

THE HOME PAGE

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FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

Prayer for Our Country

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's independence this week, there is work for us to do to fully achieve our nation's noblest ideals: "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." But perhaps the most urgent and important work we can do on behalf of the country we love so much is pray. My former pastor, Ansel McGill, used to say, "We must work as if it all depends on us and pray as if it all depends on God."

Once the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him that the time would come again when the people of God would need revival. God's people would have to learn to be dependent upon God. And God promised Solomon that, in those times, when God's people desperately needed help that only God could give, God could be trusted to hear their prayers, forgive their sin, and heal their land. But the sovereign actions of God would involve the voluntary actions of God's people. Revival would come when God's people would do what they could do, and trust God to do what only God can do. This is what God's people were (and are still) called to do: humble themselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from wicked ways. And this is what God could be trusted to do: hear the prayers, forgive the sins, and heal the land. If there were ever a time in the history of our country when we need to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and repent, it is now.

Prayer for Our Church

And while we are praying, I shamelessly ask you to pray for me and for the ministers and deacons of our church as we seek God's guidance in making agonizing decisions on behalf of our church. I ask you to pray for each other, and for the unity and harmony of the church to prevail. I ask you to pray that the support for our church will continue during these unsettling times. And I ask you to pray that our ministry will continue to thrive as we consider new ways to be the church God is calling us to be.

Also, I ask you to pray by name for the members of the Minister to Preschoolers and Children Search Committee as they prayerfully continue the search for a new minister to serve in that most important position. The members of that Committee are: Elizabeth Johnson, Rebecca Register, Mary Beth Young, Sally Middleton, Julie Rau. These devoted Committee members have served the Lord faithfully and patiently throughout the search process, have worked together in unity and harmony, and have represented our church in such a beautiful way. Please pray for them and do all you can to encourage them.

PLANS FOR REGATHERING

With the continued rise of Coronavirus cases and related hospitalizations in South Carolina, and with Greenville continuing to be identified as a "hotspot" for the virus, the staff and Deacons are considering new possibilities for regathering as soon and safely as possible. Please continue to pray for the staff and deacons, and watch the newsletter for more details soon.



SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Kingdom People: Scenes from Matthew's Gospel
June 21 – August 23

In the synoptic Gospels, the theme of Jesus' preaching and teaching was the kingdom of heaven, the rule and reign of God. He taught that the kingdom of heaven was a present, but future reality - - already, but not yet. In the model prayer, He taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." But exactly what is the kingdom of heaven? For what are we praying when we pray for God's kingdom to come? If God's kingdom were to come on earth, what would it look like? What does it mean for us to be kingdom people? This summer, we will be considering scenes from Matthew's Gospel for answers to those questions.

July 5	"Give Me Your Tired"
July 12	"The Kingdom of Heaven"
July 19	"Don't Blame the Preacher"
July 26	"Bloom Where You Are Planted"
August 2	"You Give Them Something to Eat"
August 9	"Get Out of the Boat"
August 16	"The Day the Huge Wheel of History Turned"
August 23	"Binding and Loosing, Forbidding and Permitting"

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, July 5
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Hymn: *America the Beautiful*

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Summer Sermon Series: Kingdom People: Scenes from Matthew's Gospel

Sermon: "Give Me Your Tired" by Chuck Emory

Anthem: *Arise and Come to Jesus* by the Sanctuary Choir and Betsy Fee, violin

Solo: *He Will Carry You* by Butch Blume

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

This Sunday, July 5, will be the day after our Independence Day celebrations, which will look very different for most of us this year. I hope you will take the time to watch our Patriotic Concert from 2016 (we could not find the one from last year—sorry!), and reflect on how fortunate we are as a country, even in all of the uncertainty we are experiencing at this time. For this week's hymn meditation, I have chosen the third verse of *This Is My Song*, which is not a hymn we have sung, but one which reflects what is on my heart these days. The tune is FINLANDIA, if that helps:

*This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations:
Let Thy reign come; on earth Thy will be done.
In peace may all earth's people draw together,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, Thou God of all the nations;
Myself I give Thee; let Thy will be done.*



On Saturday, July 4th, we will release a previously recorded Independence Day concert. Please check our social media channels and celebrate with us!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Mary Ann Snyder, Marcia Conte
- 2 - Carol Wilson, Cindy Doolittle, Josh Woods, Abby Aycock
- 3 - Beth Rice
- 4 - Judy Boggs
- 5 - Candy Poole
- 6 - Megan Hueble, Chris Yanez, Grady Woods
- 7 - Travis Whitfield, Teri Lewis, Ross Martin, Alex Barras, Conner Stevenson, Dylan Swain
- 8 - Andy Hodges, Debbie Blume, Chuck Emory, Graham Gibson, Rowan Larson
- 9 - Chris Barras
- 10 - Carol Edens, Bill Holmes, Paige Moore
- 11 - Norm Pizzello
- 12 - Louise Johnson
- 13 - Jo Parketon, David Newton, Janice Hendrix, Don Holtzclaw, Landon Aiken
- 14 - Michael Candee, Archer Mae Davis
- 15 - Maudie Blackwell
- 16 - Eric Johnson, Harper Davis
- 17 - Frances Gray, Jo Ann Oswell, Joe Pyfrom, Bo Matheny, Rachel Clyborne, Eve Emory, Bear Wilkinson
- 18 - Susan Brewer, Micah Wilson, Hunter Ballard
- 19 - Robert Nash, Jr.
- 20 - Ella Lewis
- 21 - Theresa Merck, Graham Patterson
- 22 - Margaret Coleman
- 23 - Dorothy Knight, Jean Brown, Kim Hartley, Landon Alexander
- 24 - Jeannie Sue Hamby, Alecia Elrod
- 26 - Joe Jones
- 27 - Mot Carroll, Helen Jordan, Charlie Tankersley, Zoie Poole
- 28 - John South Lewis, Arrington Shugart
- 29 - Bruce Schoonmaker, Mark Aycock, William Lewis, Lily Whitfield
- 30 - Randy Ellenburg
- 31 - Ed Hogan, Bill Adams, Allyson Moore, Grace Hartley, Olivia Johnson

From the Minister To Preschoolers and Children

Bethany Hovis (ext. 209) – bethany@ESBCgreenville.org



Vacation Bible School is coming! It will, of course, look a little different this year, but there is no way we could go a summer without this fun tradition! To register, go to <https://forms.gle/FcVJNsvKS1PDacu8A> (I will also email this link), and plan to join us July 26-30 for a virtual VBS! A new video will be posted each day that week, and you can participate whenever it is convenient for you! All participants will receive a boxed kit of supplies and a t-shirt, and the materials will be available for pick on Thursday, July 23rd under the church portico (details to come). Let me know if you have any questions!

CONGRATULATIONS

Todd, Debbie, Clay, Erich, and Jay Wilklow on the recent birth of Todd and Debbie's granddaughter, and Clay, Erich, and Jay's niece, Daily Kalea Sally. The proud parents are Grayson and Mace Sally.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Heyward Johnston and family in the recent death of his wife, Ginny Johnston.

Glenna Hipps and family upon the recent death of her sister, Nada Baynes.

Eric and Elizabeth Johnson and family upon the recent death of Eric's grandfather, Darwin Kennedy.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Kathryn Brooks

BUDGET REPORT

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,228
Budget Gifts.....	\$18,398
Budget Requirements to Date	\$733,928
Budget Gifts to Date	\$739,239

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Benevolence Ministry	\$6,648
Covid-19 Disaster Relief	\$6,394
Earle Street Academy Teachers Support	\$8,783

PRAYER VINE MINISTRY

PRAYER VINE FOR URGENT PRAYER NEEDS

There are now three ways to access the church prayer vine.

1. Text or call Kathy Kincaid at 864-430-3521.
2. Email Frank Tedards at tedardsf@gmail.com.
3. Call Alver Maheras at 864-233-1047.

NEW PRAYER GUIDES AVAILABLE!

The Prayer Team is excited and pleased to announce the daily devotion/prayer guides for the second half of 2020 are now available. This prayer guide provides a daily devotional thought designed to encourage us to pray as individuals and as a church family. The prayer guide is available in several formats at this time. You may access it electronically by visiting our web site and clicking on the "Daily Prayer Guide" button towards the bottom of the home page. You can request to have the prayer guide emailed directly to you by contacting John Kincaid, a member of the Prayer Team, at kincaidje@yahoo.com. Once we regather on campus for in-person worship, the traditional booklet format will be available for pick-up.

NEW PHONE STREAMING SERVICE 864-732-ESBC

Would you like to listen to the weekly worship service but don't have internet access, a smart phone or computer? We are excited to announce that we have implemented a new phone streaming system which will allow anyone with a phone – land line or cell – to listen to our worship services. It's as simple as calling a local phone number, following the prompts, and listening to the 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!

DEACON ELECTION

Normally we hold the Deacon election the last Sunday in June and transition to the new Deacons by the end of August. This year because of all we have been dealing with regarding the pandemic and the Ministry Assistant for Finance leaving (Denise has been having to do this work), we will not be able to get the Deacon ballot done in time for a June election. We have worked with our staff to determine a reasonable time to plan for an election. We believe we can have things in place to have an election the last week of September and then transition hopefully by the end of October. The six Deacons rotating off this year are willing to serve the additional months until this process is complete. This plan has been unanimously approved by our Deacons. Thank you congregation for your prayers and support this year.

Ted Brigman
Deacon Chair