

# News from the Mountain

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



## NEW BEGINNINGS

As we flip the calendar pages over to a new year, I hope you are filled with hope and optimism about the opportunities ahead of us.

We saw a surge of energy and activity in 2022 as we emerged from the pandemic and began dreaming new dreams. Small groups grew. Mission projects emerged. Our children's ministry expanded. We took the next steps in adopting a new Constitution and Bylaws that will free us to do missions and ministry in stronger ways. All of those are signs of a healthy, vibrant church.

2023 offers us opportunities to build on that positivity and continue to invest in God's kingdom so that more and more people come to know this Jesus we follow. I look forward to the new energy and ideas our new staff members will bring to us. (See my article on the next page on how we can support them.)

With all of this energy bubbling up in the congregation, I want to spend some time in January studying new beginnings in Scripture. For these first few weeks, we will dig into some biblical stories to hear how God invites us to new beginnings and new opportunities to be a part of God's work in the world. I look forward to exploring that with you as we step forward with curiosity and faithfulness into 2023.

Happy New Year!  
Melissa Fallen

### THIS MONTH AT GABC

*1/1 Joint Sunday School*

*1/2 New Staff Begins*

*1/4, 1/11, 1/18 Winter Bible Study on Revelation*

*1/22 Deacon Ordination*

*1/24 Deacons' Meeting*

*1/25 Quarterly Business Meeting*

# CHURCH NEWS

## Thank you

thanks to Mark Mantiply, Tom Steinruck, and Jim Godwin for cleaning up my leaves. It was a big help!!!!  
Laura Ford

## Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

**January 4** - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls, salad bar, dessert,

Kids: hot dog, chips and fruit

**January 11** - Ranch Chicken, vegetable, mac and cheese, rolls, salad bar, dessert

Kids: chicken nuggets, chips and fruit

**January 18** - Ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, rolls, salad bar, dessert

Kids: chicken nuggets, chips and fruit

**January 25** - Roast Pork, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls, salad, bar, dessert

Kids: chicken nuggets, chips and fruit

## A Study in Revelation - Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Have you ever read the book of Revelation and gave up pretty quickly because it was just too complicated? Dr. Brian Blount is here to help! Dr. Blount is the president of Union Presbyterian Seminary here in Richmond, and he will lead a 3-week winter Bible study on Revelation beginning January 4 at 6:30pm. Join us as we study this often confusing and misunderstood book of Scripture.

## How to Welcome New Staff

On January 2, 2023, GABC will welcome two new staff members. Darie Lee will serve as our Associate Pastor for Children in a 10 to 15-hour position. Ann Carter will serve as our Associate Pastor for Youth and Music in a 20 to 25-hour position. Here are some ways you can be helpful in their transition:

- **Introduce yourself...**again and again. We have a few new names to learn. They have 100+.
- **Get to know them.** Learn about their families and their ministry stories. Extra credit if you find out who owns too many cats.
- **Volunteer.** Are there areas of church life you can volunteer to help support their ministries? Childcare? Teaching? Organizing? Singing? Chaperoning? As they get settled, offer to support their ministry by using your time and talents.
- **Give.** We pledged as a church to increase our budget by 2.8% in 2023 to provide for these ministry needs, so let us faithfully support these ministries with our financial gifts.
- **Pray.** Pray for Ann & Darie and their families as they begin this new chapter in their ministry careers.
- **Openness.** These wonderfully gifted ministers will bring new ideas and new energy. Let us bring a spirit of openness to see what God can teach us through their gifts.
- **Encouragement.** Seek opportunities to encourage them - a card, a text, a kind word after worship, etc.
- **Excitement.** Finally, let them know how excited we are to welcome them to our church family!

These are just a few ways to help them get started, and I hope they are also things we do throughout their ministry to love and support them as they serve alongside us.

## **A Message From B.J.**

Happy New Year!

As I write my final newsletter article at GABC, I am filled with gratitude, joy, and the utmost love for the congregation of this church. I think back to when I began and the many “life highlights” that have occurred during this time that you have celebrated and supported me through including marriage and the birth of all 3 of our boys. I am so thankful for the support you have always showed me and especially the parents for entrusting me with their most prized possession over the last 8+ years. Nothing has brought me greater joy than the opportunity to work with your children and witness some of their life highlights such as baptism, graduation, and college acceptances to name a few. I am so proud of each youth that has come through this program and have enjoyed watching many of them already grow into wonderful young adults. Throughout my time at GABC I have had the opportunity to form lifelong friendships. Leaving the ministry at GABC was an extremely bittersweet decision. While I know that I will undoubtedly miss working with the youth and families of the church, it also brings me great joy to spend more time with my own family. My time as Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Ministry has been the longest tenured position I have ever held, and I think this speaks volumes of this church community. Ultimately, I was extremely well supported and I know that you will support the next Youth Pastor during this transition. I am so proud of many of the things we accomplished including growing a group of only 2-3 when I arrived to a steady group of around 25 for the majority of our ministry until COVID hit. We had the opportunity to have a Youth Revival night in which we had over 300 participate with 12 other churches involved. Additionally, we grew our summer mission trips to 2 trips each summer along with a fall retreat each year.

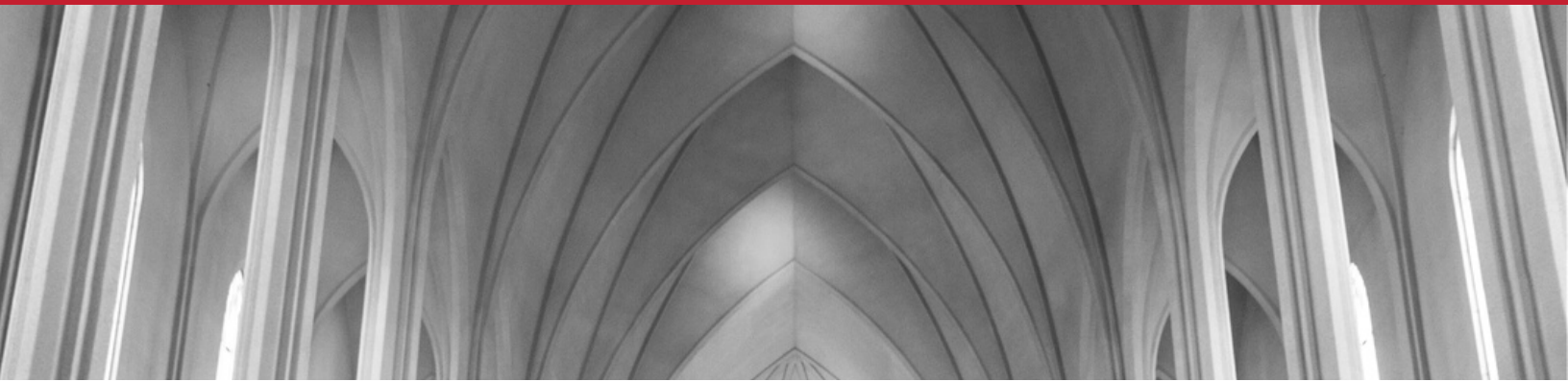
One of the many highlights of my time at GABC was the opportunity I had to serve as the Interim Pastor of this church for 6 months followed by a period of 12 months of serving as Co-Interim Pastor with our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Roger Collier. During this time, I had the great opportunity to serve this church in a different and more intimate way. I had the chance to celebrate some of the greatest moments of your lives including marriage ceremonies, church membership at GABC, baptism, baby/child dedication, deacon ordination, and many more happy moments. I also was with you during some of the most painful and vulnerable moments of your lives. While you and I both would not like to remember these times, they were all times where together we relied on the Holy Spirit for support to grow even closer to our Lord.

Finally, a big thank you to the entire congregation for the wonderful program a couple of weeks ago celebrating my ministry at GABC. It was an extremely emotional day for me because this was truly such a bittersweet decision. I am so grateful for your hospitality, acceptance, and lifelong friendships that we have made. Each one of you has had a major impact in my life whether you realize it or not. God Bless you all and here is to a bright future at GABC as we enter 2023!

God Bless,

Rev. Dr. William J. Crowder, Jr.

Associate Pastor for Youth & Family Ministry



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year from your Sunday School Department!

### *Preaching Schedule:*

1/1 *Acts 20:17-38*  
*We've Come This Far by Faith*  
B.J. Crowder preaching

### **New Beginnings Series**

1/8 *Genesis 1:1-2:4*  
*How Big is Your Imagination?*

1/15 *Genesis 2:4-24*  
*Hand Crafted for Good*

1/22 *Matthew 4:12-23*  
*Leaving Our Nets*

1/29 *Job 42*  
*Reoriented*

Our adult Sunday School classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall on January 1. "Lesson in Discipleship from the Wise Men" will be taught by Matt Davidson and is based on the Formations (Smyth & Helwys) January 1 lesson. If you have not been attending Sunday School, this is a great time to start.

During the rest of January, the Genesis class will focus on John 1-11. They use Lifeway's Explore the Bible Series. (Room 311).

The Open Door class will focus on "The Messiah Appears" based on the book of Matthew. This is part of the Smyth and Helwys Formations Series. (Room 305).

The Ruth Fidelis class will be studying Jesus' early life and ministry. They use Smyth and Helwys Connections Series. (Room 312).

Study Guides for these lessons are available in the classrooms.

We hope to see you on January 1!

Our children will not be meeting on January 1 but will resume on January 8.

### **Quarterly Business Meeting - January 25**

Our quarterly business meeting will be January 25 at 6:30pm. In addition to our regular business items, we will vote on our new Constitution and Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. Please have all reports in to the church office by January 18.