

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Sibio Farrington

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ben Grant

Assisting: Cam Christian
Louden Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Luka Herrera

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Ricardo Alvillar

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Cam Christian

Pantry Item
Small Waters

Sermon Notes

Standing On God's Promises

I. *God is* _____

II. _____

III. _____

IV. _____

V. _____

VI. _____

VII. _____

August 2, 2026

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

Volume 54 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 Lord's Army

The church is spoken of under different figures. It is referred to as: a *body* with Christians as members (I Cor. 12:12-27; Rom. 12:4-5); a *vineyard* with Christians as workers (Matt. 20:1-16); a *temple* with Christians as worshipers (Eph. 2:21; I Peter 2:5).

One of the most striking pictures of the church is the simile of the body of Christ depicted as an *army*. There is to be a **militant** spirit characterizing the church as each member marches loyally under the banner of their Heavenly King. The purpose of this conflict is to become conquerors over Satan and evil.

The warfare spoken of is not *carnal* (or physical); it is a *moral* conflict. This is a conflict of truth against error, of knowledge against ignorance, of light against darkness, of righteousness against unrighteousness, of Christ against Satan. In the battle we must “*put on the whole armour of God*” (Eph. 6:11), “*war a good warfare*” (I Tim. 1:18), and “*fight the good fight of faith*” (I Tim. 6:12). The purpose of accomplishing these things is that we may one day be able to enjoy the benefits of heaven. This is the end that Paul had in mind when he wrote “*to stand against the wiles of the devil*” (Eph. 6:11), “*to withstand in the evil day*” (Eph. 6:13) and “*to lay hold on eternal life*” (I Tim. 6:12). We do not have the option to enter this battle and to leave it at our own discretion. Those who are His New Testament people are either with Him or against Him. In this spiritual conflict, neutrality is not an option.

Consider the following characteristics of this spiritual army: The Commander-In-Chief is Christ. The commander of our salvation is without spot and blemish. He is a perfect commander (Heb. 2:10; 4:15; 7:26; I Peter 2:22). He has all power in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). He is the head of all things to the church (Eph. 1:22-23). We make no mistake by following Him (Heb. 12:1-3; I Cor. 11:1). To follow Christ means that our God will supply for us that which is necessary for our protection in this conflict with evil (Eph. 6:10-17). We must put on the armor, unsheathe the sword of the Spirit, and engage the enemy head-on. To follow Christ means also that we are to

be praying soldiers (Eph. 6:18), adding the Christian graces (II Peter 1:5-11), maturing in the Christian life (Heb. 5:12-14; II Peter 3:18) and willing to examine self (II Cor. 13:5). With such information before us, we can say with Paul, *“For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”* (II Tim. 1:12).

The Lord’s army is an all-volunteer army. One is not drafted into this army, but it is for *“whosoever will come”* (Rev. 22:17; Matt. 11:28-30). No one is forced to serve God. Before entering this army, one must decide if the cause is worth fighting for and whether there will be victory. The apostle Paul has well supplied the answer to such questions in Romans 6:23. Here we read, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Salvation is in Christ Jesus (Acts 4:12; II Tim. 1:10).

In order for the volunteer to become a part of Christ’s spiritual army, he must possess *faith* (Rom. 10:17), he must *repent* (Acts 17:30), he must *confess faith* in Christ as God’s Son (Acts 8:37) and he must be *baptized* for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38). He who will do this and is a loyal soldier, has in prospect a glorious retirement in death (Rev. 14:13).

The army wields only one offensive weapon. While the armies of men invent all manner of weapons for war, Jesus issues only one to His disciples. It is the most powerful weapon known to man. It is the *“sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph. 6:17). This instrument of spiritual battle is sharper than any literal two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). This sword will lay bare our false pride, prejudice, compromise, and friendship with the forces of evil. When we familiarize ourselves with the contents and we use it properly, we will be victorious over unrighteousness. When dressed with truth, righteousness, the Gospel of peace, the broad shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, we become heaven’s most powerful argument against sin. Soldiers must use their gear effectively.

The Devil is the Lord and the Lord’s army’s enemy. There are a number of names found in the Bible for this evil opponent. The word Satan means *adversary*. This term is used in the Old Testament 19 times, with 14 of them found in the book of Job. It is used 35 times in the New Testament. Satan is an adversary who lies in wait. The term devil means *slanderer* or *false accuser*. In considering just these two names, we can easily see and know that we must never let our guard down. To remove the sentry while the enemy is near would reveal how foolish we might be (I Peter 5:8; Eph. 6:11; II Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:15-17). May we continually be mindful of Peter’s words in reference to the devil, *“Whom resist steadfast in the faith”* (I Peter 5:9).

One day there will be a great reunion for the faithful soldiers of Christ when He comes to take us home (I Thess. 4:13-18). The crown will be awarded because we *“fought a good fight, finished the course, kept the faith”* (II Tim. 4:7).

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 7/26	B.C.: 31	Daily Bible Readers: 12
Chapters Read: 396	Worship: 63	Wednesday: 28

Family News and Notes

Melany Hatcher remains in CFVPMC after her procedure. **Margaret Mosley** is in rehab, but is doing better. **Troy Miles’** grandmother is not doing well. Jennifer’s coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through chemotherapy and family struggles. Gloria Frye’s daughter, **Kathy Taylor**, is enduring extreme pain with multiple health issues. **Bethany McKinley** is due August 10, and it’s a girl! Joseph **Brown**, Cookie’s brother, has had seizures and spent some time in the ER. **Barbara Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** mother, is struggling with her health; also, her sister, **Elizabeth Cremeans**, needs our prayers. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **John McDougale, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers, and the family is experiencing significant stress.

Also remember: **Linda Boston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Phil & Kathie Byrd, Margaret Mosley, Linda Hernandez, Ellen Brantley**, and the **Davis** family.

Bible Reading Plan

Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8
P 986-993	P 993-1001	P 1001-06	P 1006-12	P 1012-15	P 1015-21	P 1021-29

Events

Teachers’ Meeting: August 9th, after morning worship. We are preparing for the fall quarter.

Fall Quarter: Begins September 6.

Labor Day Fellowship: September 7 @ the church building at noon.

