

THE GOSPEL STORY

SONG CYCLE FOR THE EASTER SEASON



March 8, 2015

CREATION

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and made man,
His most beloved creation, in His own image.**

But man sinned and caused separation from a Holy God.

So to fulfill His promise, God sent His Son as a man to redeem men.

Jesus, the servant King, lived a sinless life to show He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

So Jesus Christ laid down His life on a cross in payment for the sins of the world.

But Jesus rose again in conquest of sin, death, and hell, to redeem God's children. **CHRIST IS VICTORIOUS!**

CREATION

SEPARATION

PROMISE

HOPE

REDEMPTION

RESURRECTION





THE SONG OF CREATION

The Lord's Day, March 8, 2015
9:30 and 11:00 am Sanctuary Services

*The following prayer
may be used as you
prepare for worship:*

Creator God;

*As we come before you this
day to worship You as our
Mighty Creator, we acknowl-
edge that Your power made
everything from the tiniest
atom to the vast expanse of
the universe.*

*You also created us in your
image, not because you
needed us... but because you
wanted us.*

*Remind us that Your mark is
upon us. May we delight in
the beauty of Your creation,
as it points us to the worship
of the One whose hands
formed it all.*

*For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which
from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Christ, our God,
to Thee we raise,
This our hymn
of grateful praise.*

Amen.

We gather for worship this day to magnify the glory of our Great Creator God.

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*
(Psalm 8:3-9 ESV)

The Reflections for the Prelude

God takes pleasure in his creation. Genesis 1 describes for us not only the fact of an ordered creation by God, but also God's response to his creation. Five times, you recall, God stands back, as it were, and takes stock of his creation. Each time the text says, "And God saw that it was good" (vv. 4, 12, 18, 21, 25). And when all was finished and man and woman were created in his own image, it says, "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." I take this to mean that God was delighted with his work. When he looked at it, it gave him pleasure. He was pleased and happy with his creative effort.

I have been picking up little things in Scripture that show God's intimate involvement in creation. For example, in 1 Corinthians 15:38 Paul is comparing how a seed is planted in one form and comes forth in another form with a "body" different from all other bodies. He says, "God gives it a body just as he wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own." This is a remarkable statement of God's involvement in the way God designed each seed to bring forth its own unique plant (not just species but each individual seed!). Paul is not teaching about evolution here, but he is showing how he takes God's intimate involvement with creation for granted. He cannot imagine, evidently, that any natural process should be conceived without God's doing it.

Again in Psalm 94:9 it says, "He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?" The psalmist assumes that God was the designer of the eye and that he designed the way the ear is planted in the head to do its hearing work. So when we marvel at the wonders of the human eye and the remarkable structure of the ear, we are not to marvel at the processes of chance but at the mind and the creativity of God.

Similarly in Psalm 95:5, "The sea is his for he made it; and his hands formed the dry land." The involvement of God in making land and sea is such that the present sea is his. It is not as though he in some impersonal way set it all in motion a billion years ago. Rather he is the one who owns it because he made it. It is today his handiwork and bears the marks of his creator claim on it, like a piece of artwork belongs to the one who painted it until he sells it or gives it away.

I point out these things to call you to be God-centered in your admiration of the wonders of the world. God decided what the Iris beside our fence should look like this week when it came to flower. God means for the beauty of that plant (not just that kind of plant)—that very plant to be an occasion for our worshipping his specific creativity.

John Piper

**East Cooper
Baptist Church**

361 Egypt Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
843.856.3222

eastcooperbaptist.com

Morning Welcome

Morning Prayer

Scripture Call to Praise

Psalm 33: 1-9

*Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.
Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

Prelude

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ECBC Handbells

*I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed all creatures with His Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.*

*There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God art present there.*

Hymn of Creation *All Creatures of Our God and King* Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Gospel Story Song Cycle for the Easter Season

Our six corporate worship opportunities leading up to and including Easter Sunday, will center on, and progressively build upon, the story line of The Gospel.

Today we begin with the theme of **CREATION**.

**In the beginning
God created the heavens
and the earth and made
man, His most beloved
creation, in His own image.**

Q: What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth"?

A. *That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.*

Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11; Ps. 33:6; Isa. 44:24; Acts 4:24; 14:15
Ps. 104; Matt. 6:30; 10:29; Eph. 1:11 John 1:12-13;
Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:4-7;
Eph. 1:5 Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:25-26;
Luke 12:22-31 Rom. 8:28
Gen. 18:14; Rom. 8:31-39
Matt. 7:9-11

— Heidelberg Catechism Q. 26

Creation and Providence

Once we understand that God is the all-powerful Creator, it seems reasonable to conclude that he also preserves and governs everything in the universe as well.

The term providence has been traditionally used to summarize God's ongoing relationship to his creation.

When we accept the biblical doctrine of providence, we avoid four common errors in thinking about God's relationship to creation:

The biblical doctrine is not deism (which teaches that God created the world and then essentially abandoned it), nor pantheism (which teaches that the creation does not have a real, distinct existence in itself, but is only part of God), but providence which teaches that though God is actively related to and involved in the creation at each moment, creation is distinct from him.

Moreover, the biblical doctrine does not teach that events in creation are determined by chance (or randomness), nor are they determined by impersonal fate (or determinism), but by God, who is the personal yet infinitely powerful Creator and Lord.

We may define God's providence as follows: God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that he

(1) keeps them existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them;

(2) cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do; and (3) directs them to fulfill his purposes.

-- Wayne Grudem

Hymn of Providence This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

**This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.**

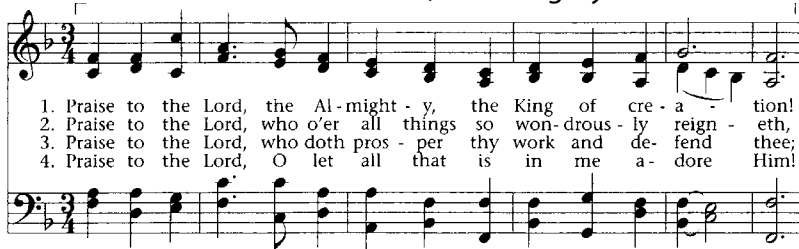
**This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass; He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied, And earth and Heav'n be one.**

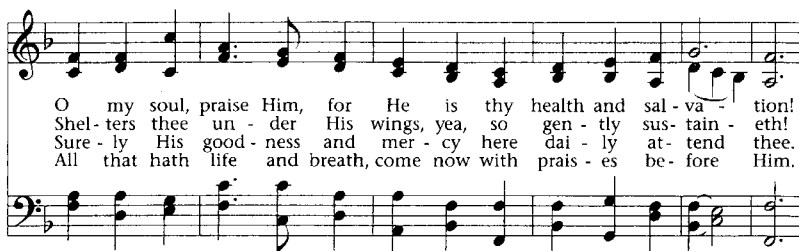
Hymn of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

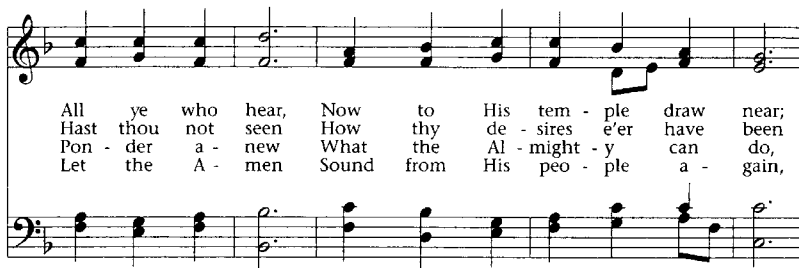
LOBE DEN HERREN



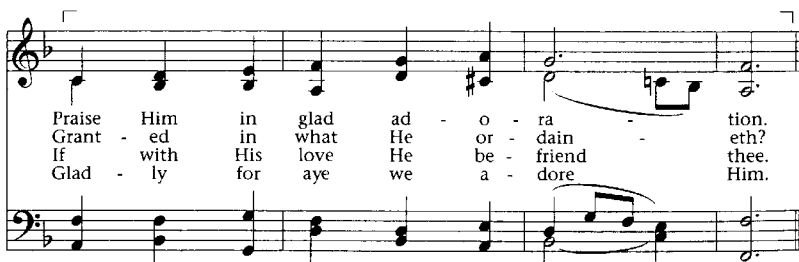
1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;
4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a-dore Him!



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal-va-tion!
Shel-ters thee un-der His wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!
Sure-ly His good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore Him.



All ye who hear, Now to His tem-ple draw near;
Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been
Pon-der a new What the Al-might-y Al-can do,
Let the A-men Sound from His peo-ple a-gain,



Praise Him in glad ad-o-ra-tion.
Grant-ed in in what He or-dain-eth?
If with His love He be-friend thee,
Glad-ly for aye we a-dore Him.

The Gospel Song Cycle Proclamation

LEADER: *Let us proclaim the beauty of Creation together:*

CONGREGATION: In the beginning, God, who has always existed exactly as He is now, spoke, and everything came into existence. By His command, the entire universe was created and filled with a dramatic display of galaxies, stars and planets – including Earth, on which was a perfect garden of paradise called Eden. Of all the beauty He created, the masterpiece was a man and a woman. God made Adam and Eve in His image to reflect Him. They were created with the grand purpose of worshipping Him by loving Him, serving Him, and enjoying relationship with Him. By God's design, all of creation was in harmony and was exactly the way it was supposed to be. During this time there was no pain, suffering, sickness or death. There was complete love, acceptance, and intimacy between God and man, between Adam and Eve, and throughout creation. It was all very good.

Response of Praise

[Our Great God, 2002 Fernando Ortega, Used by Permission. CCLI #88131]

Eternal God, unchanging, Mysterious and unknown
Your boundless love unfailing, In grace and mercy shown
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight Around Your glorious throne
Their voices raised both day and night In praise to You alone

**Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!**

Lord, we are weak and frail, Helpless in the storm
Surround us with your angels Hold us in your arms
Our cold and ruthless enemy His pleasure is our harm
Rise up, oh Lord, and He will flee Before our Sovereign God

Let every creature in the sea And every flying bird
Let all the mountains, all the fields And valleys of the earth
Let all the moons and all the stars Throughout the universe
Sing praises to the Living God Who rules them by His word

Offertory Prayer

Martin Kirby, Deacon of the Day

Offertory

Great Is Our God

ECBC Choir, orchestra and Handbells

Please stand and join in singing as directed:

**To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done!**

The Morning Sermon

Benediction

LEADER: *GOD, Today, we have been reminded of Your power and creative energy displayed in the creation of our world and everything in it, including man, created in Your image. We have marveled at your might and the beauty of the intricate design our Father's World and we rest in the assurance of Your Sovereign control reign over it all. Though this is not our final home, let us enjoy and rejoice in the world you have given us as we marvel at it's intricate beauty to the glory of Your name.*

CONGREGATION: THANKS BE TO GOD! AMEN!

Postlude

Psalm 8

*O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name
in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory above
the heavens.*

*Out of the mouth of babies
and infants, you have
established strength because
of your foes, to still the enemy
and the avenger.*

*When I look at your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which
you have set in place,
what is man that you are
mindful of him,
and the son of man
that you care for him?*

*Yet you have made him a
little lower than the heavenly
beings and crowned him with
glory and honor.*

*You have given him
dominion over the works of
your hands; you have put all
things under his feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the
field, the birds of the
heavens, and the fish of the
sea, whatever passes along
the paths of the seas.*

*O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name
in all the earth!*

Babies & Toddlers

In order to maintain a worshipful atmosphere and for the comfort of our little ones, we ask that parents exit the service with their crying babies and talkative toddlers. We would encourage parents to use our excellent nursery and trained staff to care for your children.

The Spoken Word

CD's of today's sermon (\$3 each) may be special ordered through the church office during the week. The messages may also be heard online at the church website.

Responding to the Word

As we sit under the reading and teaching of Scripture, it calls for a response as we ask ourselves "what will we do with the truth presented today?"

The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by God. In worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free.

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer our lives, our gifts, our time, our abilities, and our material goods, for God's service, His glory, and our ultimate good.

The Morning Sermon

Living Responsibly As We Enjoy the Good Gives of God

Conrad "Buster" Brown, Senior Pastor

1 Timothy 6:13-19

¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. ¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

/Stew • ard/: one appointed to give oversight to a provision who in turn must give an account.

As a steward, disciple of Christ, worshiper, we are to celebrate the goodness of life as we live with joyful responsibility.

I. We are to live responsibly.

If worship is reflecting back to God the radiance of his worth then we are to be swallowed up in the immensity, wonder, goodness, and nearness of the triune God – who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

"I am to love God enough to be contented, because otherwise even our natural and proper desires bring us into revolt against God. God has made us with proper desires, but if there is not a proper contentment on my part, to this extent I am in revolt against God, and of course revolt is the central problem of sin. When I pack proper contentment, I have forgotten that God is God...A quiet disposition and a heart-giving thanks is the real test of the extent to which we love and trust God at the moment."

Francis Schaeffer, *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer*, p. 205

II. The pursuit of God and our joy are concurrent (simultaneously pursue).

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³ Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ⁶ when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷ for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. ⁸ My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me." Psalm 63:1-8

"I don't assume that renunciation goes with submission or even that renunciation is good in itself. Always you renounce a lesser good for a greater; the opposite of what sin is...The struggle to submit...is not a struggle to submit but a struggle to accept and with passion. I mean, possibly, with joy. Picture me with my ground teeth stalking joy – fully armed too as it's a highly dangerous quest."

Flannery O'Connor, as quoted in John Piper, *Desiring God*, p. 90

III. The stewardship of life compels me to guard against pride and deceitful joy.

Innate giftedness and "being at the right place at the right time". ↔ Stewardship of life ↔ The dogged development of our gifts.

"But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more."

Luke 12:48

"Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness."

James 3:1

IV. We are to live for eternity and joyfully recognize that God's gifts given in "this present world" are not permanent.

"And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

1 John 2:17

"For the present form of this world is passing away."

1 Corinthians 7:31b

V. Our ultimate confidence/hope is in the living God.

"Once we allow money to have lordship over our lives, it becomes Money with a capital M, a god that jealously dethrones all else. Money makes a terrible master, yet it makes a good servant to those who have the right master – God.

To regard money as evil, and therefore useless for purposes of righteousness, is foolish. To regard it as good and therefore overlook its potential for spiritual disaster is equally foolish. Use it, Jesus said, but don't serve it.

The goal, then, is not that money be put to death, but that it be trained and handled with discipline, as a lion we are seeking to tame. Money may be temporarily under our control, but we must always regard it as a wild beast, with power to turn on us if we drop our guard."

Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, p. 19

"Tithing gives perspective. It reminds us that we all we are and all we have is from God. Tithing is not a tip thrown mindlessly down on a table after a meal, but a meaningful expression of dependence upon God and gratitude to him. Tithing requires calculation. When we deal specifically with the amounts God has provided, we assess God's goodness to us. We literally count our blessings, thanking him for his generosity. Tithing was, and can still be, a built-in reminder at every juncture of life of our unlimited debt to God."

Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, p. 179

Information 03.08

Please complete and place in the offering plate

SANCTUARY

Visitor ☐ Tear-off Sign-Up Info ☐

NAME

SPOUSE NAME (if applicable)

STREET / P.O. BOX

CITY

STATE ZIP

() HOME PHONE

() CELL PHONE

() CELL PHONE SPOUSE

E-MAIL

E-MAIL SPOUSE

Birthdate Birthdate Spouse

Children's Names / Gender /Birthdates

NAME M/F BIRTHDATE

NAME M/F BIRTHDATE

NAME M/F BIRTHDATE

- ___ I would like to become a Christian.
- ___ I would like to join ECBC.
- ___ I would like a personal visit.
- ___ I have a confidential need to discuss.
- ___ Add me to mail / e-mail list.
- ___ I would like information re:_____
- ___ I would like to join a Community Group.
- ___ Other:_____

PRAYER REQUESTS / PEOPLE IN NEED
Prayer Line: 856-3222 ext. PRAY(7729)

Please list your prayer requests and/or names (with detailed information) of people in need. Thank you!
____Confidential (distributed only to Pastors)

DEACON NOMINATIONS
Please PRINT your name and contact info on the opposite side of this tear-off.

____Nominations for the Office of Deacon begin today. Please prayerfully consider men whom you believe would fit the qualifications for Deacon and who would be willing to serve. **NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** 1) You must be a member of ECBC and at least 18 years of age to make nominations. 2) The man(men) you nominate must be 21 years of age or older and have been a member of ECBC at least a year. 3) All nomination forms must be signed. You may make nominations on today's tear-off. **SCRIPTURAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACON:** 1 Timothy 3:8-13. ****Please contact your nominee to ensure he/they would be willing to serve if selected.**

I am a member of ECBC age 18+
Signed: _____

DEACON NOMINATION(S)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FATHER/SON CAMPOUT
Save the Date for this year's Father/Son Campout on March 13-14. For more information please visit eastcooperbaptist.com.

EXPERIENCE PCA DAY – SHADOW DAY
For Students in Rising Grades 6 – 12, Wednesday, March 11 or Wednesday, April 15. If interested, contact the Admissions Office at 843-881-9967x2081, Lisa Shimakonis lisas@palmettochristianacademy.org

PRIME TIME ADULTS LUNCHEON
Saturday, March 14 in B217. Our speakers will be Children's Pastor Steve Tuck. Register by contacting Ministry Assistant Erin Kortvelesy at erink@eastcooperbaptist.com.

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MEN'S SPRING HIKE
The Men's Spring Hike is April 17-19. Register at eastcooperbaptist.com or contact Rick Rummler (ecbc.hikers@gmail.com or 843-881-4298) for more information.

NEW ATTENDEES
If you have just begun regularly attending ECBC, we would like to have a meal together and get to know you on Tuesday evening,, March 17 at 6:00pm in the Annex. Please RSVP to April Bostic at aprilb@eastcooperbaptist.com. (No childcare)

WOMEN AT THE WELL
March 10, 6:30-8:30pm, in the annex. Come and join us for a night of fellowship and fun with Nancy Rodden and her team crafting a spiritual journal. Nancy will also share her wisdom and insights with regard to quiet time and personal prayer. Child-care is available only if you call Rose by Monday March 9 at 856-3222 x2005. While there is no cost for this event, Please register online at www.eastcooperbaptist.com so that we will have enough materials.

PCA PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT
PCA Preschool is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year. The preschool has openings in all ages, which includes 18 months through 4 years of age by September 1st of 2015. The number of days per week varies by class and the hours are from 9am through 1pm. Tuition Rates and the Applications can be found on the Palmetto Christian Academy web page at www.palemtochristianacademy.org. For more information or questions, call 856-1130 and speak with Sharon Basha or Tracy Ciali or email pcapreschool@palmettochristianacademy.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Full time Technical Support Specialist – ECBC and PCA. Experience with Windows and desktop, laptop and peripherals troubleshooting and repair. Apply online at www.eastcooperbaptist.com under Employment.

GIVING
Giving vs Budgeted Giving
\$ -203,599*
*Please note that as good stewards of what God has blessed us with, our spending is always based on actual giving.
ECBC INFO
361 Egypt Road MP, SC 29464
Main Office 856-3222
Emergency Line ext. 7777
Fax 856-1136
Web eastcooperbaptist.com

ECBC PASTORAL STAFF		856-3222
Van Barnhill	High School	ext.2016
Danny Beech	Young Adults	ext. 2027
Andy Boyer	Equipping	ext. 2022
Conrad Brown	Senior Pastor	ext. 2006
Leland Brown	Middle School	ext. 2034
Dave Bruner	Global Impact	ext. 2027
Craig Harris	Shepherding	ext. 2012
Dean Henderson	Worship	ext. 2040
Carl Schooling	Pastoral Care	ext. 2003
Steve Tuck	Children & Family	ext. 2028