

THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 50

January 13, 2022

Issue No. 2



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

Not too long ago, our only surviving uncle died. In fact, he was the only surviving aunt or uncle on both sides of our family. We will be having a memorial service for him in a couple of weeks, to celebrate his life, grieve his death, and remember the uniqueness of who he was. For my brothers and me, his death marked the official end of an entire generation. Now all of a sudden, Howell, David, and I are the older generation in our family. How did that happen so fast? Where did the years go? How long do we have left before our children become the older generation?

I know I am not the only one whose mortality is looming on the horizon. I have conversations with many of you who have fewer years ahead of you than you have had behind you. Those kinds of thoughts can prompt us to pray with the psalmist: "Teach us to count (or number) our days that we may gain a wise heart." Usually when someone says to us, "Your days are numbered," that means, "You're on borrowed time. You're a short-timer. The clock is ticking. You don't have much time left." But the poet of Psalm 90 wants us to hear those words in a different way - - not as a threat, but as a reality, a promise, and even an opportunity. It is true for all of us that our days are numbered. And the mark of a wise heart is that we learn to live with that reality - - to count our days, and make our days count.

To "count our days" means to recognize the fact that we do not have an infinite number of days to live on this earth. It is to realize that the time of our lives is limited. It is to awaken to the reality that someday is going to be our last day. And facing that fact should not make us morbid or fatalistic or death-obsessed. To the contrary, facing that fact is the only way to stay fully alive to the absolute sacredness of ordinary moments on routine days. We must first be awake to the fact that life is fleeting, passing, limited, and certain to end before we can learn to treasure each day as the gift that it is.

Those who look at their own lives most wisely are those who have faced their death most honestly. The only kind of time there is, is the kind that passes quickly, goes by fast, flies away, and slips through our fingers like sand. Regardless of how long we live, our days on this earth are numbered. So may God teach us to count our days and make our days count, that we may gain a wise heart.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 20th

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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.

SERENDIPITY MEETING

Thursday, January 20th

6:00 pm in Room 203

Rhetta 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 collecting 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.

Inclement Weather Procedures



For information on cancellations or delays, please check our website and social media pages. You may also call the church office at 233-5332 and dial extension 500 or watch for our listing on WYFF-TV and WSPA-TV.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 16
10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Anthem: *I Then Shall Live* by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Luke 8:1-3; 24:1-10

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

Sermon: "The Women of the Church"
by Stephen Clyborne

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Words seem inadequate to express how grateful we are for the love and support you have shown us during Mother's final days on earth. As always, ESBC reflects that of a nurturing and caring church. And for that, we are most appreciative.

Beth & Steve Rice

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Doug and Vicki Chapman and Jackie Chapman
upon the recent death of Doug and
Jackie's cousin, Randy Converse.

Ric and Dodie Davis and Will and Haley Davis upon
the recent death of Ric's mother and
Will's grandmother, Kay Davis.

DEACON OF THE WEEK



Andy Burns is our deacon of the week. He is originally from Youngstown, Ohio, and moved to Greenville from Holland, Michigan in 2015. Andy has been a member of Earle Street since November 2016.

He has 2 grown children, Sarah and Andrew, Jr. Andy works at Milliken & Company as a Business Development Manager. In addition to being a deacon, Andy is a member of the Parking Team, the Prayer Team, and the Men's Discipleship Team.

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.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of January 9, 2022

Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus	191
Virtual.....	<u>27</u>
Total.....	218

Worship Attendance

On-Campus	234
Virtual.....	<u>205</u>
Total.....	439

BUDGET REPORT

Report for Sunday, January 9, 2022

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$25,678
Budget Gifts (this week)	\$15,528
Budget Requirements to Date	\$51,355
Budget Gifts to Date	\$27,829

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.

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 (local, state, national, and international) Missions 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.

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!



From the Strategic Planning Committee

The Greater Way Covenant and the ESBC Mission Statement guide our church and its members on a daily basis.

The Greater Way Covenant: Loving God, Loving Neighbors, Making Disciples.

The mission of Earle Street Baptist Church:

- to worship God (worship)
- to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed (missions)
- to be a home to all who would enter (fellowship)
- to minister to the needs of one another (ministry) and
- to assist in spiritual growth (spiritual growth)

The Greater Way Covenant and the ESBC Mission statement are always in our view as we organize and collate the survey results, Sunday School discussions and all other feedback received by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Rather than provide only a partial report of the Committee's work, we are working to provide as complete a report as possible. We want to assure you that the feedback we have received indicates that our congregation remains strong and faithful to and supportive of ESBC, its leadership and staff, and its commitment to our mission and our covenant.

Your prayers have sustained us through this process and your continued prayers will lead us to the end. We look forward to sharing our full report with our church family soon.

Continue to pray:

Lord, Open our eyes that we may see your vision for us. As Paul, we pray that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened so that we will know what is the hope of his calling. As Psalm 119: 147 states; "I rise before dawn and cry for help. I wait for your words". We rise before dawn and cry for help. We wait for your words.

