

THE HOME PAGE

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FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

“I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go in to the house of the LORD’” (Psalm 122:1).

I have very specific childhood memories that revolve around that verse. It was one of those verses I learned very early in life. In the Beginner’s Department, we recited it. In Preschool Choir, we sang it. At home, my mother reminded us of that verse, especially when we did not want to stop playing baseball to clean up and go to church. And it was one of the first verses I thought about when we decided to re-gather this Sunday.

For many of us, this has been the longest consecutive period of time we have ever been out of church. Now, of course, when I say, “. . . out of church,” I really mean the building where the church gathers. In recent weeks, we have been reminded of two realities, both of which are true. First, the church is not a building. Second, the building is a powerful symbol. The fact that we are still here is living proof that the church is alive and well, even though we have not gathered in our Sanctuary for months. The early church existed long before there were ever buildings. Churches met in homes long before they ever gathered in sanctuaries. Our own church met under a tent for months before there was ever a sanctuary built. In these unusual times, we have shown that we can still be the church and do the work of the church without a building. I have been so inspired by the creative ways our church has stayed connected to each other and to God. But still there is something special about the sanctuary, and it still does our hearts good to be there. The church is the family, but the building is our spiritual home. It is the place where so many of our family memories literally “took place.” Every memory has an address. And here at the corner of Earle and Robinson, we have shared a lot of memories. This is where some of us were baptized, ordained, and married. This is the place where some of us came to know the Lord. This is the place where we met some of the best friends we have ever had. This is the place where we have laughed, cried, worshiped, and shared life together. The church is not the building, but there is still something special about this holy place.

When I think of the house of the LORD, I think of the sanctuary at the corner of Earle and Robinson Streets; and it will be so good to be back together in the house of the LORD this Sunday. To be sure, it will seem different. We will have to adjust our expectations and our attitudes. There will be fewer of us present in person. We will be wearing masks and remaining socially distant. (Please review our Covenant and Plan for Regathering.) But at least some of us will be back in the house of the LORD - - together - - in person; and for the first time in six months, I will not have to preach in an empty sanctuary.

If you plan to attend the 9:00 or 11:00 service, please make your reservation online or by calling the church office. That way, you will know what to expect before you arrive about where you will be seated.

We have heard from many of you who are supportive of our Covenant and Plan for Regathering, but do not feel comfortable joining with us in person. We completely understand, and are so thankful that we now have the capability of livestreaming our services, so that you can still join with us in “the house of the LORD.” Those of you who do not attend in person will still be able to participate with us in worship in real time. And if you cannot participate at 9 or 11, the services may be viewed at a later time on Youtube.

Whether you worship with us in person or by livestream, I hope you will be able to say with the psalmist and with so many of us who love our church, “I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD.’”

DEACON ELECTION

The following people (listed in alphabetical order) were elected by our congregation, and have agreed to serve a three-year term as deacons:

Mark Aycock
Ron Bridwell
Brian Poole
Bruce Schoonmaker
Meredith Smith
Bob Walker

A deacon ordination service for Bruce Schoonmaker and Meredith Smith is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th at 3:00 pm.

IMPORTANT REGATHERING TIPS

Here are some important details for you to remember:

1. **Register online** for the service you wish to attend.
2. **Have your masks ready to wear.**
3. **Enter at the Welcome Center.**
4. **Look for the volunteer hosts.**
5. **Call if you have questions!**
6. **Volunteer to help.**

Questions? Contact the church office at 233-5332 or email info@esbcgreenville.org.

From the Pastor

Stephen Clyborne (ext. 204) – stephen@ESBCgreenville.org

MY APOLOGIES

When you leave me in charge of my own technology, the results are usually not good. Such is the case with my recent attempts to record my own videos for the Virtual Bible Survey Class. Some of the videos cut off prematurely, and others did not show the visual images I was attempting to show on the screen. Oh, and the teacher is not all that great either. But other than those minor issues, the videos have been a tremendous success. Seriously, we believe that all the technological difficulties have been resolved now. So what you should find on the web site now are:

1. A printable study guide for the class
2. An Assignment for all our “advanced” students on “Ancient Israelite Chronology”
3. Session 1A Video – the first part of session 1, An Introduction to the Bible.
4. Session 1B Video – the second part of session 1, An Introduction to the Bible (continued).
5. Session 2 Video – The Prehistoric Period (Genesis 1-11)
6. Session 3 Video – The Patriarchal Period (Genesis 12-50)
7. Session 4 Video – From Egypt to the Promised Land (Exodus – Deuteronomy)

It is not too late to get caught up if you have not started yet. You can watch the videos at your convenience. You can even binge watch. The approach will be historical and academic in some ways, but also devotional and relevant for our daily application.

Again, I apologize for the quality of the videos and even the quality of the teaching. But the material itself is the word of God, and there is great value in putting all the pieces together, connecting the dots, and discovering how the Scripture tells God’s story and our story, too.

ANOTHER WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

During the public health crisis and the extended period of time when we did not gather in person, I was amazed at how consistently strong our budget offerings were. In “normal” years, it was not uncommon for us to emerge from the summer with our offerings significantly below our budget requirements. But in 2020, even in the midst of these unusual circumstances, we emerged from the summer with our budget offerings actually ahead of budget requirements. But as you see in this newsletter, this Fall, our budget offerings have fallen short of our budget requirements. I realize that many of our church members have been profoundly affected by the economic impact of the pandemic. But if you have gotten behind on your offerings to the church, or if you are in a position to give more to support the missions and ministries of our church during these uncertain times, I hope you will give generously and faithfully as you always have. As we enter the final quarter of this year, we are hoping, praying, and believing that, despite the financial challenges we have faced, we will finish strong in 2020.

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

I am very much looking forward to gathering in person this Sunday! I know things will be very different from the last time we had worship in the sanctuary, but just being in this sacred place with my faith family will be wonderful, even with masks and social distancing! As we return to having worship together, we will be easing into what we actually do in worship. For now, there will be no congregational singing and no choir. We will be using soloists and working up to small groups until it is deemed safe to sing again. I am hoping we may soon be able to sing hymns together. I know other churches may be doing things differently than we are, but this is what we feel is safest for now. Trust me, no one wants to sing together more than I do, but the need to keep us safe has to be the most important factor at this point.

In the meantime, keep smiling and keep a song in your heart until the time comes when we can let our songs out again!

Earle Street Ringers—I will see you in your small groups at your appointed times this Sunday!

From the Minister To Preschoolers and Children

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

VOLUNTEERS

In order for us to be able to move forward with preschool and children’s programing, we will need an adequate number of volunteers. Since many of our beloved longtime Sunday School leaders are unable to continue due to COVID concerns, we will need extra hands to make childcare available on Sundays. If you are interested in volunteering on Sunday mornings please contact me at karli@esbcgreenville.org.

SEASON OF CHANGE

No one would dispute that 2020 has provided plenty of changes for all of us. Unfortunately, that will include some changes on our church campus. As you may know, there have been multiple large trees removed lately in the Earle Street community. This past week, a representative from the City of Greenville’s Landscaping and Tree Department was on our campus evaluating the condition of some of our trees. When he inspected the large tree on Earle Street that provides shade to our courtyard, the gentleman noticed a horizontal crack in the trunk, an indication that the tree was dying and could fall at any time. He advised us to have the tree taken down as soon as possible and to cordon off the courtyard for safety reasons until the tree was removed. So we have contracted with a vendor and the tree will be removed in the next week.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, October 4
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service Music: Debbie Blume, pianist and
Gwen Miller, organist

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Sermon Series: YOU ARE HERE

Sermon: “You Are Here, and You Are Not Alone”
by Stephen Clyborne

Solo: *Amazing Grace* by Janice Hinnant

WORSHIP {VIRTUALLY} WITH US

Live Stream of Worship Services

Beginning this Sunday, October 4, we will be live streaming our Sunday morning worship services via the **ESBC YouTube channel**. Our worship services will be live at both 9:00 and 11:00 am. At the conclusion of each live stream, the video is automatically archived for viewing online at a later time. If you are not familiar with viewing videos on YouTube, simply search for YouTube.com on your internet source. Once you reach the YouTube home, search for Earle Street Baptist Church and our channel will show up. If you choose the “Subscribe” button under the church’s name, you will automatically see all of the church’s videos with ease. The videos will continue to be posted to our web site on Monday of each week.

Phone Streaming Service

Just call 732-ESBC (3722) and you can listen to the recorded service from the previous Sunday morning. We encourage you to call the number and join us for worship!

JANIE CHAPMAN OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

GOAL: \$10,000
RECEIVED: \$4,484
STILL NEEDED: \$5,516

“For we are co-workers in God’s service... “
1 Corinthians 3:9

South Carolina Baptists support a variety of missions opportunities in our state through the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions. Will you join in these efforts here in our state by supporting the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions? Simply note your gift designation on your check, envelope or online gift. Together we can make a difference here in South Carolina.

IN MEMORIAM

JASON CAMP

April 8, 1979 - September 28, 2020

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Harrison and Amanda Rapp and family in the recent death of her grandfather, John Wesley Sparrow.

Helen Jennings, Eddy and Jane Leo, and Gary and Sara Wise and family upon the recent death of Helen’s sister-in-law and Jane and Sara’s aunt, Gladys Jennings.

Andrew and Mackenzie Elliott and family in the recent death of Mackenzie’s grandmother, Lucille Hendley.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Miles Rizzo Emma Young

THANK YOU

Dear Earle Street Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and meals for our family as we adjust to our lives without Jim. Your love has been felt and we are all grateful to you for your support.

Jerry DeYoung and Family

BUDGET REPORT

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,228
Budget Gifts (this week)	\$26,179
Budget Requirements to Date	\$1,100,892
Budget Gifts to Date	\$1,068,432

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Benevolence Ministry	\$9,248
Covid-19 Disaster Relief	\$9,264
Earle Street Academy Teachers Support	\$9,483

REGATHERING FOR WORSHIP AT EARLE STREET

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD. “

Psalm 150:6

Here in the fall of 2020, the health and safety of our congregation are extremely important to us. Likewise, it is also crucial that we stay connected to each other, to our church family, and most importantly, to God. With much thought, consideration and planning, we've developed several different ways for our church family and guests to worship each week here at ESBC. We all have to learn how to worship together safely and proactively, remembering to treat each member of our church family with value and respect.

Back to the Building: *On campus/in-person worship*

Beginning this Sunday, October 4, we are excited to regather on our campus for in-person worship in our sanctuary and overflow rooms. A tremendous amount of thought and planning has gone into preparing for our regathering on campus. While we realize our services at this time will not be an optimal experience, it is a first step to returning to worship on campus. And it is a way that we can worship together in person while still caring for each other.

Hopefully you have read our covenant and plan for regathering as it contains many important details. If you haven't read this document yet, please be sure and read it prior to October 4.

Here are some important details for you to remember:

- 1. Register online for the service you wish to attend.** The reservation link will be available on our web site on Wednesday mornings each week. If you plan to attend in person but don't have access to technology to make your reservation, you may call the church office Wednesday through Friday. Since we will be observing social distancing guidelines, the seating capacity in our sanctuary will be limited to approximately 30%. Once the sanctuary is at capacity, we will utilize our overflow rooms. So it's important that you register in advance for which service you desire to attend.
- 2. Have your masks ready to wear.** We are asking everyone second grade and up to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer. There will be hand sanitizer available in several locations as you enter and exit the building.
- 3. Enter at the Welcome Center.** We will all enter the building through the Welcome Center and exit through the front doors to the Sanctuary, maintaining a one-way flow through the building. The doors at the Welcome Center will open at 8:30 for the 9:00 am service and at 10:30 for the 11:00 am service. The building will be closed between services for cleaning.
- 4. Look for the volunteer hosts.** There will be ESBC church members volunteering throughout the building to help you navigate the new process.
- 5. Call if you have questions!** Any member of our church staff is happy to talk with you regarding our regathering processes. Don't hesitate to call and ask your questions.
- 6. Volunteer to help.** We need more volunteers to facilitate this regathering. If you plan to attend, please offer to serve as a host and help make this regathering possible.

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Romans 12:10

Watch Online: *Live streaming of worship*

We realize that not everyone is ready or able to return to in-person worship in October. Some members of our church family may choose to continue to worship at home until our seating capacity is increased or childcare is available for preschoolers. So watching our services live-streamed on Sunday mornings is the perfect way to join in worship. Both worship services will be live streamed via the ESBC YouTube channel, where they will also be archived for viewing at a later time. If you need assistance in learning how to watch our live stream via YouTube, please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you.

Listen On Your Phone: *Recordings of worship*

For members of our church family who can't watch online or worship in-person, our worship services are recorded and available via our phone streaming service. Anyone with a phone – land line or cell – can call and listen to the service. Just call 732-ESBC (3722) and follow the prompts.

Welcome Home

No matter how you choose to worship with us, we want to encourage you to stay engaged and involved in our church. If you have any questions about the three ways you can join us for worship, we invite you to reach out to one of our ministers or call the church office. Together we can live “the greater way.”

Love God, Love Neighbors, Make Disciples