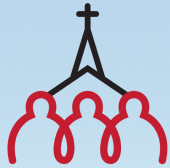


News from the Mountain

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



HONORING B.J. CROWDER

Over the last 8.5 years, GABC has been blessed by the gifts of B.J. Crowder as our Associate Pastor for Youth and Families. Those days have been filled with learning and serving. Our students have dug into Scripture and been challenged to a life of deeper faith. They have also had wonderful opportunities to participate in missions on both trips and local opportunities like feeding the homeless.

Not only has B.J. served our youth well, but he has also shepherded the congregation well, particularly through the period of pastoral transition. He generously used his gifts of preaching and pastoral care to guide the work of the church alongside Roger Collier during the extended interim time period.

It is rare to find someone with the strength of gifts and length of tenure as we found in B.J. His investment in this congregation and its families will continue to have positive ripple effects for years to come.

We look forward to celebrating B.J.'s ministry together on December 18. And we look forward to him leading in worship on his last Sunday, January 1. To God be the glory for 8+ years of fruitful, shared ministry together!

Serving Together,
Melissa Fallen

THIS MONTH AT GABC

12/6 Deacons' Christmas Dinner

12/18 Breakfast for B.J. Crowder

12/18 Children's Christmas Pageant

12/24 Christmas Eve

12/25 Christmas Day

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you

Thank you to Mark Mantiply for coming by to clean the gutters at my house. Your Christian spirit shines through as you help all those community members who need extra assistance. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Deborah Dean

Dear Friends,

What an October and November it has been! This surgery is not for the faint of heart! Thank you for all the cards, food, phone calls, but mostly thank you for your prayers. This would be so much more difficult if it weren't for your words of encouragement and love. Thank you for supporting Matt during this stressful time. Do you know he gets up in the middle of the night every night to bring me a couple of bites of sherbet? As you know, I had a setback which required a second procedure. I look forward to getting back to some sort of routine in the next few weeks.

With love,

Linda Davidson

The Sharpe Family would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the beautiful flowers and memorial service recognizing out mother's passing. Joyce was a long time member of Glen Allen Baptist Church and the Glen Allen community. Thank you for helping us carry out her final wishes.

Sincerely,

Jayne & Craig Sharpe

Card Request

Laura Ford is requesting Get Well and Sympathy cards to send to our members. She has plenty of Holiday and Birthday cards at the present time.

Welcome Booker Family



Trey, Deborah, and Elijah Booker have worshiped and served with us for a number of years now and they officially moved their membership to GABC last month! Elijah also comes professing his faith in Jesus and requesting baptism on December 11. We are excited to celebrate this important milestone with their family!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Join us at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve for a service of celebration of the Christ child. If you are participating in the Reverse Advent challenge, please bring those gifts as well. On Sunday, December 25, pause the present opening for a few minutes, keep the kids in their favorite Christmas jammies, and join us online at 10:30am for a brief time of worship. We will use our normal worship link and Dr. Fallen will lead in a time of reflection for the whole family.

Mission News

- On Nov. 12, we served 492 people at Moments of Hope as well as passed out about 200 pairs of socks. Many thanks for the leadership of BJ Crowder who has headed up this effort and he will be sorely missed. We will not be going in January as we will be looking for new leadership for this mission action. Each time we attend, it costs \$1300-1500 in food costs. If you have comments about this ministry, please pass them on to members of the Missions Committee.
- We made a large donation to Lamb's Basket in November and another 74 lbs on December 1. With our Advent promotion, we plan to close out the year with another strong donation to feed the hungry in Henrico County.
- This year our Title 1 school for Coats for Kids was Longdale Elementary. Over 93 coats were distributed over two weekends to help the children of that school stay warm this winter. We thank Susan Taylor and Gwen Steinbrecher for heading up this program and the many volunteers who helped.
- Operation Christmas Child was a great success this year as 52 shoe boxes were donated to the cause along with an extra 33 filled boxes combined for delivery from First Free Will Baptist Church. Many thanks to Shirley Jernigan who headed up the effort and put on the After Church Pizza Party to encourage participation.
- Our Backpack Weekend Meal program continues to grow. Recently, we packed 700 meal packs to make sure families with food insecurity had plenty of food for their children. If you would like to know more about his helpful program, contact Cheryl Ender.

Looking Ahead to the New Year!

The Missions Committee

Youth News

The Youth at Glen Allen Baptist Church had a very busy November. Earlier in the month we had our annual Fall Retreat at Small Country Campground in Louisa, VA. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, fun, and worship. The group had the chance to go to Carter Mountain and enjoy apple picking and of course the infamous apple cider donuts. During our devotional time, we talked about the Holy Spirit and we even had the chance to participate in the GABC worship service that morning.

Immediately following our trip, the next weekend, we prepared and served 492 meals to those in need through our Moments of Hope ministry. We had almost 25 people come help and serve and prepare. It was a great day and we had the chance to talk to so many of those in need who were just utterly thankful during this time of season.

Lastly, this past weekend, one of our youth, Elijah Booker came forward to profess his faith and request baptism, which will take place on December 11. Elijah's parents, Trey and Deborah also joined the same day. We are so excited for Elijah and the entire Booker family.

As always, thank you for your support and prayers for our youth group and their families. We appreciate it more than you know. God bless,

Rev. Dr. William J. Crowder, Jr.

Associate Pastor for Youth & Family Ministry

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are excited to welcome two uniquely gifted ministers for staff positions at GABC. Over the course of the last several months, the Personnel Committee has worked to fill our staff vacancies in the areas of youth and music. After reviewing resumes and assessing the needs of the church, the Personnel Committee decided we could fill both positions and address our growing children's ministry.

These two candidates bring to us over 40 years of combined ministry experience. The Assoc. Pastor for Youth and Music will be a 20 to 25-hour position. The Assoc. Pastor for Children will be a 10 to 15-hour position. We look forward to welcoming them to our fellowship on January 2!

Associate Pastor for Youth and Music - Ann Carter

Ann Carter is currently the Minister to Students at Richmond's First Baptist Church where she has served in various youth ministry capacities for the past 20 years. Before joining the staff at First Baptist, Ann had a 10-year career in state and local politics. She was born and raised in Richmond where she graduated from Godwin High School and the University of Richmond. Immediately following college graduation, Ann spent two years in Kyoto, Japan teaching English instilling in her a sense of wanderlust that just won't go away. She is a second year M.Div. student at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Ann is married to David and is mom to young adults Ellie, Claire, and Mary Wise who is a senior in High School. Ann loves reading several books at a time, singing in several choirs at a time, spending time with the family either at home on the back deck or on an adventurous road trip, and every morning finds her with a large mug of coffee to fuel whatever is next on her calendar.



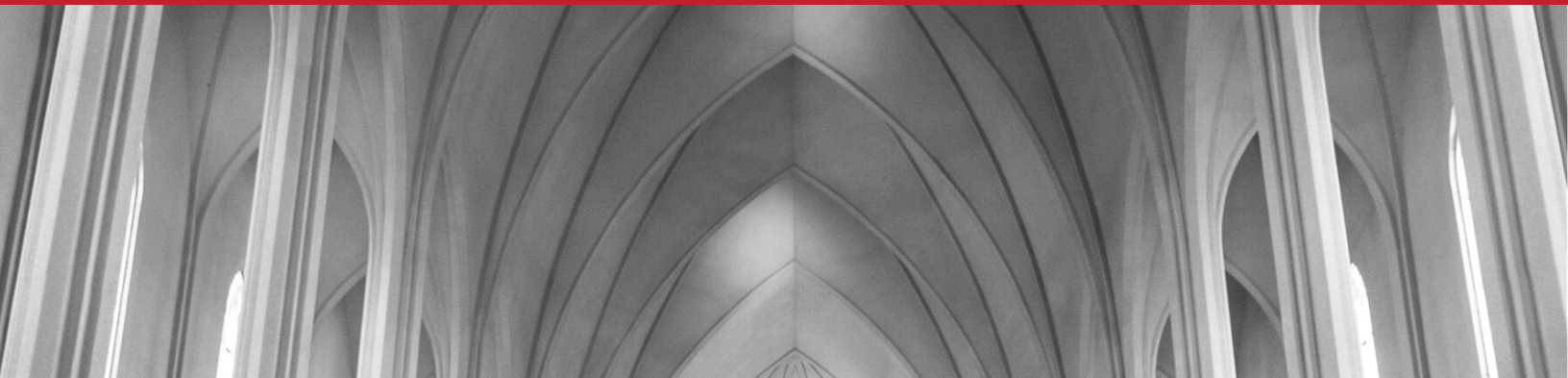
Associate Pastor for Children - Darie Lee

Darie (rhymes with 'Marie') was born and raised in Hopkinsville, KY. She is currently the Director of the River Road Early Learning Center. She received a BA in Psychology and Sociology from Georgetown College in Georgetown, KY and a Master of Divinity in Christian Education from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. She has served as Children's Minister in churches in Kentucky, South Carolina and Virginia. She was ordained by First Baptist Church of Mauldin, SC. She and her husband, Rusty, have 3 children – Abby, Zach and Jonathan. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, photography and crafting.



Breakfast Honoring B.J. Crowder

Join us on December 18 at 9am for breakfast to honor B.J. Crowder and his 8+ years of service to us. B.J.'s last official Sunday on staff will be January 1, and he will lead worship that Sunday. Please join us in this time of appreciation for the many ways B.J. has led our students and entire congregation.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Adult Sunday School News:

Our adult classes continue to meet at 9:15 each Sunday.

Genesis class is studying the book of John.

Ruth Fidelis lessons in December are on "Living Expectantly," from Romans, James, and Luke.

Open Door lessons focus on "Foremothers of Jesus."

January 1, 2023 - Adults will meet together in the Fellowship Hall.

Children's Play

Our children are excited to present their Christmas Play "On Our Way to Bethlehem" during the 10:30 am worship service on December 18th! We will have a cast party following service for our kids and families with pizza, games and a movie. Practices are Wednesdays after Wednesday Night Supper and Sunday's during Children's Church. We will have a full run through dress rehearsal on December 17th at 10:30am.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program

December 7 - Lasagna, garlic bread, salad bar, dessert

Kids: Pizza

December 14 - Fried Chicken, mac & cheese, vegetable, rolls, salad bar, dessert

Kids: same as above

On December 7, CBF Field Personnel, Jenny Jenkins, will share about her ministry in Haiti for our program.

On December 14, we will be blessed by the sounds of our own ukulele group as well as a seasoned group. Join us for this fun night of Christmas fellowship!

Preaching Schedule:

12/4 *Matthew 2:1-12*
Christmas Guests

12/11 *James 5:7-11*
Be Patient

12/18 *Children's Play*

12/24 *John 1:1-14*
The Word Became Flesh