

THE HOME PAGE

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FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

Last year, when my good friend and former pastor, Bill Marler, died, I wrote an article entitled “A Giant Has Fallen.” In 1982, Bill introduced me to a friend who attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with him. Marshall Sargent had just moved to Greenville to serve as pastor of Eastlan Baptist Church. As soon as I met him, we hit it off and almost immediately became close friends - - more like brothers. His wife, Gloria, and my wife, Sylvia, worked together and became best friends - - more like sisters. The four of us were inseparable, sharing an extraordinary bond over a span of decades.

Marshall and I traveled to conventions and conferences together. He was on my ordination council. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Erskine Theological Seminary in the same commencement ceremony in which I received my Master of Divinity degree. He stood by me and supported me in the darkest times of my life. He did our pre-marital counseling and performed our wedding ceremony. We were in and out of each other’s homes, and shared life together for almost forty years. In 1998, I had the unexpected privilege of serving alongside him on the staff of Eastlan Baptist Church until he retired after having served Eastlan for eighteen years. In 2007, we walked through the valley of the shadow of death together as his beloved wife, Gloria, died of cancer. He participated in my installation service when I was installed as senior pastor of our church. He even served for a few months as our interim associate pastor at Earle Street.

I learned so much from him about how to be pastor. The non-negotiables of his ministry were the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the priesthood of all believers. He showed me how to make time for people over tasks. He preached with humility and led by serving. He taught me that “sometimes God answers our prayers, and sometimes God changes our prayers.” That lesson served me well in the last days of his life as he lay dying in the hospital. I was praying for God to heal him. But finally I changed my prayer and asked God to give him peace.

As much as I learned from Marshall about being a pastor, I learned even more from him about being a friend. “A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17). A friend is someone you call to talk about nothing, or everything. A friend is one who shares a history with you. A friend is one who knows what you are thinking and shares your sense of humor. A friend is one who takes you seriously, but not too seriously. A friend is one who knows the worst about you and loves you anyway. A friend is one who is loyal and real, whose home is open to you without an invitation. A friend is one who makes you laugh until you cry, and cry until you laugh.

On January 11, when I heard the news about Marshall’s death, I cried like a baby. It just did not seem possible or real that he would no longer be with us in this life. But it was not long before my tears gave way to a smile and even a laugh. I laughed through my tears and cried through my laughter. I have never felt so much emptiness and fullness at the same time. To never grieve is to never love, and to never love is to never live. Everyone should have a friend like Marshall, and everyone should be a friend like Marshall.



**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 began 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!

**EARLE STREET ACADEMY
SEARCHING FOR
INTERIM DIRECTOR**

The Earle Street Academy, a weekday preschool education program of Earle Street Baptist Church, is searching for a qualified candidate to serve as Interim Director (with potential for permanent placement). Please click on the link below to read the job description; and if you are interested in applying, send a cover letter and resume to [ESBC.ESA.Resumes@gmail.com](mailto:Resumes@gmail.com) with attention to Elizabeth Johnson. Thank you for your interest!

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 24
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Duet: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

by Debbie Blume, piano;
Randy Blackburn, organ

Scripture: Psalm 62

Sermon: "God Alone" by Chuck Emory

WELCOME HOME



The Blackburn Family
Randy and Robin Blackburn joined on Sunday, January 17th by transfer of letter from First Baptist Simpsonville and Taylors First Baptist (respectively).

CONGRATULATIONS

Justin and Rebecca Keck upon the recent birth of their daughter, Lindsey Marie Keck, born January 20, 2021. Lindsey is the granddaughter of Barry and Kathryn Brooks and the niece of Caroline Brooks.

John and Julia Sheran upon the recent birth of their grandson, Camden James, born January 15, 2021.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Kathryn Brooks Ron Green Rebecca Keck
Miles Rizzo Joe Solesbee

BUDGET REPORT

Week of January 10, 2021

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$27,406
Budget Gifts (this week).....	\$20,933
Budget Requirements to Date	\$82,218
Budget Gifts to Date	\$48,665

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

Preschool Choir, Music Makers, and Young Musicians— If you didn't participate last week, but would like to now, you can let me or your director know, and we will be sure to include you!

- **Anytime**—Preschool Choir download with Janice Hinnant
- **5:15 pm**—Music Makers zoom rehearsal with Rosemary Cureton
- **6:00 pm**—Young Musicians zoom rehearsal with Debbie Blume

Youth Choir— We were hoping to start rehearsals back this Sunday, but due to the rise in COVID cases, we are moving the start date to Sunday, February 7 instead of this Sunday. I hope to see you then!

Earle Street Ringers— After hearing from some of you, and with the rise in COVID cases, we are pushing back our start date to Sunday, February 7. Hope to see you then!

NEW SUNDAY GROUPS!



**ESBC
YOUNG
ADULTS**

GROUP 1 with Chuck
FLC College Room

GROUP 2 with Stephen
Room 301

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2020 contribution statements were mailed on January 21, 2021. If you do not receive yours or you have a question, please contact our Ministry Assistant for Finance, Gina Conn, at gina@esbcgreenville.org or 233-5332, ext. 200.