

THE HOME PAGE

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Issue No. 1



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

It is nothing short of amazing that our church finished the year 2020 in a solid financial standing. While we are waiting to finalize the 2020 financials, we can say that offerings received at year-end surpassed our budget requirements as well as our expenses for 2020. The specific financial numbers will be provided in next week's newsletter. Think about that. Let that news sink in. I realize that a church's financial support is not the only indicator of spiritual health. But it does say something very important about our church family. We believe in our church's mission now more than ever:

- to worship God;
- to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed;
- to be a home to all who would enter;
- to minister to the needs of one another; and
- to assist in spiritual growth.

In a time of unprecedented challenges, you have remained committed to our "greater way" covenant:

- to love God with all that we have and all that we are;
- to love our neighbors as we love ourselves; and
- to make disciples wherever we go.

In the midst of a constantly changing world, our church has remained true to our identity and our mission. The way we go about our work has changed and will continue to change. But the core principles of who we are and what we do have remained the same. I am so very thankful for your constant support and am praying that the year 2021 will be a time of renewal as we face a future that is constantly changing with a God who never changes.

Earle Street Academy

It is with sadness that we received the resignation of Mackenzie Elliott as our Earle Street Academy Director. We are grateful to her for service to our church and community and we wish her well as she enters a new phase of her life, and are so happy that she and Andrew and Opal will remain a part of our church family.

Please pray for our Earle Street Academy Committee during these uncertain times. As you know, the pandemic has taken its toll on a lot of preschool programs; and ours is no exception. I ask you to pray for the members of our Committee who are working hard, as representatives of our church family, to make wise and timely decisions, and to be good stewards of the opportunities that have been presented to us and the resources that have been entrusted to us.

Welcome, Randal Blackburn

Our church family welcomes Randal Blackburn as our new organist beginning January 17. I have known Randy for a long time, and have a deep appreciation for him and his wife, Robin. He is a gifted organist and a faithful follower of Jesus. He and Robin will be wonderful additions to our church family. Please find a way in the next few days to reach out to him and Robin and give them a warm Earle Street welcome.

**EARLE STREET ACADEMY
NOW ENROLLING FOR
THE 21-22 SCHOOL YEAR!**

On Monday, January 4, enrollment for the 21-22 school year opened to currently-enrolled families. Open enrollment for the rest of the community will begin on Monday, January 18. Payment of a registration fee is required to hold a student's spot. Registration can be completed by visiting the ESA website at <https://www.earlestreetacademy.org/admissions> and clicking Apply Now at the bottom of the page. Spots always fill up quickly, so register soon!

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**LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®**

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING
FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

Church Goal - \$20,000
Received to date - \$13,048

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 10
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Duet: *Come to the Water* by Janice Hinnant
and Stephen Clyborne

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "Doing What Is Not Required"
by Stephen Clyborne

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

John and Jan Lewis; South, Suzanne, Denver, Hampton, and Will Lewis in the death of John's brother; South's uncle; and Denver, Hampton and Will's great-uncle, Edward Hampton Lewis.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Lee Bradford Ron Green

Woody McCutcheon Denise Plumblee

Miles Rizzo Dave Talley

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Stephen Clyborne
January 1, 2002
19 years

Denise Plumblee
January 4, 2010
11 years

BUDGET REPORT

Week of December 27, 2020

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,228
Budget Gifts (this week).....	\$26,148
Budget Requirements to Date	\$1,467,856
Budget Gifts to Date	\$1,502,545

Week of January 3, 2021

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$27,406
Budget Gifts (this week).....	\$11,505
Budget Requirements to Date	\$27,406
Budget Gifts to Date	\$11,505

From the Minister Of Administration

Denise Plumblee (ext. 211) – denise@ESBCgreenville.org

Dear ESBC family,

Words are not sufficient to express our deep appreciation for the care, concern, support and prayers our family has received over the past few weeks. December was a very difficult month for us. Between my tests and biopsies, losing my mother just before Christmas and my surgery at the end of the month, there were many anxious and sad days. But the many cards, text messages, emails and phone calls from our church family all served to lift us up and help us move forward through this time.

During the Christmas season, we remember that Emmanuel has come – God is with us. During our difficult season, we have felt Emmanuel and his presence with us in so many ways. You as our church family have been the face and hands of Emmanuel to us. And we will forever give thanks for each and every one of you.

As Phil and I entered into the Christmas season, we had no idea what December would hold. And now as we enter into 2021, there are still so many uncertainties in our world. But I continue to cling to the fact that Emmanuel has come and He is with us, no matter what we face.

“A voice of peace to the weary ones
who struggle with the human soul,
All of us travellers through a given time
Who can know what tomorrow holds?
But over the horizon surely you and I will find
Emmanuel, God with us.”

“Emmanuel God Is With Us” by Amy Grant

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The ESBC Prayer Team has created a daily prayer guide for January - June 2021. This daily prayer guide is offered as a way to encourage our church family to be unified in our daily praying

These guides are available for download on our website. If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact the church office.

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

Preschool Choir, Music Makers, and Young Musicians—All of you will begin your virtual rehearsals starting on Wednesday, January 20. If you were not able to participate in the fall, but would like to be a part of it now, you can let me or your director know, and we will be sure to include you!

Youth Choir and Earle Street Ringers—We will begin Sunday rehearsals again starting on Sunday, January 24. More details to come!

Welcome to Randal Blackburn

We would like to welcome Randal Blackburn to our staff. Randal will be taking the position of organist on Sunday, January 17. Many of you know Randal, and his wife, Robin, and we are excited that they will be joining us. God's timing is always perfect. Just as Gwen decided to retire after twenty-two years of serving here at Earle Street, we received Randal's resume, and I believe that God is letting us know that He has a plan for this church—a plan for hope and a future. I hope you will find ways to welcome the Blackburns and let them know we are glad to have them at Earle Street.



As a native Virginian I was “born and bred” in a small town in southwest VA and graduated from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA with a BS degree in Math Education. Music has always been a part of my life from taking piano lessons, participating in VA music competitions, playing trumpet in marching band and playing piano/organ at church at the age of 10. After moving to

South Carolina in 1977 I quickly became involved in area churches as organist, beginning with Northgate Baptist --- where I met my wife, Robin Scott Blackburn. In addition to music, my other interests include antiques, cross stitching, Sudoku puzzles, walking, maintaining our landscaping and enjoying being at home.

After a lengthy career in IT, with an emphasis in software training, I chose to retire in May 2019 to devote more time to my love of music, a joyful talent that God has enabled me to sustain throughout many challenges in life. My love for church music continues to grow! Robin and I are grateful to have found a new home here at Earle Street Baptist Church.

From the Associate Pastor

Chuck Emory (ext. 203) – chuck@ESBCgreenville.org

COMING SOON

Young Adult Life Groups

A place where young adults can connect with each other, build biblical life skills, and engage with God's mission in the world.

Sundays at 10:00 am
Beginning Sunday, January 24

Group 1

Led by Chuck Emory in the College Room
(in the Family Life Center)

Group 2

Led by Stephen Clyborne in Room 206
(near the Fellowship Hall)

Stay tuned for more details and spread the word!

From the Minister of Youth and Recreation

Lucy Wilkinson (ext. 212) – lucy@ESBCgreenville.org

ATTN: ESBC YOUTH

**LOOK UP LODGE
WINTER RETREAT**

February 12-14th
\$75