

Those Serving Today:	
<u>Morning</u>	
Announcements:	Chad Futrell
Song Leader:	Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer:	John Williams
Lord's Table:	
Presiding	Brian Godfrey
Assisting:	Steve Pool
	Phil Byrd
	Steve Conley
Sermon:	Byran Hatcher
Closing Prayer:	Venson Oliver
<u>Evening</u>	
Song Leader:	Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer:	Eric Austin
Sermon:	Byran Hatcher
Lord's Supper:	Kyle Pool
Closing Prayer:	Jon Williams
Those Serving Wednesday:	
Song Leader:	Byran Hatcher
Opening Prayer:	TBD
Scripture:	Jon Williams
Reading:	Ps 100
Invitation:	Scot Parchman
<div><u>Pantry item of the week:</u> Canned Corn</div>	

Sermon Notes

Oh Lord, My God

I.

II.

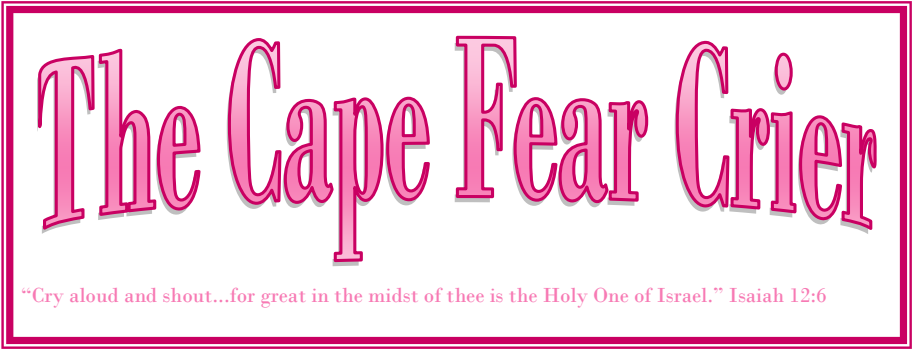
III.

IV.

February 15, 2015

Volume 10 Issue 7

Welcome,
Visitors!



A Consuming Fire or Just “The Man Behind the Curtain?”

By Steve Higginbotham

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Phone: (910) 425-1108

Services:

Sunday:

Bible Class 9:00am

Worship 10:00am

Evening 5:00pm

Ladies’ Class:

Tuesday 10:00am

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00pm

Website: capefearcoc.org

Preaching the Truth in Love!

“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God” (Deuteronomy 4:24). In spite of this truth, Israel disrespected God. They treated God as though he were muzzled, tamed, or even docile. To Israel, God was manageable and could be manipulated to their own advantage. There was no sense of awe, no reverent fear, and no trepidation when they came into his presence.

No better illustration of how they had trivialized God is seen in the life of King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:1-23). Uzziah was a very successful King with God’s help, but his success went to his head. Pride filled his heart, and his pride grew, there was less and less a place for God in his heart. Consequently, Uzziah presumed to violate God’s command, enter the temple, and assume the rights that belonged only to the priests. No less than eighty men attempted to stop him, but he had so marginalized God and puffed himself up, that he presumptuously disobeyed and paid a terrible price. He was like the occasional tourist who thinks Panda bears are so cute and safe that he ignores the warnings, reaches his hand through the bars to pet them, only to learn too late, that these bears are wild and untamed.

If there was a single message of which the church needs to be reminded today, in my judgment, it would be that God is a consuming fire; a jealous God! Too many people have trivialized God. When some hear his “thunderings,” they pay no mind as though these “thunderings” originate from the “innocuous little man behind the curtain.”

I believe if we could get “God” right, most of our problems would disappear. If we would stop treating God as though he were tame and able to be manipulated, we wouldn’t presume to change his commandments. Our problems today are really not “the role of women in the church,” “the necessity of baptism for salvation,” or “instrumental music in worship;” rather our problem is more singular. We have failed to emphasize and consequently have forgotten that God is a consuming fire!

How else do we explain that when we gather to worship, instead of hearing gasps of “awe,” we sometimes hear “yawns of boredom?” Instead of God being a consuming fire having the power to refine and even destroy, we have reduced him to a safe, flickering candle that barely provides illumination. We have allowed the familiarity of “sonship” to breed contempt and presumptuousness toward God and his commands.

Friends, God is so much more than “the little man behind the curtain.” He’s more than just a man with a deep, thundering voice (Numbers 23:19). He can’t be manipulated. He can’t be marginalized. He can’t be tamed. And he can’t be put in a box of our making. He isn’t manageable. God is God. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and omnibenevolent. In spite of revealing himself to us, he remains a mystery. Consequently, we should worship and obey him with awe, caution, and reverent fear. “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable” (Psalm 145:3).

— taken from “preachinghelp.org”

By The Numbers

Attendance 2/8/15

Bible Class: 60	A.M. Worship: 86	P.M. Worship: 51
Contribution: \$2,832.96	DB Readers: 17	Chapters read: 439

Family News and Notes

Prayer Requests

Ed and Francis Salaz’ son, Ed Jr., had successful back surgery. They are in St. Louis. Linda Hernandez’ brother -in-law is not doing well. He is in the St. Louis area.

Sandra Pound’s boss, **Bob Beachler**, lost his wife this week.

Phil Byrd’s parents are declining in health. Pray for comfort and strength for the Byrd family.

Alice Morrison has moved in with her son, Pete. **Linda Williams** has a hard cast on her leg to correct an ankle problem. **John Williams** is slated to have surgery in early March. **Active military.** Please keep all our active duty military members in your prayers. They could be called to a conflict area at a moments notice. Remember to pray for them and their families as well.

Also, please remember: **Margaret Langston, Vera West, J. D. and Vicky Carver, Carolyn Pierce, Anita Bottger, Alice Morrison, Gay Mathis, Lloyd and Cecil Kimbrel, Becky Pool, Tylia Landrum, Gwen Jennen, Linda Williams, Geraldine Cook, Charles Perkins and Thelma Adams.**

Special Recognition

Thanks to Gloria Emerick and Geraldine Cook for all their hard work with the Valentine’s Day dinner! It was a wonderful evening. Also thanks to the men that led the Youth Devotional. This congregation is so blessed with people of such talent. Everyone appreciated it so much.

Events

Carolina Men’s Fellowship: Saturday, March 14th. See bulletin board for more details.

Ladies’ Day @ Cary: Sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. See Cookie or Gloria E. for transportation needs & info.

Ladies’ Day at Cape Fear: April 18th. Kathy Jones will be speaking.

Spring Gospel Meeting: April 19-22. David Jones will be speaking.