

THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 50

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Issue No. 30

OUR JOURNEY IN FAITH STRATEGIC PLAN 2022

At the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, August 7, the Strategic Planning Committee presented "Our Journey in Faith, Strategic Plan 2022." Copies of the report with recommendations were distributed at that time. On Wednesday, August 10, the congregation was invited to the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm to discuss the proposed strategic plan. This Sunday, August 14, during the 10:30 am worship service, the church will vote on the plan without discussion.



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

This Sunday, we will have the rare opportunity to celebrate the two ordinances of the church in the same worship service: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Many Christian denominations have what they call "sacraments," which are religious rituals that are believed not just to be symbolic, but actual channels of God's real presence and divine grace. They are believed to be outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace that is imparted to believers who participate in these rituals. In the Catholic Church, for example, there are seven sacraments. Other Christian denominations have only two sacraments: baptism and communion. But the point is that a lot of Christians believe that baptism and communion are sacramental. That is, they believe that God's presence is real, and God's actual grace is imparted, through the rituals of baptism and communion.

Baptists, on the other hand, historically have not shared that view. Rather than referring to baptism and communion as sacraments, we refer to them as ordinances. An ordinance is a practice that Jesus ordained; but Baptists do not believe that these ordinances have sacramental significance. We do not believe that the water of baptism is holy water. As my former pastor, Bob Freeland, used to say about the water of baptism, "This is just Greenville County water." Similarly, Baptists historically have not believed that the bread and wine of The Lord's Supper are anything other than ordinary bread and wine. The ordinances are sacred and holy not because they contain supernatural elements, but because they are practices that Jesus ordained and commanded us to observe. Baptists have always believed that baptism and The Lord's Supper are symbolic actions and vivid reminders of God's grace in Jesus Christ. But we do not attach sacramental significance to them. We do not believe that the practice of baptism is what saves us, and we do not believe that the grace of God is actually imparted to us as we eat the bread and drink the cup of communion. But on the other hand, we do not trivialize the ordinances either. We recognize them as holy practices that convey profound truth. We may think of them as symbolic, but not just symbolic. Baptism and The Lord's Supper are vivid pictures of profound realities.

In some ways, these pictures are worth more than a thousand words. In our sanctuary, the baptismary and the communion table are in the center of our sanctuary, along with the pulpit, the cross, the open Bible, and the Christ candle - - all vivid reminders and symbols of the centrality of Jesus Christ in all that we say and all that we do. This Sunday will be a special day as we celebrate the baptism of four new believers and their first communion with us as their family of faith. I hope to see you Sunday.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS This Sunday, August 14th 10:30 am

Bring your backpack, teacher bag, or whatever you take to school with you as a student or teacher to worship. During our worship service we will pray over these bags and give a gift for the start of the new school year.



FIRST GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION Sunday, August 28th 10:30 am

Our first grade Bible presentation is August 28 during the 10:30 worship service. Join us as we celebrate the move of our first graders from our preschool ministry to the children's ministry. If you are the parent of a first grader and have not received an email regarding the presentation, please email karli@esbcgreenville.org.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, August 14
10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the Backpacks

Ordinance of Communion

Ordinance of Baptism

*Candidates: Evan Bridwell, Tatum Johnson,
Reece Wells, and Kate Lewis*

Anthem: *Christ Comes to Us* by the Sanctuary Choir

Scripture: Acts 2:37-42

Sermon: "Wash Before You Eat" by Stephen Clyborne

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Tish Alford Pat Dietz

CONGRATULATIONS

Barbara Aiken upon the birth of her
great-granddaughter Ivy Lin McCrary,
born August 3, 2022.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of August 7, 2022

Sunday School Attendance

On-Campus.....166

Worship Attendance

On-Campus.....310

Virtual204

Total.....514

BUDGET REPORT

Report for Sunday, August 7, 2022

Weekly Budget Requirements.....\$25,678

Budget Gifts (this week)\$26,323

Budget Requirements to Date.....\$821,681

Budget Gifts to Date.....\$843,657

WELCOME HOME



Kate Lewis

Kate Lewis joined on
Sunday, August 7
by profession of faith and
request for baptism.



Bill Turner

Bill Turner joined on
Sunday, August 7th
by promise of letter from
Augusta Heights
Baptist Church.



Reece Wells

Reece Wells joined on
Sunday, August 7th by
profession of faith and
request for baptism.

DEACON OF THE WEEK



**Mary Beth Young is our
deacon of the week.** Mary
Beth Young and her husband
Russell joined Earle Street
Baptist Church in 2007. They
have two daughters, Emma and
Reese. Mary Beth works as an
attendance clerk at JL Mann

High School. In addition to serving as a deacon,
she co-teaches the Daily Bread Sunday School class,
serves in the nursery and on the Preschool Council,
and leads the Wednesday night Moms group.

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays // 5:30 - 6:30 pm

August 17: Chick-fil-A

Grab dinner before our Wednesday activities and then eat
at our picnic tables or inside in the Fellowship Hall! This
week is Chick-fil-A! They will serve until 6:30 pm.

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

CALLING ALL 3RD – 5TH GRADERS!

Are children too young to serve as worship leaders? My answer is no, which is why we give all 3rd – 5th graders the opportunity to serve as acolytes. 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.

We began having the children serve as acolytes several years ago. Why 3rd – 5th graders? They are old enough to handle the responsibility, and I've yet to meet a child that didn't like to have a lighter in their hands! We use the acolytes during the school year, from September through May.

If your child will be a 3rd – 5th grader this coming year, 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 Of Preschoolers and Children

Karli Selz (ext. 209) – karli@ESBCgreenville.org

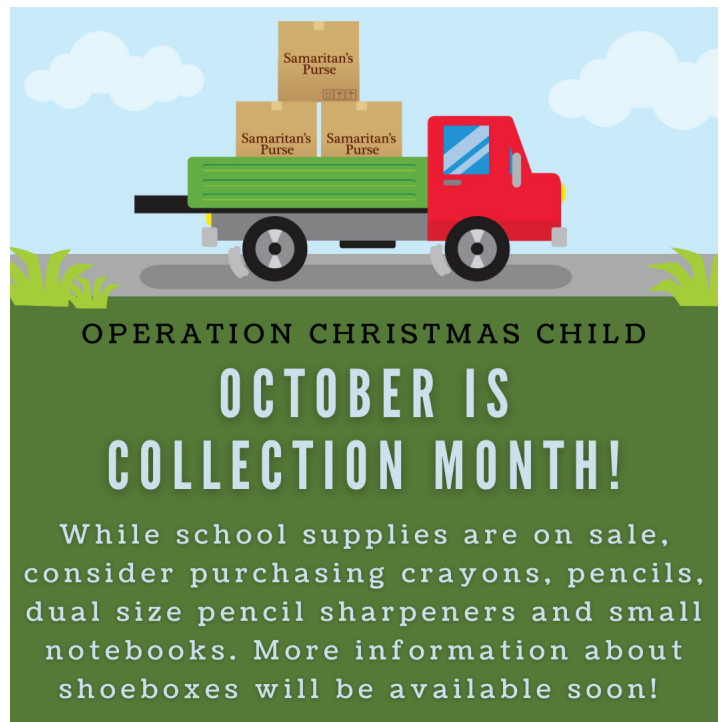
BABIES AND TODDLER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

With the start of a new church year, we have the start of a new volunteer schedule. We need 2 volunteers to help in the baby room during the 9:15 am Sunday School hour. If you are interested, please email karli@esbcgreenville.org.



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!



VIETNAMESE BLESSING BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Don and Kathy Holtzclaw have been faithfully serving at the Vietnamese Blessing Baptist Church since February of this year. In January, the VBBC pastor and associate pastor resigned and moved back to Texas. The pastor led the Vietnamese service and the associate pastor led the English service for the youth. The parents want to keep the youth engaged in church and the best way is to have an English-speaking ministry. Don and Kathy have been called to help them until the pastoral positions could be filled. But as you know, this can be a lengthy process.

Don and Kathy are asking for volunteers so that they may recharge and worship at Earle Street at least once a month. Without volunteers, the youth will have no one to lead the English service. The youth choose the music, play the instruments, and lead the songs. All you would be asked to do is pick a lesson and present it to the group. Don and Kathy are grateful to you for your help so that they may recharge here at home at ESBC. If you feel led to serve, please contact Don and Kathy Holtzclaw at dholtz13@gmail.com or kholtz@gmail.com.