

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Phil Byrd

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Ben Grant
Jonathan Garrett

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Opening Prayer: TBD

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Devotional: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Jonathan Garrett

Pantry Item
Mayonaise

Sermon Notes

Messianic Prophecies of Isaiah 1 - 25

I. His _____

II. His _____

III. His _____

July 28, 2024

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Services 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

Elders
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Volume 46 Issue 3

The
Cape Fear Crier

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

Experiencing Discouragement

Discouragement is one of the tools employed by Satan to try and undermine the work of the Lord. Frequently, discouragement comes from the outside, but all too often it comes from within the body of Christ. There is a place for what we call “constructive criticism.” Parents use this in the home. They show their children how they could have done something more efficiently. The children often do not like this type of teaching, but good parents know it is needed.

In the church we need to be able to take constructive criticism when it is given from good and honest hearts. Those giving this advice should first search their own hearts and make sure they are pure and sincere. Second, the listeners should take the advice and apply it to their actions. We truly have to be careful in this area.

However, there is criticism which is not constructive, but rather, destructive. This criticism comes from hearts which have no care of compassion, they simply want to point out the faults of someone else 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 or differently, the criticizer attacked the person with no concern for his/her feelings. Vindicated, the attacker went his/her way never realizing the harm done. Not only did the attacker discourage the worker, but also any witnesses to the attack. If the accuser were questioned, he would not even realize he had done wrong. We can discourage some innocent people and never even know it! This is why we should watch our criticism very closely. Let us be sure someone is **WRONG** before we accuse. If we disagree with a matter of opinion, we had better be careful how we criticize. Everyone has the right to his opinion. Of course, there are matters of doctrine which are not left up to our opinions. In these cases, we had better stand up for what is right no matter the cost or the foe!

A casual attitude when it comes to worshiping God can be a cause of discouragement. God is a jealous God and His nature demands His people put Him first or no place. Christians are the ones who can offer spiritual sacrifices to Him: *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 2:5). Our actions and attitudes must be correct if we want this worship accepted. God only approved and saved those who worshiped Him correctly in the Old Testament and the same is true today. Far too many members of the Lord's church take this privilege too casually. Many believe if they come and sit in the pew, they have worshiped God. If we approach God casually and not with conviction and consecration, He despises our sacrifices.

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 and dose off because of the casual attention they pay to worship. Young people are also guilty of passing notes and amusing themselves with other things 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 too often do not see this attention in their parents' worship.

The singing may not be the best, but God expects us to sing from our hearts and our worship does not depend upon every note being hit perfectly!

The preacher may not be the best speaker who ever preached, 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, especially when it involves the parents or the parents have no concern for their children's attitude. 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 other discouragements.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance week of 7/21/24
B.C.: 24

Daily Bible Readers:
A.M.: Worship: 43

Chapters Read:
Wed.: 22

Family News and Notes

Jan Keen still needs our prayers. **Ellen Brantley** is now at home and doing much better. She is still struggling to walk, but her speech and other motor skills are vastly improved. **Carole Pearson**, Dave Carver's cousin in ICU in Asheville.

Brittany Hunt, coworker of Julie Carver, is still struggling with her health but has improved some. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Drew Perrin** in the passing of his wife, **Paula**. **Carlton Norris**, **Jeanette Freshley's** dad, is in hospice care. **Linda Jenkins'** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins'** parents need prayers. Wade Hedgepeth's brother, **Dwight**, has some health challenges.

Pray for our world leaders at this time. Pray for all active duty military members and their families. We have 4 active duty members here at Cape Fear.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston**, **Vicky Carver**, **Sandra Hedgepeth**, **Barry & Melany Hatcher**, **Frances Salaz**, **Linda Hernandez**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3
Is 26-28	Is 29-32	Is 33-36	Is 37-40	Is 41-43	Is 44-46	Is 47-49

Events

Mens' luncheon and training: today after morning worship. For all men who signed up.

VBS: Saturday August 10th. 9am - 2pm.

Gospel Meeting: October 20-23 with Brock Shanks.

