

THE HOME PAGE

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Issue No. 18



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

For months now, the words of the LORD recorded in Isaiah 43:19 have been swirling around in my heart and soul:

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Of course, these words were originally given to the exiled people a long time ago, in a far-away place. But that ancient prophecy has come alive for me at this unique time in the history of our church:

1. As we emerge from a pandemic that has been so disruptive in so many ways, we have had unexpected opportunities to consider new ways of reaching people, doing the work of the church, giving to support the church, organizing the church, ministering to people, serving the community, doing missions, gathering together, communicating with each other, and even defining active and inactive members.
2. As we prepare for our centennial celebration as a church, our Strategic Planning Committee and Prayer Team will be leading us through a process of prayer focusing on our past, our present, and our future.
3. As our Property and Grounds Committee, with the support of the Deacons, will soon be presenting a proposal to the congregation about making necessary repairs to, and renovating, our Sanctuary.
4. As the Nominating Committee works hard to enlist workers for the new church year, reflecting some updates in the organizational structure of our church.
5. As the Centennial Celebration Committee and ministers prepare for an entire year of centennial celebrations, marking significant historical milestones along the way.
6. As the History Team puts together a history book that will be released next year, clarifying where we have been in our past as a way to understand how God is leading us into the future.

I am sensing that God is doing something new among us. I realize that the events of this past year have been devastating for many of us, and some of our church's decisions have been disappointing to some of our members. In the current political climate and cultural environment, it has become increasingly obvious that everyone in our church will not be satisfied with whatever decisions the church makes. But I am still praying and believing that the love of Christ who unites us is infinitely stronger than any forces that could potentially divide us. And I am so very thankful for all of you who have been unwavering in your support during these challenging times.

So I am asking you to pray for our church as never before, engage in the life and ministries of our church, invite your neighbors to join us, and continue to be faithful and generous in your support of our church financially. As you may have noticed, our budget offerings so far in 2021 have been substantially short of our budget goals. And as we consider the possibility of spending a significant amount of money on sanctuary renovations, it will be even more important for our tithes and offerings to remain strong.

I believe that God is doing a new thing among us, and that God is making a way through the desert of the past year into a future that is bright with promise. And I am blessed beyond measure to have the privilege of walking this journey of faith with the people of God at Earle Street Baptist Church.

MOTHER'S DAY PHOTO OPPORTUNITY This Sunday, May 9

We hope you'll join us on Mother's Day as we worship together and honor our mothers. This Sunday morning, we will have a special Mother's Day photo backdrop in the lobby area of the Welcome Center. You're invited to stop by before, in between or after worship and capture this special day with your family.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY SERIES
*New Testament Lessons from
Old Testament Prophets*
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
in the Sanctuary/Live Stream via YouTube

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, May 9
9:00 am and 11:00 am
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

Solo: *Like a Mother with Her Children*
by Janice Hinnant

Scripture: Psalm 131

Sermon: "A Satisfied Mind" by Chuck Emory

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Brenda Atkinson Lois Hendrix

IN MEMORIAM

JUDY ADAMS
February 2, 1938 - May 1, 2021

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

DEBBIE BLUME
April 15, 2007
14 years

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of May 2, 2021

Sunday School Attendance

On-campus	130
Virtual.....	<u>45</u>
Total.....	175

Worship Attendance

On-campus	205
Virtual.....	<u>162</u>
Total.....	367

BUDGET REPORT

Week of May 2, 2021

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$27,406
Budget Gifts (this week).....	\$26,944
Budget Requirements to Date	\$493,308
Budget Gifts to Date	\$428,158

DEACON ELECTION

Scheduled for June 27

In June of each year, as prescribed by the church's Constitution and Bylaws, our congregation votes to elect six deacons to serve a three-year term. This year, we will be electing seven deacons, six to serve the three-year term and one to serve a vacant two-year term. After the election in June, the deacons normally have a transitional meeting in August to prepare for the start of the new church year in September.

In preparation for this upcoming election, we plan to share information over the next few weeks that we hope will help you in several ways. First, we hope it will help you know more about the duties and responsibilities of a deacon at ESBC so you can make an educated decision as to whether you are willing and able to serve if elected. Second, we hope it will help you as you prayerfully consider for whom you will vote in the election in June.

Biblical Background

The term deacon comes from the Greek word *diákonos*, meaning servant or minister. In Acts 6:1-6, after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the church began to grow so fast that some believers, particularly widows, were being neglected in the daily distribution of food and alms, or charitable gifts. Also, as the church expanded, logistical challenges arose at meetings mainly because of the size of the fellowship. The apostles, who had their hands full caring for the spiritual needs of the church, decided to appoint seven leaders who could tend to the physical and administrative needs of the church body. The seven people chosen in Acts 6 are never actually called "deacons," but most New Testament interpreters believe they were the forerunners of the officers officially known as deacons later in the New Testament. Here at Earle Street Baptist Church, deacons are servant leaders who, like the early deacons, are charged with the purpose of serving Christ and the church in many ways.

In First Timothy 3:8-13, the qualifications of a deacon are listed. Take time to read these verses and the qualifications listed there. Remember that, by the high standards listed in these verses, no one perfectly qualifies. But we should pray for wisdom to vote for people in our church family who most closely reflect these biblical standards.

In addition to the biblical qualifications, our church Constitution and Bylaws require that members meet certain requirements in order to be eligible to serve. We'll discuss those qualifications and some of the duties of a deacon here at ESBC in upcoming editions.

If you wish to have your name removed from the list of members eligible for election, please email Denise Plumblee at denise@esbcgreenville.org.



If you have a high school graduate that you would like recognized in the 11:00 am service on Sunday, May 16th, please contact Lucy Wilkinson at lucy@esbcgreenville.org.

If you have a college graduate that you would like recognized, please contact Chuck Emory at chuck@esbcgreenville.org.

From the Minister To Preschoolers and Children

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

Children's Worship is BACK!

We will begin having Children's Worship again in May! Children's Worship will be the second and fourth Sunday of each month during the 9:00 am service. After the children's sermon, 1st - 5th graders will head down to the Children's Room for a kid-friendly worship experience. Make sure to check your child(ren) in with KidCheck before the 9:00 am service if you plan on them coming down for Children's Worship.

Join Us This Summer At Camp!

We are going to CentriKid Camps at Ridgcrest Conference Center (July 19-23) and I would love for your children and their friends (completed 1st - 5th grade) to come with us! We still have a few spots left (very few, so don't wait), so if you are interested email me!



From the Minister Of Music and Worship

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

Earle Street Ringers—Thanks to all of you for being so willing to try new things this year. You all really stepped up to the plate and did a great job of ringing in your small groups. I am so proud of you, and I look forward to more ringing together in the fall!



Thank you so much for your support of our youth fundraiser, Wildfire.

We were able to raise \$10,675 to split among the youth who worked. It was so wonderful to be back together again, and our youth were once again reminded of the gracious and extravagant way that you love them!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Brady Harrison, Garrett Haun, Tink Baker
- 2 - Sandy Peebles, Bobby Elrod
- 3 - Ron Green, Amy Moore
- 4 - Vickie Williams, Andrew Harmon, Michael Watts, Magy Payne
- 5 - Greg Hammond, Kimberley Eppes, Stuart Moore, John Kincaid
- 6 - Allyson Eskew, Wanda Worrell
- 7 - Etta Rush
- 8 - Lisa Poore, Sarah Moss, Ralph Aiken, Ricelyn Greer, Kerstin Swindell
- 9 - Lucy Zeiger, Hunter Johnson
- 10 - Matt Tatham, Hannah Brewer
- 11 - Catherine Dowdy, Clay Wilklow, Jonah Carnes, Racine Cooper, Aleta Woods
- 12 - Becky Spivey, Tom Campbell
- 13 - Callum Clow
- 14 - Christina Tankersley, Ryanne Powell, Mally Shugart, Ford Simmons
- 15 - Jordan Stanley, Mace Sally
- 16 - Jonathan Blair, Zack Taylor, John Swiger
- 17 - Luna Riley, Kathy Huggins
- 18 - David Brooks, Savannah Wilson, Zach Craig, Adah-Vidia Masters, Alisson Ramos-Martinez, Ben Lemmons
- 20 - Doug Chapman, Kayla Williams, Becky Callahan
- 21 - Josh Ellenburg, Josiah Rau, Crystal Emory
- 22 - Al Harrison, Eric Hutchinson
- 23 - Rebecca Bullock, Anna Kay Lord, Deb Harper, Randal Blackburn
- 24 - Joyce Bussey, Denver Lewis, Mary Alice Hendrix, Booker Rapp, Riggins Rapp, Cassandra Nguyen, Hanna Solesbee
- 25 - Rose Middleton, David Hammett
- 26 - Tilda Burgess, Heather Bowers, Butch Blume, Beverly Hawkins, Cyndi Lenderman
- 27 - Shari Copeland, Willie Boseman, Kaye Southerland, Janet Johnson
- 28 - Ramsey Hardin, Maria DeZern, Bob Kustra, Lauren Hendrix, Emily Schwanke
- 29 - Donnie Blackwell, Carly Groomes
- 30 - Sue Brooks, Denise Kay, Tommy Wilkinson, Meadors Tanner, Ricky Conte, Betty Powell, Aimee Rodgers
- 31 - Austin Harrison

EARLE STREET ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP

At summer camp, each child's day will be filled with music, centers, art, creative Bible teaching, outdoor play time and gym time! There are 9 themed weeks of camp. This year, parents have the option to pick and choose which weeks they need or they can choose to register for monthly sessions at a discounted rate. Camp begins June 1, 2021 and goes through August 6, 2021. There is a one-time \$50 registration fee. Please visit www.earlestreetacademy.org or contact Julie Branyon at 233-5332, ext. 207 for more information!

NEW IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPTIONS

9:00 am Sunday Worship

- Masks required
- Congregational singing
- Childcare provided for preschoolers

11:00 am Sunday Worship

- Masks optional
- No congregational singing for now
- No childcare provided for preschoolers for now

ONLINE WORSHIP OPTIONS

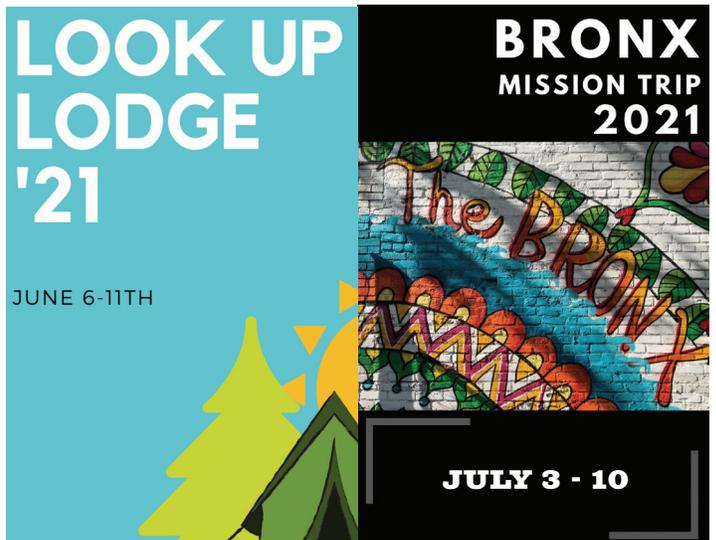
We will continue to live stream both of our worship services via the church's YouTube channel. These services are also archived for viewing at a later date on the YouTube channel as well as our web site.

SUPPORT EARLE STREET ACADEMY WHILE YOU GROCERY SHOP!



Do you shop at Publix?

It's a great time to help our school while you get your groceries! Our preschool is a participant in the 'Publix Partners.' When you check out, enter your phone number on the keypad and our school will benefit from a percentage of your purchase! If you need help setting up your account, please contact Julie Branyon at julie@esbcgreenville.org or 233-5332, ext. 207 or contact the church office. Thank you for your continued support of our weekday preschool program!



**LOOK UP
LODGE
'21**

JUNE 6-11TH

**BRONX
MISSION TRIP
2021**

The Bronx

JULY 3 - 10