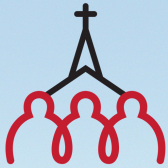


News from the Mountain

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



WHAT IS A DEACON?

Our deacons kicked off their ministry year in January getting to know their assignments and committing to the work ahead of us. We discussed the expectations of a deacon and how to best serve the congregation.

Deacons intend to hold each other to high standards as leaders at GABC. Here are a few expectations deacons shared of themselves: be present and informed, lead where there is a need, give faithfully, lead in worship, develop a consistent spiritual life, stay in regular contact with families, and more.

I hope you will join me in praying for our deacons as they seek to fulfill these responsibilities faithfully. On February 4, we will install our new deacons and pledge our continual support to our entire deacon body.

If you don't hear from your deacon soon, reach out to our January deacon coordinator, Christian Lawrence, and we will make sure you are connected!

Serving Together,
Melissa Fallen

THIS MONTH AT GABC

2/4 Deacon Installation

2/11 Scout Sunday

2/14 Ash Wednesday

2/20 Lunch Bunches

2/23 GABC Anniversary

2/27 Deacons' Meeting

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you

Thanks to the Handyman Ministry for cleaning up my leaves!!! It's a great blessing to have 4 wonderful men to do this for me!!

Laura Ford

Wednesday Night Dinner

February 7 - Lasagna, garlic bread, salad, dessert; Kids: Pizza

February 14 - Baked chicken with stuffing and gravy, veggie, rolls, salad, dessert; Kids: Chicken nuggets

February 21 - Chili & Baked potato bar, cornbread, salad, dessert
Kids: Chicken nuggets

February 28 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggie, rolls, salad, desert
Kids: Corn dog nuggets

Backpack Packing

Mark your calendars for our next backpack packing dates. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am on February 5, February 26, and March 18 for an hour of fun and fellowship as we ready those packs with nourishment and love.

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.

New Volunteer Opportunities!

We are excited to share a new volunteering opportunity as part of our school partnership program! Dumbarton Elementary School is seeking dedicated individuals to support various activities, and we're excited about the impact our church members can make. Volunteer opportunities include Lunch Monitoring, Filing/Shelving Work, and Reading to Students.

Hermitage High School is also looking for mentors during lunch twice a month. If you are interested, please reach out to Mark Parent for next steps.

Ash Wednesday

We will begin our Lenten journey on February 14 at 6:15pm in the sanctuary with our Ash Wednesday service. This will be an evening of reflecting and examining what it means to take up our cross and follow Jesus to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

156th Anniversary

On February 23, Glen Allen Baptist Church celebrates the 156th anniversary of our founding in 1868. On this occasion we reflect on the recent loss of our previous pastor, Dr. Elmer Stone West, Jr, on November 18, 2023, at 101 years of age. In 1947 Elmer West took his first pastorate here at Glen Allen and was the first occupant of our newly built first parsonage, built across from the Church on a lot purchased from Mrs. E. L. Allen (the mother of Emmett Allen, Jr) for \$700. A graduate of the University of Richmond and the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Dr. West also served 27 months in the Naval Reserve.



In 1949, the Scout Lodge was built. The RF&P Railroad donated materials for the Scout lodge, including a boxcar that was taken apart for lumber; and the front door was a door formerly used on a dining car belonging to the railroad.

At the end of 1951, the membership of the church was 445. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board called Dr. West to be the Secretary of Missionary Personnel in 1953.

The Board of Deaconesses stated, "In a faithful and devoted ministry of five years, the Wests have led the church forward in the work of the Lord with increased membership, with greatly increased gifts to the Lord's work, with a progressive Sunday School and Young Peoples Program and with an ever-advancing missionary endeavor." Membership increased twelve percent and yearly tithing increased ninety percent when compared to 1946, which was prior to West's arrival.

As part of our 100th anniversary in February 1968, Dr. Elmer West, led a revival service. In 1997 the Church passed a motion to elect Dr. Elmer West as Pastor Emeritus.

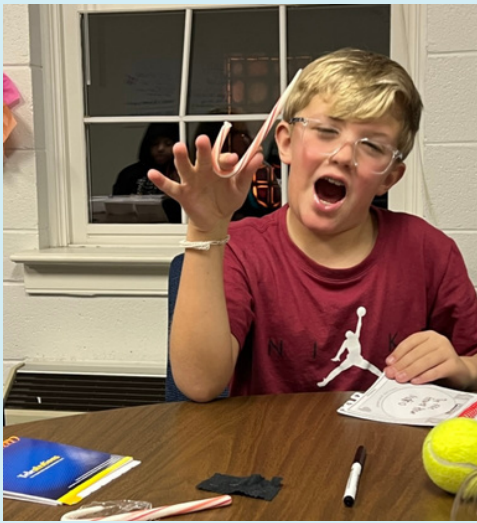
Forrest Melton, Church Historian

Choir

Do you like to sing? Would you like to try out choir for a season? Join us as we prepare music for our Lenten and Holy Week services. We would love to add your voice and your presence to our choir. We meet on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:45 in the Choir Room.



February '24 Youth NEWS



EXCITING YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024

MISSION MADNESS

April 19-21 in Chesapeake, VA. The cost is \$125
Mission Madness is a retreat that sends students to do mission work in the local community. A local church will host our weekend, and we will stay in a hotel. What makes this special is that we will join with youth from congregations all over Virginia and join the work God is doing in Chesapeake.

PASSPORT CAMP

June 16-21 at Converse University in Spartanburg, SC. Cost: \$528
Passport is a creative discipleship camp that allows students to customize their camp experience, explore their passions, and inform their faith journey. Small group Bible studies will be led by our fantastic PASSPORT summer teams. Youth can choose afternoon options that include mission service, leadership through team play, faith expression through music, creative arts, or photography. Everyone has a unique experience during the day before gathering again for worship and a nightly party in the evening.

To register for either Passport or Mission Madness, email Ann with your t-shirt size and make a \$125 deposit through the secure giving link on our website. You can also turn in a check made payable to GABC with a notation in the memo.

YOUTH SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday, January 7, we began our 6-week journey into the story of Exodus. We have 2 more weeks to go before we tackle Kings and Prophets!

Bring your Bibles, your curiosity, your enthusiasm, your sense of humor, and join us as we explore how God was at work in the ancient world and draw connections to how God is at work now!

9:15-10:15 in the Youth Room

MID-WEEK YOUTH GROUP

Dinner 5:45
Youth Activities 6:15-7:15 in the Youth Room

As you can see from the photos on the left, Wednesday nights have been full of laughter, fun, and thought-provoking conversation as we learn to be in community together.

On Ash Wednesday, we will begin our 6 week Lenten journey and our activities will center around Lent.

SECOND SUNDAY

- February 11 - Right after church from 11:30-1
- Come for Sunday School and Church and stay for lunch and fun!

Preaching Schedule:

- 2/4 *Mark 5:21-43
Too Late?*
- 2/11 *Mark 8:27-33, 9:1-8
A Misunderstood Jesus*
- 2/14 *Ash Wednesday
Mark 8:34-39
Take Up Your Cross*
- 2/18 *Mark 11:15-19
Risking Righteous
Anger*
- 2/25 *Matthew 22:15-22
Risking Challenge*

CHILDRENS MINISTRY**2024 Children's Ministry Events**

Watch the weekly bulletin and newsletter for details!

Easter Egg Hunt

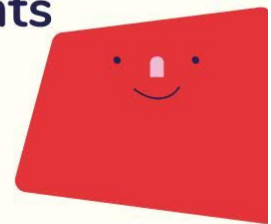
Saturday, March 23
11:00am
Rain or Shine

Vacation Bible School

June 10-13
5:30-7:30p.

Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27
3:00-4:30pm

**Mark your calendars now!****Lenten Study and Sermon Series**

Have you ever considered the risks Jesus took during Holy Week and what it might mean for our faith? We will embark on a 5-week small group study and a 6-week sermon series on A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week built around Amy-Jill Levine's study book by the same name. Stay tuned for details for a men's, women's, and young family study group beginning February 21.

Cards Needed

Get Well Cards are needed at this time. If you have extra, please bring them by the church office for Laura Ford. Thank you!