

THE HOME PAGE

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FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

Happy new year! Of course, for our church, this is not just another new year. This is our centennial year, and we have several centennial events already scheduled and other centennial events still to be planned. I hope you will go ahead now and mark all of these special events on your calendar, and plan to be a part of all the celebrations:

This Sunday, January 9 – Former pastor, Dr. James G. Wooten, will be having a book signing for his new book, *The Suicide's Son*, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. You may check out the book on Amazon.com, but you may purchase a copy of the book at a discount if you attend the book signing event.

Saturday, March 12 - Wildfire. This is the actual date for the 100th anniversary. In addition to Wildfire being a fund raiser to support summer youth camps and mission trips, it will be a giant birthday celebration for our church.

Sunday, March 13 – A worship service celebrating our 100th anniversary. Former members and staff members will be invited to attend. History exhibits will be set up, and a panoramic centennial photograph of the congregation will be taken on the front steps of the Sanctuary. Be sure you are present for this historic photo.

Sunday, April 3 – This is the twenty-seventh anniversary of Rev. Janice Hinnant, our minister of music. In 2020, we had planned a celebration that had to be postponed due to the pandemic. So now, two years later, we are finally getting to celebrate the anniversary of our minister of music who has led our music for more than a quarter of a century. An anthem has been commissioned in her honor, which the combined Youth and Sanctuary Choirs will be performing. All our choirs will be presenting special music.

Sunday, April 3 – At 5:00 pm in our Sanctuary, we will be having a joint worship service with our daughter church, Northgate Baptist Church. Barry Jimmerson, the pastor of Northgate, will be preaching. There will be a joint choir and testimonies from members who have connections to both churches. Following the joint service, we will have a time of fellowship with our Northgate family in our Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, June 5 (Pentecost Sunday) - Joint Fellowship (9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall) and Worship Service (10:30 am in the Sanctuary) with two more of our daughter churches: the Greenville Vietnamese Church and Vietnamese Blessing Baptist Church - No Sunday School that day. There will be a joint reception in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. The Vietnamese congregations will bring some Vietnamese refreshments and our congregation will provide some American refreshments. The music for the service will be planned and presented by the Vietnamese congregations. Tam Van Vo, who has been involved ever since the congregation began meeting at Earle Street in 1993, will give a greeting and brief review of how our church sponsored the Vietnamese congregation, and how the Vietnamese congregations have changed, relocated, and grown through the years. I will preach a brief sermon with a translator. Pentecost Sunday is the perfect time to hear the gospel in more than one language.

Saturday, August 20 - Anniversary Celebration Dinner - 6:00 pm Embassy Suites. Invitations will be sent to all former members, staff members, and friends of Earle Street. Official release of our new history book, *A Home to All Who Would Enter*, as well as the official release of the Earle Street Baptist Church documentary video. Tickets will be sold in advance.

Sunday, August 21 – The culmination of our year-long centennial celebration in worship in our Sanctuary. Invitations will be sent to all former members, staff members, and friends of Earle Street, and our former pastor, Dr. James G. Wooten, will be our preacher.

As a church family, we have a rich heritage to remember and a bright future to anticipate. All year long, we will not only be looking behind us, but ahead of us, trusting that the God who has been our help in ages past will be our hope for years to come.

With profound gratitude for God's provision, and with great excitement about what God has in store for us,

Stephen

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 9
10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Testimony: Lucy Wilkinson

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

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon Series: A KINGDOM FOR ALL:
Scenes from Luke's Gospel

Sermon: "A Good Rule for Every Good Leader"
by Stephen Clyborne

DEACON OF THE WEEK



Ron Bridwell is our deacon of the week. Ron and his wife, Sandra, have been married since 1969. They have been members at Earle Street since 2002. They have two daughters and sons-in law, one grandson and three granddaughters, all of whom attend Earle Street. Ron is retired from Engineered Products after working there for 32 years as a Professional Engineer. In addition to being a Deacon, Ron is assistant teacher of the Loaves and Fishes Sunday School Class and also sings in the choir.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Pat Dietz Larry Plumblee Rosemary Plumblee
James Sheppard Joe Solesbee

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Randal Blackburn
January 17
1 year

Stephen Clyborne
January 2
20 years

Denise Plumblee
January 4
12 years

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of January 2, 2022

Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus148
Virtual.....17
Total.....165

Worship Attendance

On-Campus200
Virtual.....193
Total.....393

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Jane Snyder, Steve and Beth Rice, Jeff and Karyn French, and Jake and Savannah French upon the recent death of Jane and Beth's mother, Karyn's grandmother, and Jake's great-grandmother, Mary Ann Snyder.

Jerome and Gina Jay, John and Julia Sheran upon the recent death of Jerome's sister and Julia's cousin, Pat Jay Grant and Jerome and Julia's cousin, Katherine Jay Mann.

Drew, Jill, Mason and Adam Pearce upon the recent death of Drew's aunt, Mason and Adam's great-aunt, Mary Francis Schneider.

BUDGET REPORT

Report for Friday, December 31, 2021

Weekly Budget Requirements.....\$27,406
Budget Gifts (this week)\$144,621
Budget Requirements to Date\$1,425,112
Budget Gifts to Date\$1,496,474
Capital Campaign (Sanctuary Renewal)\$70,018

Report for Sunday, January 2, 2022

Weekly Budget Requirements.....\$25,678
Budget Gifts (this week)\$12,301
Budget Requirements to Date\$25,678
Budget Gifts to Date\$12,301

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

5:00-6:00

Fellowship Hall Open
(bring your own dinner)

Preschoolers and Children

5:45-7:15

Child Care

5:45-6:30

Preschool and Children's Choirs

6:30-7:15

Preschool and Children's Activities

Youth

5:00-6:00

Youth Hang Out

6:00-7:15

Youth Small Groups

Adults

6:00-6:25

Adult Large Group Bible Study

6:30-7:15

Adult Small Groups

7:15-8:15

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

The Suicide's Son
Book Signing with Dr. Jim Wooten
This Sunday, January 9
Drop-In: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

On Sunday, January 9, ESBC is pleased to host a book signing event for *The Suicide's Son*. There will be books available at a discounted price and an opportunity to have Jim autograph any books purchased.

Entitled *The Suicide's Son*, Jim's book recounts the dramatic events that led to the tragic death of a thirty-five-year-old father, as told through the eyes and memory of his son, Jim, nearly sixty years later. Jim also tells the story of his lifelong quest to deal with the impact of that death and to find answers to the questions that it awakened.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

United Ministries, a mission partner of ESBC, "serves and empowers those on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency." A local agency located on Pendleton Street, United Ministries' vision is a community where all people join together to ensure all people have an opportunity to thrive.

From now until February 14, United Ministries is hosting their annual "Souper Bowl of Caring", a food drive to provide for those in need. We will join in this effort, collecting canned goods and pantry items. There are collection boxes on all three floors in the lobby areas. Please help us support United Ministries and our neighbors in Greenville in need by participating in this food drive.

SERENDIPITY MEETING

Thursday, January 20th
6:00 pm in Room 203

Rhett Jones, Campus Administrator for Marie Younts Girls' Home in Mauldin, will speak to our group. If you would like, bring your own dinner to eat at 6:00 pm and fellowship with others. Our program will begin at 6:30 pm. The mission action project for this month is paper towels, toilet tissue, cascade pods for dishwasher, and laundry detergent (either powder or liquid, but no pods please.) Call Sylvia Clyborne (354-9039) for more information.

JANUARY MOVIE EVENT

Sponsored by the XYZ Team
For All Senior Adults
Tuesday, January 25 at 2:00 pm

What better way to spend a cold January afternoon than watching a movie with friends enjoying cookies and hot chocolate! This month our movie event features "Frozen", the 2013 Disney blockbuster that won two Academy Awards and set off a cultural phenomenon that still runs strong today. Our hot chocolate bar with all the trimmings will be the perfect way to stay warm while we enjoy the movie. So, wear your favorite winter sweater and plan to join us for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship!



**A KINGDOM
FOR ALL:
Scenes from
Luke's Gospel**

The four Gospels are more like portraits than photographs of Jesus. Each presents a unique perspective of Jesus, while containing elements that are common to all four.

If you pay attention to the distinctive elements of Luke's Gospel, you start to notice a theme that is undeniable. In all four Gospels, but in Luke's Gospel, in particular, you begin to notice that Jesus has a special interest in the people of His day who would have been overlooked, marginalized, shunned, excluded, or even condemned by the religious establishment. In His time, those categories of people would have included women, the poor, Samaritans, tax collectors, lepers, prostitutes, adulterers, foreigners, strangers, and "sinners." As early in Luke's Gospel as his version of the Christmas story, the theme of inclusiveness is hard to miss. Even before Jesus was born, Mary predicted that her Son would "lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things," and the angel predicted to the shepherds that the birth of Jesus would bring "good news of great joy for all people." In the kingdom that Jesus came to bring, outsiders become insiders, sinners are forgiven, and all are welcome.

Join us for this sermon series as we seek to apply the radical claims of the gospel to our lives, our church, and our world.

January 9	"A Good Rule for Every Good Leader"
January 16	"The Women of the Church"
January 23	"Gratitude"
January 30	"Race Relations"
February 6	"The Deep Water"
February 20	"The Way We Treat Our Enemies"
February 27	"If You Have Nothing to Say, Say It"
March 2	"Dirty Dishes"



CROSS IN VESTIBULE

Although the Sanctuary Renewal was officially complete in November, there were a few items that were not quite finished at that time. One of these items is a beautiful Celtic cross that now hangs in the vestibule.

The Celtic cross, a symbol of ESBC, was handcrafted and donated by Danny Ard. The cross is made of Padauk wood and is a "simple square edge cross" design. Padauk is an exotic wood that grows in tropical climates such as Africa and the South Pacific. It is known for its deep rich purple-brown color. While no one knows for sure, one reference article on Padauk says that this was the wood that King Solomon chose for the pillars of his temple.*

We invite you to visit the vestibule and see this Celtic cross. We are deeply grateful to Danny for this beautiful piece of art given to the glory of God.

*Wood Magazine, July 2016

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL UPDATE

Thanks to those of you who participated in our survey regarding Wednesday evening meals. Based on the survey results, there is sufficient interest among families who desire to participate on Wednesday nights. However, at this time, we do not have enough volunteers to properly staff this ministry. We need five volunteers every week in order to resume the Wednesday dinners. Once we have enough volunteers, we will consider resuming the meals.

Until that time, the Fellowship Hall will be available on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm for families who wish to bring their dinner with them and eat prior to the activities. Please remember that our adult large group study does meet in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 pm.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

During our winter months there is always the possibility of bad weather. For information on cancellations or delays, call the church office at 233-5332 and dial extension 500. We will have information posted on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages, WYFF-TV and WSPA-TV.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Brock Medley
- 2 - Jane Leo, Dwight Odom, Rayanna Redderson
- 3 - Ben Duncan
- 4 - Jim Hudson, Bob Walker, Harriet McCarrell, Ronnie McAlister, Bob Purkerson, Dru Lewis
- 5 - Nellie Farnsworth, Glenda Bumgarner, Amanda Rapp
- 6 - Susan Standridge, Bruce King, Chuck Carnes, Andrew Elliott
- 7 - Peyton Zeiger, Joe Brewer
- 8 - Lyn Reames, Trey Griffin
- 9 - Dot Smith, John Connor Douglass, Jenn Broome
- 10 - Jill Boone, Anna Davidson, Michelle Lusk, Gail Purkerson
- 11 - Mary McCutcheon, Mary Beth Young
- 12 - Dana Bennett, Bob Landers
- 13 - Gail Schoonmaker, Jill Boland, Reagan Patterson
- 14 - Carl Thackston, Tommy Davis
- 15 - Phil Plumblee, Laura Beth Medley, Terese Burns, Jerry Youkey
- 16 - Luke Watson, Glenn Arrowood, Jamie Dalhouse
- 17 - Katie Gillespie, Beth Wickliffe, Wayne Turner
- 18 - Tristin Poole, Candice Lewis, Rivers Pfeiffer, Pat Caler
- 19 - Heyward Johnston, Brad Wilson, Knox Boggs
- 20 - Derek Lord, Birdie Middleton, Butch Hendrix, Lindsay Keck, Chloe Gates
- 21 - Katie Holmes, Alison Seigler, Campbell Moore, Steven Rau
- 22 - Dana Collier, Mary Wayne Slice, Judy Cothran, Laura Cummings, Elaine Baker, Rachel Dickens, Jason Tankersley, Ellis Davis
- 23 - Candice Eubanks
- 24 - Mike Cook, Jacqui McGuinness
- 26 - Pat Garrett, Brad Hawkins
- 27 - Marilyn Woods, Sam Justice, Logan Alexander
- 28 - Dave Lusk
- 29 - Sydney Hammond, Lyn Hewitt
- 30 - Zach Baker, Joan Novelli, David White

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

Our holiday break is over and we are back to our regular rehearsals beginning this week:

Preschool and Children's Choirs

Wednesdays, 5:45 – 6:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays, 7:15 – 8:15 pm

Youth Choir

Sundays, 4:15 – 5:00 pm

Youth Handbell Choir

Sundays, 5:00 – 5:30 pm

Earle Street Ringers

Sundays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

I am constantly amazed, but never really surprised by the faithfulness and generosity of God's people in our faith family. 2021 was another unusual, unprecedented year. People in our church have differed in their opinions about how the church should respond to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 virus. By some of the traditional metrics, our church, like most churches, has struggled to bounce back from the effects of the pandemic. In-person Sunday School and worship attendance, as well as Wednesday evening participation have not rebounded to pre-Covid levels. We lost a record number of church members to death, while some faithful church members moved to other places. Still others have not made their way back to in-person engagement. Budget offerings trailed budget requirements consistently throughout the year, sometimes as much as \$95,000. For months, our congregation vacated our sanctuary and worshiped in the Fellowship Hall while our sanctuary was renovated. It seemed that every time we were starting to gain momentum, we faced another challenge.

But all along, the people of our church met every challenge with steady faithfulness and determination. And now, as we enter 2022, our centennial year, I am thankful to be able to report to you that, in spite of all the obstacles we faced as a church, we:

- welcomed 38 new members, 23 by baptism.
- have made exciting plans for a number of special centennial events that will take place throughout the year.
- moved into a beautiful, functional, and freshly updated sanctuary that will enhance our worship for years to come and will be ready to welcome members, former members, guests, potential members, and other congregations for all of our centennial celebrations.
- paid for this major sanctuary renovation costing \$560,000 without having to borrow any money from internal or external sources.
- have made significant improvements to our church's digital presence with the goal of increasing online engagement beyond the walls of our church.
- finished 2021 with budget offerings over budget requirements by \$71,362, and over expenses by approximately \$200,000 (final year-end numbers are pending).
- gave \$42,000 over and above our budget offerings for special mission offerings, exceeding all of our state, national, and international mission offering goals.
- made pledges to support our 2022 budget on par with previous years' pledges, indicating that our financial support in 2022 will be strong again.
- have evaluated the changing needs of our church and are prayerfully seeking a new staff minister with the gifts needed to fill the position vacated by Chuck Emory in September.
- offered prayerful input to the Strategic Planning Committee, which is prayerfully preparing a report to the congregation as we enter our second century of ministry.

Because of God's great faithfulness to our church, and the generosity of God's people, we are poised to celebrate our 100th anniversary as a church with new strength and enthusiasm, trusting that the God who led our spiritual ancestors to form this church a century ago can be trusted to lead us into the next century as we honor our legacy and embrace our future.

To God alone be the glory!

Stephen