

THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 50

May 19, 2022

Issue No. 19



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

I must confess that, in my kind of work, I regularly whisper this question down deep inside: “What good did that do?”

When I visit someone who is sick or offer support to someone who is hopeless, when I preach a sermon or write a newsletter article, I often wonder what good it did. Many of us never get to see the results of what we do. We often feel like we are casting our morsels of kindness into the wind. Not only is that true of individual deeds of mercy, but sometimes we wonder about the impact of our lives on the world around us. When I am gone, will it have mattered that I was even here?

Now that I have been on the receiving end of so many thoughtful, generous, and timely acts of grace, I have an entirely different perspective on those philosophical musings. Now that I have experienced first-hand the love and prayers of God’s people in overwhelming ways, I want to assure you, even as I reassure myself, that every deed of love, no matter how minor or insignificant it may seem, matters. Every day, sometimes several times a day throughout the past three months, just when I was about to give up, give out, or give in, I received a note, an email, a text message, a gift, a card, a phone call, a gesture, a visit that inspired and encouraged me to keep going.

The hymn writer, Ernest Shurtleff, said it this way: “In deeds of love and mercy, the heavenly kingdom comes.” Every time you reach out in love to someone who is sick, lonely, discouraged, or grieving, God’s kingdom comes. In ways big and small, God’s kingdom comes. Jesus taught us to pray that God’s kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. And every time He showed love to someone who felt forgotten, healed someone who was sick, spoke a word of kindness to an outsider, God’s kingdom came on earth as it is in heaven. Now of course, God’s kingdom will not come in its fullness until there is a new heaven and earth. But every time, we give or receive the love of Jesus to someone who needs it, we get a foretaste of God’s heavenly kingdom.

We will never know the extent to which our seemingly insignificant acts of kindness might be enough to turn someone’s life around. It does more good than you think, or will ever know, to reach out to someone today. With every act of grace you have shown me, you have made a tremendous difference in my life at a time when I have needed it the most. Never doubt the impact of your small acts of love and kindness - - because when you are on the receiving end, you will realize that, in the economy of God, nothing is small, and nothing is wasted.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 26 - June 30

5:30 pm — 7:30 pm

Completed K3 - 5th graders

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God’s awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, June 5

**9:15 am: Breakfast Fellowship
in the Fellowship Hall**

**10:30 am: Joint Worship Service with Vietnamese
Congregations**

(No Sunday School or childcare during the 9:15 hour)

Pentecost Sunday is the perfect time to hear the gospel in more than one language! We continue our Centennial Celebration with a joint worship service with two more of our daughter churches – the Greenville Vietnamese Church and the Vietnamese Blessing Baptist Church.

Before the service we will have a joint breakfast at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our Vietnamese friends will be bringing two items to share with us – Sesame Bars and Banh Pate So (triangle pastries with pork mince filling). Our church will be providing an assortment of pastries, muffins, and bagels as well as bananas, coffee, juice and water.

We hope you will plan to join us at 9:15 for this breakfast fellowship and extend a warm welcome to our friends from our two daughter churches.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, May 22
10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Anthems: *Then Sings My Soul* by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Psalm 3

Sermon: "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep"
 by Jim Wooten

Sunday, May 29
10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Ascension Sunday

Anthems: *In Christ Alone* by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Mark 8:22-25

Sermon: "Seeing Navy" by Deb Richardson-Moore

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Becky Duckett, Dave Matthews and Rebekah Matthews upon the recent death of Becky's brother and Rebekah's uncle, Forest Duckett, Jr.

Dennis and Linda Long upon the recent death of Linda's aunt, Jovola Knecht.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of May 15, 2022

Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus.....	226
Virtual.....	19
Total.....	245

Worship Attendance

On-Campus.....	267
Virtual.....	168
Total.....	435

BUDGET REPORT

Report for Sunday, May 15, 2022

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$25,678
Budget Gifts (this week).....	\$27,938
Budget Requirements to Date.....	\$513,551
Budget Gifts to Date.....	\$529,354

DEACON OF THE WEEK



Helen Hewitt is our deacon of the week for May 22nd. 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.



Joe Jones is our deacon of the week for May 29th. He has been attending Earle Street since 1950. He and his wife Deborah have been married since 1979 and have a daughter, a son, two grandsons and a granddaughter. Joe is retired and in retirement enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and camping with the Boy Scouts. In addition to being the current deacon chairman, Joe is the Scoutmaster for ESBC's Troop & Pack 30.



INASMUCH MISSIONS

TRIUNE MERCY CENTER
LUNCH SERVICE
 SUNDAY, MAY 29
 12:00 PM AT TMC
 222 RUTHERFORD ST, GREENVILLE, SC 29609

AFTER TWO YEARS OF ONLY PROVIDING BAG LUNCHES FOR THE COMMUNITY AT TRIUNE MERCY CENTER, WE CAN ONCE AGAIN SERVE A HOT PLATED MEAL. ON SUNDAY, MAY 29, WE WILL SERVE THE MEAL TO MEMBERS OF THEIR CONGREGATION IN NEED AT 12:00 PM IN THE DINING ROOM AT TRIUNE. WE WILL BE DOING FOOD PREP FOR THIS MEAL IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL KITCHEN ON SATURDAY MORNING (MAY 28) AND COOKING THE MEAL ON SUNDAY MORNING (MAY 30). **THERE ARE THREE TIME SLOTS TO VOLUNTEER:** SATURDAY MORNING (TWO HOURS), SUNDAY MORNING (TWO HOURS) AND SUNDAY LUNCH (ONE HOUR/SERVING). WE NEED 6-7 PEOPLE FOR THE FOOD PREPARATION TIME SLOTS AND 12 PEOPLE FOR THE SERVING TIME SLOT. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, PLEASE REACH OUT TO HARRY HAYES OR BILL SMITH OR YOU CAN CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please keep and refer to this newsletter for the next two weeks. The next newsletter will be published the week of May 30th.



From the Interim Pastor

Jim Wooten – wootenj83@gmail.com

“Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep” Psalm 3

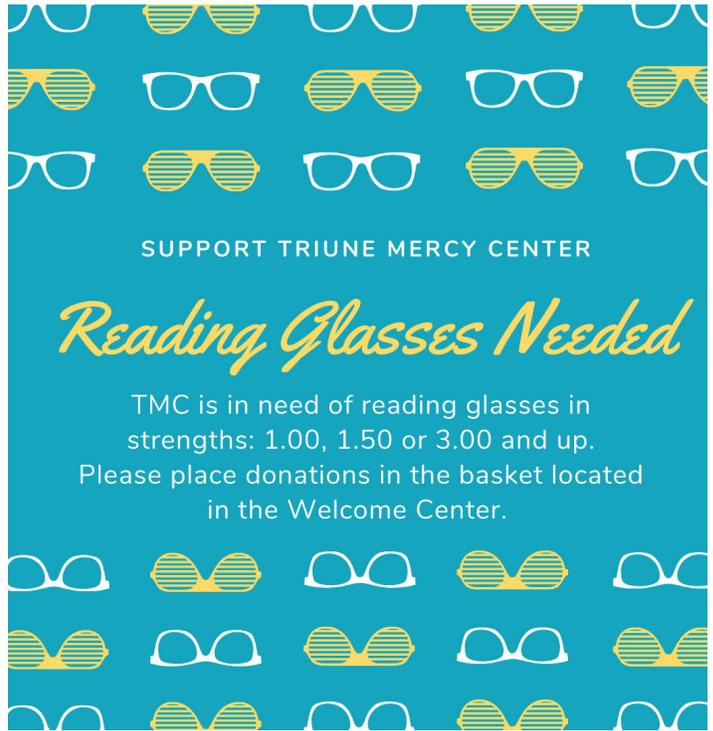
Is your mind ever whirling with so many thoughts that you have a tough time falling asleep? Do you ever find yourself waking up in the middle of the night, unable to go back to sleep, fixating on some problem or responsibility that weighs heavily upon you?

If not, count yourself fortunate. Consumer Reports surveys indicate 68 % of Americans report that they have trouble falling or staying asleep at least one night a week. The CDC says more than 1/3 of adults are sleep deprived and one in twenty have reported “falling asleep at the wheel” while driving in the past month. The global sleep aids industry is well over \$120 BILLION.

Maybe that is why this line from Psalm 3 jumped out at me: “I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.” There is something soothing and comforting and perhaps instructive in those simple words.

They were apparently written amidst great chaos in the Psalmist’s life. According to the superscription added at the beginning of the passage, they were penned by David when he was fleeing for his life from his son Absalom. You think you have problems keeping you awake at night?

If you can stay awake during the sermon, I’d like to share a thought or two this Sunday. I hope you will join us.



We all love Stephen so much and want to do everything we can to help him through this time of recovery. Since he is unable to have a typical "meal train," we have decided to give him an "encouragement train!"

There will be a box in the church office where you can drop off encouragement for Stephen and Sylvia. This can be in the form of letters, signs, or gift cards...so he can buy all the fruits and veggies at Publix! You can also email encouraging videos to Lucy at lucy@esbcgreenville.org featuring yourself, your kids, etc. Feel free to do this more than one time over the next few months!

We will then take his encouragement to him each week so that he will have at least one reminder per day of how much we love and support him.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Scholarship applications are available for members of the graduating class of 2022. In order to qualify, an applicant must be a church member, or a child of a church member, who has been accepted to any accredited college or university. The deadline for submission of the application is May 31st. Please contact Denise Plumblee to obtain an application and for more information.

CONNECTIONS PASTOR

The Connections Pastor Search Committee is now accepting resumes. If you know someone who may be led to this position, please refer them to our website’s “About” section.

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS
 Beginning Wednesday, June 8th
 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Beginning Wednesday, June 8th, we will begin having food trucks again! You will recognize some favorites from last summer and some new options also! Grab dinner before our Wednesday activities and then eat at our picnic tables or inside in the Fellowship Hall.



ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

The Eldercare Support Group has been holding in-person meetings at the church and has provided encouragement, compassion, resources and fellowship. The facilitators are grateful that this group has been able to make this formidable journey together. At this time the group's in-person meetings will take a hiatus for the summer due to participant schedules.

Plans and discussions are in process for further development and revitalization of this support group. Look for updates as our fall schedule is finalized for the new church year.

In the meantime, please know that Wayne Turner (812.786.0351) and Robin Scott Blackburn (864.918.3713) are available by phone or in-person to any member facing eldercare caregiver challenges and needs a listening ear, navigation and/or resource options. Additionally, you may contact the church office (233.5332) for their assistance with making contact.

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

Youth Choir and Youth Handbells—Beautiful singing and ringing this past Sunday! Thank you for all the hard work you put in over the last several months. I am so proud of each of you! We are finished for now until the fall. I also want to thank Hannah Grace Kincaid for serving as our accompanist this year. We appreciate you so much!

DEACON ELECTION
Sunday, June 26th

In June of each year, as prescribed by the church's Constitution and Bylaws, our congregation votes to elect deacons to serve a three-year term. In preparation for this important election, we plan to share information over the next few weeks that we hope will help you in several ways. First, we hope it will help you know more about the duties and responsibilities of a deacon at ESBC so you will be able to decide if you are willing and able to serve if elected. Second, we hope it will help you as you prayerfully discern for whom you will vote at the election on June 26.

In addition to the biblical qualifications listed in last week's newsletter, our church Constitution and Bylaws require that members meet certain requirements in order to be eligible to serve:

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Must be a church member for no less than one year before the date of election
- Must be an active member of the church
- Cannot be a current deacon rotating off this year
- Cannot be a member of the church staff or an immediate family member of the church staff (parents, children, spouses, siblings)

Our Constitution and By-laws provides for eighteen deacons with six deacons rotating off each church year. This year we will vote for seven deacons, six to replace the deacons rotating off and one to fill an unexpired term left vacant by a deacon who moved recently. Below are our current deacons listed by the year they rotate off.

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Andy Burns	Ron Bridwell	Mary Arrowood
Helen Hewitt	John Love	Lamar McCarrell
Joe Jones	Brian Poole	Vicki Merck
Linda Kirkland	Meredith Smith	Calder Standridge
Keith Merck	Bob Walker	Libby Young
Russell Young		Mary Beth Young

Church members who are eligible for service but are not able or willing to serve as a deacon may have their names removed from the ballot. If you desire to have your name removed from the ballot for this year, please contact Denise Plumblee by email at denise@esbcgreenville.org.



SUMMER 2022

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

June 15 - August 17

(No Meetings June 29, July 6, or July 27)

ESTHER: A Woman of Strength and Dignity

6:15-7:00 pm
Room 203
Led by Robin Scott Blackburn

For Women

This women's Bible study will contain intrigue, an orphan, an evil plot, despair, fear and . . . empowerment. Esther, A Woman of Strength and Dignity encompasses the attributes of courage, dignity, wisdom and strength. The qualities that formed Queen Esther and empowered her can be ours too. We will be strengthened and grow as the study's writer, Charles Swindoll, guides us through God's Word.

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future."
Proverbs 31:25

Men's Discipleship Group: Iron Sharpens Iron

6:15-7:00 pm
Room 201
Led by Various Men

For Men

Each week we will have a different man lead the session. He will share up to three of his favorite Bible verses and share the circumstances/reason around this being a favorite source of inspiration. This term, we will continue to share together how God has used Scripture and His love, care, and concern for each of us to strengthen our walk with Him. As the verse in Proverbs says, we believe we are at our best when we are learning from, and sharing with, one another. All men are welcome to join us.

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."
Proverbs 27:17

Moms' Group

6:15-7:00 pm
Room 100
Led by Mary Beth Young

For All Mom's

The Moms' Group meets weekly on an ongoing basis to provide support for fellow mothers navigating the challenges of raising children, no matter the age or stage. The sessions are relaxed and informal. The group shares laughter, empathy, and experiences, but most of all, a time of peace, support, and stillness. Moms of all ages are welcome.

Walking in the Light, While Living in the Dark: A Study of First John

6:15-7:00 pm
Room 202
Led by Larry Worley

For All Adults

The title of the series draws upon John's repeated references to God being light and the social world of his day being a place of spiritual darkness. There is so much in this little epistle that can stir our hearts as well as instruct our minds. With the aid of PowerPoint, handouts, and discussion groups, those who attend this series will find it a stimulating and relevant series. First John is a short epistle written in a very simple style but with great theological depth and wisdom for Christians living in a changing world that leans toward darkness rather than light.

Wednesday Morning Group

11:00 am
Room 206
Led by Beverly Bass

For All Adults

This morning Bible study group will meet weekly starting June 8 and is open to all adults. The group will use the Connections literature series which presents an ecumenical mix of traditional Bible study and contemporary insight. If you are unable to attend Sunday School on Sunday mornings or are looking for a morning mid-week Bible study opportunity, you are welcome and encouraged to join this group.

Young Men's Life Group

6:15-7:00 pm
Room 200
Led by Will Middleton

For Young Men

Each week we will have a different man lead the session. He will share up to three of his favorite Bible verses and share the circumstances/reason around this being a favorite source of inspiration. This term, we will continue to share together how God has used Scripture and His love, care, and concern for each of us to strengthen our walk with Him. As the verse in Proverbs says, we believe we are at our best when we are learning from, and sharing with, one another. All men are welcome to join us.

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