

JOURNEY GUIDE


it's time

FROM THE PASTOR

There are three types of people who are reading this right now . . .

First, there are those of you who began the **IT'S TIME** journey with us eighteen months ago. You prayed, sought the Lord, and made a faith commitment. Now, as we reach the midpoint, this guide is for you. It's an opportunity to remember what God has done, thank Him for His faithfulness, and ask Him how He wants you to continue growing in faith and generosity.

Second, there are those who have become part of our church family since **IT'S TIME** began. You are now part of what God is doing at Eastgate, but you may not have been here when we first shared the vision and made our commitments. This guide is for you too. We want you to understand where God is leading us and prayerfully consider how He may be calling you to join us for the remainder of this journey.

Finally, there are those who are still learning what it means to fully trust Jesus with every area of life, including your finances. Perhaps generosity is a new step of faith for you, or perhaps God is calling you to go deeper. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, this guide is designed to help you spend time with the Lord, listen for His voice, and respond in obedience.

But before you continue, remember this: Our generosity begins with God's generosity toward us. He loved us so much that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, so that through faith in Him we might be forgiven, made new, and receive eternal life.

As we enter the midpoint of our journey together, may we seek the Lord with generous hearts and ask again, "Lord, what do You want to do in me and through me?"

It's Time!

Pastor Gary

HOW TO USE IT

VISION
Get familiar with why we are doing this and what's included in the It's Time Faith Journey. Get excited about where we have come from and where we are going. You can also find info on our website: https://www.eastgate.church/itstime/

21-DAY DEVOTIONAL
Journey through 21 days of devotions focused around themes of faith, service, and generosity. The It's Time Faith Journey begins with YOU! So take some time to invest in your spiritual growth by digging deep into God's word.

PRAYER
In this section you will find Scripture and prayer points to follow as we seek God and how He wants each of us to be a part of His story. This is a great section in our It's Time journey guide to help in prayers with your family and in your own personal time with Jesus.

FAQs
You will likely have some questions. We understand that, so we've put together some answers in advance. If you have questions we haven't anticipated, don't worry. Just ask at our It's Time table or send us an email at info@eastgate.church, and we'll get back to you.

COMMITMENT GUIDE
This section offers what you need to know in order to make a commitment to the It's Time vision of our church. Discover how our challenge: "Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice," can be realized through you.

VISION

VISION

*"These people say the **time** has not yet come*
*to rebuild the house of the Lord... Yet now **be strong**, ...*
***Work**, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts...*
*My Spirit remains in your midst. **Fear not**."*
Haggai 1:2; 2:4-5 (ESV)

IT'S TIME: Be Strong. Do the Work. Be Fearless.

Our vision is that we might respond as the people of God did that day in Jerusalem by saying together, "It's time to be strong, do the work and to be fearless in building up the house of the Lord!" Yet, for anything to be built up, whether it's broken down walls or broken down people, someone has to have the faith to do it. We want to be a people with that kind of faith. When we consider the magnitude of the brokenness in our world, it can easily overwhelm us with feelings of fear and inadequacy. But our vision from the Lord moves us to say that it's time to ensure that every man, woman, and child in Rocky Mount and Wilson has repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel of Jesus. It's our commitment to this vision that has led us to this new generosity initiative called "IT'S TIME."

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S TIME is a three-year generosity initiative to fund our vision to strengthen our community engagement, elevate our ministry capacity, and fearlessly lay the foundation for our future growth. We are at the midpoint of **IT'S TIME**, so we want to celebrate what God has done so far, renew our commitments, and invite those who are new to Eastgate to join us on the journey. Through **IT'S TIME**, God is calling us to partner with Him by investing ourselves and our resources in greater levels of commitment, in order to saturate Rocky Mount and Wilson and the surrounding areas of Eastern North Carolina with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

FROM WHERE WE'VE BEEN TO WHERE WE'RE GOING



Someone had to fearlessly and sacrificially move out in faith, or we wouldn't have a church called Eastgate. Pastor Gary and Robin Combs felt the Lord calling them to plant a church. God gave them a vision for reaching people far from God, a church where people could come as they are and be forever changed by the love of Jesus. So, at age 32, Gary quit his corporate job, went to seminary, and planted what we originally named, Wilson Community Church. What began as a small circle of seven gathered in their living room in November 1991, now has crowds of worshipers meeting weekly at our two campuses in Rocky Mount and Wilson.

Healthy things grow!

The Bible says that the church is the family of God. And our family has really grown! Isn't that what healthy families do? They grow. Healthy plants, healthy babies, and healthy families grow! If they don't, that's not a good thing. That means there's something unhealthy hindering growth. And we are continually asking God to make us a healthy church family.





Healthy families need a home. In September of 2010, the Lord provided miraculously, enabling us to purchase the former Regal Cinema in Wilson. On Sunday, May 1, 2011, after several months of remodeling, we held our first worship service there. After 19 years of being the portable church and meeting in rented facilities, the Lord gave us a home of our own!



In 2015, we launched our Rocky Mount campus with a team led by Pastor Jonathan and Nicole Combs. We named it Eastgate Community Church. After renting Rocky Mount Academy for the first two years, we moved to a store front space on Hwy. 301. We rented that space for eight years.



In 2017, we hired a consultant to help us design a Master Plan for our Wilson campus. Phase One was the children's ministry wing and playground. Using borrowed funds and the rent we receive from the Great Accomplishments Academy that meets in that wing during the week, we completed Phase One in



2018.
In 2019, we began a 3-year generosity initiative to raise funds for Phase Two at our Wilson campus.
We used these funds to remodel our Gathering Place, the bathrooms and the lobby. We completed Phase Two in the Spring of 2022. We celebrated our 30-year anniversary in 2022 and changed our church name to Eastgate Church, so that both campuses share the same name. Completing Phase Two, we have been able to make room for more by offering two worship venues on Sundays.

In 2024, we were out looking at land for a future home for our Rocky Mount campus when a miracle happened. We heard that Redeemer Church was looking at the same piece of land, so we decided to drop in on them. They were just finishing a staff meeting, discussing the sale of their property and purchase of another building. Their pastor said, "We're really praying for a Gospel-centered church to be in our current building."



That day felt so spontaneous and supernatural that it was hard to not see God's hand in it, directing us. After several months of prayer and seeking wise counsel, we began discussions with Redeemer Church about purchasing their property.
We started the conversation with them asking "What if we're



the church you've been praying for?"

Long story short, we agreed to a purchase price of $1.2 million and closed on the property on April 11, 2025. This property would've easily cost us $5 million to purchase the land and build. We moved into this beautiful, 5-year old facility on almost 8 acres of land, and nine days after closing, we had Easter services on Sunday, April 20, 2025 at our new home!

WHY NOW?

It was this opportunity for a new home and the growth we are seeing at our two campuses that moved us to launch our It's Time generosity initiative in March 2025. We see evidence of God doing incredible work in our church. We see it in the many decisions to follow Christ, the transformed lives, the reconciled marriages, the sacrificial giving, the members going on mission trips, and the consistent attendance growth ministry-wide. It is evident that God has called this congregation to fill a unique role in Rocky Mount, Wilson, and in the Eastern North Carolina region.

How far should we go in joining the Father in His pursuit of the lost?

Yet, we look around us and see so many in our community who are lost, so many kids who do not know Jesus, so many singles who are searching, so many parents who need sound instruction in raising their children, and grandparents who want the best for their grandchildren. The gospel holds the answers they are seeking, the hope they are longing for, and our church is called to carry it to them. If we don't share

God's love with them, who will? Do we dare open our arms out even further? How far should we go in joining the Father in His pursuit of the lost?

These are questions that compel us to say, It's Time!

IT'S TIME TO...

...BE STRONG. God has called us to saturate our region with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In order to accomplish this goal, we must continually reintroduce ourselves to our communities. When you combine the strong economic and population growth our region is experiencing, we must be strong in faith and generosity to reach all the new people coming our way. New people moving to a new town are often very open to life change and having a conversation about the gospel. Therefore, it's easy to see that we must resource and pursue this goal with intensity.

New residents are often very open to the gospel.

Through the first half of **IT'S TIME**, your generosity has strengthened our community engagement. As a result, we've seen more first-time guests attending at both campuses than we've ever seen before! Every guest represents a person that needs to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus. We're seeing more guests, more faith commitments, more baptisms, and more life change! During the next eighteen months, we want to build on that momentum!

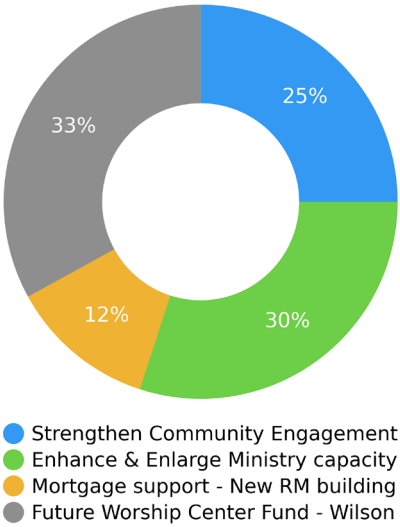
...DO THE WORK. Our growth means that we must continually work at enhancing and enlarging our current ministry capacity. This means raising up and equipping more volunteers and hiring more ministry staff. It is critical that we care for the increasing number of people we reach with adequate staffing and ministry resources at both campuses.

Our generosity initiative has already enabled us to hire two new staff members: A Director of Ministries, at our Rocky Mount campus, and a Children's Ministry Director, at our Wilson campus. It's also enabled us to fund the launch of the Eastgater as a way of introducing new attenders to our church and moving them towards our service teams and deeper levels of commitment.

As God brings more people, we will continue to develop our staff team, equip lay leaders, and strengthen ministry at both campuses, so people receive the care and discipleship they need. Again, we want to keep up that momentum!

. . . BE FEARLESS. Finally, through this initiative we are fearlessly laying a foundation for future growth. In Rocky Mount, our generosity initiative has already enabled us to obtain a mortgage and purchase a new church home. The Lord miraculously gave us an opportunity to buy a church property for $1.2 million. We were able to move in and launch at our new location on Easter Sunday 2025! And praise the Lord, our Rocky Mount campus has more than doubled in attendance since moving in!

In Wilson, Phase Two of our master plan has already created more room. Yet our continued growth means we need to set aside funds toward Phase Three, which includes a new worship center when the time comes.



THE JOURNEY AHEAD

In order to accomplish these three goals, we intend to complete our faith commitment of $1.6 million over the next eighteen months. Our giving is being distributed in order of priority as it comes in. This pie chart gives an idea of how we plan to apportion the funds raised during the initiative.



Our giving as of October 12, 2026 is $680,703. This puts us at 42% of our goal of $1,635,220. Yet we are trusting God that we will see renewed commitments and new commitments being made during the last half of our **IT'S TIME** generosity initiative. Indeed, this is one of the reasons we are offering this midpoint emphasis.

Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice

However, our primary goal during this initiative is 100% engagement of our members to take this journey of faith together. So one of the really important benefits will be that we grow spiritually in prayer and generosity and faith! This will be a new season of over and above giving. Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. This season we will be calling each other to make a spiritual response to a spiritual journey rather than a financial decision.

Most importantly, this initiative will prioritize our goal to reach every man, woman, and child in our cities and region, so they have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel. We believe God is telling us that **IT'S TIME** to be strong, do the work, and fearlessly reach our region for Jesus!

We believe that God is looking for a people who want to see Him move in glorious and miraculous ways. A people who are willing to move out of their comfort zone, to say, "It's Time for more lost people to be found, more addicts to be set free, more homeless to find a home, more children to be raised up in Christ, for more marriages to be reconciled and more orphans to find a family. It's time to ensure that every man, woman, and child in our cities have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the Good News of Jesus." As Jesus commanded us:

Mark 16:15 (NLT) "And then he told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.'"

Our vision is to invite people to join God's family with us. We believe it's time to be strong, do the work and to be fearless in seeing more people answer the invitation to . . .

"Come as you are and be forever changed by the love of Jesus."



be strong.
do the work.
be fearless.



21-DAY DEVOTIONAL

21-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Going on a spiritual journey together requires unity and commitment. We're committing together to attend the 4-week sermon series and do the 21-day devotional. We're asking God to speak to us through His Word. How can we do this?

A good way of doing this is to follow the S.O.A.P. method of having a daily quiet time with God.

WHAT IS S.O.A.P.?



S - Scripture
Take time to read God's Word, asking God to speak to you.

O - Observation
What is God saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Spirit of Christ to teach you and reveal His will to you.

A - Application
Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or a correction for a particular area of your life.

P - Prayer
This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Write out your prayer in the journal.

Our It's Time Journey Guide will offer a daily reading for the next 21 days, beginning on Monday, November 2nd and ending on Sunday, November 22. Each day's reading will offer room on the page to journal using the S.O.A.P. method.

So, let's get started reading and praying together!

EXAMPLE...

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:35-38 (ESV)
35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he [Jesus] departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."

OBSERVATION

Jesus rose early to pray. He went where he could pray alone. In prayer, he was reminded of his purpose from the Father.

APPLICATION

I want to be like Jesus in my prayer life and begin each day alone with God in prayer. I want the Father to remind me and instruct me as to my purpose for that day.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Jesus' prayer life. I want to be like Him in every way. I commit to begin every day alone in prayer with You. My relationship with You is the most important one to me above all others. I love You and need You as I need air to breathe. Breathe on me afresh by Your Spirit today, O Lord. Hear my heart's cry, O Lord and strengthen me. Guide me with Your wisdom, so that I will not turn to the left or the right from Your straight path today. Speak to me, O Lord, so that I know that You have heard me. In the name of Jesus, I pray, amen.

DAY 1

SCRIPTURE

Haggai 2:4-9 (ESV)

4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, 5 according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. 6 For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. 7 And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. 9 The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.

OBSERVATION

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APPLICATION

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PRAYER

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DAY 2

SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 4:6-10 (ESV)
6 Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. 7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” 8 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 9 “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. 10 For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 3

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:9-13 (NLT)
9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 4

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:10-11 (NLT)

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! 11 Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 5

SCRIPTURE

Mark 2:1-5 (NLT)

1 When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news
spread quickly that he was back home. 2 Soon the house where
he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more
room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to
them, 3 four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. 4 They
couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole
through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his
mat, right down in front of Jesus. 5 Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the
paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 6

SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:7-13 (NLT)

7 Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover
lamb is sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, “Go
and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.” 9 “Where
do you want us to prepare it?” they asked him. 10 He replied, “As soon
as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet
you. Follow him. At the house he enters, 11 say to the owner, ‘The
Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover
meal with my disciples?’ 12 He will take you upstairs to a large room
that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.”
13 They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had
said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 7

SCRIPTURE

1 Chronicles 28:20-21 (ESV)
20 Then David said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished. 21 And behold the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and with you in all the work will be every willing man who has skill for any kind of service; also the officers and all the people will be wholly at your command.”

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 8

SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 8:9-13 (ESV)
9 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built. 10 For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for beast, neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in, for I set every man against his neighbor. 11 But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the Lord of hosts. 12 For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. 13 And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong.”

OBSERVATION

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APPLICATION

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PRAYER

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DAY 9

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100:1-4 (NLT)

1 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!
2 Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing with joy.
3 Acknowledge that the Lord is God!
He made us, and we are his.
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

OBSERVATION

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APPLICATION

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PRAYER

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DAY 10

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NLT)

24 Give freely and become more wealthy;
be stingy and lose everything.

25 The generous will prosper;
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 11

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 8:9-12 (NLT)
9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. 10 Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. 11 Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. 12 Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 12

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:41-44 (ESV)

41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. 43 And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. 44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 13

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)
17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

OBSERVATION

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APPLICATION

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PRAYER

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DAY 14

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 9:6-10 (NLT)
6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." 10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 15

SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 2:4-5 (NLT)
4 The other angel said, "Hurry, and say to that young man, 'Jerusalem will someday be so full of people and livestock that there won't be room enough for everyone! Many will live outside the city walls. 5 Then I, myself, will be a protective wall of fire around Jerusalem, says the Lord. And I will be the glory inside the city!'"

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 16

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:14-18 (NLT)
14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! 17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 17

SCRIPTURE

Romans 13:7-8 (NLT)
7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority. 8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 18

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:29-32 (NLT)
29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. 30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 19

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:13-15 (NLT)
13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 20

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-8 (NLT)
6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”
7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

DAY 21

SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 6:12-15 (ESV)
12 And say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord. 13 It is he who shall build the temple of the Lord and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."' 14 And the crown shall be in the temple of the Lord as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 "And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the Lord. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God."

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

PRAYER

PRAYER

PRAYER

Undoubtedly the most important aspect of the It's Time Faith Journey is prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to lead us. Although the desired outcome of this process is to be more effective in reaching, serving, and having appropriate space for more people, the process to get there is a spiritual and faith-filled one. The process we want to undertake will help each of us grow closer to God as we seek Him, hear His voice, step out in faith and obedience and follow Him into the future.

The Devotional section in this Faith Journey Guide will help you through your personal journey of prayer and surrender. A prayer that we encourage everyone in our church family to pray in this season is, "God, what do you want to do in me and through me?"

God, what do you want to do in me and through me?

It is important that we, as a church body, also pray for others. We call this intercessory prayer. Intercessory prayer can be defined in two ways:

- Praying for those who cannot or will not pray for themselves.
- Going to God to plead the case of another.

Here are some prayer points that we'll be praying in this season as individuals, Community Groups, and as a church:

- That God would continue to help us see people come to faith and mature in Christ.
- That we would grow in our Heart for God, Heart for Each Other, and Heart for Our World.

- That God would move through us to serve others well.
- That God would help us love Eastern NC and the world in a greater way.
- That we would plant more “gospel-centered” churches in our region and world.

Those far from God

IT’S TIME is all about reaching people who are far away from God. We are enlarging our ministry capacity so that we can continue to disciple more people. We have many reasons to pray, and many of those are people who are far from God right now.

- Pray that those who have never known the peace and power of life in Christ encounter God through our church family, that we would celebrate all God is doing in our church everywhere we go, and that we would reach more people than ever before.
- Pray that lost people will flood into our church as we increasingly make more room for them to come and know the love of Jesus.
- Pray that we tangibly LOVE our city through compassion, care and service.

100% Participation

- Pray that everyone who calls our church their home will prayerfully pursue God’s will for them.
- Our goal is not that everyone would give equal amounts, but that everyone would give equal sacrifice as God directs them. Let’s pray that God would lead each person as to what that means for him or her.
- Pray that God will prepare our hearts for what He will require of us.
- Pray that God will reveal to us what financial resources we should give, that a spirit of sacrificial giving will prevail, and that the theme “not equal gifts, but equal sacrifices” will be

clear.

- Pray that everyone is impacted spiritually through the **IT'S TIME** Faith Journey.

PRAYER GUIDE

ACTS

ADORATION:
Express your worship and praise to God. Celebrate how great God is; invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

CONFESSION:
Admit your sins to God, thanking Him for forgiveness through Christ. Admit areas in your life that may be outside of God's will for you or areas that may not be pleasing to God. You can even confess your hesitation to engage in the process.

THANKSGIVING:
List all the blessings God has bestowed on you. Give thanks for all things. Think about the many aspects of your life for which you can be grateful. Many times we are more blessed than we think. Thank God for your family, friends and all the great things God has done in your life.

SUPPLICATION and SURRENDER:
Admit your dependence on God's supply. Ask Him to meet all your needs. Relinquish all that you are and all you have to God. This may be the hardest part of this prayer progression. Open your time, talents and treasure up to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." –– Ephesians 3:20-21

FAQ’S

FAQs

What is "It's Time?"

IT'S TIME is our three-year generosity initiative to fund our vision to strengthen our community engagement, elevate our ministry capacity, and fearlessly lay the foundation for our future growth.

This November we are at the midpoint of **IT'S TIME**. This is a moment to celebrate what God has done, renew our commitments, and invite those who are new to Eastgate to join us on the journey. Through **IT'S TIME**, God is calling us to partner with Him by investing ourselves and our resources in greater levels of commitment, in order to saturate Rocky Mount and Wilson and the surrounding areas of Eastern North Carolina with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Why are we doing this now?

Because we're at the midpoint of our three-year commitment and we want to both encourage those who have already committed and inform and inspire our new attenders to join us on the journey. In order to accomplish our three goals, we intend to complete our faith commitment of $1.6 million. Our primary goal during this initiative is 100% engagement. So one of the really important benefits is that we grow in the spiritual discipline of generosity together.

Most importantly, this initiative prioritizes our goal to reach every man, woman, and child in our cities and region, so they have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel. We believe God is telling us that it's time to be strong, do the work, and fearlessly reach our region for Jesus!

Why do we need to grow?

The church is the family of God. And healthy families grow. Just as parents sometimes may wish that their children wouldn't grow so fast, so we may cling to a similar sentiment for our

church. Yet, the truth is, no parent would truly wish their children not to grow. That would be unhealthy and selfish. Neither should we wish that our church family wouldn't grow.

Besides, the Lord Jesus has commanded us to make disciples of all nations. As we are obedient to Christ's command, we will grow. As a result, we will need to strengthen our community engagement, so that every man, woman, and child has repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel. We will also need to enhance our current ministries and enlarge our ministry capacity by adding more volunteers and pastoral staff. Of course, we also need to provide adequate space for this growth at both our current campuses, and at future campuses in Eastern North Carolina as the Lord leads us. Every family needs a home.

How is this more of a spiritual journey than a capital campaign?

Because our goal is 100% engagement in taking the spiritual journey together, not in raising $1.6 million. We will be preaching from the book of Zechariah and asking our church family to respond as the people of Zechariah's and Haggai's day did, by saying, "It's time to be strong, do the work, and to be fearless." We believe that how we handle the time, talent and treasure that God gives us is a spiritual matter. So, we will be challenging everyone to prayerfully trust God by growing in their personal investment into His kingdom. Not everyone will be able to give the same, but everyone should be willing to prayerfully consider giving more.

Radical generosity is our goal for everyone. We want to move people up the generosity ladder to experience the freedom and joy of being a generous giver and investor in God's kingdom. If everyone fully engages in the spiritual journey together, then whatever we raise, we will be thankful. Yet, we are trusting that as our people willingly and sacrificially give above their tithes and offerings, we will be able to accomplish the vision God has

given us.

Won't I get lost in the crowd of a larger church?

No, not if our church continues to follow the paradigm given in the 1st century church to grow big and small at the same time. Remember what the Scripture says, "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah" (Acts 5:42). As we grow in Sunday attendance, we will need to launch new community groups that meet in homes. We will continue to follow the rhythm of the 1st century church–– meeting in the "temple courts and from house to house."

As our church grows, you won't get lost in the crowd. You'll always have your community group family and you'll also have the service teams that you serve on with others in the church.

Couldn't this money be spent better elsewhere?

We have always been a church that lives within its means. After all, we met in homes and rented facilities for 19 years in Wilson before having a home of our own. We rented space for ten years in Rocky Mount before purchasing our current home there. We support dozens of local, domestic, and international ministries. We spend thousands of dollars annually in benevolence and missions.

So no, we don't think this money could be spent better anywhere else. Our church handles all of its finances with integrity and multiple layers of accountability. We live within our means. Besides this, the church is God's "Plan A" for reaching the world with the Gospel. He doesn't have a "Plan B." The church is a better investment than the government, better than any other non-profit, or NGO.

God has given us a vision to reach the people in our two cities and in Eastern North Carolina. Shouldn't we be willing to give sacrificially so that it is used to its fullest potential? We believe

that the church is the very best place to spend our generosity. We want to reach more people, inviting them to come just as they are and be forever changed by the love of Jesus.

How does "It's Time" help strengthen our community engagement?

It costs money to invest in new resident mailers, special event mailers, door hangers, billboards and other media. If people don't know we exist, they won't come. And to reach the younger generations we must especially be strong in our social media engagement.

Research tells us that Millennials and Gen-Zers make at least 3 to 4 visits on Google and YouTube before considering an in-person visit. And now that we've been using It's Time funds in this important arena, we're seeing this research first-hand. Every week we meet first-time guests who tell us that they found us online and that they've watched several sermons and read Google reviews on us before ever walking through our doors on Sunday morning.

Won't we need to add new staff to support a larger attendance?

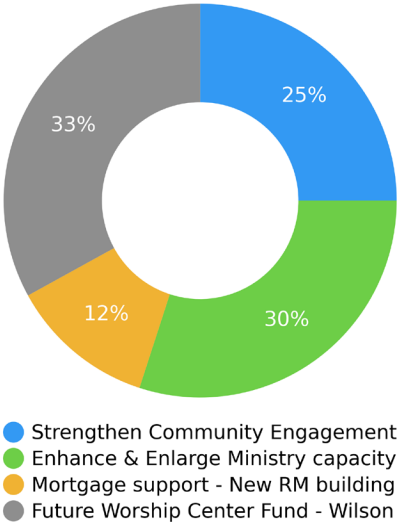
Yes. This is actually one of the benefits of this generosity initiative. According to current church growth research, a full-time pastor is needed for every 75-100 attenders. Our It's Time initiative has already enabled us to hire a Director of Ministries in Rocky Mount and a Children's Ministry Director in Wilson. This initiative is helping pay the salaries of these positions until our regular church budget grows to match our attendance growth.

How are the funds being distributed between the three goals?

They are being distributed according to priority, with community engagement being first, expanding staffing second, supporting the additional mortgage payments for the new

Rocky Mount home third, and finally setting aside the remaining funds for the future worship center in Wilson.

This pie chart gives an idea of how we plan to apportion the funds raised during the 3-year initiative.



Most importantly, this initiative will prioritize our goal to reach every man, woman, and child in our cities and region, so they have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel.

How much of the money is going toward purchasing the Rocky Mount property?

Our It's Time commitment of $1.6 million was used to secure a loan for the $1.2 million purchase. We are currently using the initiative funds to support the increased mortgage payments until we grow enough to cover it out of our regular giving.

How will the funds be distributed between the two campuses?

These funds will be collected into one fund. Although we keep our campus' budgets separate, we will be combining our It's Time giving into one fund. This will make it easier and more strategic to budget for the three goals that we share as one church, two campuses.

What happens if we don't reach our giving commitment?

First, we believe we will reach it. With God's help and mutual sacrifice, we exceeded the goal in our last generosity initiative and we're already nearly half way there in this one. So we have faith we will reach this goal too. However, we will always live within our means and we will adjust the funding of our three goals accordingly, with the priority being in the order of the three goals as we have described above.

What can I do?

We love this question. It reveals a servant's heart of unity and willingness. What can you do? Engage fully in the **IT'S TIME** journey. Let us be like the returning Jewish exiles who were challenged to be strong, do the work, and to fearlessly sacrifice to rebuild the Temple. Accept the challenge to own this vision and calling of God. We must walk this out in unity as a church. Start by praying for people in your life yet to be reached. Pray for what God would want to do in and through you to reach them.

Ask God to speak to your heart and simply respond to his leading when the time comes. Take the time to go through the materials provided to prepare us to hear from God. Be diligent to participate in all aspects of the **IT'S TIME** generosity initiative. Remember, our goal is 100% of our church family participating in prayer and sacrificial generosity when the time comes, so that together, we accomplish what God desires from us and for us.

What if I have more questions?

Ask them. It's important to us that everyone's questions are given careful consideration. At the end of the day, we want to be united in vision and direction. We may not all agree on every detail (as is true in any family), but we want to always march together in unison towards God's will for us.



COMMITMENT GUIDE

COMMITMENT GUIDE

SO WHAT IS YOUR INDIVIDUAL PART IN IT'S TIME?



Beyond praying and serving, we're asking you to consider what role God would have you play in giving toward **IT'S TIME**. From the beginning, our church has been marked by people who were willing to sacrifice their resources and time so that others could discover the love of God. We know that God hasn't given everyone the ability to give the same dollar amount, but He does call each of us to bring all we have – **"not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice."**

GOD'S GUIDE FOR GIVING

The Bible has a lot to say about giving and the promises attached to it. Giving is a responsibility and a privilege. With that in mind, here are four Biblical principles on giving from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2:

"Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." –– 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

FIRST, EVERY BELIEVER IN EVERY CHURCH SHOULD GIVE

Giving is a universal principle. Paul told the Corinthian believers, "Do what I told the Galatian churches to do." In other words, Paul is saying, "Follow Galatia's example." Every church should do this. It was not just something the Corinthians were asked to do;

it is asked of every believer. No believer is exempt from giving.

SECOND, GIVING IS TO BE DONE CONSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY

"On the first day of every week," Paul said, "set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income." The idea is to consistently take a percentage of your income and set it aside for the work of God. This is what the Scripture tells us to do. And then, as you do this, you are able to invest it in His kingdom.

THIRD, GIVING IS A PERSONAL ACT

Notice that Paul says, "each one of you should set aside a sum of money." Paul's point is that every one of us should set aside money to give. Even children ought to be taught this. Giving to God's work is a personal act for every believer.

FOURTH, WE SHOULD PREPARE TO INVEST IN THE WORK OF GOD

The apostle Paul told the believers to put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Paul is saying to prayerfully consider how much to give. Do it in advance. It should never be a last minute or flippant practice. Paul also says, "in keeping with your income." In other words, not all of our gifts will be equal, but our sacrifice should be. Our giving should be in proportion to what we earn. Giving is an opportunity to be an obedient Christian. Take it seriously, but do it cheerfully. Always ask and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you.

DISCOVER OUR CHURCH'S GOD-GIVEN VISION AND YOUR GOD-GIVEN CALLING

If we want to reach the people around us, we need to make an opportunity for them to be reached. We need to engage them where they are and be prepared to minister to them when they come. We need to create a culture and an atmosphere that fosters life change and discipleship. We can do this, but not without you! You will be astounded at what God does through our sacrifices as a church.

But what you may not expect is what He does in you through sacrifice. The process of determining your **IT'S TIME** commitment can help you grow spiritually like few other things can ...if you really allow Jesus access to your heart, not just your bank account.

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

Can you imagine what it will be like to see more young families and children coming and filling our classrooms and worship spaces? Can you imagine the marriages reconciled, the children being discipled to follow Jesus and the grandparents being encouraged? Can you imagine realizing that God has enabled you to give more than you ever dreamed possible to partner for this? Realizing also that your heart expanded as you became more open-handed and generous. And most of all, that you helped open the door for hundreds of people to discover a relationship with Jesus that they couldn't have imagined?

SO WHERE DO I START?

The best place to begin is by talking with God about what's on your heart and mind, specifically in relation to this giving commitment. Be honest and open with Him about where you are, but make sure you spend some time listening to what He has to tell you! Go through the DEVOTIONAL section of this It's Time Journey Guide and get God's perspective.

1. DELIBERATE - TALK WITH GOD

First, we ask that you go to God and ask that His will be done in your life. It's important that you are striving to follow the direction the Holy Spirit has for you and that you find doors He wants you to walk through.

2. DEFINE - WHAT SACRIFICE LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU

What changes can you make in your life that will better enable you to invest in what you believe in? How can you give in ways that will make a difference in you?

"I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing." – 2 Samuel 24:24

3. DETERMINE - A STARTING POINT

IT'S TIME is based on this idea: "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice." In other words, not all of our gifts will be the same amount, but every one of us can meaningfully invest in proportion to the resources God has given us to work with. Your commitment is to be a demonstration of the definition of sacrifice that God has revealed to you.

It might be helpful to explain what commitment is and is not. A commitment is a heartfelt, Spirit-led decision to get behind the vision of our church, and it is something that you make between you and God. A commitment is not a contract or a legal agreement. It's not between you and the church. It's between you and God.

Your starting point should begin by praying about what you can give above and beyond your regular tithe or percentage giving. Generosity begins when we stretch beyond our obedience to tithing to what God places in our hearts above that.

4. DECIDE - CREATE A PERSONAL GIVING PLAN

Prayerfully plan giving that goes above and beyond your regular tithe. Remember, we are not just paying for media, ministries and buildings; we are investing in people - bringing the message of Jesus to our city and our world.

Prayer is something to keep coming back to throughout the different parts of this process. Even in the nuts and bolts of sorting out financial questions, this is a faith journey. It's not about guilt or obligation. Remember, the idea isn't to figure out a mathematical formula. It's about giving Jesus access to your heart and letting Him lead you in your financial decisions. The Holy Spirit desires to walk with you through this journey. Why not get started by praying our It's Time prayer?

"Jesus, what do You want to do in and through me?"

Personal Giving Plan...What is my step of faith?

Joining God in His work requires more than simply doing the math. It requires trusting Him to accomplish what seems impossible. Throughout Scripture, we see God calling ordinary people to take extraordinary steps of faith, often asking them to do things that defy conventional wisdom. Yet when they respond in faith and obedience, God demonstrates that nothing is impossible with Him.

Where is Jesus calling you? What's the step that leads you to

> *"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."*
> *– Hebrews 11:1*

trust God in a new way? Where is He asking you to trust Him, so that you can experience His provision in a way that radically transforms your heart and faith?

Mark your calendar for November 15, 2026. It's our Commitment Sunday, where we'll be turning in our faith commitments as a church. The journey will begin from there for some and continue for those who renew their commitments, as we faithfully bring Him our sacrifices over the next eighteen months – and watch Him accomplish more than we could ever ask or imagine.

IT'S TIME is not about equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.





GIFT PROFILE GUIDE

What will it take for us to be successful in receiving the last $800,000 of our commitments? Studying successful campaigns in other churches, a very typical distribution of gifts can be found. Using that typical distribution and applying it to our church, we find a "model" distribution of gifts that it will take for us to be successful. This also underscores the Biblical principle of **proportionality** – that each of us is called to give according to how we've been blessed with financial resources!

This "tool" also underscores another Biblical principle of stewardship, the principle that decisions about giving should

Number of Gifts at this Level	Monthly Gift	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
1	$4,167	$75,000	$75,000	$75,000
2	$2,083	$37,500	$75,000	$150,000
4	$1,667	$30,000	$120,000	$270,000
4	$1,250	$22,500	$90,000	$360,000
4	$833	$15,000	$60,000	$420,000
5	$667	$12,000	$60,000	$480,000
8	$417	$7,500	$60,000	$540,000
16	$278	$5,000	$80,000	$620,000
16	$208	$3,750	$60,000	$680,000
24	$139	$2,500	$60,000	$740,000
48	$69	$1,250	$60,000	$800,000

be made in **prayer**. Look at the chart below and pray the

Stewardship Prayer, “Lord, what do You want to do in me and through me?” Then ask the Lord, “Where do You see me (or us) on this chart?” (At what “level” of giving?) God will tell you – just ask!!

Following the Lord always requires faith and sacrifice. If we are going to expand our ministry capacity, equip more people, and continue making a difference in our communities and around the world, it will require us to step out in faith together. It will mean prayerfully reconsidering our priorities, our spending, and our giving. If we want more people to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel, we must be willing to make room for them. It’s time to be strong, do the work, and be fearless in following where God leads us. Together, we can create more opportunities for people to come as they are and be forever changed by the love of Jesus. But it will take all of us!

REMEMBER THE GOD FACTOR

Don’t put yourself in a box! As we move forward into the future of our church, what are your dreams? What if God chooses to bless your future too? We think He will. So, don’t forget the “God factor” that could adjust your commitment because of a new job, raise, promotion, etc. God has shown how He can take a commitment made in faith that was a real stretch for someone and bring in the resources to meet it.

it's time

GENEROSITY LADDER

This tool is designed to help you grow in viewing money not as an idol to be chased, but as a tool for kingdom impact.

INITIAL GIVER

An **INITIAL GIVER** is someone who gives for the first time, starting their generosity journey.

QUESTION:

God, will you help me grow in generosity?

CONSIDER:

Giving again as a declaration of trust in God as Provider.

CONSISTENT GIVER

A **CONSISTENT GIVER** begins to give on a regular basis, creating a habit of generosity.

QUESTION:

In what ways will God use the habit of generosity to grow me?

CONSIDER:

Setting up recurring giving to automate the important.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

An **INTENTIONAL GIVER** is someone who considers their giving in relation to their financial picture as they seek to grow in their prioritization of generous living.

QUESTION:

What does where I spend my money say about what or who I am trusting in?

CONSIDER:

Starting at a tithe, which is 10% of your income in regular, intentional generosity.

SACRIFICIAL GIVER

A **SACRIFICIAL GIVER** is someone who determines that generosity will become the driver in their financial picture.

QUESTION:

What would it look like for generosity to be priority in both when I give and in how much I give?

CONSIDER:

Moving from a tithe to significant generosity, allowing giving to be the priority in your financial picture.

LEGACY GIVER

A **LEGACY GIVER** is someone who decides to leave a legacy of generosity to continue to make a kingdom impact long after their time on earth.

QUESTION:

Based on how God has financially blessed me, how can I intentionally steward all the resources He has entrusted me with both now and in the future?

CONSIDER:

Setting a lifetime giving goal and/or estate planning generosity goals.

WHERE ARE YOU ON THE GENEROSITY LADDER?





EASTGATE

CHURCH