

# THE HOME PAGE

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## FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

This coming Wednesday, March 2, at 6:30 pm in our Sanctuary, we will be having our annual Ash Wednesday Service. Ash Wednesday is a tradition that likely originated in the eleventh century AD. It did not gain mainstream popularity with Christians in the United States until much, much later. While Ash Wednesday is perhaps most closely associated with Catholicism, there are many mainstream Christian denominations that recognize it, including Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and some Baptists.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a period of forty days and six Sundays prior to Easter. This is the time when the church prepares to celebrate the resurrection by focusing on the journey of Jesus to the cross. Lent provides the church an opportunity to separate ourselves anew from the world and worldly habits and, by practicing spiritual disciplines, renew our vows of devotion to Christ. During this season of the Christian year, as disciples of Jesus, we renew our commitment to Jesus, who said, "Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me." In writing to the Romans, Paul reminds us that it is not until we are united with Christ in a death like His that we will be united with Christ in a resurrection like His.

Ash Wednesday is a reminder to us all of what it means for us to be human. To be human is to be both sinful and mortal. And, apart from Christ, we have no hope of overcoming these limitations. The ashes are visible symbols of how frail, fallen, and hopeless we are apart from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. This service leads us to take our humanity seriously, to confess our sinfulness, to acknowledge our mortality, and to ask for God's mercy made known to us in Christ: As Paul reminded the Corinthians: "For our sake God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

The ashes that are imposed on our foreheads (or the back of our hands) in the form of a cross have biblical significance, as well. Throughout the Bible, ashes have always been a symbol of death. As the Season of Lent begins, the ashes serve as a vivid reminder not only of the death of Jesus, but also of our own mortality. As early as Genesis 3, God reminded Adam and all of Adam's sons and daughters, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes have also served as a sign of repentance. After Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh and they believed God, the king of Nineveh, as a sign of his repentance and remorse, arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus condemned the people who had gathered for not repenting in sackcloth and ashes as had been the custom of others. As the ashes are imposed, we are reminded of the sins we have committed, the sacrifice of Jesus for those sins, and the call of Jesus to turn from those sins.

I hope you will join us this Wednesday for this special service as we acknowledge the bad news that, apart from Christ, we are still in our sins, and celebrate the good news that, because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and our faith in Him, our sins are forgiven.



**ASH WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE FOR CHILDREN**  
Wednesday, March 2  
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

This year we will have a separate Ash Wednesday service for our children in grades 1 - 5 in the Children's Area on the second floor. This service, specifically oriented for children, will take place at the same time as the adult service in the sanctuary.

**Childcare for Preschoolers and Younger**  
**Childcare for children two and younger is provided by**  
**RSVP only to Karli by Friday, February 25.** If you have a toddler age two or younger and need childcare, please email Karli at [karli@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:karli@esbcgreenville.org).

## AN UPDATE ON STEPHEN CLYBORNE

This past week our senior pastor, Stephen, suffered a major heart attack. Stephen was in the hospital for several days but is now home, beginning his recovery process. We give thanks to God for the mercies already extended to Stephen and Sylvia and pray that He will continue to provide healing to Stephen. Please continue to pray for Stephen, Sylvia and their family as they navigate this new season of life.

While Stephen is recovering, the other staff ministers will be assuming his responsibilities. Please reach out to one of them or contact the church office to let us know how we can assist you.

## JOIN US IN WORSHIP

**Sunday, February 27**  
**10:30 am in the Sanctuary**  
*Transfiguration Sunday*

**Anthem:** *Ancient Words* by the Sanctuary Choir

**Scripture:** Luke 9:28-36

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

**Sermon:** "If You Have Nothing to Say, Say It"  
 written by Stephen Clyborne,  
 delivered by Janice Hinnant

## DEACON OF THE WEEK



**Vicki Merck is our deacon of the week.** Vicki was baptized at Earle Street Baptist in 1968 and in 1983 married another long-time member Keith Merck at ESBC. Vicki has worked at WLOS & MY40 TV for 17 years and prior to that at Fox Carolina for 21 years. Vicki is a graduate of Anderson College. In addition to her new role as a deacon, she serves on the Personnel Committee and as Church Clerk. She is a member of the Sojourners Sunday School class.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Stephen Clyborne    Sandra Davis  
 Benny Lemmons    Dwight Odom

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

**Mark and Carol Leaphart, Gee-gee Camarda and Jimmy Mann** on the recent death of Carol's father and Gee-gee and Jimmy's uncle, Thomas Mann, Sr.

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

**Week of February 20, 2022**

### Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus.....179  
 Virtual ..... 21  
 Total..... 200

### Worship Attendance

On-Campus.....246  
 Virtual ..... No Livestream  
 Total..... 246

## BUDGET REPORT

**Report for Sunday, February 20, 2022**

Weekly Budget Requirements.....\$25,678  
 Budget Gifts (this week) .....\$51,010  
 Budget Requirements to Date.....\$205,420  
 Budget Gifts to Date .....\$203,496

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Eddy Leo, Virginia Wyatt, Spencer Simmons, Bunky Wood, Kelsea Burton
- 2 - Linda Slaton
- 3 - Michael Walker, Caroline Major
- 4 - Jeanne Aiken, Tim Saunders, Doris Shellhorse, Amanda Cushman, Wren Woods
- 5 - Don Moore
- 6 - Karen Sunday
- 7 - Chuck Adams, Anne Wyatt, Owen Wilkinson, Debra Hipp
- 8 - Hampton Lewis
- 9 - Austin Wilson
- 10 - Susan Candee, Julia Broome, Allen Smith
- 11 - Stuart Frontroth, Ross Harrison, Sophia Masters, Hank Johnson, Martha Newton
- 12 - Charles Alford, Kohlie Aiken, Jo Ann Boehm
- 14 - Paula Cook, Fred Borth
- 15 - Gee-Gee Camarda, Brent Rodgers, Calder Standridge
- 16 - Gwyn Tankersley, Cooper Tankersley, Emma Young, Carole Ward, Austin Ward, Fields Patterson
- 17 - Mary Payne, Carolyn Vaughan, Luke Bomar
- 18 - Hannah Wassynger, Sara Dorsett, Carter Jay, Noah Garrett
- 19 - Bill Hueble, Reese Young, Becky Bridges
- 20 - Phil Hovis, Ansley Duncan, Kathy Batson
- 21 - David Wyatt, Eddie Andrews, Olivia Martin
- 22 - David Buchanan, Mickey Smith, Dennis Peace, Mary Alexander, Jane Callahan
- 24 - Martin Hursey, Jim McNeely, Kelly Pleasant, Betty Hightower, Aaron Dorsett, Rick Conte, Alver Maheras, Olivia Salazar
- 25 - Jennifer DeMaria, Rick Sizemore, Janie Wassynger, Isabella Smith, Jean Dill, Trish Douglass, Ryder Cushman
- 26 - Harriett Vinson, Jay Wilklow, Stephanie Day
- 27 - Perrin Keene, Braelyn Wilson, Andrew Love
- 28 - Austin Kistler, Jack Tankersley, Andy Clark, Henry Shellhorse
- 29 - Anna Claire Watson
- 30 - Amy Martin, Jason Marchbanks, Kathy Gerwig, Pat Dietz
- 31 - Steve Rice, Mack Mussman, Steve Davis

## OPERATION ORANGE RIBBON AN INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PARTNER

Operation Orange Ribbon is one of our international mission partners. Founded by Jesse French and located in Simpsonville, OOR seeks to raise "local and national awareness of the persecution of Christians" around the world. OOR encourages the local community, our state, and nation to pray for persecuted Christians and provides financial support when possible. Keep reading to learn more about a particular focus for this month.

### China and Five Ways to Pray

The eyes of the world are on China as they host the Olympic Games this month in Beijing. The Communist Party leaders in China view Christians as a direct threat to their party's leadership and control. In recent years, oppressive religious rules and persecution inside China have increased significantly. Operation Orange Ribbon would ask you to consider the following five things as you pray for Christians living in China:

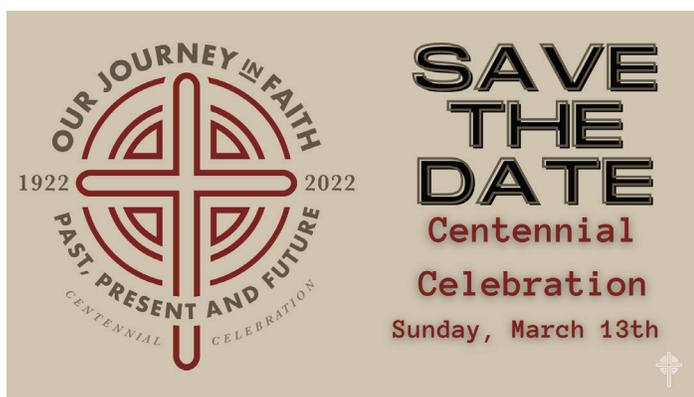
1. Pray for pastors and church leadership, that they may stand firm for biblical truth despite government pressure to compromise.
2. Pray for the protection and encouragement of Christians living in China.
3. Pray for the protection and health of the Christians in prison in China. Ask God to give them opportunities to share their faith to their fellow prisoners and to their guards.
4. Pray that the gospel would spread among the members of the local, provincial, and national Communist Party.
5. Pray for the safe distribution of Bibles throughout China.

If you are interested in learning more about OOR, contact Jerry DeYoung or Andrea Hueble, the International Missions Focus Liaisons for OOR.



### WILDFIRE: Roaring 20s Saturday, March 12th at 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center

On Saturday, March 12, the actual 100th anniversary of our church, we will be having our annual church-wide fund raiser for youth missions called "Wildfire." If you have participated in previous years, you already know how much fun it is. It is a great way for our church to support our youth who will be participating in missions this summer. But this year, Wildfire will also serve as a giant birthday party for our church. There will be a "Roaring Twenties" theme that will take us back to the time when our church was born. You will not want to miss it. Wildfire tickets are on sale now! You can purchase tickets online on our website. Be sure to buy your tickets before the deadline. Please see Lucy Wilkinson with any questions.



On Sunday, March 13, we will have a special Sunday of worship and celebration. In our worship service at 10:30 am, we will be re-living and re-creating the first worship service of the newly constituted Earle Street Baptist Church. Stephen will be bringing a message using the same biblical text used by Dr. W.T. Derieux in March of 1922 under the tent. Before and after the service, there will be historical exhibits around the church and our building will be open for tours. Immediately following the worship service, we will gather on the front steps of the Sanctuary for a panoramic centennial photograph.

