



Check out our website!!

Watch Pastor Mike's sermons, see the current Newsletter, Calendar, etc!

[www.eastwaybaptist.org](http://www.eastwaybaptist.org)



PRAY,  
PREPARE  
AND SEEK  
WISDOM  
AND  
DIRECTION!

### EASTWAY FOOD PANTRY

Debbie Miller has designated the first Wednesday of every month as distribution day for our church.

The operating hours will be from 4-5:30 pm.

**NEXT: OCTOBER 5TH!**

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 helped with the first distribution. 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

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 6 Dennis Holston | 16 Mike Wolff   |
| 10 Evelyn Bray   | 28 Linda Harmon |
| Jackie Murphy    | 30 Shelvia Link |

Call the church office if your birthday was missed!  
704-535-6531



Observance of  
**THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
Sunday,  
October 23rd.



*Pastor Appreciation*  
Sunday  
October 9th

## Prayer CHANGES things

Nancy Alexander is attempting to compile a "new" list of "all" those who are presently on the E-mail Prayer Chain and those who would like to join. Some of the current members were deleted due to a computer error. Please call Nancy at 704-537-9313 or e-mail her at CALEX194019@gmail.com

E-mail your prayer request to Nancy. Please consider joining our prayer ministry. **PRAYER**, a precious gift from **HIM!**

# The Eastway Encourager

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

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But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

**James 3:17**



**Proverbs 3:5-6**

- 5. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
- 6. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**James 1:5**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

- 6. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made know to God;
- 7. and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**II Timothy 3:16-17**

- 16. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- 17. that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Proverbs 9:10**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

**Proverbs 11:14**

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

# THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

## What It Means to Forgive

As I am writing this, we are in a 3-week series on the subject of Forgiveness. 1) The Power of Forgiveness, 2) Forgiving Others, and 3) Forgiving Ourselves. But my question here is , what does it mean to forgive?

When I think of the word “forgive,” I think of “letting go”. Letting go of my negative feelings toward someone who wronged me or telling them “Don’t worry about it” after they hurt me.

By definition, the meaning of the word “forgive” is to cancel a debt that someone caused. This debt can be financial if the offender damaged my property, or it can be emotional if the offender damaged my emotions. On paper, canceling a debt sounds like a nice thing to do, but it can actually be pretty difficult in practice because of how costly it is.

For example: If someone scratches my car, and it’s THEIR fault, then that means that legally THEY’RE the one who’s legally obligated to finance the repairs.

That’s just the most fair way to fix the damages.

However, forgiveness isn’t too concerned about fixing damages in a way that’s “fair”. By nature, forgiveness is actually a practice that’s very UNFAIR. Except instead of being unfair to the OFFENDER, forgiveness volunteers to accept the more unfair position ITSELF.

Forgiveness seeks to put the OFFENDER in the more favorable position ITSELF. Forgiveness seeks to put the OFFENDER in the more favorable position.

Isn’t that crazy?

When I “forgive” someone, what I’m actually doing is using my own resources to pay for that other person’s mistake.

In the scratched car example, if I were to forgive the offender, I would basically be telling him, “I won’t charge you to repair the damages you caused because I will finance the repairs with my own money.”

Spending my own money to fix someone else’s mistakes is pretty wild, but that’s what forgiveness is.

But money isn’t the only resource that can be spent in

the process of forgiveness. Sometimes the ways people hurt me aren’t just financially. Sometimes the damages can be emotional. For example, if someone close to me insults my intelligence, then the damages they’ve inflicted on me are emotional rather than financial. To forgive that person would require me to say: *“You don’t have to feel bad about what you said, because I volunteer to absorb all of the pain myself.”*

Absorbing the damage instead of trying to inflict it back on the offender is what real forgiveness looks like.

Forgiving an offender goes against everything “natural” about us. When someone wrongs me, my natural instinct is to wrong them back or at least demand that THEY be the one to repair the damages.

I think it’s easy to look at forgiveness and think that it’s “boring” because it’s what nice people do. But forgiving someone actually goes against-the-grain. Paying for someone else’s mistake is definitely the more difficult of the two paths.

If the status quo is having the offender pay for the damages, then the act of forgiveness is so much more shocking and edgy than that.

Because sin leads to death, when God forgave me for my sins, what He did wasn’t just saying the words “I forgive you”. No, but in order to REALLY forgive me of my sins, He actually had to spend his own resources to pay for the damages that were caused by MY sins. When my sins caused the damages of death, Jesus basically said: *“The damage you caused was death, but I’m not gonna send you the bill for it, because I will finance it with my own resources.”*

And then He willingly volunteered to spend His own life as a resource to pay for the damages. Isn’t that crazy? Jesus used HIS own life to pay for the damages of MY sins. Wow. Blessings, *Pastor Mike*



WEDNESDAY

October 12th at 9 am  
The Landmark Restaurant!  
Please join us!

## So You Will Know

A number of people were wanting to be included in the e-mail list for election information by Craig Seibert, the gentleman who gave the presentation on the political and spiritual history of Charlotte.

He asks that you send him an e-mail to: [seibertnote@mindspring.com](mailto:seibertnote@mindspring.com) and in the subject line just put

LOCAL ELECTIONS—ADD MY NAME TO LIST

*When words fail*



*Music speaks*

Special Musical Guest

*Liz Butler*

Sunday, October 2nd

*Faith, Hope & Love.*  
*But the Greatest of these is Love.*  
-Corinthians 13:13

*Happy Anniversary*

Tim & Linda Harmon - October 23, 1986



Pastor Mike will be teaching a 3-part study  
Wednesday, October 12th, 19th and 26th  
on

## “Conversational Evangelism”

How to win someone to Christ without losing a friend.

I Thessalonians 2:19-20 (NLT)

19... what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when He returns? It is you!

20... Yes, you are our pride and joy.

The time will be 6:30 pm!

A light supper will be served.

PRAY FOR  
OUR NATION!

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face

and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14



*God is in Control*