

THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 54

January 8, 2026

Issue No. 1

DEACON ELECTION

This Sunday, January 11th

After prayerful consideration and of the needs of the church at this particular time, the Committee on Deacon Nominations recommends Noellen Groff to fill the deacon vacancy. Her biography is below. **You may vote by ballot in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School, between Sunday School and Worship, and immediately following worship.**

Noellen Groff grew up in Earle Street Baptist Church. She and her husband, Eddie, have two daughters and two grandsons. She chairs the Wedding Committee, teaches Children's Sunday School, rings in the Earle Street Ringers, and sings in the Sanctuary Choir.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 17th

9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

We will pray for God's wisdom for our church as we seek to do His work in the new year. The meal is free but please sign up so we can prepare enough for everyone!

Breakfast Reservations

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

ESBC Coffee Meet

Sunday, January 25 - 2:00 pm

Cohesive Coffee

301 Airport Road,
Greenville

Join us for
some coffee
and casual
conversation!



ESBC COFFEE MEET

Coffee meets return this month as we kick off 2026! Join us on Sunday afternoon, January 25, for the caffeine of your choice and light conversation. No agendas. Always laughter. Reach out to Denise Plumblee with any questions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Wednesday, January 14th

5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Main Entree

Potato and Salad Bar

Pizza Entree (\$5)

Two Slices of Pizza (Cheese or Pepperoni)

Please remember to **register by 12:00 pm on Monday, January 12th**. This deadline is to give our caterer an accurate headcount.

Dinner Reservations



BASKETBALL SUNDAY & CHILI COOKOFF

JANUARY 25TH

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

WORSHIP 10:30AM

CHILI LUNCH FOLLOWING

(SIGN UP TO BRING SOMETHING OR JUST COME)



Chili Cookoff

Valentine's Bake Sale
Wednesday February 11 from 6-7
&
Sunday February 15 from 9-following service
At Earle Street Baptist Church Welcome Center
Get something sweet for your sweetheart!
Our children will have all kinds of delicious homemade treats for you to shop from. The money they raise will go towards their summer camp trip to CentriKid.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 11

9:15 am: Sunday School

10:30 am: Worship

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Anthem: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*
by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Sermon: "Lost in Wonder..." by Jim Thomason

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Pat Riddle

IN MEMORIAM

JOANN OSWELL

July 17, 1941 - January 7, 2025

CONGRATULATIONS

Hayden and Jordan Young on the birth
of their son, Bluford D. Young, born January 1, 2026.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday School..... 99

Worship Attendance

Sanctuary128

Preschoolers and Children..... 11

Total..... 139

Online Views (as of 1/7/26) 91

BUDGET REPORT

Report for December 31, 2025

Weekly Budget Requirements.....\$18,235

Budget Gifts (this week)\$12,540

Budget Offering Requirements.....\$948,218

Budget Gifts to Date\$785,832

Global Missions Offering\$31,934

Report for January 4, 2026

Weekly Budget Requirements.....\$TBD

Budget Gifts (this week)\$18,383

Budget Offering Requirements.....\$TBD

Budget Gifts to Date\$18,383

Global Missions Offering\$525

DEACON OF THE WEEK



Brittney Clow is our deacon of the week.

Brittney has been a member since 2018. She is married to Brian and they have two children, Hadley and Callum. Brittney is a mental health therapist who has

served in the upstate since 2016 and currently runs her own practice here in Greenville. Brittney attends the Daily Bread Sunday School group and currently serves on the Documentation Oversight Committee, Middle School Girls' Youth Group and is a member of the Missions Team. She loves camping, gardening, travel and spending time with her family.

GUEST PREACHER

Dr. Jim Thomason is the former pastor of Rosalind Hills Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia, Overbrook Baptist Church in Greenville, and more recently, First Baptist Church of Anderson, from which he retired in 2019. Jim grew up in Simpsonville. He earned a B.A. in Economics/ Banking and Finance from Furman University, and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jim and his wife, Pam, have three children and three grandsons. Jim has had sermons and articles published in numerous professional journals, has served on various civic and service organizations and boards, and received several honors for his work over the years. Jim enjoys family time, travel, music, pickle ball, golf, hiking, and lake life with Pam.

DAILY PRAYER GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE

The ESBC Daily Prayer Guide for January - June are now available. You may find these at each door this Sunday or online at the link below. Join us each day as we pray together.

[Daily Prayer Guide](#)

2026 BUDGET PROCESS

On Sunday, January 18th, the proposed 2026 budget will be presented to our congregation without discussion. The proposed budget, along with summary notes, will be handed out at the end of the worship service. These materials will also be made available on the church web site. On Wednesday, January 21st, at 6:00 pm, we will have our regular church conference with a time for discussion and questions regarding the proposed 2026 budget. On Sunday, January 25th, our church will vote on the proposed budget during the morning worship service. Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, February 1st.

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

Janice Hinnant (ext. 202) – janice@ESBCgreenville.org

Youth Ensemble, Youth Handbells, and Earle Street Ringers—We will resume our regular rehearsals this Sunday, January 11. See you then!

SAVE THE DATE

GLOBAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 4-8, 2025



Mark your calendars and get excited! Operation Inasmuch is happening on April 25, 2026!

Operation Inasmuch is a worldwide ministry that mobilizes churches to serve the “least of these,” and at ESBC, we are passionate about living out our calling to serve others and experience the joy that comes from it.

On April 25, you'll have multiple opportunities to make a real impact by serving alongside our ministry partners throughout the community. Have an idea for a project you'd love to lead? Reach out to Rebecca Register at rregister@greenville.k12.sc.us—she'd be thrilled to help you bring your idea to life!

Let's come together and be the hands and feet of God to Greenville!

TOY & BOOK COLLECTION

Children's Love Offering

Throughout the month of January.

Cleaning/organizing to start the new year with a tidier home? Want to donate those items but don't know where? We are here to help!!

Bring your toys and children's books to church and we will get them to The Church Without Walls!!



The Storyteller

author of all things

July 19 - 23, 2026

Ridgecrest Conference Center
Ridgecrest, NC

Centrikid is a high-energy, intentional, gospel-centered overnight camp for 1st–6th graders. Their mission is to help kids experience the time of their lives and learn more about the message of Jesus Christ.

More details of the fun to come.

Save the dates:

Informational meeting January 18.

\$100 deposit due January 25.

From My Heart

Gary Strickland
Interim Pastor

My dear friends, I have missed seeing you at church these last few weeks and feel like I lost the most important part of Christmas by not enjoying this special time of year in worship with you. My extended illness certainly disrupted my expectations of the season this year.

I am very grateful for the support you have given me during my time away, and I am especially grateful for Janice, the church staff, and so many of you who have stepped up to fill in the gaps in my absence. I hope everyone appreciates what a great staff we have and the exceptional lay leaders at Earle Street who work throughout the year but are also quick to go the extra mile when needed. It is an honor to be a part of such a loving and caring church family.

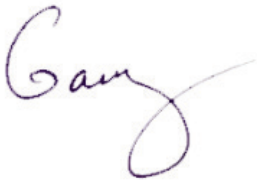
I want to give you a brief update on my health issues and recovery. On December 17, I had a successful cardiac ablation procedure for my persistent Atrial Fibrillation but had to stay in the hospital for a couple of extra days due to a small complication. A week later, I had a TIA followed by a minor stroke that affected my left arm and hand, possibly due to not taking the blood thinner medicine to prevent clots during and following the ablation procedure. Then a week after that, I developed a systemic infection that sent me back to the hospital for IV antibiotics and after getting home, the infection came roaring back which required another round of IV antibiotics in the hospital. I can identify with the title of the book series by Lemony Snicket, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*!

The good news is that the procedure to treat the AFib seems to be successful, the ill-effects from the stroke are resolving at a good pace, and the infection is under control. In other words, I am feeling good and getting stronger each day. I am hoping to put these complications in the rear-view mirror and move toward a much healthier and vibrant year in 2026.

2026 promises to be a consequential year as we restart the pastor search process and lay the foundation for welcoming a new pastor at Earle Street. This can be a year of building positive momentum and engaging in strengthening the fellowship and ministry of this church.

I look forward to being back with you in worship on January 25th and in getting back to the work God has called us to do.

Expectantly,



EARLE STREET KIDS

Snow: New Beginnings

New year, same amazing Wednesday night fun! Our Midweek gathering will have the theme of Snow: New Beginnings for the month of January. Just like fresh snow makes everything look clean and new, God gives us a fresh beginning that is much deeper. Snow will become a symbol of forgiveness, renewal, and new beginnings.

5:00 pm: Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 pm: Preschool Choir (Room 100)

Young Musicians Choir (Choir Room)

6:30 pm: Midweek Activity Group (Room 100/101)

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT: How Walking In The Spirit Impacts The World In Which We Live And Serve Adult Winter Discipleship Group Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

January 14: "Walking in the Spirit of Love"
Led by Helen Hewitt

January 21: Church Conference

January 28: "Walking in the Spirit of Joy"
Led by Libby Young