

THE HOME PAGE

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FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

In a previous life, I worked as a clerk at Shaw's Pharmacy on East North Street. In fact, my brothers and I had something of a dynasty there. We all worked there in succession, one brother passing the baton to the next brother in line (with some overlap for training). It was a great way for us to earn some money and learn some life skills while we were at it. I worked there for seven years during high school and college; and by the time I left to take my first church job, I felt like I owned the joint. One Saturday, I was stocking the shelves behind the counter when a father and son came into the store. They were regular customers, so I greeted them by name as they walked through the door. The son was probably about ten years old; and I could tell something was wrong with him because he did not make his way to the toy section like he usually did. Instead, he came straight from the door to the counter, with his dad behind him, and laid a model airplane on the counter. I could tell he wanted to say something, but at first the words just wouldn't come out of his mouth. Finally, his dad broke the silence, and said, "Go ahead and tell him." And Jimmy poured out his heart. Fighting back the tears, these words choked out of the young boy's quivering lips: "I stole this airplane from here yesterday, and I wanted to bring it back and tell you how sorry I am." Then his dad spoke up and said something I will always remember: "I told him that sometimes when you want something you don't have, you do something you shouldn't do."

Have you ever thought much about the last of the ten commandments: the law against covetousness? Why shouldn't we want what we do not have? After all, isn't it that desire that motivates us to live productive and resourceful lives? Isn't that desire what feeds our economy and fuels the American dream? Doesn't that desire just make us good consumers? Doesn't that desire drive us to be more successful? What is wrong with wanting what we do not have?

On one level, it is wrong simply because God has revealed that it is wrong. But the rule against covetousness is not some arbitrary rule. Covetousness is wrong not just because God says it is wrong, but because of what it does to us and others. The rule was established not to take all our pleasures away, but to show us how and where true joy can be found. If all we do is just want something we do not have, then it is hard to see the harm in that. But James reminds us that it never stops there. Wanting what we do not have will inevitably lead us to do what we should not do and will turn us into people we were never intended to be. The more we want, the more we are willing to do whatever we have to do to get it. Then, the more we get, the less satisfied we are, and the more we want. The more we have, the more we think we need. And pretty soon, when we get what we want, we no longer want what we get.

May God help us to want what God wants, and receive what God gives.

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 need by participating in this food drive.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Wednesday, January 26
6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

- 2021 Year-end Financials
- Report from Personnel Committee
- Report from Nominating Committee
- Report from Strategic Planning Committee

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

For All Senior Adults!

FROZEN

MOVIE DAY

TUES. JANUARY 25TH | 2 PM
ROOM 300

FROZEN, A DISNEY ANIMATED FEATURE FILM, IS INSPIRED BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S FAIRY TALE "THE SNOW QUEEN". THE FILM DEPICTS A PRINCESS WHO SETS OFF ON A JOURNEY ALONGSIDE AN ICEMAN, HIS REINDEER, AND A SNOWMAN TO FIND HER ESTRANGED SISTER, WHOSE ICY POWERS HAVE INADVERTENTLY TRAPPED THEIR KINGDOM IN ETERNAL WINTER. JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON OF FELLOWSHIP, HOT CHOCOLATE AND A MOVIE!

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 23
10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Solo: *To God Be the Glory (My Tribute)*
by Stephen Clyborne

Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

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

Sermon: "Gratitude" by David Cline

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENT

Special Guest Preacher: David Cline

Sunday, January 23 - 10:30 am

Over the course of our Centennial Celebration, we will be celebrating our church's 100th anniversary with several different types of events. We are honored to have several guest preachers who will be leading us in worship over the next eight months.

On January 23, we welcome David Cline as he brings the message in worship. Born and raised in Greenville, David is the grandson of Neb and Martha Cline who were lifelong members of ESBC. He is a graduate of both Furman University and Dallas Theological Seminary. For the past 25 years, David has served in a variety of pastoral roles for churches in Texas, Georgia, and South Carolina. He has a heart for the local church and a passion to see followers of Jesus reflecting His love, grace, and truth to others both in and through their lives.

David is married to Chamblee, and together they are the proud parents of four children: William, Claire, Caroline, and Davis. Please welcome David, Chamblee, and their family as they join us and lead us in worship.

AN EXCITING MISSION OPPORTUNITY

As you may know, our church was instrumental in beginning a Vietnamese congregation in the 1990s, and that congregation is now two congregations. On Sunday, June 5, Pentecost Sunday, we will be having a joint worship service with those two congregations as we celebrate our centennial year and the far-reaching impact of our church.

In this year when we give thanks to God for the ways our church has been used in the past, we have an opportunity to continue and extend our relationship with the Vietnamese Baptist Church, located not too far away from our church on Poinsett Highway. That church is looking for English speaking people who can assist them with Sunday School. Specifically, they want someone who can teach their elementary and middle school aged students. The persons involved do not have speak Vietnamese.

As is so often the case with language congregations, the second and third-generation folks often do not know the language of their parents/grandparents, which presents a challenge to the church leadership.

Specifically, the church will need two workers. It does not need to be the same two volunteers every week, so there can be a rotation set up. The time frame is not indefinite, but the volunteers will need to understand it will not be a short stint either. The Vietnamese want to have some of their people work with the English speakers and learn from them so they can take responsibility for the classes in the future. The Sunday School at the Vietnamese Baptist Church begins at 9:30 each Sunday morning.

If you can help, or just would like to find out more information, please contact Stephen Clyborne as soon as possible.

DEACON OF THE WEEK



Helen Hewitt is our deacon of the week. She has been a member of Earle Street since 1989. She has three children: Ted, Richard, and Anna Kay, six granddaughters and two grandsons. She teaches K2 at Haynsworth Private School. In addition to her role as a deacon, she is a member of the Prayer Team and teaches the Sojourners Sunday School Class.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Art Frederick Carolyn Giles Pam Swain

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Bill and Becky Swartzel and family
upon the recent death of Becky's nephew, Hal Hooper.

BUDGET REPORT

Report for Sunday, January 16, 2022

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$25,678
Budget Gifts (this week).....	\$21,114
Budget Requirements to Date	\$77,033
Budget Gifts to Date	\$48,943

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

Come Join Us!

Preschool and Children's Choirs - Wed., 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

Calling All 3rd – 5th Graders!

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to have acolytes serve in worship, and I have missed them! The acolytes come in at the beginning of each worship service and light the Christ candle on the communion table. This may seem like a random and unimportant activity, but lighting the Christ candle is a symbol of bringing the light of Christ into our worship. Consequently, the acolyte carries the light of Christ back out of the sanctuary at the end of the service, which symbolizes that we all take the light of Christ out with us.

If your child is a 3rd – 5th grader, I hope he or she will consider serving as an acolyte in worship. Please contact me at janice@esbcgreenville.org to sign your child up to acolyte, or if you have any questions. The opportunity to serve God can never start too early!

From the Minister To Preschoolers and Children

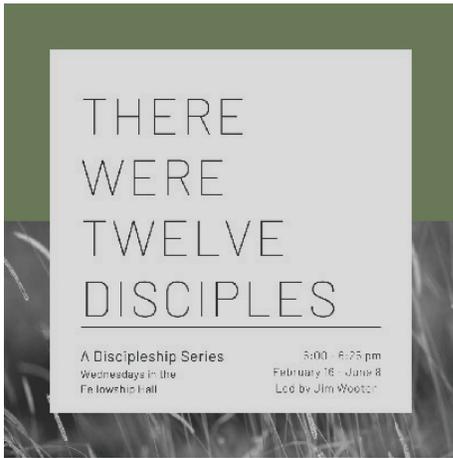
Karli Selz (ext. 209) – karli@ESBCgreenville.org



CENTRIKID CAMPS

Our first-fifth graders will be going to CentriKid camps again this summer. We will be going to Ridgecrest Conference Center on July 18-22. A \$100/kid deposit is due to Karli by the END of THIS MONTH. If you have any questions about camp or the deposits please reach out to Karli.





NEW DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

When I was a child, I loved to read, especially biographies about famous people. When I would visit my grandmother Wooten's house, she had a small book entitled *Jesus and the Twelve*, a widely-distributed volume (I think as some sort of promotional item, maybe with encyclopedias). It was mainly a collection of portraits by Alberta Richards, who enlisted a wide collection of ordinary men (postmen, engineering students, machinists, etc. who looked the way she envisioned the various disciples) to pose for the portraits. Each picture had a brief description of the Apostles' lives and traditional stories of their mission endeavors and where they died.

The pictures were stunning. On many occasions, I would sit quietly in the den, thumbing through the pages, imagining what the twelve were really like. I was fascinated with their stories and the way Jesus took such a diverse group of men and bound them together in his mission ... and I continue to be fascinated these sixty or so years later. As an adult, that book was the one thing I asked for from my grandmother's house.

So, some years ago I put together a series of sermons entitled *There Were Twelve Disciples* (that also included one entitled *What About the Women?* which focused on the female disciples who played such a key role in Jesus' earthly ministry). It was my own attempt to "paint a portrait" that caught some of the uniqueness of each character and how we could identify with each one.

When Stephen asked me to do a series of Wednesday evening devotions, it seemed that drawing from that material was the right way to go. I hope you will agree and that you will join us each Wednesday that you can. Brush up on the old children's song that helps us memorize the names. We will sing it each night!

*There were twelve disciples, Jesus called to serve him-
Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John.
Philip, Thomas, Matthew- James the son of Alphaeus;
Thaddeus, Simon, Judas- and Bartholomew.*

*Jesus calls us too. Jesus calls us too.
We are his disciples, I am one and you!
Jesus calls us too. Jesus calls us too.
We are his disciples, I am one and you!*

- Jim Wooten

A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Background

For years, entity leaders on the Missions Cluster (including the leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union, now dissolved) have been engaged in an ongoing discussion about the possibility of consolidating, streamlining, and re-imagining the way our church supports local, state, national, and international missions, both in terms of mission funding and mission action. After many meetings involving Staff Ministers, Deacons, and the Missions Cluster, a new plan and organizational structure for missions support was recently approved by the Deacons.

Organization

1. The structure of the Missions Cluster will be simplified and reorganized around three mission councils, each of which will include a chair and vice-chair nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church, a deacon assigned to the Missions Cluster, and a liaison from each mission focus supported by the church:
 - a. Local Missions Council
 - b. National Missions Council (including state missions)
 - c. International Missions Council
2. All current mission teams will be dissolved as separate and official entities, but will be represented by liaisons on the respective mission councils.

Funding

1. All mission line items that are currently budgeted will remain as budgeted line items in the next budget year (2023).
2. The Missions Cluster will set the goals for International and National Missions offerings (Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, Janie Chapman, and Global Hunger relief, etc.) to present to the congregation.
3. Beginning in 2023, the Missions Cluster will plan a unified, church-wide missions emphasis sometime in the March – May time frame to support a Worldwide Offering and/or pledge period.

On Wednesday, January 26, the Nominating Committee will present a full slate of workers to fill all the positions in the new missions structure.

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.