

# THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 51

May 25, 2023

Issue No. 20



## RECEPTION TO HONOR LUCY WILKINSON

**Celebrating 20 Years of Service**

**Sunday, May 28 11:30 am**

Twenty years ago, Stephen Clyborne received a call from a bright, energetic, assertive soon-to-be graduate of Clemson University named Lucy Doolittle. Stephen had never heard of Lucy before that call, but was immediately impressed by her enthusiastic interest in the open position for a minister of youth and recreation at Earle Street. Lucy had experience as a counselor at a Christian camp and was all fired up about the opportunity to work with teenagers at least for the summer. Our church needed someone in that position immediately, and since there were few applicants being seriously considered, Stephen asked Lucy to send him her resume. He promised that he would share her information with the Search Committee. Jim Wooten and Stephen visited Lucy at her place of employment, the Personnel Committee interviewed her, the rest of the staff met with her for breakfast, and the rest, as they say, is history. There was

something about Lucy's passion that impressed everyone, and there still is. With her adventurous, unconventional, and creative approach to youth and recreation ministry, Lucy quickly endeared herself to our youth, their families, our staff, and our congregation. What she thought might just be a summer job became a calling not just from our church, but from God. As our youth and recreation ministries have grown, and partially because those ministries have grown, our church has grown both in numbers and in spirit. Not only has Lucy led our youth to grow spiritually and numerically, but she has also helped our church develop a missional mindset locally, nationally, and internationally. And as Lucy and our church have grown together, so has her family. Soon after joining our staff, she and Tommy were married, and Tommy has become a vital and supportive extension of Lucy's ministry behind the scenes. In time, their family and our church family were blessed by the addition of their three sons, Maclaren, Owen, and Bear. In a time when the average tenure of youth ministers is a couple of years, Lucy's ministry with our church for twenty years has been extraordinary in countless ways.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Lucy and her extraordinary tenure of service this Sunday, May 28. The reception honoring Lucy will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning worship service. Please plan to join us for worship Sunday morning and then stay to congratulate Lucy on her 20 years of service at the reception.

## FROM THE DEACONS

At the May 21st deacon meeting, the deacon board unanimously voted to hold a series of informational sessions with representatives from the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. These sessions are intended to:

1. Provide education about the respective organizations
2. Prevent false rumors and misinformation about these organizations from being circulated
3. Allow time for respectful questions, answers, and reflection

Please continue to pray for peace, unity, and love within the deacon board and throughout the congregation. Keep the staff in your prayers as they, too, navigate the rigors of change in leadership while also managing the day-to-day activities of our church.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun. Vacation Bible School is for children who have completed K3 - 5th grade. Register for VBS by clicking [here](https://www.esbcgreenville.org)! If you have more questions, please reach out to Karli Selz at [karli@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:karli@esbcgreenville.org).

## JOIN US IN WORSHIP

**Sunday, May 28**  
**10:30 am in the Sanctuary**  
*Pentecost Sunday*  
*Ordinance of Baptism*  
*Candidate: Olivia Salazar*

Offertory: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*  
 by Betsy Fee, violin; Debbie Blume, piano

Anthem: *O Breath of God* by the Sanctuary Choir;  
 Betsy Fee, violin

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: "I Will Pour Out My Spirit" by Gary Strickland

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Steve and Fran Clark and family** upon the birth of their grandson, William Rushing "Rush" McLeod, born on May 15, 2023.

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

### Week of May 21, 2023

#### Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus.....	255
Virtual .....	1
Total.....	256

#### Worship Attendance

On-Campus.....	216
Camping Trip.....	80
Virtual .....	193
Total.....	489

## BUDGET REPORT

### Report for May 14, 2023

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,873
Budget Gifts (this week) .....	\$15,740
Budget Requirements to Date.....	\$577,469
Budget Gifts to Date .....	\$545,061
Global Missions Offering.....	\$27,883

### Report for May 21, 2023

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,873
Budget Gifts (this week) .....	\$16,420
Budget Requirements to Date.....	\$606,342
Budget Gifts to Date .....	\$561,481
Global Missions Offering.....	\$28,708

## DEACON OF THE WEEK



**Mark Dorsett is our deacon of the week.** He has been a member of Earle Street Baptist Church since 2005. Mark and his wife, Robin, have been married for 28 years. They have five children, two sons-in-law, two grandsons, and one granddaughter. In addition to his role as a deacon, he serves on the prayer team.



### UPDATE ON GLOBAL MISSIONS GIVING

At the Global Missions Celebration in January, our church family had an opportunity to pledge to support the Global Missions Offering. The Global Missions Offering, collected throughout the year, goes to support the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (or North American Missions), the Janie Chapman State Missions Offering (or State Missions), the Global Hunger Relief Funds (or World Hunger), and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (or International Missions). The goal for 2023 is \$50,000. The money given to the Global Missions Offering is divided up proportionately based on the goals set for each of the four offerings. The breakdown percentages for each of the four offerings is: Lottie Moon – 50%, Annie Armstrong – 25%, Janie Chapman – 12.5% and Global Hunger Relief – 12.5%. During the Global Missions Celebration weekend, our church family pledged to give \$41,910, 84% of the goal to support these four offerings.

As of May 22, \$28,111 has already been given to support these four offerings – 56% of the goal. This amount, \$28,111 is also only \$14,883 short of what our church gave to these four offerings in total for 2022. Since our church family is giving gifts to support these offerings throughout the year, each month we are sending the gifts to the specific offerings monthly, based on the percentages listed above. Please keep this in mind when the monthly financials are presented. The amount presented for Global Missions on the Cash Financial Statement is simply what has been collected for that specific month, not what has been given for the entire year.

Thank you for continuing to give to support the Global Missions Offering and the four areas of missions that the offering represents. And please continue to commit to pray, give and go!

# From the Minister of Administration

Denise Plumblee (ext. 211) – [denise@ESBCgreenville.org](mailto:denise@ESBCgreenville.org)

## As The Seasons Change

In January of 2010, when I accepted a part-time job as the Ministry Assistant for Communications here at ESBC, I had no idea that I would end up staying for thirteen years. Based on my plan, this position was supposed to be a temporary spot on a longer journey to another career. But God's plan was different and, as always, better. He knew I needed a place to heal, to grow and be productive again. He knew Phil and I needed a new church family to love and to love us. He knew we both had spiritual gifts that were resting dormant and needed to be utilized in His kingdom. So, God led us home to Earle Street Baptist Church and we will forever be thankful that He did.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Everything God designs is for a purpose, including the seasons of life. I am a firm believer that the seasons of our life are meant to change and that God has a purpose and a plan for each and every season. The past thirteen years have been a wonderful season for me here at ESBC. I will forever be thankful for the many opportunities provided to me by this church family. You encouraged me to develop and use skills and talents I didn't even know existed. You provided me with opportunities to learn and explore new areas of ministry. You truly have been family to Phil and me – rejoicing and laughing with us on joyous days as well as comforting and crying with us in difficult times. I have had the opportunity to serve on a staff team with awesome and wonderful people that I love and have learned so much from. Words could never express the gratitude and love I have in my heart for this church family.

And yet, as wonderful as the past thirteen years have been, I believe God is leading me into a new season in my life. Like most couples in their sixties, Phil and I have discussed for some time what retirement might look like for us. We mulled over our options and made our plans but always believed that God would speak to us when the time was right for a new season. Phil and I have sought to hear His voice, and while this wasn't our original plan, we believe this is the right decision for both of us -mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. So, with a heart full of love and gratitude, I plan to retire and conclude my ministry at ESBC effective Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Phil and I will continue to pray for this church that we love so much, asking God to give guidance and wisdom to the staff, deacons, leaders, and congregation for the new seasons ahead.

## DEACON ELECTION

Sunday, June 25

As we prepare for our deacon election in June, we want to share information with you regarding some of the duties and responsibilities of a deacon at ESBC. We hope if you know more about the duties and responsibilities of a deacon, you will be able to decide if you are willing and able to serve if elected. Also, our hope is that this knowledge will help you as you prayerfully consider for whom you will vote in June.

## Deacon Roles and Responsibilities

### Working with Clusters

Our church is currently organized around the cluster structure. Each deacon is assigned to a cluster and is responsible for working with the staff liaison and the cluster entities to carry out the work of the church. This assignment involves participating in cluster and entity meetings.

### Assisting the Staff

Deacons are responsible for assisting the staff as they lead and minister to the church. Deacons serve communion several times a year during the appropriate services. They also support the staff as requested and provide leadership to the church in the absence of the senior pastor or other staff ministers.

### Serving the Church

Deacons are to lift the church up in prayer and be the "face of the church" to both members and non-members. Each week a deacon is assigned to be the deacon of the week. The deacon of the week is responsible for visiting hospitalized church members. Deacons are expected to be active in small groups of the church such as Sunday School, Discipleship groups, choir, and/or mission groups. Deacons are expected to support and participate in church-wide services and events. The deacons currently meet at least once every two months on Sunday evenings and at other special called meetings.

### Deacon Ballot

If you are unwilling or unable to serve as a deacon for any reason, please contact Denise Plumblee and ask that your name be removed from the deacon ballot. If you have previously asked for your name to be removed permanently and now wish to be added back to the deacon ballot, please contact Denise and let her know this request as well.





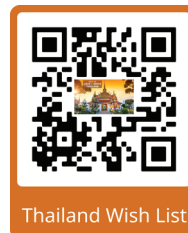
## BRONX MISSION TRIP July 22-29



This year's mission trip to the South Bronx will look a little different for us as A House on Beekman was unable to fund and host their traditional summer camp. Instead of leading a camp, we will be serving the neighborhood in a variety of ways including packing and organizing supplies at the local World Vision, handing out food items to the community and helping with AHOB's Babies-to -Two End of Summer Event. We will also spend some time during the week prepping and planning a big BACK TO SCHOOL event in the park where we will hand out school supplies, grill burgers and play games with the kids. We would love your help in getting these school supplies funded. Please check out the Amazon wish list (by scanning the QR code or [clicking here](#)) if you are able to contribute. The supplies will be delivered straight to the Bronx via the wish list. Thank you for helping us love and serve our family in the Bronx this summer!



## THAILAND MISSION TRIP June 24 - July 4



This summer, our team has the opportunity to minister in Thailand to hundreds of prisoners, to children at House of Blessing children's home, and to Pakistani refugees who have been persecuted for their faith in their home country and escaped to Thailand. We would love to involve our entire church family in our Thailand mission trip. We ask you to pray for our team and also consider contributing in a tangible way if you can and feel led to do so. We will need ministry items like prisoner packets, gifts for children, and personal items/gifts for refugees. You can [click here](#) or scan the QR code to see our wish list and support the people of Thailand through your gift. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus and brightening the lives of so many in Thailand.

## CHILDREN'S LOVE OFFERING For May and June: Thailand Mission Trip

The Children's Love offering for May and June will be collected on Sunday, June 4. The offering collected on June 4 will be used to purchase supplies for the Thailand Mission Trip. If you have questions about the Children's Love Offering, please reach out to Karli at [karli@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:karli@esbcgreenville.org).

## SUMMER DAY TRIP

*Sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry Council*

The Senior Adult Ministry Council would like to sponsor a day trip for our senior adults this summer. But we need your ideas and help in gauging interest in the trip as well as suggestions for where to visit. If you are interested in participating in a day trip or have suggestions of places to visit, please share those ideas with Ellen Heyward at [ellen@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:ellen@esbcgreenville.org) or Denise Plumblee at [denise@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:denise@esbcgreenville.org).







Celebrate summer with the Discipleship Groups as we enjoy refreshing fun fellowship in the courtyard with the rippling sounds of the waterfall!

Savor some cool lemonade, sample a cookie or two and try your competitive hand at a corn-hole game! Warm fellowship guaranteed, no matter the weather.

This will be the beginning of our adult summer discipleship groups on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall (additional dates June 21, June 28, July 12 and July 26). As all discipleship groups join together for the summer, we will enjoy a cascade of fellowship, old hymns, mid-week recharge message and testimonies! This will begin a ripple effect into our fall discipleship classes.

---



We had an amazing weekend at our Spring Camping Trip to Devil's Fork State Park. Over 80 of our church family and friends spent the weekend together. If you'd like information on our fall trip to Table Rock State Park, please contact Lucy Wilkinson at [lucy@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:lucy@esbcgreenville.org).