd or oversee the flock.

If it is the case that the New Testament uses the terms “elders,” “shepherds,” “pastors,” “overseers,” and “bishops” to speak of the same spiritual office, what does that mean for the Lord’s church today? First, it would indicate that anyone who is a “pastor” or “bishop” should have the qualifications for those offices that are listed in Titus and 1 Timothy. Those lists present straightforward personality traits and life situations that all who “qualify” as pastors or bishops must maintain in order to spiritually oversee the church of the Lord. Without going into an extended discussion of each item on the lists, we can see why an “elder” or “bishop” must not be “greedy for money” if he is to lead the Lord’s church. Furthermore, we can understand why an overseer must not be addicted to alcohol or be violent.

It is true that people can appoint anyone they want as their “spiritual leaders” and call them whatever they like. By that I mean, a religious group could appoint teenage alcoholics who love to fight and are greedy fornicators to be their spiritual overseers, and then use the terms “elders” or “pastors” to describe them. But that would not make them pastors according to the New Testament pattern. In Acts 20:28, Paul told the Ephesian elders that the Holy Spirit had made those men elders. How does that happen today? Since we know that all Scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17), and the Bible writers such as Peter and Paul were inspired when they penned the books of the New Testament (2 Peter 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13), then we can conclude that in order for pastors to be appointed today “by the Holy Spirit” they must meet the qualifications found in the New Testament. Just because a group of people refers to someone as a bishop or pastor does not mean that person actually meets the qualifications of a bishop or pastor as found in the New Testament.

A study of the term pastor as it is used in the New Testament helps us arrive at another interesting biblical concept. In each of the references to the office of pastors we see that the New Testament consistently refers to a plurality of these spiritual leaders in each church. In Titus 1, Paul told the young preacher to “appoint elders (plural) in every city.” Peter wrote, “The elders (plural) who are among you I exhort” (1 Peter 5:1). In Acts 20 we see that Paul “sent to Ephesus and called for the elders (plural) of the church” (20:17). The idea of a single spiritual leader overseeing a church or congregation of the Lord’s people is found nowhere in the New Testament. If we compare the biblical idea of a pastor to that found in many religious groups today we discover that the Bible and those groups present opposing ideas.

### By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 10/19  
Chapters Read: 275

B.C.: 30  
Worship: 67

Daily Bible Readers: 12  
Wednesday: 31

### Family News and Notes

**Rob Sparks’** mother, **Phyllis Molina**, is in the hospital in Lexington, KY. **John McDougale**, **Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Cale Garrett**, **Debbie Smith’s** nephew, was hit by a drunk driver and is in the hospital with a broken leg. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Gwen Jennen** is having health problems. **Carlton Norris**, **Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is in hospice care and not doing well. **Barbara Norris** is also struggling with her health. **Ally** is in West Virginia with them to help out. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Linda** is out of town, but will be back soon. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers. Her mom is doing much better though.

Also remember: **Linda Boston**, **Margaret Langston**, **Vicky Carver**, **Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth**, **Barry & Melany Hatcher**, **Frances Salaz**, **Linda Hernandez**, and the **Davis** family.

Sign up for your copy of the Chronological Bible we will be using to read the Bible through in 2026. This is the **One Year Chronological Bible (NKJV)** by Tyndale Publishing. No e-version available, print only. \$15 each.

### Bible Reading Plan

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Oct 26   | Oct 27   | Oct 28   | Oct 29   | Oct 30   | Oct 31   | Nov 1    |
| Je 33-34 | Je 35-36 | Je 37-38 | Je 39-40 | Je 41-42 | Je 43-44 | Je 45-46 |
| Ps 134   | Ps 135   | Ps 136   | Ps 137   | Ps 138   | Ps 139   | Ps 140   |

### Events

**Fall Get-together:** 5pm at the Hatchers. Bring chili, soups & desserts  
**Teachers’ Meeting:** Next Sunday following worship  
**Mens’ Lunch:** Nov 7 at 11am @ Golden Corral

