



ESBC On Mission Cluster Meetings

September 8, 2024

(70 attendees)

Worship Cluster

- The Music Ministry reports that all groups have returned to regular weekly practice and are getting ready for Christmas music. The next goal is to tune all of the instruments.
- The Decorations Committee is getting ready for the Hanging of the Green service.
- The Sound Committee will have new hearing devices for the first of the year.
- The Video Committee is addressing a few glitches with the videos and needs a new computer.
- The Technology Committee is discussing using Realm to start an online directory.
- The Wedding Committee reports no upcoming weddings on the schedule.
- The Acolytes Team and Ordinance Committee continue to support worship as planned.
- Usher Team needs 4-5 more ushers.

Missions Cluster

- The Marie Younts' Home Team reported that the Marie Younts' Home long-time director retired and a new director has taken the position. Many people in the church are helping support the girls, including a Sunday School class that provides Chic Fil A gift cards; an anonymous giver who provided \$100 gift cards for all the girls for Christmas; and a large group who turned out for Operation In As Much to work around the building. One member keeps up with repairs and maintenance of their building.
- The Ecuador Team reminded us of our long history with the Thompsons' ministry there. We have supported their work with mission trips to the camp there going back to 2005. Our most recent trip was this past summer and our next trip will be 2026. We hope to begin to officially send support to that ministry with the new designations of the Missional Partnership structure and Greater Way Offering.
- The Thailand Team reminded us that our next trip to Thailand will be in June 16-30, 2025, and informational sessions have already begun.
- The Community Missions Team is kept busy with ramps, decks, handrails, home repairs, and helping people in the community who ask ESBC for temporary housing. They have partnered with the pastor of Gethsemane Baptist, and a representative will be attending a workshop at United Ministries about dealing with the needs of people in Greenville. They need more volunteers!
- The liaison from Pendleton Place said they no longer need volunteer assistance and we will replace this ministry with another one – to be identified. This will be discussed at the next Deacons' Meeting.



- The liaison from Landridge Ridge Apartment Ministry said that this ministry is replacing Bridge Builders. This will be discussed at the next Deacons' Meeting. At Landridge Ridge Apartments, this team gets together with the folks who live there for food, singing, and sweet fellowship.
- The Operation Inasmuch (OIAM) Team is soliciting ideas for service from the Missions Cluster, and hopes the Missions Vision Team will also bring new ideas of places to serve. This year's OIAM benefitted from combining the preschool and elementary children's activities. Combining with another church is being considered.
- The House on Beekman Team reported on the wonderful week ESBC folks spent at House on Beekman (HoB) in the Bronx. Also, this connection introduced one of the HoB staffers to our ministry in Ecuador, and she joined our Ecuador missions trip this year. HoB has many Ecuadorian kids in their ministry and she was able to learn songs and more to share with them. Because of school vacation schedule conflicts, there won't be a December trip this year, but the next summer trip will be July 2025.
- The Triune Mercy Center Team reported that we serve meals at Triune 3 Saturdays per year, as well as on the 5th Sunday meals. We are also Triune's Emergency Contact to provide meals if another church cannot.
- The United Ministries Team reported on our help with homeless people served there. We create hygiene kits and clean apartments when people transition out of them. Ongoing needs are food and supplies.
- The liaison to the Scouts program reported that the Tuesday night group serves 35 families and the Thursday night group has 7 families involved. They camp once a month and have an outdoor worship service when they camp.
- The Church Without Walls Team described our partnership with The Church Without Walls. This church primarily serves the Shemwood and Belle Meade housing projects and includes getting school supplies, food, coats, and other things to help the communities there. They are active at Grove Elementary, which serves those housing projects. There is a need for mentors and tutors there. We will be having a joint worship service with the Church Without Walls on Oct. 27.
- The Habitat for Humanity Team reminded us that anyone can help with builds—construction skills are not necessary.
- The Miracle Hill and Operation Christmas Child teams are pending new leaders.

Fellowship Cluster

- The Recreation Committee reported that registration started today for basketball teams and basketball won't be affected by renovations.
- The Activities Committee is planning Trunk or Treat on Oct 26 and Movie Night on Oct 4 at 7PM.
- The Preschool Ministry Council still needs more volunteers in the preschool area.
- The Children's Ministry Council has met to review the upcoming fall and Christmas schedule.
- The Youth Committee reported that this year they will use the same theme for Wildfire and VBS so resources can be shared.

The mission of Earle Street Baptist Church is to worship God (worship); to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed (missions); to be a home to all who would enter (fellowship); to minister to the needs of one another (ministry); and to assist in spiritual growth (spiritual.growth).



- The Food Services Committee reported that the minimum number of meals our caterer will provide is 30, which is also our low attendance.
- The Greeters Team requested more greeters.
- The new Outreach team is working with greeters, ushers, and security about having a presence; collaborating with the Activities Committee, especially for Trunk or Treat; exploring ways to track visitors using Realm; and will host hospitality training.
- The Connections Team is considering having current members to sign into worship. They are auditing the list of members for opportunities to connect and are working with the Technology Team on a new directory.

Ministry Cluster

- The Bereavement Team provides meals for the family when a church member dies, in conjunction with the team member's Sunday School Class. They reported they have provided up to 25 meals in a year. Last year they provided five.
- The Paraclete Team reported that we have 29 paraclete recipients (people confined to home or in nursing homes). There are 12 paraclete servants on the team who have one-on-one relationships with their Paraclete recipients. There will be an Orientation meeting in October. The team is already making packets and scripts for World Communion Sunday when Deacons, Staff, and Member Volunteers will take communion to paraclete recipients. In December, the paraclete team will make and deliver Christmas gift bags with useful items, as well as special treats (i.e. Lindt chocolate). They also provide special bags for Easter. One pocket change offering during the year was designated for the Easter & Christmas gift bags.
- The XYZ Team has approximately 30 people attending the meetings, and up to 60 when the Clyborne brothers present the program. Michael Cogdill will be the guest speaker in September. Beloved Broadway will present a musical program in October. The Clyborne brothers will return in November.
- The College Ministry Team is in need of a young leader or couple who understands the needs of college students. This is a matter of prayer. Until new leaders step forward, we could ask Sunday School classes to send care boxes to our college students.
- The Single Ministry Team is also in need of leadership. We no longer have a Singles Sunday School class. This is an opportunity for us.
- The Senior Adult Ministry Council reported that money raised from the sale of Charles Found at Last, was distributed to Ecuador trip, Boy Scouts, Canterbury Counseling Center Playroom, House of Blessing in Bangkok, Connie Maxwell and Tanglewood Middle. The Senior Adult Retreat will be held in the Spring and Piedmont FBC will participate again this year, along with Pelham Rd. Baptist Church.
- The Canterbury Counseling Center Liaison reported that Canterbury Counseling Center is a strong and well-used partner. Financial assistance is offered. Canterbury has been experiencing growing pains since COVID. They have a waiting list now and are trying to develop other ways to help.
- The Divorce Recovery Support Group meets the first Tuesday evening of every month. They have 7 people currently attending - some are church members and some are not. A few of the charter members still attend and are great mentors for the newest members. It provides wonderful support.



They have helped approximately 20 members. Great stories, great friends, and happy endings have resulted from their support and fellowship with one another.

- The Caregiver Support Group provides encouragement and pertinent, verified information to caregivers and/or care recipients who need support within the ESBC family, as requested. They are active on an as-needed basis, generally providing support for 3 or 4 months.

Spiritual Growth Cluster

- The Media Library Team reported that a cart of books available is provided on the 3rd floor, and books on relevant topics are on the table outside the library. These are available to be borrowed and are intended to increase use of the library. They provided bookbags to 4 and 5 years olds to encourage use of the library.
- The History Team reported that installation of the centennial celebration panel is complete, although additional lighting may be needed.
- The Prayer Team reminded us of their four basic functions: daily prayer guides every six months with 6 writers, one for each month; maintaining the prayer room; hosting four prayer breakfasts each year; and communicating prayer requests to the team. There are 70 members of the team who receive weekly prayer requests via email.
- The VBS Team reported that Scuba 2024 was a success - 64 volunteers including youth, 54 children participated and roughly half of those are not members. They used an Instagram kids account to engage with them. The VBS decorations and materials were shared with three other churches. 2025 VBS will have the theme of True North and will be coordinated with Wildfire to share resources. In preparation for the theme, they will be collecting Christmas trees. They are considering offering adult VBS classes and looking into reaching out to after-school programs to enroll more community children in VBS.
- The Discipleship Team is in a rebuild and held summer activities including the baseball game and other activities. They are offering two sessions this fall – “How to Read the Bible” and “Introduction to Christian Doctrine”. There will be no special programs in December due to other church activities but will begin planning the Spring activities in October.
- The Sunday School Council reported that the Donut Breakfast was well-attended and reminded us that we have a variety of Sunday School classes offered every Sunday.
- The Youth Committee is planning Wildfire, which will be held on March 29, 2005, and the Fall Youth Retreat which will be held at Awanita November 22-24, 2024. Pumpkin Patch pumpkins are coming! We need people to set up and man the checkout table. This is a great outreach to the neighborhood!
- Another idea for Spiritual Growth was suggested – a Book Club. This will be considered and perhaps discussed at an upcoming Deacons’ Meeting.

Administration Cluster

- The Financial Oversight Council reported that through July 2024 offerings are well behind budget approximately \$187k and offerings are behind expenses approximately \$81k. Typically, we are behind in our budget offerings this time of year but not to this extent. However, our overall cash position is up



over \$200k since the start of 2024, thanks largely to estate gifts from Bramlett, Matheny and Muckenfuss.

- The Stewardship Committee will begin the budget process this month for the 2025 budget and will factor the current offerings into the budget for 2025. The committee requested some funds be channeled to help offset the budget deficit. A follow-up discussion will be held to discuss projected expenses for the remainder of the year, in order to get a more accurate picture of the forecasted budget to expenses shortfall for 2024. Budget discussion will be held on Wednesday, November 6 at the church conference. Budget vote will be Sunday, November 10 at Worship Service.
- The Safety Committee has ordered and received new security cameras, and they should be installed soon. The committee is currently working on emergency evacuation plans for the church. We may have a practice drill at some point. They plan to sponsor an AED and CPR training classes at church this year.
- The Personnel Committee will begin staff evaluations soon.
- The new Documentation Oversight Committee is working on quite a few items at this time. Currently, all documents are on the S Drive, they hope to get them all onto an accessible platform like Google Docs or similar. They are trying to get rid of duplicates and documents no longer needed.
- The work of the Strategic Planning Committee is on hold until we have a new Senior Pastor in place.
- The following entities continue their service to the church as planned: Church Clerk, Parliamentarian Committee, Nominating Committee, Trustees.