

## Prayer?

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

# NEW TO ECBC?

For more information email [info@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:info@eastcooperbaptist.com)

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

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843.856.3222 x PRAY (7729)

[prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com)

## Sermon Notes.

**Speaker:** Buster Brown, Senior Pastor

**Message:** Hopeful Groaning

**Text:** Ephesians 1:17-19

*"<sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are THE RICHES OF HIS GLORIOUS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might..." Ephesians 1:17-19*

*"For we know that the whole creation has been GROANING together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, GROAN INWARDLY as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with GROANINGS too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:22-27*

*"For in this tent we GROAN, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we GROAN, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be FURTHER CLOTHED, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life." 2 Corinthians 5:2-4*

In Ephesians 1, Paul prays for a healthy, vibrant church that is filled with faith in Christ and love for God's people. His prayer centers on these believers continually comprehending and being empowered as they understand the hope of their calling, the riches of their glorious inheritance (the goodness of God in the present context and the reality of heaven), and the surpassing greatness of the power they have found in their union with Christ.

Those who have trusted in Christ for their salvation have HOPEFUL GROANING in the midst of sorrow, pain, disappointment, joys, and happiness. We live with anticipation because the best is yet to be. We live with a future oriented faith that brings hope because we know that God is a good and gracious Father, that God the Son through His life, death, and resurrection has given us everything we need for life and godliness, and because God the Holy Spirit applies these truths to our lives and empowers us for daily living.

### MILEPOSTS REGARDING HOPEFUL GROANING:

1. Creation (vv. 19-22)

*"Can you hear the sighing in the wind? Can you feel the heavy silence in the mountains? Can you sense the*

*(continued >>)*

## Sermon Notes.

*(continued)*

*restless longing in the sea? Can you see it in the woeful eyes of an animal? Something's coming ... something better." Joni Eareckson Tada (Joni has been a quadriplegic since 1967 because of a diving accident.)*

2. The first-fruits of our salvation (vv. 23-25). The Holy Spirit gives us a taste of the coming glory.

We have the dual experience of often saying, "this is so good!" And we anticipate there's so much more as we groan with anticipation. Also, we have the experience of saying "this is so painful and difficult" and so we anticipate the coming glory with groaning.

3. Praying in the power of the Holy Spirit with groans too deep for words (vv. 26-27).

"It is important that when we come to die we have nothing to do but to die." Charles Hodge (1797-1878), Princeton Seminary

### APPLICATIONS:

1. We embrace hopeful groaning by living out the reality of our union with Christ and our security in Him found in Romans 8:28-39.
  2. Groaning in sorrow and brokenness and groaning in hope/rejoicing are both common experiences in the life of a believer.
  3. Our groaning involves the "already but not yet of the kingdom of the living Christ." Therefore, we guard against demanding too much or settling for too little.
  4. The hope of heaven and resurrection bodies underscores the beauty of creation and the prospects of the new heavens and new earth. It affirms the physical instead of falling into the error of saying that the body is nothing more than a "prison house for the soul." Plato
- In affirming the physical, we understand that the devil can never create joy or pleasures; he only corrupts them.
5. Groaning with hope produces an enduring and steadfast patience in the life of a child of God (Psalm 112:4-8; Romans 8:25b).
  6. The prospect of eternity and the certainty of our coming death focuses our attention.

*"Earlier in the voyage Reepicheep (the talking mouse) had expressed his utter abandonment of seeking Aslan's country: 'While I can, I sail east in the Dawn Treader. When she fails me, I paddle east in my coracle. When she sinks, I shall swim east with my four paws. And when I can swim no longer, if I have not reached Aslan's country, or shot over the edge of the world in some vast cataract, I shall sink with my nose to the sunrise.'" C.S. Lewis, Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

7. "I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world; yet when Christ calls me home I shall go with the gladness of a school boy bounding away from school. Death will never take me by surprise." Adoniram Judson (1788-1850)

APRIL 28, 2024



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

# Hello.

Please complete the perforated section and take to the Welcome Desk or place in any giving box located around the church.

I/We attended worship at:

9:30am  11:00am

I am a first time guest

Name

Spouse

Birthdate    Spouse Birthdate

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  
 Meet with a Pastor  
 Subscribe to newsletter  
 Other

## Upcoming.

### ITALY

We are sending a team of women to Italy to build relationships with and serve local women in the community.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the locals who are going through the baptism class at the local church.
- For communication and unity among the team, as well as the women they will engage with.
- That the team would be an encouragement to Steve and April as they have had a difficult month personally.

### PRAYER MEETING

We would love to have you join us on the first Tuesday evening of each month for a time of prayer in our Sanctuary from 6:00-6:30pm. Our next one is on May 7.



eastcooperbaptist.com/events

PLAN TO ATTEND.

### SUMMER SUNDAYS

We give our regular Kids Ministry volunteers some time off in the summer to recharge and rest from a great year of teaching our children. Therefore, Kids Ministry needs your help with Summer Sundays! Volunteer today!



eastcooperbaptist.com/serve

BEGINS JUNE 2.

### THAILAND MISSION TRIP

This team will work with our global partner, Ann, to help run an English camp and do outreach on the college campuses. This trip involves a lot of walking.



eastcooperbaptist.com/serve

APPLY ONLINE.



## Serve.

Serve On A Team Monthly.

### SERVE AT EAST COOPER

**KIDS MINISTRY** - Be a part of the Kids Ministry serving team as they share the love and saving grace of Jesus with the children that come every Sunday!

**PRODUCTION TEAM** - Do you have an interest in helping with lyrics, mixing audio, or camera work? We'd love for you to serve with us. We ask volunteers to serve once a month, for both services. Training is provided.

**WELCOME TEAM** - We invite you to join our Welcome Team as they greet people coming to service and keep our coffee filled.

**MEAL TEAM** - Join our volunteers in helping to coordinate, prepare, and deliver meals to individuals or families in need.

**WORSHIP MINISTRY** - If you are gifted musically and desire to worship the Lord through that, we encourage you to join one of the various outlets in the Worship Ministry!

### SERVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

**POOR AND DESTITUTE** - There are people in our community in need of our help, both through serving them and sharing the gospel! Serve by partnering with Families Count and Hope to Home as we reach our community.

**PRISONER AND TRANSITION** - Serve by writing letters to those who are incarcerated or have recently been released from prison.

**VULNERABLE CHILDREN** - Every life is precious and you can care for vulnerable children through fostering, adopting, or wrap-around care.

## Serve Today!

eastcooperbaptist.com/serve



361 Egypt Road • Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.856.3222

# 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 anyone with a name-tag 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

**Traditional Worship and Classes**  
Sanctuary 9:30am & 11:00am

**Contemporary Worship and Classes**  
Worship Center 9:30am & 11:00am

## Ways to Give.

Giving is part of our worship to God. Through your faithful giving, God continues to change lives here in our area and around the world.



**Give in-person** by dropping your gift in any giving box located throughout the church.

**Give online** by visiting our website at: eastcooperbaptist.com/give.



**Give via text** by texting the word "GIVE" to 843-202-4848.

## Get to Know.

# Nikki Alexander



### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ON STAFF

Nikki is from Charleston, SC. She came to know Jesus when she was twelve years old while spending the summer with her aunt, who shared the gospel with her and invited her to church. Nikki joined the ECBC staff in 2012. She is married to David and they have two children, Jacob and Colleen. She enjoys organizing, decorating, and reading.

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