

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Dale Wiles
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Canned fruit cocktail

Sermon Notes

Alone or “And?”

I. _____ *Alone?*

II. _____ *Alone?*

III. *And* _____

May 21, 2023

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

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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 41 Issue 8

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Influence

A strong warning is given in 1 Corinthians 15:33, “*Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’*” Those with whom we surround ourselves will impact the kind of people we are or will become. Some friends are a blessing, others can be a curse. Who should I choose as to be my friends?

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” (Psalm 1:1)

Psalm 1:1 says a blessed man will make some choices:

- He will not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. When our advisors are those who do not respect God, we set a course for disaster.
- He will not stand in the path of sinners. People who transgress the commands of God, will encourage you to be just like them. They will not be content until you do.
- He will refuse to sit in the seat of the scornful. Those who are cruel and oppressive to others, will influence us to take on those same attitude toward others, or become a victim yourself.

There is a very deceptive nature of peer pressure. We do not always see the influence that others have on us. Notice in the passage above that first we walk, then stand, then sit down with those who are evil. We can, over time, become comfortable with things that should shock us. If we were to transport someone from 100 years ago into the world today they would be overwhelmed at the state of sinfulness to which society has

devolved - and that would be a worldly person! But as participants of society today, we are far less shocked than we ought to be.

Instead of being influenced, we should strive to be an influence on others. The question then becomes, what am I doing right now to be an influence on others? This, admittedly, can be a frustrating situation. Think of Joshua and Caleb as they came back to the camp of the Israelites to report on what they had seen in the land of Canaan. Caleb did everything he could to influence the people for good (Numbers 13:30). His faith was monumental saying, “We are well able.” But the ten other men, with their fear mongering, won the day. As a result, the children of Israel would have to wander in the wilderness until the entire generation died (40 years total). The sad truth is that fear often wins over faith.

Fortunately, the story did not end there. Joshua and Caleb were able to go into the Promised land and lead the next generation to conquer the land. With the next generation, their faith won over the people. Through their leadership and influence, the warriors of the two-and-a-half tribes on the east side of the Jordan would leave their families for over seven years to help their nation conquer all the land God promised to them. When all was said and done, Caleb reminded Joshua that God was going to give him the land of the giants, which he went and possessed with help from his family. The greatest testament of their enduring influence is found in the last chapter of the book of Joshua. “*And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel*” (Joshua 24:31). What a profound influence! The nation, as a whole, followed God because these two men did.

Yes, we all need to be very discerning in whom we choose as our friends. Just because someone is a “Christian” does not necessarily mean they are going to be a positive influence in our lives either. Each of us must ensure that we choose our closest companions carefully. Then we need to be the positive influence we want to see in others. It might take time and there might be a mountain of fear we have to overcome, but we must never give up!

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 5/14/23
Bible Class: 44
A.M. Worship: 70
Wed. B. C.: 21

Family News and Notes

Stephen Carr, Debra Ross’ younger brother, passed away. **Carlee Pool, Steve Pool’s** mother, is recovering from a heart attack and stints put in. She is back home. **John Patchell’s** niece is struggling with her health. **Solomon Harrington,** was hospitalized last week but is improving. **John Williams** is slowly recovering from knee surgeries and a broken leg. **Connie Budd, Debbie Smith’s** mother, passed away last week. **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 5 active duty members here at Cape Fear. Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross, Sandra Hedgepeth,** and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27
1 Ch 17-19	1 Ch 20-22	1 Ch 23-25	1 Ch 26-29	2 Ch 1-3	2 Ch 4-6	2 Ch 7-9
Ps 140	Ps 141	Ps 142	Ps 143	Ps 144	Ps 145	Ps 146

Events

Wedding shower for Trent & Aslyn: a couples tea, June 3rd at the Hatchers’ from 10am-noon (get recipe cards from Melany Hatcher).
Wedding shower for Jacob and Katie: congregational potluck on June 25th after worship
Summer Quarter begins June 4.

