

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell
Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer: Luka Herrera
Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington
Assisting: Ricardo Alvarill
Phil Byrd
Sermon: Byran Hatcher
Closing P.: Ben Grant

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher
Announcements: Byran Hatcher
Devotional: Julius Cook
Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Closing Prayer: Cam Christian

Pantry Item
Soup

Sermon Notes *Perseverance of the Saints*

I. *The* _____

II. *The* _____

III. *The* _____

February 15, 2026

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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

The Cape Fear Crier

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

On Love

Our English New Testament was originally written in *Koine* Greek. Our English word “love” is derived from several Greek words. The highest form of love was expressed by the Greek word *agape*. The one who possessed *agape* love fulfilled the requirements of the Lord’s will. *Agape* love always seeks the best interests of others. Therefore, it is imperative that we understand how love, *agape* love, is the acid test of true Christianity.

In response to a lawyer’s question concerning the “first and great commandment,” Jesus said, “*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength...*” (Mark 12:30). Acceptable Christian service is always based upon the principle of love. It is significant to observe that all of our devotion is first to be directed toward God, with such devotion being motivated by love (cf. Gal. 5:6).

As Christ loved the church, so the husband is to love his wife (cf. Eph. 5:25). Marital discord, which often leads to divorce, would be entirely eliminated if *agape* love existed between husbands and wives. No Christian woman would object to being in submission to her husband if he always sought the very best for her. It is when husbands misuse their role as “head of the wife” that homes are often destroyed. When there is genuine love between parents, children will sense it and have proper role models to pattern their lives after. Fathers who love their children will not provoke them to wrath (cf. Eph. 6:4a). Instead, they will “...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (cf. Eph. 6:4b). Love is so powerful!

Jesus also taught, “...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself...” (Mark 12:31). Not only must Christians demonstrate *agape* love towards one another, they must also show the same kind of love towards their neighbors. Biblically speaking, our

neighbor is anyone in need of help, and we have the opportunity and means to provide such assistance. In the parable of “the good Samaritan,” the occasion and need for help were there, but only the Samaritan took the time to assist the man who had fallen among thieves (Luke 10:30-37). *Agape* love will not allow us to “pass by on the other side” (Luke 10:31,32).

The importance of *agape* love is seen in the words of the apostle Paul. The Corinthian church was plagued by many problems, among them jealousy over the use of certain spiritual gifts. Paul settled the matter when he wrote, “*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, (love, BTH) I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, (love, BTH) I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, (love, BTH) I am nothing*” (1 Cor. 13:1-3). In brief, Paul simply tells the Corinthian brethren they misunderstood the real purpose of their spiritual gifts. No matter what gift one Corinthian brother may have had, if his motive for service was not love, his spiritual gift would amount to nothing.

While today we do not have the supernatural spiritual gifts that the church had prior to the completion of inspired revelation, we must still be motivated by love in all that we do; otherwise, our service is unacceptable to God. The motive (why we act) is so very important. While it is true that we must render the “obedience of faith” (cf. Rom. 16:26), it is not enough to obey our Lord’s commands. Our obedience must be prompted by the right motive — love. When brethren “bite and devour one another” (cf. Gal. 5:15) in disputes over matters of opinion, and consequently divide the church, they demonstrate a lack of *agape* love.

There are far too many factions among us. We have divided and splintered into so many warring factions until it’s almost a joke to tell our denominational friends about the sin of division among God’s people. It is a shame that one of the first things a babe in Christ encounters is the divided nature of the New Testament church! “Anti” this and “liberal” that. Whatever happened to Biblical unity? I fully understand the need to “earnestly contend for the faith” (cf. Jude 3), but in some cases, I fear that our attitudes are not out of love for lost souls but a desire for the preeminence among brethren. May the words of the Hebrews writer speak to each of us, “*Let brotherly love continue*” (Heb. 13:1).

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 2/8
Chapters Read: 255

B.C.: 22
Worship: 45

Daily Bible Readers: 13
Wednesday: 31

Family News and Notes

The memorial service for **Sister Margaret Langston** will be here at the building this afternoon at 1:30 pm. There is a fellowship meal in her honor immediately after the morning service. **Matt Paschall**, a student at the Memphis School of Preaching and a close personal friend to Kyle & Dustin Pool, and Brynn Hatcher, passed away recently. **Cookie** has completed her work in Indonesia and will be heading home soon. **John McDougle, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. Jennifer’s coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through personal health issues and family struggles. **Will Pringle**, Drew Perrin’s neighbor, suffered a stroke. **Barbara Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** mother, is struggling with her health. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers, and the family is experiencing significant stress. Many members are sick in our current cold/flu season.

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

Bible Reading Plan

Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21
Pg 173-176	Pg 176-180	Pg 180-184	Pg 184-187	Pg 187-191	Pg 191-195	Pg 195-199

Events

Silver Linings: Friday, Feb 20 @ 11 am. Bring your lunch

