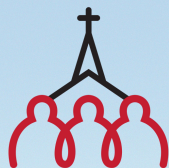


# News from the Mountain

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



## WERE YOU THERE?

One of our most familiar and favorite Easter hymns is "Were You There" which asks the question of who was at the cross witnessing the suffering of Jesus on Good Friday. The month of April, we will examine that very question and look at who was there and their respective roles at the cross.

We will examine Simon of Cyrene who was a passerby and compelled into service to carry the cross. We will learn from the two criminals on either side of Jesus and get their perspective. We will spend some time with John at Maundy Thursday and follow him to the cross. The centurion will offer us one of the biggest theological statements of Easter weekend. And finally, we will look at Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus and what they teach us about what to do when it's all said and done.

I am looking forward to walking to the cross with you and learning from all of these eye witnesses about how this holy day marks our faith and transforms our lives. In the end, we will be invited to a deeper role of discipleship and invited to join the chorus of saints to proclaim the joy of an empty tomb.

Lenten Blessings,  
Melissa Fallen

### THIS MONTH AT GABC

*4/6 Spring Break - No  
Wednesday Dinner*

*4/10 Palm Sunday*

*4/14 Maundy Thursday*

*4/16 Easter Egg Hunt*

*4/17 Easter Sunday*

*4/20 Quarterly Business  
Meeting*

*4/24 Reception for  
Sharon West*

# CHURCH NEWS

## Thank you

Dear Church Family,

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those who have sent cards, messages, and visits over the last few months. Your kind words and prayers have meant a lot to us as we mourn the loss of Bob and Stephanie. Please know that we are blessed to have each and everyone of you in our lives. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers as we grieve the loss of our loved ones. God Bless each and everyone of you!

Love,

Carol, the Andersons, and the Slates

Thank you so much to the people of GABC for the many expressions of concern during this time of the loss of my sister and niece. Your cards, thoughts, and prayers have meant more than you know to be remembered and supported. A special thank you to our deacon, Mary Strickland, for your calls and visits. You are truly a blessing, extending God's love and kindness to others during difficult times.

In Christian love,

Esther & Al

Thanks to Glen Allen Baptist Church for the cards, prayers and food given our family in regard to the death of my sister, Ruth Koury. All were greatly appreciated by our family.

Chris Rogers and Family

Thank you! We were so happy to see so many of you at our 50th wedding anniversary celebration on March 27. This celebration was about so much more than us: it was a celebration of spring, of renewal, of life, of normalcy! It was a wonderful afternoon! We appreciate the cards and kind words. A special thanks goes out to Cheryl Ender who prepared the food, the Kitchen Committee (Judy Anderson, Judy Wade, Laura Mawyer, Gary Daniels), Brenda Anderson, Bonnie Damron, and Nancy Yarbrough. Jan Kessler provided lovely piano music, and we so appreciate her. Thank you, also, to Anne Marie Alexander, who made the delicious cake. Christian, Misti, Nathan, and Leah Davidson decorated with wonderful displays of trivia from 1971 and a then-and-now picture which was signed by our guests. Thank you so much for your love and support! ~Matt and Linda Davidson

## Wednesday Night Dinners

Join us at 5:45pm for dinner.

**April 6:** Spring Break - No Dinner

**April 13:** No Dinner; Maundy Thursday service only on April 14

**April 20:** Ranch Chicken and chicken nuggets for the kids

**April 27:** Chicken Cordon Bleu and chicken nuggets for the kids

## Tax Statements

As you are working on 2021 tax filings, if you have questions about your GABC contribution statements, please contact our financial secretary, Debbie Mitchell at [debbie@glenallenbaptist.org](mailto:debbie@glenallenbaptist.org).

## Celebrating Sharon West's Ministry

Sharon West has served us well over the last 12 years as our choir director and many years before that as our pianist and organist. She has announced her resignation effective the end of April, and we want to celebrate and give thanks for her ministry among us. Please join us for a reception immediately following worship on April 24 to give thanks for Sharon and her faithful service!



## Flower the Cross

You are invited to bring fresh cut flowers on Easter morning to flower the cross in front of the church.

## Missions

Please continue the sock donations for Moments of Hope. Needed are light weight socks for men and women for distribution May 14th. Please put your donations in individual ziplock sandwich bags in designated totes next to armoire near office. Thank you.

We donated 175 pounds of food to Lamb's Basket for a total over 300 pounds for the month of March! Fantastic. Also many thanks to the ones who supported our efforts with the USO. About \$300 worth of snacks were taken to the Center on Monday. We'll have a cash donation for them as well of about \$160.



## Easter Egg Hunt



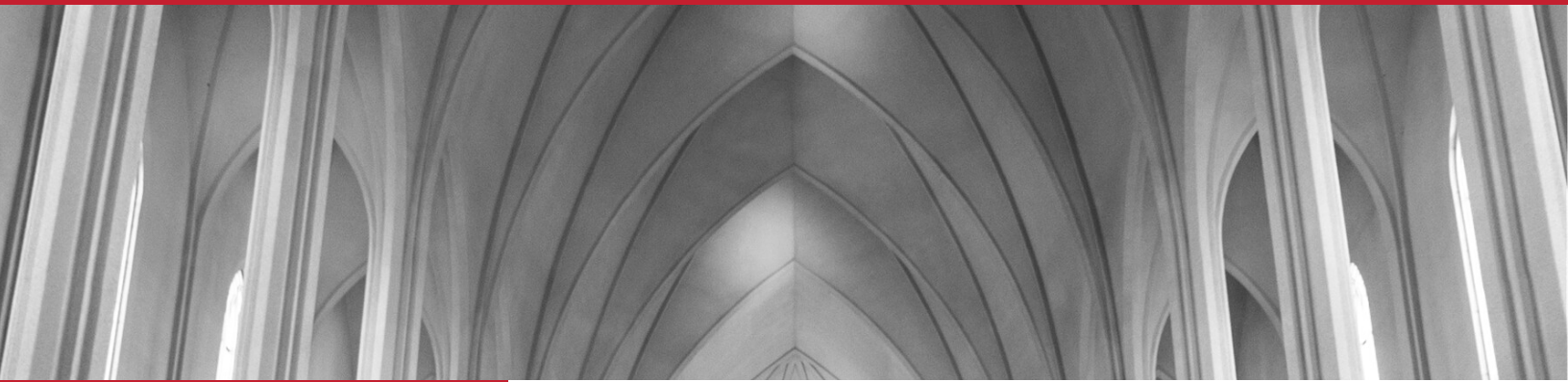
We're excited to host this year's Easter egg hunt on April 16th at 10am, right here at GABC. Unlike our last two years, you won't need to sign up ahead of time for a specific time slot. This event is also open to members and the community at large, so please invite your friends and share on Facebook. We can't wait to see you there!

## Choir Director Search

Dr. Fallen and our Personnel Committee have been conducting interviews for an Interim Choir Director. On May 1, we will welcome Dr. John White as our Interim. We will share more details about John in our May newsletter. During this interim season, we will assess our music needs and begin a search for a permanent music leader. Please be in prayer for this transition!

## Maundy Thursday

Our Maundy Thursday service will be on April 14 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary as we focus on the new family Jesus envisioned at his crucifixion.



## Preaching Schedule:

- 4/3 *Mark 15:22  
A Lesson for His Sons:  
Simon of Cyrene*
- 4/10 *Palm Sunday  
Luke 23:33-43  
Getting What You  
Deserve: 2 Criminals*
- 4/14 *Maundy Thursday  
John 13:31-35; 19:25-27  
A New Command. A New  
Family: The Beloved  
Disciple*
- 4/17 *Easter  
Mark 15:33-39  
What Do You Say in a  
Moment Like This?: The  
Centurion*
- 4/24 *John 19:38-42  
When It's All Said and  
Done: Joseph of  
Arimathea and  
Nicodemus*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Children's Sunday School will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30. Beginning April 17 we will move outside to the pavilion and masks are NOT required. We will continue to have our Children's Sermon each week followed by a Sunday School lesson and some playtime on the playground. If you are interested in being a helper (we have our teaching spots covered but need another adult each week) please email Leigh Anne at leighanne.collier@gmail.com, and she will send you the link to sign up.

Also beginning on the 17th we will have new forms to fill out for each child, so plan a few extra minutes before church to complete the new form with contact info, allergies, etc.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Sundays this spring!

Youth Sunday School begins April 17 in the Youth Room. Haven Abernathy will be teaching on the 17th. The lesson is from the book of Acts and is called "You Won't Believe This: A Riot in Ephesus." For now, Youth Sunday School will meet on the first and third Sundays. We can't wait to see you! Adult Sunday School continues to meet at 9:15.

Classes offered are:

Open Door Class – Room 305 – Matt Davidson teaching – Matt uses Smyth & Helwys Formations Series. April lessons focus on "The Joy of Easter."

Genesis Class – Room 311 – Michael Duke and Glenn West teaching – This class uses the Explore the Bible Series from Lifeway. They continue their study of the books of Thessalonians.

Ruth Fidelis Class (for women) – Room 312 – Donna Washington teaching – Donna uses Smyth & Helwys Connections Series. Their focus this month is on the foundational framework for daily Christian living.

Four passages will be explored. Come join us!

If you have any questions about the adult classes, please contact one of the teachers or email Linda Davidson at linsaledav@comcast.net.

We hope to see our youth and adults at 9:00 for donuts!

# SMALL GROUPS

Our SPARK team has done great work in introducing us to new opportunities for spiritual growth. Our next round is listed below and a sign up will be available by April 1. Small groups begin the week of April 24. Complete details are available at [glenallenbaptist.org/small-groups](http://glenallenbaptist.org/small-groups).

## **The Good and Beautiful God - led by Janet Melton, Thursdays at 10:30am at GABC**

The author, James Bryan Smith, believes we all have ideas about God and how he works in our lives. He believes that these thoughts determine who we are and how we live. In this small group, you will put your ideas to the test by discovering the truth in Scripture. You will embark on a process of spiritual transformation in your body and soul as well as your mind. The spiritual exercises in this book will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God.

## **The Gospel Calls Us to Action - led by Cheryl Ender**

Do you enjoy spreading God's love by serving the community? "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16. This small group will focus on loving and serving others through serving our shut-ins, assisting with Pre-K events, serving at "Moments of Hope", delivering backpack food and more.

This group will also be in prayer for other ways to serve and will receive a weekly devotional via email. Another great thing about this small group is that you can participate in another small group while being a part of this one.

## **The Life Of King David - led by Allen Jenkins, Mark Parent, and Eric Mawyer, Sundays at 4pm**

During these five weeks we will look at how God works through ordinary outcasts and extraordinary sinners. We will take a deep dive into David's early years as an unknown nobody to virtually becoming an overnight celebrity as well as his later years when he goes from a champion of the people to a prolific sinner. Not only will we look at David's story in a unique way but more importantly we will look at how his story sounds a lot like ours. *Children's activities will be provided so parents can participate.*

## **Garden Bed Small Group - led by Laura Mawyer**

Glen Allen Baptist Church made the decision in the spring of 2020 to build 'Garden Beds' on the church property in an effort to engage church members and friends in a fun and productive project during the covid pandemic. More importantly, we wanted to use our resources to grow and harvest much needed fresh food, for those in need. The success of this project has been overwhelming as we have grown from 8 total beds to now 25 beds. Along with the generosity of several of our church members, Glen Allen Baptist was able to deliver more than 1,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables to Lambs Basket in 2021. To continue this success, GABC will start a 'Garden Bed' small group that will start Wednesday, April 27. This group will be led by Laura Mawyer. This group will be responsible for all aspects of the garden beds which will include planting, watering, weekly maintenance of the beds, picking and delivery to Lambs Basket. This small group will not have an end date or time due to the nature of what the group will be doing. As a part of this group, we will spend time looking at not only what our garden beds produce, but what our life in Christ is producing. If we allow Christ to work in our lives, we can use this Garden Bed experience to grow ourselves, becoming more rooted in the love of Christ - a love we are just as anxious to share with those in need! Isn't this what we are called to do?

## **The Sermon Revisited - led by Rusty Lee, Wednesdays at 6:30pm**

Each week, Rusty Lee will guide a discussion about the previous week's sermon. We will talk about what we have learned and what points need further discussions. This group will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Ruth Fidelis class.