

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Ben Grant

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Julius Cook

Assisting: Luka Herrera
Kyle Pool

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Cam Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Cam Christian

Pantry Item

Canned Peaches

Sermon Notes

A New Beginning

I. _____ *before direction*

II. _____

III. _____ *God*

IV. _____ *to Walk*

V. _____ *to Christ*

VI. *Walk in* _____

October 4, 2026

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
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 55 Issue 1

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 Instant Mature Christian

We live in an age of speed. We try to cram as many activities into a day as possible. For many, a successful person is someone who is always busy, always on the run, and has more demands on his time than he can possibly meet. Because of this fast pace of life, a host of consumer services and products have been marketed. “Fast food” restaurants, which specialize in ready-made food so travelers can get on their way quickly, have become normalized. For the hurried, harried housewife (if that exists any longer!), there is a great variety of quick foods such as microwave dinners, “pop in the oven” pizzas, instant potatoes, instant pudding, instant coffee, etc. Everything is available to us instantly. We have come to expect and demand such services and products.

In other aspects of our lives, we also seek instant gratification. Many young couples unrealistically expect to begin married life in a modern home with all the labor-saving gadgets it took their parents 20 years to accumulate. “Shortcuts” up the career ladder are sought so one can quickly be promoted into higher-paying brackets without having to toil for years to work oneself into those positions.

Sadly, many view Christianity in the same way as they view their consumer products or career aspirations. They want instant spiritual results, so they try to bypass the daily struggle over a long period to achieve spiritual maturity. Prayer “seminars,” fasting, and emotion-filled, clapping, stamping “workshops” are offered to guarantee “instant spiritual maturity.” The years of diligent study of God’s Word, of prayer and daily cross-bearing, which are essential for sound, solid, well-balanced spiritual maturity, are set aside in the vain hope to achieve this instant spirituality. Those who think they have become mature by such shallow means soon find that when the emotions subside, when the “feeling” is gone, and trials confront them, they lack the spiritual resources to overcome.

Our brotherhood today has a strong desire to achieve instant

church growth through the same approach. Personal work methods that move and manipulate through psychological pressure and cultic techniques are applied. A whole host of social and recreational activities are offered to draw the unthinking masses. There will always be those who come seeking the loaves and the fishes as in Jesus’ day (John 6:26,27). When the loaves and fishes run out, they are soon gone on to some other organization which will supply their carnal cravings.

Advocates of instant church growth often cite the Jerusalem church in the book of Acts as proof that their approach works. What they do not stop to consider is that the response of 3,000 souls on Pentecost (Acts 2) was the natural fruit of a harvest long cultivated by prophets of old who foretold the coming of the Messiah, by widespread knowledge of the Scriptures among the Jews, by the ministry of John, the Harbinger of the Christ, whose preparatory work shook Judaism to its foundation; and by the personal ministry of our Lord Himself. Jesus’ three years of patient preaching, marvelous miracles, and training of the Twelve bore fruit on Pentecost Day. There was already a great body of believers in Jesus in Israel, as evidenced by the fact that in one of His recorded post-resurrection appearances, “He was seen of above 500 brethren at once” (I Cor. 15:6). The conversion of the multitude on Pentecost and the continuing conversion of great numbers in Jerusalem were not instant church growth, but the culmination of much preparation and planting over a long period of time.

The only way to build a strong, mature faith that will meet life's trials and carry one safely to the Celestial Shore is through daily cross-bearing, diligent study, persistent prayer, much meditation, and increased strength from surmounting spiritual obstacles (James 1:2-4). The only way to build a strong, sound, growing church that will continue to increase is by patient plowing and planting of God’s Word in the “good and honest hearts” of men (Luke 8:15). A steady diet of strong Gospel preaching from the pulpit and Bible teaching from the classroom, coupled with wise oversight of godly elders who truly care for the souls of the flock, is the only formula for church growth that will be pleasing to God and eternal in its results.

Mighty Rome was not built in a day, nor is a great congregation or a strong Christian character developed instantly. Let us follow God’s ways, not man’s, and we can be assured of success as it is measured by God’s infallible Word, not by man’s shallow standards.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 9/27 B.C.: 29 Daily Bible Readers: 9
Chapters Read: 355 Worship: 52 Wednesday: 21

Family News and Notes

Margaret Mosley remains in rehab. Jennifer’s coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through chemotherapy and family struggles; she is facing surgery for cancer. **Pam Horton**, Jason and Tory Lawrence’ neighbor, lost her husband recently. We were so glad she visited us with Tory. **Nikki Inman** needs prayer concerning her liver. **Namika Harley** has some circulation problems. **Gloria Frye’s** daughter, **Kathy Taylor**, is enduring extreme pain with multiple health issues. **Joseph Brown**, Cookie’s brother, has had seizures. **Barbara Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** mother, is struggling with her health. **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. **Rick and Robin Caldwell** need our prayers. Also remember: **Linda Boston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry Hatcher, Phil & Kathie Byrd, Margaret Mosley, Irene Frydler, Linda Hernandez, Ellen Brantley**, and the **Davis** family.

Bible Reading Plan

Oct 4	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8	Oct 9	Oct 10
P 1307-11	P 1311-15	P 1315-19	P 1319-22	P 1322-25	P 1325-29	P 1330-33

Events

Sheffield Drive Gospel Meeting: Sept 27-30. 6pm Sunday. 7:30pm weeknights
Silver Linings: Friday Oct 23 @ 11am
Loris Lecturship: October 24 from 9 - 2. Lunch provided.

