

News from the Mountain

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



NUMBERS: ARE WE THERE YET?

As is our summer tradition, we are digging into a lesser-studied Old Testament book of the Bible. This August, our focus in worship will be on following the Israelites through the book of Numbers as they wander in the wilderness. As one commentator writes, "The wilderness was where the Israelites found themselves suspended between a past they could no longer return to and a future they did not yet have the courage to embrace" (Sacks, *Numbers: The Wilderness Years*, p.17).

We will discern alongside this stalled, traveling band of Israelites about how to get to the next place of faithfulness. We will wrestle with questions about courage and conflict and wisdom. We will learn from spies and talking donkeys and arrogant leaders and willful followers. We will be surprised both by the character of God's people and the extravagance of God's love and grace.

In the end, I hope we do more than just learn a new story; I hope we take and apply the many lessons the Israelites learned in their journey so that we might travel faithfully towards God's promised future.

Traveling Together,
Melissa Fallen

THIS MONTH AT GABC

8/18 Faith Night at the Diamond

8/21 Reflections Big Band Concert

8/23 Deacons' Meeting

8/28 Summer Book Club

CHURCH NEWS

A Message from B.J. Crowder

As you know, a couple weeks ago I announced my intentions of resigning as the Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Ministry effective at the end of the calendar year. This was single handedly one of the most difficult things I have had to do in my lifetime. The absolute joy I have had at Glen Allen Baptist Church will be memories that will last forever.

Please know, that this decision was not easy at all. I have made lifetime friends at Glen Allen Baptist Church and my family and I absolutely love this church family and congregation. I have so many great memories that I will always cherish. The GABC family has become my extended family and I am forever grateful for you bringing me in and treating me as if I had been at the church my entire life.

During our 8+ years together, I feel like we accomplished a great deal. From moving to two mission trips per summer, hosting our own Youth Revival night, and implementing a fall retreat; we had so many great times in worship and fellowship. One of the highlights of my time was having the great opportunity to serve this church as Interim Pastor from August 2017 - February 2019. I had the opportunity to see this congregation through the joys and celebration of life to some of the hardest situations that families have to face such as loss in death. Through it all, my relationship with this congregation grew to immense measures.

While my tenure here at Glen Allen comes to a close, I don't believe this is my last chapter in Youth Ministry. I absolute love working with youth and children and hope that when my own children get older, there may be a chance to return to youth ministry. Again, this is not easy; but I need to be able to spend more time with Julia and our boys.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for our family over the last several years and I look forward to many more years of worshipping and fellowshiping together!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. William J. Crowder, Jr.

Associate Pastor for Youth & Family Ministry

Reflections Big Band Concert



Reflections Big Band will once again bless us with a free concert in our backyard on August 21 at 5:30pm. Carytown Burgers & Fries Food Truck will be here beginning at 5pm. Please begin inviting your friends and neighbors and share the flyers and our Facebook event with your contacts.

Summer Book Club - Politics and Faith



Our final summer book club discussion will be on August 28 at 4pm. We will discuss a timely book, *The Space Between Us: How Jesus Teaches Us to Live Together When Politics and Religion Pull Us Apart* by Sarah Bauer Anderson. As the daughter of a politician, Anderson brings a unique perspective towards navigating tense political space.

Music Director Search

Dr. Fallen and our Personnel Committee continue the search for a permanent, part-time Music Director. If you know of someone who may be interested, please have them send their resume to Dr. Fallen by August 22. Please be in prayer for this search as we seek God's leadership for this important ministry.

VBS

Thank you to all the families who brought kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends to VBS this year! We had over 30 kids participate during our 4 sessions on Thursdays in July as we learned about God, our creator and designer. Together, through skits, songs, missions work and fun activities, we learned about the connection between God's plan for King David and his son Jesus and how he has designed plans for our lives too. Thanks to all the volunteers who supported this important ministry in our community.

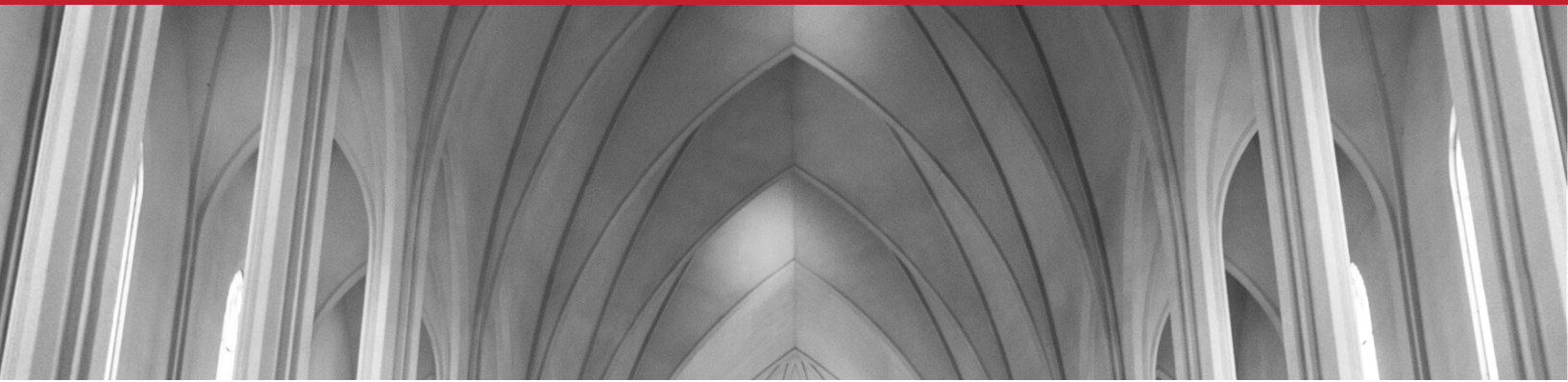


Mission News

Lamb's Basket - We delivered about 175 pounds of non-perishable food this month. Please continue to remember your donations during August. We take vegetables most Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have also donated over 600 pounds of fresh produce from our garden beds.

Operation Christmas Child (AKA "The Shoebox Ministry") will be a part of our fall activities. You can get involved in a variety of ways. See the display and informational flyers in the Welcome Center. Boxes are there if you want to commit to filling one. If you would like to donate a bag of school supplies, feel free to do so in the box there. Many thanks to whoever left a bag of colored pencils, erasers, and rulers.

We will hold our annual coat for kids drive in the fall. Look for pre-season sales and help a child stay warm this winter. Many people use the Sales Tax holiday to make their money go farther. It is the first weekend in August.



Preaching Schedule:

Are We There Yet?

- 8/7 *Numbers 13
The Frozen Chosen*
- 8/14 *Numbers 16
Jealousy and Rebellion -
Recipes for Disaster*
- 8/21 *Numbers 22-24
Talking Donkeys, Of
Course*
- 8/28 *Numbers 27 & 32
Protected and Provided
For*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Children's Sunday School continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30. The Children's Sermon will be in the sanctuary followed by a Sunday School lesson in the pavilion (weather permitting) 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.

There are new forms to complete for each child, so please plan on a few extra minutes to complete the form if you have not already done so. We look forward to seeing everyone on Sundays in August.

Youth Sunday School will resume September 11. This is for all youth sixth through 12th grade.

Adult Sunday School continues to meet at 9:15.

July 31 – All classes meet in the Fellowship Hall – Esther Thompson will teach a lesson on “Jesus and the Women.” We hope you will join us.

You are invited to attend one of the classes listed below.

Open Door Class – Room 305 – Matt Davidson teaching – Matt uses Smyth & Helwys Formations Series. August lessons focus on “Wisdom Divine and Human.” Scripture comes from I Corinthians. Come join us.

Genesis Class – Room 311 – Michael Duke teaching – This class uses the Explore the Bible Series from Lifeway. We will be studying I and II Kings during the summer months. In August our focus is God Honors, Judges, Hears, and Moves. We would love to have you.

Ruth Fidelis Class (for women of all ages) – Room 312 – Donna Washington teaching – Donna uses Smyth & Helwys Connections Series. Lessons in August are from the book of Hebrews and focus on “Coming Attractions.” All women of the church are welcome.

We will offer another joint session for adults Labor Day Sunday with Matt Davidson teaching.

Sunday School Promotion Sunday is September 11.

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