



Remember our *Shut-Ins* and *Those* who are unable to attend as often as they would like. A card or call might brighten their day!



Monthly Food Distribution

PLEASE! NOTE TIME CHANGES!

EASTWAY FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry distribution day and time is changing. Debbie Miller is hoping that this will bring in more people.

Going forward, it will be the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12 until 2 pm.

**NEXT DATE: FEBRUARY 21ST
12 NOON UNTIL 2 PM**

Volunteers are so important in this ministry, please contact Debbie at 704-890-9494, if you would like to help.

“Thank You” to all who donated food items and to those who have helped with distributions. Together we will not only feed the physically hungry, but also feed the Spiritually needy. Food items may be brought on Sundays or dropped by the church office.

Psalm 9:18

*For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
and hope of the poor shall
not perish forever.*

Happy Birthday

- 2 Carolyn Baxter 27 Chris Jenks
- 4 Ruth Helms 28 Beverly Traywick
- 22 Peggy Burleson

Please! Call the church office if your birthday was missed!



Quarterly Church Conference

Sunday, February 19th
following morning worship.



Has been changed to the
2nd TUESDAY of the month!

They WILL MEET on
Tuesday, February 14th!
Valentine’s Day!

9 am at The Landmark Restaurant!
You’re invited! Join the fun!



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Goal: \$1500 Received: \$1095
100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering enable the gospel
to be carried around the world.

The Eastway Encourager



“Therefore, encourage each other with these words. . .” 1 Thessalonians 4:18

The Newsletter of Eastway Baptist Church 704-535-6531

Volume 26

Number 2

February 2023

*I have loved
YOU with an
EVERLASTING
Love.*

*I have DRAWN
YOU with
loving-kindness*

Jeremiah 31:3

The Greatest Love!

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Romans 8:37-39

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 15:9

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

Thoughts From Your Pastor

Is Happiness a Choice?

Over the years I've often written and talked about happiness, I've heard from lots of people wondering how we can experience true, heartfelt, and Christ-honoring happiness in a broken world where life can be difficult. They often ask something like, "What should I do when I just don't feel happy?"

It's true that we can't make ourselves happy in God any more than a seed can make itself grow. But we're not just seeds. We're greenhouse farmers who can make sure the seed is planted, watered, and fertilized.

Paul said to the church in Corinth, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (I Corinthians 3:6). While God makes the crop grow, the people who raise the largest and best produce, winning ribbons at the county fair, do their part, too.

We should never flippantly say, "Happiness is a choice."

It's not always easy to choose what brings ultimate lasting happiness over what brings instant temporary happiness. Choosing happiness is not merely working harder to pull up our minds and moods, as we would our bootstraps. Rather, it's gratefully receiving God's grace and happiness.

Still, there's a lot to be said for "Just do it." Harvard psychologist Jerome Bruner says, "You more likely act yourself into feeling than feel yourself into action."

Too many of us wait for sufficient motivation before making wise and joy-producing choices. But whether it's exercise, eating right, or volunteering to serve others, when we take those first steps, we overcome inertia and establish new habits. Once we see the positive happiness that results, we're much more motivated to keep up those new patterns.

One of my heroes of the faith is Joni Erickson Tada. Left paralyzed from a swimming accident as a teen, Joni has a unique way to look at life in Christ. In an interview with World Magazine, Joni shares this advice for what we can do on days when we don't wake up feeling happy:

Does depression still ensnare you at times? Are you happy? "I make myself be happy. I make myself sing because I have to. The alternative is too frightening. My girlfriends will tell you, in the morning when I wake up, I know they'll be coming into my bedroom to give me a bed bath, do my toileting routines, pull up my pants, put me in the wheelchair, feed me breakfast, and push me out the front door. I lie there thinking (gagging noise), "Oh God, I cannot face this. I'm so tired of this routine. My hip is killing me. I'm so weary. I don't know how I'm going to make it to lunchtime. I have no energy for this day God, I can't do quadriplegia. But I can do all things through You as You strengthen me. So, God, I have no smile for these girlfriends of mine who are going to come in here with a happy face. Can I please borrow Your smile? I need it, desperately. I need You."

I hate the prospect of having to face the coldness of the world. I choose the Holy Spirit's help because I don't want to go down that grim, dark path to depression. That's the biblical way to wake up in the morning, the only way to wake up in the morning. No wonder the Apostle Paul said, "Boast in your afflictions." Don't be ashamed of them. Don't think you have to hide them and gussy yourself up before God in the morning so that He'll be happy with you and see that you're really believing in Him. No, no, no. Admit you can't do this thing called life. Then cast yourself at the mercy of God and let Him show up though your weakness because that's what He promises.

Pastor Mike

Gift

A generous Christmas gift was given to Eastway from the Montagnard Oyadao Baptist Church thanking us and praying that God will bless us.



Watch Pastor Mike's sermons, see our Newsletter, Calendar, etc!
www.eastwaybaptist.org

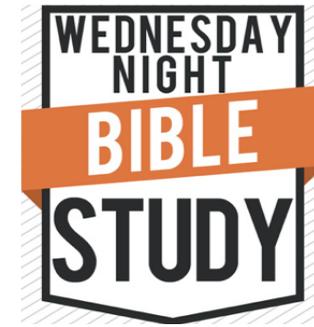
A Daily Bible Reading Schedule was made available in the foyer beginning in January for 2023.

2023 BIBLE READING PLAN

If followed completely, you will read through the entire Bible during 2023. But use it as it best fits your schedule. There is no doubt that our lives are much more enriched when we spend time daily in His Word. Make a commitment to getting into the Word this coming year! Plan to pick up a schedule each month!

Our Love & Sympathy

to
Ken & Ann Reeves, their daughter-in-law,
Connie, in the passing of their son,
Kenny Reeves
to
Peggy Austin in the passing of
her sister, *Doris Shimpock*
to
Robert Wentz in the passing of his brother,
Howard Wentz
to
Jackie Murphy and Family in the passing
of her sister-in-law, *Beth Gavin*,
and to all those who have lost
a cherished family member or friend.
May *HE* comfort the hearts of all.



The Bible Study on *Daniel* will conclude Wednesday, February 22 and Tuesday, February 28.

Pastor Mike will continue teaching from the book of *Daniel*

Wednesday, February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd.

A light supper will be served at 6:30.

Also, another choice, *Daytime Bible Study*

will continue on Tuesday, February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 2 pm in the FH.

Let's learn together!

Attention All Senior Adults!

Please join our gathering for some Valentine Fun

on *Monday, February 13th* from 1 to 3 pm.

Bingo for small prizes, Valentine making for shut-ins & friends. Snacks and finger-foods to enjoy! Be present to experience a wonderful time of togetherness and fun!

