

THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 50

March 3, 2022

Issue No. 9



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

Sylvia and I are trusting you to know how much this church means to us. The events of this past week have reminded us of what matters most in life. Love matters most. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, everything minus love equals nothing. From the moment we entered this family of faith twenty years ago, you have taken us in and loved us so generously. And over the past week, your love for us has sustained us in ways I could never describe. There were moments throughout this traumatic experience when your love for us was palpable. It is not an overstatement to say that love kept me alive. I have learned in recent days that my soul is infinitely stronger than my body because of the power of love. Last Wednesday night, while the congregation was gathering to pray for us, we heard the soft whisper of hope and our souls were strengthened. Thank you for every prayer, every gesture, every word of encouragement. I believe your love kept my heart beating. Your continued prayers will sustain us as we move into the future that God has in store for us.

I also want to be sure to thank our staff for pulling together in remarkable ways to serve and lead our church. I am sure you know without my telling you that we are blessed beyond measure to have such an extraordinary team of ministers who love our church and are willing to do whatever is needed to keep our church strong, vibrant, and focused.

Enough about me . . .

Next weekend, March 12-13, will be a momentous celebration for our church, and I hope you will be a part of all of it. On March 12, 1922, exactly a century ago, our church was formed. And we have planned two big centennial celebrations.

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.

Then on Sunday, March 13, we will be celebrating our centennial in the context of worship, giving thanks to God for the contributions of our spiritual ancestors from Central Baptist Church who started our church a century ago. The sermon will be based on the same passage of Scripture used by the preacher under the tent on the first Sunday our church gathered in worship. We will be inviting former staff and members to join us on that day; and following the service, we will gather on the front steps of the church for a commemorative centennial photograph of our congregation. We want you to be included in that snapshot of history. Before and after the service, you will be invited to view a historical display and visit with other members, guests, and former members.

After this celebration weekend, we will be having several other centennial events culminating with another celebration weekend on August 20 and 21. As a church, we have so much to celebrate - a rich heritage and a bright future. Please make your plans to be a part of all of our centennial plans.

MINISTERING TO THOSE IN CRISIS DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

The Wednesday evening series, *Ministering to Those in Crisis*, will resume on March 9. The material prepared by Stephen Clyborne will be presented by Wayne Turner on March 9. Please join us for this series as we learn how to help people in times of crisis without hurting them. The group meets each Wednesday evening through the end of March at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY Sunday, March 13 No Sunday School

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. The message that day will be 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.

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

For those who purchased tickets in advance

There are a limited number of tickets available. Contact lucy@esbcgrenville.org if you would like to attend.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, March 6
10:30 am in the Sanctuary
First Sunday in Lent

Offertory: *Holy, Holy, Holy* by Betsy Fee, violin

Anthem: *Arise and Come to Jesus* by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Philippians 4:8-20

Sermon: "What to Do When the Pastor is in 'Jail'"
by Jim Wooten

DEACON OF THE WEEK



Lamar McCarrell is our deacon of the week. He and his wife, Harriet, have been members of Earle Street since 2007. Their daughter and son-in law, Susan and David Lyon and granddaughter, Bess, live in Columbia. He is co-leader of the Prayer Team, a member of the Sanctuary Choir, and the Director of the Senior Adult Choir.

IN MEMORIAM

BETTY POWELL
May 30, 1930 - February 23, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS

Luke and Kelsea Burton upon the recent birth of their daughter, Mae Jean Burton, on February 21. The proud big sisters are Lyla and Harper.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of February 27, 2022

Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus.....	194
Virtual	32
Total.....	226

Worship Attendance

On-Campus.....	222
Virtual	475
Total.....	697

BUDGET REPORT

Report for Sunday, February 27, 2022

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$25,678
Budget Gifts (this week)	\$20,485
Budget Requirements to Date.....	\$231,098
Budget Gifts to Date	\$223,981

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the birthday wishes, prayers, and all your kind deeds. You have been such a help to me over the years. Your generosity continues on today.

James Sheppard

Thank you for your in-kind donation of Souper Bowl donations for our food pantry in February. With your support, United Ministries provides both compassionate care for those in crisis now as well as opportunities for financial stability in the future. Your compassion and generosity help to ensure that all families have the opportunity to thrive in Greenville.

Lizzie Bebber
Executive Director
United Ministries

AN UPDATE ON STEPHEN CLYBORNE

Our pastor continues to make progress as he recuperates from a major heart attack last week. Under the supervision and advice of his cardiologist, he will be easing back into his responsibilities on a limited basis over the next several weeks. Unfortunately, because of other significant blockages that cannot be resolved with stents, he will be facing heart bypass surgery once he has recovered and stabilized from his recent heart attack. The surgery will be scheduled in about three months.

In the meantime, Stephen will be primarily working from home during the week, but hopes to be back in the pulpit soon. Please continue to pray for Stephen as he recuperates from his heart attack, that God will give him peace and strength. And please continue to pray for Sylvia as well as they face the challenges ahead.

As we continue to give Stephen the space and time to recover, please remember that the ministerial staff and the ministry assistants are available to assist you.

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NATIONAL MISSIONS
Our Goal: \$10,000**

Did you know that the first pastor of Earle Street Baptist Church, Rev. Furman Moore, would be considered a “church planter” in today’s language? In 1918, when Moore registered for the draft, he listed his occupation as “minister” and his employer as “The Home Mission Board,” now the North American Mission Board. He was affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention and was widely known for this role in starting and developing churches.

Like Rev. Moore, there are missionaries today, serving all across North America, who are starting and developing churches. Since 2010, more than 8,700 new churches have been planted across North America. These missionaries, like Furman Moore, are supported by the North American Mission Board through gifts given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Someone in the early 1900s gave a gift that was used to support Furman Moore and plant Earle Street Baptist Church. Here, 100 years later, we are celebrating that church plant. Will you join us in supporting these efforts and give a gift to start a new church? Who knows? Maybe the missionary we help support will plant a church that will be ministering in another community and thriving for 100 or more years!

***There Were Twelve Disciples*
Led by Jim Wooten in the Fellowship Hall
Resumes this Wednesday, March 9
“The Thunder Boys”
James and John**

Join us on Wednesday nights as Jim Wooten leads us in our adult discipleship group. Some years ago, he put together a series of sermons entitled “There Were Twelve Disciples.” This series “paints a portrait” that catches some of the uniqueness of each character and how we could identify with each one.



**SHOP ONLINE AND
SUPPORT ESBC!**

Are you an Amazon shopper? Or searching for those last minute gifts? If so, did you know you can shop online through Amazon Smile and allow ESBC to receive a portion of the purchase amount? Simply go to smile.amazon.com and set up Earle Street Baptist Church as your charity preference. Then when you shop Amazon, go to the smile.amazon.com rather than the normal Amazon.com. Your shopping experience, orders, and lists will all be the same as usual, but you'll be sending a portion of your purchase amounts to support our church!



**SUPPORT FOR
UKRAINE**

Looking for a tangible way to help meet the needs of the Ukrainian people in the current crisis? As Baptists we know that there is strength in the community of faith, and what we do together can make a real impact for the

Kingdom. Our church has long supported the cooperative work of the Baptist World Alliance, and the BWA offers a way for you to give directly to relief efforts in Ukraine. Founded in 1905, the Baptist World Alliance is a fellowship of 241 conventions and unions in 126 countries and territories comprising 47 million baptized believers in 169,000 churches. For more than 100 years, the Baptist World Alliance has networked the Baptist family to impact the world for Christ with a commitment to strengthen worship, fellowship and unity; lead in mission and evangelism; respond to people in need through aid, relief, and community development; defend religious freedom, human rights, and justice; and advance theological reflection and leadership development. The BWA is responding to the crisis in Ukraine through the mobilization of both prayer and financial resources.

“The level of support our global Baptist family is demonstrating to not just the Ukrainian Baptists, but also to the communities in which they serve, is a testament to the strength and generosity of the global Baptist movement...As brothers and sisters within a global Baptist family, we are all called to be both peacemakers and people of prayer. As one Baptist family rooted in Jesus Christ as Lord, we bear witness to the biblical truth that ‘if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.’ We know it is vital for Baptists around the world to stand with those who are suffering and to fervently pray for peace.”

To support relief efforts in Ukraine and respond together as one Baptist family join the response at <https://www.baptistworld.org/give/>. Please note “for Ukraine relief” in the comment box.



FROM OUR PASTOR



On February 11, when my former pastor, dear friend, and wise mentor, died, my soul got very still and quiet. And in the stillness of my sorrow, the ears of my soul were straining to hear Ansel again. When Ansel spoke, he spoke with a unique blend of boldness and humility, two qualities that do not often come together in the same person. Ansel was bold, but not arrogant; he was humble, but not weak. And that distinctive combination of qualities gave him an authority that I have rarely seen in another person. He was a serious student of the Bible; and when he preached and taught, he was prepared. He had studied and prayed about what he was going to say; and when the time came to speak or teach or preach, the substance of what he said was authoritative. Ansel had a way with words, and he used that gift so clearly and so powerfully. But his authority was also derived not just from the words he spoke, but also from the life he lived and the values he embraced. There was a consistency between what he said and what he did, between the words he spoke and the life he lived. His walk matched his talk. His example validated his teaching and preaching. Because he practiced what he preached, his life and his words matched and were filled with authority. Just those two qualities alone were impressive. But in Ansel's case, what gave his life and preaching another layer of authority was his deep, resonant voice, which became his trademark. It was not affectatious, fake or phony. It was his natural God-given voice. And when those three elements came together in one

person - - his powerful and substantive words, his transparent and exemplary life, and his deep, resonant voice - - we knew that we were in the presence of someone with uncommon, self-authenticating authority.

That is why, six years ago, when Ansel had a massive stroke that affected his ability to articulate his words, those of us who knew him and loved him lost one of God's greatest gifts to us. We lost Ansel's words. It is important to note that he did not lose his words, we did. I am convinced that he still knew what he was saying, even though we did not. His words were still in him - - on his lips, and in his heart. Ansel had an authority that no stroke could take away from him. He still had that authoritative voice, he still had his joyful personality, and the word was still in his heart and on his lips. He never lost his words. But we did. We lost his words. We missed his words, and we longed to hear his words again.

I will confess that I never understood why Ansel, of all people, had to lose his ability to articulate words. What a loss it was to all of us who loved him! Six years of listening to that thunderous voice uttering inarticulate words! It was so sad to me. And then, on February 11, when Ansel closed his eyes in death, we all realized that we had heard that authoritative voice for the last time. But ever since then, I have been reminded over and over again that not even death can silence him.

Ansel is still speaking. He is still speaking through his ongoing influence in the lives of those of us who knew him best and loved him most. Every time I stand up to preach, Ansel is still speaking. Every time Ansel's son and grandsons lead in worship, he is still speaking. Every time his children quote their daddy's one-liners, and pass along his wisdom to their children, Ansel is still speaking. Every time someone Ansel baptized points someone else to Jesus, Ansel is still speaking. Every day someone Ansel counseled along the way stays on a righteous path, Ansel is still speaking. Every time we remember something he said in one of his sermons or lessons, and repeat it to someone else, Ansel is still speaking. No stroke could silence him. Not even death could keep him from speaking.

In 1954, the Lord sent Ansel to preach the good news, and Ansel followed God's call upon his life, and never looked back. But, to me, the most meaningful and memorable ways Ansel is still speaking is through his sound bites of wisdom that I call "Anselisms." The people of Earle Street not only hear these words often, but now many of you repeat these words to others:

- "You cannot change anyone, but God can change you."
- "A good sermon should warm the heart, challenge the mind, and tan the hide."
- "Sorrow has a way of coming down every street and knocking on every door."
- "Sometimes we are judged not so much *for* our sins, but *by* our sins."
- "You have not lost something if you know where it is."

This world has not lost Ansel. We know where he is. We are the ones who feel lost without him. But as the writer of Hebrews said of Abel, "though he died . . . he is still speaking." And nothing, not even death itself, can silence him.

There is one final Anselism that I have framed in my office and that I use almost every Sunday. Ansel spoke these words almost every Sunday to invite people to faith in Jesus, and I have never heard a better, simpler, or clearer way to invite people to trust Jesus: "Give as much of yourself as you know how to as much of Jesus as you can understand."

When Ansel spoke, he spoke with an uncommon authority - - boldness balanced with humility. His words were substantive and persuasive and powerful because he lived what he preached. And though he died, and we will miss his deep, resonant voice, he is still speaking.

