

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Brynn Hatcher

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Ricardo Alvillar
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: John Patchell

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Brynn Hatcher

Pantry Item

Canned/microwave pasta

Sermon Notes *Created Male & Female*

1.

11.

111.

January 8, 2023

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!

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 40 Issue 2

The Cape Fear Crier

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

Don't Discourage The Church!

Discouragement is a powerful tool employed by Satan to undermine the work of the Lord. Sometimes, discouragement comes from the outside, but all too often it comes from within the body. Christians expect those outside the body to attack them, but what is less expected is when persecution originates from within. Paul was a victim of this type persecution also. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians: *“In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren”* (2 Cor 11:26). Notice he had perils among false brethren. The same occurs today.

Soldiers of Christ facing persecution from without and within the body of Christ is a reality. Atheists outside the body attack the very existence of God and liberals inside the body attack the very existence of the *authority of God's Word*. The mature Christian has grown to expect this discouragement so handles it and keeps on going. However, there are other discouragements we face from within and these will more easily defeat us if they are not identified and corrected.

Destructive criticism comes from hearts which have no thoughts of compassion, simply wanting to point out the faults of others at the other person's expense. Sad, but true, are the cases where young and well-meaning Christians have been severely criticized by others to the point of discouragement. Perhaps they were doing something and the other person disagreed with the way it was being done. Instead of tactfully approaching the party and making a suggestion as to how it could be done better, the criticizer attacked the person with no concern for their feelings.

Vindicated, the attacker went on their way never realizing the harm done. Not only did the attacker discourage the worker, but also every witness of the attack. If the accuser were questioned, no acknowledgment of wronging would be admitted. We can discourage some innocent people and never even know it! This is why we should watch our criticism very closely. Is it a pet peeve or is it actually WRONG? If we disagree with a matter of opinion, let's be careful how we criticize.

Many are too casual in the attention they give to worship. Grown-ups are guilty of not paying attention to the singing and sermons as they should. They often play with babies or dose off because of the casual attention they pay to worship. Young people are also guilty of passing notes and playing games on their phones during worship. Parents ought to watch this and put a stop to it. However, if something is said to the young people, the parents too often get upset with the one who brings it to their attention. Many wonder why young people quit attending worship services after they leave home. In many cases, it is because they were not taught in the home the joy and responsibility of truly worshiping as they should have and they do not see their parents' set the right example.

The singing may not be the best, the preacher may not be the best speaker who ever preached (despite his boasting!), but if he is speaking the truth in love, we are to give the study of God's Word our undivided attention. It is discouraging for the preacher to see the lack of attention during the sermon. It is also discouraging for those sitting beside those not paying attention.

Another discouragement is the competition which exists in the church. Jealousy is an avenue Satan uses to discourage brethren. Just as James and John wanted to sit next to Jesus in authority, many brethren desire to have all the attention of certain brethren. Preachers are often the battleground for these confrontations. Members will despise other brethren if the preacher shows them too much attention. Work is halted because brethren are not willing to work together due to competition. Some members have to have the limelight or they are not happy. Some members must be the only ones involved in something or else they want no part. As Satan sees these attitudes expressed, he sits back with an attitude of success because he has discouraged the work in the church. Brethren, let us guard against these and all other kinds of discouragements.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 1/1/23

Bible Class: 26

A.M. Worship: 55

Wed. B. C.: 26

Family News and Notes

John Patchell's niece, is struggling with her lupus. **Ann** has been ill as well. **Sarah Collier, Julie Carver's** niece, is seriously ill. **Solomon Harrington, Geraldine Harrington's** son, struggling with some health problems. **Nazreen Sahib**, coworker of **Jennifer Hatcher**, has stage 4 cancer. **John Williams** had another break in his leg, this will lengthen his recovery time significantly. **Kim Perkins'** mother is in rehab and receiving special care. The **Perkins** family has been dealing with COVID. Linda Williams' mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. Let's remember one another in prayer. Pray for our world leaders at this time. Active military: Pray for all active duty military members; they could be called to a conflict area at a moment's notice. Remember to pray for their families as well. We have 4 active duty members here at Cape Fear.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14
Gen 15-16	Gen 17-18	Gen 19-20	Gen 21-22	Gen 23-24	Gen 25-26	Gen 27-28
Ps 8	Ps 9	Ps 10	Ps 11	Ps 12	Ps 13	Ps 14

Events

Christian Evidences Seminar: March 3-5. Jeff Miller Speaking

