



The TrumBulletin



A Publication of the Trumbull Church of Christ, 2 Drew Circle, Trumbull, CT.

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Is Influencing a Few Good Enough?

A man returning from a fishing trip was asked if he had caught any fish. "No," he replied, "but I influenced a few!" I think if someone actually said that to us, we would think that their fishing trip was not a successful one. If you go fishing and do not catch any fish, then whatever "influence" you made is meaningless. However, in terms of evangelism this makes perfect sense. In terms of evangelism, "influencing" as well as "catching" is a very important part of our responsibility in evangelism. Often we think that if our witnessing to someone does not end with their decision to respond to the Gospel, we have failed. But this thinking is mistaken for two reasons. First, thinking that unless there is a commitment to the Gospel we have failed, mistakes our role for God's role. God does not judge us on "outcomes." God judges us on faithfulness. God and only God can save. Only He can bring about a genuine decision to follow Christ. Our success in evangelism is judged in terms of faithfulness. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (MK. 16:15) God judges our success on whether or not we have been faithful to Him. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "It is required of stewards to be faithful." With evangelism, being faithful means sharing the good news. Our success is not measured by the outcome of our sharing the good news, only that we shared it.

Second, thinking that we have failed unless there is a decision to obey the Gospel, is judging prematurely. We do not know how our witnessing will serve to influence someone for Christ and lead to a later conversion. It might be that we will plant a seed that another will water and cultivate later on. This is an analogy the apostle Paul used when he said in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." This is how the gospel advanced in Corinth. Paul went in first with the gospel, and some were saved. Apollos came in later and picked up where Paul left off, and a lot more came to Christ. Paul planted, and Apollos watered. But it was neither Paul nor Apollos that actually caused the success. God is the one who made the church grow and worked on the hearts of those who obeyed the Gospel.

So, when you are fishing for people, you may not catch any, but while trying you may very well influence many! God may send you to someone simply as an initial contact. Through you God may first capture his or her attention. Then God may send another to continue the work where you left off. Then again God may use you as that second or third or 100th contact that actually results in someone's conversion. Do not be discouraged or think you are a failure because you do not see instant results. Be faithful, and in your faithfulness be assured of God's approval, and be encouraged in it. God saves! God gives the increase! God gives us the awesome privilege of being a part of the process. At the end of next week you might be able to say you "caught" a few. Or you might be able to say you have "influenced" a few. Faithfulness in any part of this process is success in the eyes of God.

~ Ron Saracino

NEWS & NOTES

May 18- 10 am- New converts class May 27 - 9:30 am Tuesday Ladies Bible Study via zoom (final class til Sept.) June 13 & 14- Men's Retreat Kent Ct.	June 1- VBS meeting right after worship June 14 10-12 Saturday Ladies Bible Study at church building June 29- Pot Luck We will be honoring our high school seniors	July- Tidal River Christian Camp- if interested in helping see Pat Keller Donations needed: 3-paper napkins 1000 count (large packaging preferred)	10 antibacterial hand soap pump bottles 15 large packages of cookies (any kind)	July 26th- Vacation Bible School. Details to follow <i>Our in house food pantry could use a boost</i>
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Prayer Requests

*Pray for **Mary Reed** (Molly's sister who has gestational diabetes/high risk pregnancy)
 *Pray for **Edward Cross** (Nadine's uncle) recently diagnosed with prostate cancer.
 *Pray for **Leo** (a 6 year old) who had a brain tumor removed and is now having seizures/ epilepsy.
 *Pray for Anthony- his eyesight is hindered and the family is having difficulty finding a doctor to do surgery. (Carol's grandson)
 *Pray for **Marilyn Pinto** (Leah's S-I-L) she will be having breast surgery May 28 (her cancer re-occured after 25 years) also Leah's cousin **Lisa Tobey** who completed chemo and will have surgery next month.
 *Pray for **Daryl Christiano** (Karen Stanzione's mother) who will be starting dialysis soon.
 *Pray for **Jenna** (Mary Warren's daughter) who has cystic fibrosis and recently contacted covid.
 *Pray for Brad and Shirley Frye's (friends of Jim and Tracy Walkup) daughter recently diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer.
 *Pray for **Diana** for peace within her family
 *Pray for the **Ruiz family** as court will determine Levi's permanent guardianship .
 *Pray for **Julie** (Margart's friend) recently diagnosed with cancerous melanoma of the eye.

*Pray for those dealing with cancer and chemo treatments- **Judith Gomez, Cohen** (Ron's friend), **Tom Byer**
***Prayers for all those who have lost loved ones this past year.**
 *Pray for **families, relatives, friends and people we are reaching out to**, that they may turn to the Lord. Special prayers **for our church leaders.**
 Prayers for all families caring for their elderly or sick loved ones: Allie Saracino-Cherie, Bob and Joanne Discala-Virginia, Greg & Linda, Gina Porto
***Pray for those suffering from long term illnesses:** Deserine Forbes, Emille Jones, Mike Ross, Ted & Toni Bonadio, Kevin Early, Nadine Keller, Greg & Linda Cerminara, Pat Yagowski. Meegan and Irene, Nuris Gomez, Mildred, Karen O, Anthony Katz, Jasmyn Malagutti, Daniel Ruiz., Zak Pappas Fernandes, Jim Walkup's brother (Sam), Lance Flood, Zach Saracino, Joshua Ruiz, Brody Streety & all children with diabetes.

 *Anyone interested in helping with **World Bible School** - contact Ron
 ***Opportunities** to serve: any men willing to participate in worship service in other capacities for the church, please contact Bruce Post. Anyone interested in leading and/or helping with the building or church house maintenance please contact Bruce Pancoast.

Please bring nonperishable food items for the **Spooner House** - a list of all items needed is on back table: Jelly/Jam/Peanut Butter, Cereal/Oatmeal, Canned Meats: Chicken, Tuna, Corned Beef Hash, Canned Ravioli/Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit/Applesauce, Crackers/Snacks, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Ramen, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Baked beans/Pork and Beans, Canned/Dried Beans (i.e. Black, Chick Pea, Cannellini, Kidney, Pinto), Rice/Rice-A-Roni, Soup/Stew/Chili, Instant/Canned Potatoes/Yams. Bring these food items to the building to be delivered to the Spooner House. Please make sure that items do not have expired dates. Thank you,

Elders:

Bruce Pancoast 203-583-0551

Ron Saracino 203-913-8345

Minister: Ron Saracino 203-913-8345

Spanish Ministry: Elmer Sandavol 914-914-486-9146

Deacons:

Ray Fernandes: 203-502-8871

Luis Ruiz: 203-610-2396

Bob Discala: 203-521-7252

Patrick Keller: 203-218-9517

Derin Wilson: 203-360-1695

Wednesday Night Bible Study

7:00 pm via zoom

Bible class Sun. 10 am, worship service 11am

Online bible class and worship service go to our website:

trumbullchurchofchrist.org

Week of 5/18/25

Song Leader: Kevon Turner

Lord's Table: Patrick Keller

Closing Prayer: Wiley Mullins

Usher: Bruce Post

Week of 5/04/25-5/17/2025

Donations :\$5496 Expenses:\$8038

