

# THE HOME PAGE

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Beloved Church Family,

We are writing this letter because we are devastated that our church has become so divided, and that people whom we dearly love have left. We have always had church members who were polar opposites on many views, but we have always been able to agree that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that He is the one who unites us. Somewhere along the way we started talking *about* each other instead of talking *to* each other.

There have been a lot of rumors going around about things the staff has said or done. Many of the things we have been accused of have been far-fetched and would be laughable, except that people have chosen to believe them and spread them around. This has been particularly hurtful.

We are very disappointed that folks have chosen to believe these things without ever asking any of us if what they heard was true. We beg you, if you have any questions or concerns about the staff, or other entities in our church, please, *please* come and talk to us. We are all willing to have open and honest conversations with you. We promise we are seeking God's will for our church and our next pastor.

In closing, we have been reminded of the letters from John. At the end of his life, the Apostle John, after all he had seen and experienced with Jesus and in his exile, kept coming back to a phrase that he repeated over and over:

Dear children, let us love one another.  
Brothers and sisters, let us love one another.  
Let us love one another.  
May it be so.

Much love,  
Your Staff



### FROM THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE DEACONS AND THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On Sunday evening, Oct 22, John Kincaid submitted his resignation from his role as a deacon and as Chairman of the Search Committee. The deacons now have three vacancies which will be filled by special election, by the congregation in early 2024. The Nominating Committee will nominate a candidate for the opening on the Search Committee, and that candidate will be brought to the church for a vote. Once that candidate is approved by the church, the Search Committee will elect a new chairperson. We ask for your continued prayers for our deacons and for the members of the Search and Nominating Committees. We will keep you posted on our progress.

### FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The PSC continues to move forward with great purpose. We've begun to identify and detail many important components of our church profile. The surveys we conducted on Sunday mornings as well as the information Mr. George Bullard collected and later shared have provided invaluable insight. Other areas of our church profile include demographics of our community and city, information about our great staff and when available, the further findings of Mr. Bullard's feedback and feed forward forms. We encourage you to attend these sessions with an open heart and mind so we can find God's called senior pastor to our congregation.

## JOIN US IN WORSHIP

**Sunday, October 29th**  
**10:30 am in the Sanctuary**  
*Reformation Sunday*

Anthem: *God of Grace and God of Glory*  
by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Genesis 29:10-19

Sermon: "This Place" by Gary Stickland

## DEACON OF THE WEEK



**Joyce McCarrell is our deacon of the week.** She has been a member of Earle Street since 2006. Joyce and her sister, Nancy (also a member of ESBC), closed their restaurant, The Cafe @ Williams Hardware, in 2018 after a successful 10-year run. In addition to her new duties as deacon, Joyce is a member of the Gleaners Sunday School class and plays handbells with the Earle Street Ringers.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Sue McDaniel    Andy Harper    Lynne Hobus

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

**Terri Headley and family** upon the recent death of her father, Ryan Effler.

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

### Week of October 22, 2023

#### Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus .....	154
Virtual.....	2
Total.....	156

#### Worship Attendance

On-Campus .....	206
*Virtual .....	138
Total.....	344

\* Virtual refers to the total number of times the livestream has been viewed.

## BUDGET REPORT

### Report for October 15, 2023

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,873
Budget Gifts (this week) .....	\$11,315
Budget Requirements to Date .....	\$1,212,684
Budget Gifts to Date .....	\$985,916
Global Missions Offering .....	\$45,197

### Report for October 22, 2023

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,873
Budget Gifts (this week) .....	\$14,882
Budget Requirements to Date .....	\$1,241,558
Budget Gifts to Date .....	\$1,000,798
Global Missions Offering .....	\$45,492

## AN UPDATE FROM THE DEACONS

The deacons met on October 8th and October 22nd. These meetings included a time of collective prayer for each other, the ESBC congregation, and prayers of gratitude for the blessings we experience at ESBC.

Items discussed and voted on during the October 8th meeting included:

- unanimous vote to sell ESBC activity buses
- unanimous vote to delay the filling of two vacant deacon positions until the Deacon Election Task Force has had time to review and potentially propose a change to the method of electing ESBC deacons
- unanimous vote to approve the Property and Space Committee motion to use the 2023 Richard and Marion Bramlett Fund distribution for the renovation of the meeting space of the Family Life Center
- positive reports from September cluster meetings detailing the continued success of the entities at ESBC

Items discussed during the October 22nd meeting included:

- outrageous success of the Great Earle Pumpkin Patch in terms of both funds raised for mission trips and opportunities to interact with our neighbors
- discussion of the proposed 2024 budget being prepared by the Stewardship Committee
- update from the first meeting of the Deacon Election Task Force

In addition to the items listed above, the Deacons voted in favor of designating Gary Strickland as an intentional interim pastor, with all duties associated with that position, including but not limited to, providing consulting services to the Pastor Search Committee, staff oversight, and leading a transition process. This vote was taken to affirm the duties that Gary has been performing effective July 1, 2023.

## CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION AND LISTENING SESSIONS

Sunday, October 29

Sunday, November 12

All conversation sessions will take place at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. These sessions are scheduled as a time of listening and to unpack the information received from the SBC and CBF informational sessions and to discern who we are and where we are headed.

### Child Care

If you need child care, please contact Catherine Carnes at [catherine@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:catherine@esbcgreenville.org) or click [here](#).

### Transportation

If you need transportation to the evening sessions or can offer transportation to those in need, please contact the church office at 233-5332 or by email at [ellen@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:ellen@esbcgreenville.org).

## ESBC'S DAY OF PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

*Sponsored by the Prayer Team*

On Monday, November 5th, we will have a day of concentrated prayer for our nation. Strong divisions in the United States seem to be caused by a severe lack of cooperation among our leaders. Let's pray that they will find ways to compromise and have healthy competition without the dysfunction and chaos we've seen recently. Please sign up online at the link below or on the bulletin board opposite the small elevator on the third floor.

### ESBC DAY OF PRAYER



### WILDFIRE

*The Greatest Fundraiser on Earth*

March 9th, 2024

Mark your calendars now for The Greatest Fundraiser on Earth! What is Wildfire? Wildfire is our annual silent auction fundraiser! Attending Wildfire means you are giving our youth an opportunity to attend camps and mission trips during the summer. This year, our youth are raising money to offset three summer trips: Look Up Lodge, the Bronx Mission Trip and the Ecuador Mission Trip. Make plans now to invite your friends and family. Look out for more information soon!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoeboxes are due  
November 15th!



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoeboxes are due November 15th!

Christmas is almost here! And although shoeboxes are distributed all year, we celebrate Operation Christmas Child now. Empty shoeboxes are located in the Welcome Center on the second floor. Please choose either boy or girl and the age range that you'd like to pack for. The age ranges are 2 to 4, 5 to 9, and 10 to 14. Each box should include a 'wow' item and other toys, games, and hygiene items. If you have questions, please call Mary Arrowood at 864-246-7059 or 864-918-7063. Operation Christmas Child is the largest salvation organization in the world. One box usually touches up to 10 people. Click the button below to find out more about what each shoebox should include, or to pack a box online.

[Click Here to Learn More about OCC](#)

## VISIT THE DISTRIBUTION AND PACKING CENTER

Tuesday, November 28th  
Charlotte, North Carolina

If you would like to travel to the packing center in NC, please contact Mary Arrowood. This is a great opportunity to be hands on in the Operation Christmas Child process and see what happens to the boxes once they leave ESBC. There is a limited number of spots so please contact Mary quickly if you'd like to go.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Wednesday, November 1

5:00 - 5:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall

**Main Entree:** Marinated Chicken Breast,  
Broccoli Casserole, Corn and Dessert

**Salad Entree:** Grilled Chicken Salad with Assorted  
Toppings and Dressing and Dessert

**Pizza Entree:** Two Slices of Pizza and Dessert

November 1st Meal



# From the Minister of Music

Janice Hinnant (ext. 202) – [janice@ESBCgreenville.org](mailto:janice@ESBCgreenville.org)

**Youth Choir and Handbells—Festival By the Sea** - The \$25 deposit for Festival By the Sea is due by this Sunday, October 29, but you may give it to me anytime. The total cost is \$145.

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## USHERS NEEDED

Ushers are often the first people that folks meet when they come to Earle Street. We are in need of people who would be willing to serve as ushers. If you would be interested in serving, or if you have questions, please contact Janice Hinnant at [janice@esbcgreenville.org](mailto:janice@esbcgreenville.org).



## THE GREAT EARLE PUMPKIN PATCH Ends October 30th!

Have you gotten your pumpkins yet? The Pumpkin Patch closes on Monday, October 30th! Be sure to stop by anytime during the week or after services for your pumpkins.

Thank you for your help making the first Earle Pumpkin Patch a great success! The money raised from the sales will go to offset the Holiday Bronx Mission Trip and the Ecuador Mission Trip. This is a great way to support our youth and adults as they are sent out to serve.

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## TRICK OR TREAT ON EARLE STREET! Tuesday, October 31st

Did you know that on Halloween night, thousands of people come to Earle Street to Trick or Treat? The city closes the road and the street is filled with families and costumes. We have an opportunity to meet lots of people on this night right in our front yard. If you would be willing to help pass out water bottles, candy, information about our church and just be a smiling face to our neighbors we would love to have your help! Please contact Janice Hinnant if you can be here to help out!

## BUILDING BONDS OF UNITY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EQUITY BUILD November 3rd and 10th

Earle Street has been invited to participate in the Equity Bridge Builder event that will build a home for a deserving applicant and will bring together community members, thought leaders, and advocates to engage in meaningful conversation about disparities in our community that have a lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families. Click below for more information and to register.

[Click Here for the Equity Build](#)

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## WEDNESDAY ENLIGHTENMENT

**Adult Discipleship Groups**  
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

### ADULTS OF ALL AGES

**Leaders: Gary Strickland and Dale Lynch**  
Fellowship Hall

This group is open to everyone and is minister led. Join us as we walk together through this study of gifts; learning, applying, praying, and reflecting. Grow with us, as we study God's Word together.

### LADIES DISCIPLESHIP GROUP (All Ages)

**Facilitators: Kathy Turner, Janet Landers and Robin Scott Blackburn**  
Room 203

This Ladies Bible Study welcomes all ages to the table to learn and grow together. The fellowship shared gives encouragement for our spiritual growth as we face day to day challenges and joy. The enlightenment from Bible study enables us to seek and find pathways of service. The only required book is your Bible.

### MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP (All Ages)

*"Iron Sharpens Iron"*  
**Facilitator: David Dalhouse**  
Room 202

We will share in God's word to strengthen our faith and build our relationship together. As "iron sharpens iron," this group seeks to apply scripture to life's circumstances and grow into Godly men of service. All men are welcome to join us.

### MOMS' LIFE GROUP (All Ages)

**Leader: Mary Beth Young**  
Room 205C

This group provides support for fellow mothers navigating the challenges of raising children, no matter the age or stage. The sessions are relaxed, informal and include a time of reflection on the study that enable busy moms to be uplifted. The group shares laughter, empathy and experiences; but, most of all a time of peace, support and stillness. Moms of all ages are welcome.