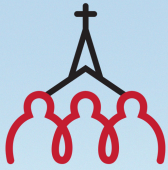


News from the Mountain

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT!

In 2016, I had the opportunity to go to the Holy Land and walk the spaces Jesus and his disciples walked.

Nearby the Church of the Nativity, located on the West Bank, are potential sites where the shepherds received word of the coming of this baby boy. In one of those sites, there is a church with a beautiful ceiling where the light shines in like the stars of the night sky. Inscribed around it in Latin reads, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men of goodwill."



2,000 years ago, the light of Christ met shepherds doing the ordinary work of tending their flock. And the light changed them forever. But more importantly, it changed the world forever.

Our violent and chaotic world sometimes clouds our view of the light around us. Yet, I still believe the light of Christ comes to us again and again in the war-torn places of our world and the weary-filled places of our hearts.

This Advent, we turn our eyes again to the light of Christ entering our lives in new and fresh ways. Together, let us awaken to the possibility of hope, peace, joy, and love of the Christ child transforming us and our world once again.

Serving Together,
Melissa Fallen

THIS MONTH AT GABC

- 12/6** *Community Advent Walk*
- 12/11** *Backpack Packing*
- 12/13** *Church Family Christmas Fun Night*
- 12/19** *Lunch Bunches*
- 12/24** *Christmas Eve*
- 12/25** *Christmas Day*

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you

This year's shopping and packing of Thanksgiving boxes is in the books. Thanks to those at church and the Kroger team who helped. Shoppers at Kroger were curious about the boxes, which gave me a chance to explain our involvement. I've invited some Kroger employees to Wednesday night dinner. Happy Thanksgiving!
Donna Washington

Many thanks to the church family for expressions of concern to me and Linda during my recent 38 day stay in the two hospitals. Your calls, visits, cards, meals and flowers are greatly appreciated and helped both of us during this difficult time. I am getting better each day and your continued prayers are greatly appreciated. I wrote a Reflection on my journey and if you would like to have one, let me know.
Much love, Matt Davidson.

Dear Glen Allen Baptist Church,
Thank you so much for participating in Literacy Night at Hermitage High School on November 16, 2023. Your support of a meal for teachers & staff along with your donation of clothing & items to help local families was greatly appreciated. I saw the community come together for an evening of fellowship and fun, and you helped make it a HUGE success. Thank you for being a light in a difficult time by sharing your positivity, kindness, and generosity. We are blessed to have you partner with our school.

Sincerely,
Ashley Cogbill- Art Teacher



Wednesday Night Dinner



December 6 - Chicken tetrazzini, veggie, garlic bread, salad bar, cookies

Kids: Chicken nuggets

December 13 - Pork chops, potato casserole, veggie, rolls, salad bar, dessert

Kids: Chicken nuggets

Backpack Packing

Mark your calendars for our next backpack packing dates. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am for an hour of fun and fellowship as we ready those packs with nourishment and love. Our next 2 dates are December 11 and January 15.

Parent/Child Dedication

We will host a Parent/Child Dedication on December 10 during the 10:30am worship. If you know of a family who would like to participate, please contact Melissa Fallen or Darie Lee by December 4.

Year End Gifts

The church office will be open December 26-28 to receive any year end gifts. Your generosity is appreciated as we finish the year on a strong financial footing.

Lunch Bunch(es)

Lunch bunches continue on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30am Ladies meet at O'Charley's on Brook Road. Guys meet at Kitchen 33. Please contact Brenda Anderson or Matt Davidson if you have any questions.

Children's Ministry

I am excited about the church-wide Wednesday night events between now and Christmas that are designed to be family-friendly. We will resume regular Wednesday night children's programming in January. Our children's choir will be helping to lead worship on December 17. The song we are singing, and the lessons in Sunday School are about the meaning of Advent. We are practicing our song during Sunday School each week. Sunday School starts at 9:15. Children's Choir practice is at 10:00.

We will not have Sunday School on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

Thanks again to everyone who has volunteered to help in Children's Church. A sign-up sheet for January-March will be up soon in the lobby.

Darie





December '23 Youth NEWS



YOUTH SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This Sunday, we will finish up our journey through the book of Genesis. For the remaining 2 Sundays in December, we will compare the "birth narratives" in the 4 Gospels (they aren't all the same!!) I hope our youth will join us!

Sundays, 9:15-10:15 in the Youth Room

On the following Sundays, there will be no Sunday School, but there will be worship:
December 24
December 31

MID-WEEK YOUTH GROUP

It is officially Advent, and we are joining on Wednesday nights with our whole church family to prepare for the coming of Christ. Youth are especially encouraged to participate in these fun events.

- 11/29 - Hanging of the Green
- 12/6 - Family Advent Experience
- 12/13 - Church Family Fun Night

I love it when our whole church family can do things together! Let's celebrate the season and the fact that we are part of a wonderful church family!

Dinner 5:45
Advent Activities 6:15-7:15

FALL RETREAT RECAP

Our youth had a wonderful time on our fall retreat at Camp Willow Run. In addition to lots of quality time together outdoors, we gathered with youth from 4 other Richmond churches and spent the weekend learning all the different ways we can offer our prayers to God. It is so much more than just wishing and hoping!

SECOND SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS EDITION!

- December 10 - Right after church from 11:30-1
- Come for church and stay for lunch and youth group!
- Invite your friends.
- This will be our youth Christmas party!



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It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year!

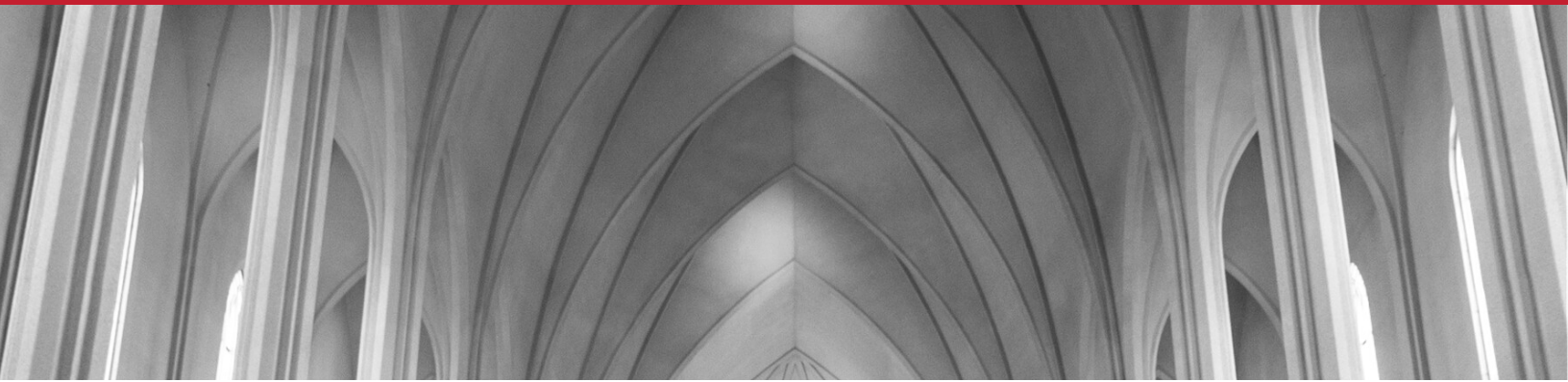


As we prepare our Advent and Christmas music, our rehearsals are especially important this time of year. Not only are we singing in worship every Sunday, we are also preparing to lead the service with special music on December 17.

Here is our rehearsal schedule:

- Wednesday, December 6
- Wednesday, December 13

Let's celebrate the season with a party together on Wednesday, December 20!



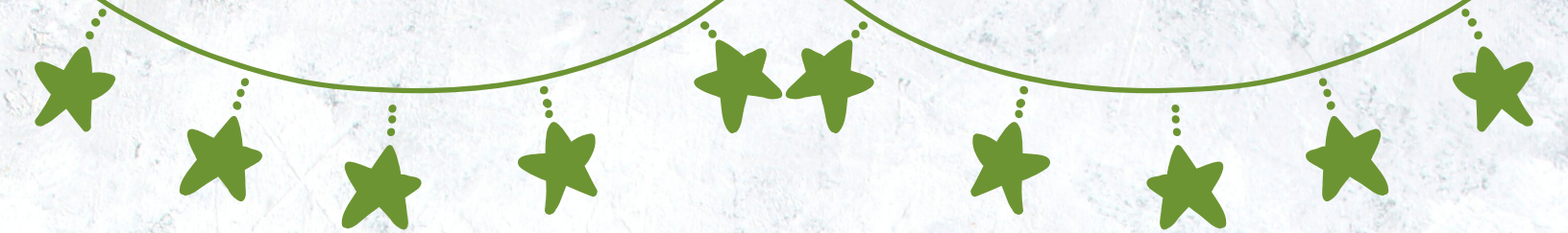
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Preaching Schedule:

- 12/3 *Isaiah 9:1-7*
Matthew 4:12-17
The Great Light is Coming
- 12/10 *Matthew 2:1-12*
Following the Light
- 12/17 *John 1:1-5*
Light of All People
Choir Leads
- 12/24 *Lessons and Carols*
Luke 2:22-40
A Light for Revelation
- 12/31 *Matthew 5:14-16*
Light of the World

We are excited to explore Advent together in our Children's Sunday School classes with crafts and fun activities throughout December. Also, our kids will be practicing in choir from 10-10:15 the first 3 Sundays in December to prepare to share a song during the worship service on December 17th. All kids who want to sing are invited to join at 10am, regardless of if you're attending Sunday School or not. Our youth have been joining in the youth room each Sunday to learn and grow in faith together and we look forward to closing 2023 out strong. Our adult classes will continue to meet on a normal schedule during the Advent season. Note: there will be no Sunday School on Christmas Eve so that we can focus on being together during worship and for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service.





CHRISTMAS
AT
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST
CHURCH

November 29, 6:15pm
Hanging of the Green

December 6, 6:15-7:15pm
Advent Walk
(New Nature Trail and Fire Pit)

December 13, 6:15pm
Family Fun Night
BINGO and Christmas Stories

December 17, Music Ministry
Leads in Worship

December 24, Christmas Eve
10:30am Worship
Lessons and Carols

5:00pm Worship
Candlelight Service

All events are family friendly.

