

Prayer?

Please list your prayer requests with detailed information of people in need. Thank you!

Elders.



Frank Pettersen  
Elder Chairman



Jeff  
Armfield



Scott  
Broome



Buster  
Brown



Taso  
Chakeris



Clint  
Cole



Joe  
Diamond



Mike  
Dorrity



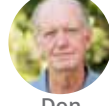
Troy  
Draughn



Rick  
Gwinn



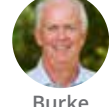
Jonathan  
Jellema



Don  
King



Walt  
Lancaster



Burke  
Lee



Josh  
Malone



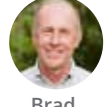
Nathan  
Mansell



Ted  
Melchers



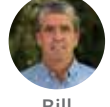
Bob  
Nagy



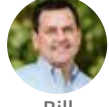
Brad  
Reed



Rick  
Rummel



Bill  
Watson, Jr.



Bill  
Wilson

Sermon.

Speaker: Pastor Buster Brown

Today's Message: The Pleasure Matrix

Today's Text: Ecclesiastes 2

*"I said in my heart, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.' But behold, this also was vanity. I said of laughter, 'It is mad,' and of pleasure, 'What use is it?' I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man. So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun." Ecclesiastes 2:1-11*

King Solomon in his reflections on his life thinks through his mid-life crisis. This was a time when Solomon walked away from a life of loving obedience before the living God.

He laments his pursuits that led to personal decay.

Hedonism-The radical pursuit of pleasure; sensual, self-indulgence. The ethical theory that pleasure is the highest good and proper aim of human life.

Epicureanism: an ancient school of philosophy founded in Athens by Epicurus, 341-270 BC.

This thought system advocated hedonism (pleasure is the highest good), but of a RESTRAINED KIND; mental pleasure was regarded more highly than physical, and the ultimate pleasure was held to be freedom from anxiety and mental pain.

**Personal peace and affluence, Francis Shaeffer, 1912-1984**

To be an epicurean in the mold of Solomon is to pursue pleasure in a socially acceptable fashion.

**Thesis Statement** regarding the pleasure lifestyle...

*"I said in my heart, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.' But behold, this also was vanity. I said of laughter, 'It is mad,' and of pleasure, 'What use is it?'" Ecclesiastes 2:1-2*

The pursuit of pleasure; *"my heart still guiding me with wisdom."* (Ecclesiastes 2:3-11)

So I became \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ all who were before me in Jerusalem. (Ecclesiastes 2:9)

(continued >>)

Sermon.

(continued)

The Descent Into Despair

*"How the wise dies just like the fool! So, I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind. I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool."*

**Ecclesiastes 2:16b-19a**

Life Lived Under the Sun Only

1. Purpose?  
(Ecclesiastes 2:3)

2. Significance?  
(Ecclesiastes 2:11)

3. Return/Yield? No enduring legacy. (Ecclesiastes 2:16a)  
Leaves it all behind.  
(Ecclesiastes 2:20)

Biblical World and Life View

1. Purpose?  
*"Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults."*  
**Psalms 19:12**

*"...from men by your hand, O Lord, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants. As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness."*  
**Psalms 17:14-15**

2. Significance?  
The creation/cultural mandate  
(1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

*"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'"*  
**Revelation 14:13**

3. Return/Yield?  
*"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*  
**John 10: 9-10**

**Response:** To live in Biblically-saturated gospel community where we challenge one another to continuously conform to the Biblical message which brings freedom and joy. A disciple is a forgiven sinner (!) who continuously learns of Christ (in the transformative fashion) in repentance (fleeing from sin and realigning under the Lordship of Christ) and faith (trusting in the promises of Christ and the hope of heaven.)

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Make a distinction between a hedonist and an epicurean. Give examples of each.
2. Why is the pursuit of living 'only under the sun' and 'the pursuit of pleasure in a socially acceptable fashion' death to the Christian faith...(admittedly a respectable death, but death all the same)?
3. What drove Solomon to the depths of despair? (Ecclesiastes 2:12-19)
4. What type of 'wisdom' guided Solomon in his epicurean pursuit? (Ecclesiastes 2:3, 9)

Listen to sermons online at [eastcooperbaptist.com/sermons](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/sermons)

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018



*"Equipping people to pursue Jesus Christ passionately as they impact the culture"*

[eastcooperbaptist.com](http://eastcooperbaptist.com)





# Welcome.

We're glad you are here to worship with us. If you are new to East Cooper Baptist, we would love to meet you. Please stop by the Welcome Center following the worship services to say hello and let us answer any questions you may have. Thanks for being our guest.

**Buster Brown**, Senior Pastor  
busterb@eastcooperbaptist.com | 843.856.3222 x2006 | @pastorbusterb

## Traditional Worship / Sunday Bible Classes

Sanctuary 9:00a & 10:45a

## Contemporary Worship / Sunday Bible Classes

Worship Center 9:00a & 10:45a



## Next Steps.

### 1. Attend a Guest Luncheon

Get to know us better at our next Guest Luncheon and see what God has in store for you. You'll meet our pastor and some of our staff and enjoy fellowship with a great meal. Our next free luncheon is **October 7th at 12:15p** in the Gym. For more information, please contact Carol at [carolw@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:carolw@eastcooperbaptist.com).

### 2. Find an equip•u Class

Our equip•u classes are groups that meet before or after the worship services to study the Bible in depth. Visit the Welcome Center to pick up an equip•u guide or go online to choose from a variety of classes. Register for track classes at [eastcooperbaptist.com/classes](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/classes).

### 3. Join a Community Group

An authentic biblical community provides a place where we can grow, learn, and serve as we seek to know Jesus. We have a variety of over 30 open groups from students to adults. Please go online today to locate a group near you. [eastcooperbaptist.com/groups](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/groups)

### 4. Become a Member

Register online for our upcoming New Members Class on Saturday, **October 20th**. This class is a basic introduction to our church family and is a requirement for joining the church. We designed this class to clearly explain what we believe at East Cooper Baptist.

### 5. Serve in equip•them

Equip•them is the serving arm for Sunday morning ministries. We have nearly 600 opportunities to serve. Some needs require 15 minutes before the service, others may require the whole equipping hour. [eastcooperbaptist.com/serve](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/serve)

## Childcare.



We have a safe and loving environment for your children where they can learn about God. Please take advantage of our nursery for children up to age three during the worship services. Our ushers are ready to assist you.



## This Week.

For detailed information please go online.

SUN

SEP  
23

**Equip•u Classes**  
9:00a & 10:45a  
**HSM D-Groups**  
5:30-7:30p Host Homes

MON

SEP  
24

**Lifeline Foster Orientation**  
6:00-8:00p Church at LifePark  
**Reengage Marriage Program**  
6:30-8:30p D-Wing Choir Room

TUE

SEP  
25

**Women's Bible Study**  
9:30-11:30a Worship Center  
**Worship Band Rehearsal**  
6:30p Worship Center

WED

SEP  
26

**WAM**  
6:30-8:00p A-Wing Classrooms  
**Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal**  
6:30-8:00p Choir Room  
**MSM T4:12**  
6:30-8:00p Gym  
**Women's Bible Study**  
6:30-8:00p B218/B219

THU

SEP  
27

**Women's Morning Devotional**  
6:30-7:30a Welcome Center  
**Women's Marriage Study**  
9:30-11:30a D-Wing Choir Room  
**Young Adults Connect**  
7:00p Annex

FRI

SEP  
28

**Man2Man**  
6:20a Gym

SAT

SEP  
29

**ReStart Career Conference**  
7:30a-3:00p Seacoast Church

FEATURED MINISTRIES

### THIS MONTH: FOSTER & ADOPTION

Throughout the month of September we are featuring all of our local ministries in the area of foster and adoption. This includes ministries helping with prevention, intervention, and restoration. In the Welcome Center you can find information on these ministries we partner with:



**YOUR COFFEE DONATIONS HELP  
SUPPORT THESE MINISTRIES.**



361 Egypt Road • Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.856.3222

## Upcoming.

For detailed event information please go online.

**TODAY** In an effort to assist in relief and recovery efforts for those in areas impacted by Hurricane Florence, we are asking for people to purchase \$50 gift cards from retailers. Also, there are opportunities to volunteer. Go online for more info.



**TODAY** ECBC members have the opportunity to "adopt" a college student and provide a home away from home. This is a chance for you to invite students into your home for a meal or a break from dorm life. Go online today for more information.



**TODAY** Our equip•u classes are groups that meet before or after the worship services to study the Bible in depth. Visit the Welcome Center or go online to choose from a variety of classes. New classes begin TODAY. **REGISTER ONLINE**



**TODAY** Equip•them is the serving arm for Sunday morning ministries. We have many opportunities to serve. The Children's Ministry is a vital ministry and one that is in need of volunteers. Go online today and start serving. **REGISTER TODAY**



**SEP 24** Have you thought about becoming a Foster Parent? Lifeline is having an orientation at the Church at Life Park on becoming a foster parent, followed by a 6 week course that will teach you about Lifeline's foster care program. **REGISTER TODAY**



**SEP 29** If you are seeking a better career, looking to advance in your current position, build connections through networking and grow personally and as a leader, you will want to attend this free conference! **REGISTER ONLINE**



**OCT 7** Come get to know us better at our next Guest Luncheon. Meet a few of our pastors and church members while enjoying a great meal. The lunch is free and held in the Gym after the second service. **SEE YOU THERE**



**OCT 12-14** All 9th-12th grade students are invited to join us for the HSM Fall Retreat! The retreat will be at Crowders Ridge Camp in Gastonia, NC. The cost is \$200 until Sep 23 and then increases to \$230 after that. The last day to register is October 7. **REGISTER NOW**



**NEW TO ECBC?**  
After the service, stop by the Welcome Center

Please complete the perforated section and place in the offering plate or bring by the Welcome Center.

## Hello.

09.23.18

If you're here for the first time, please come by our Welcome Center and say hello. We'd love to answer any questions and say thanks for being our special guest today.

I/We attended worship at:

☐ 9:00am ☐ 10:45am

☐ I am a first time guest

Name

Spouse

Birthdate

MO DA YR

Spouse Birthdate

MO DA YR

Address

City

State

Zip

Mobile

Spouse Mobile

Email

Spouse Email

Preferred method of contact:

☐ Call ☐ Text ☐ Email

Interested in the following:

- ☐ Become a Christian
- ☐ Join the Church
- ☐ Request a personal visit
- ☐ Subscribe to newsletter
- ☐ Join a Community Group
- ☐ Other