

# News from the Mountain

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
GLEN ALLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



## MAKING JESUS LOOK GOOD

When the recent news of sexual misconduct, abuse, and cover up in the Southern Baptist Convention came to light, it raised a strong range of emotions among Baptists. Among the grief, frustration, and anger, there was also a sense of embarrassment.

The world outside our doors doesn't know the difference between a CBF Baptist or a Southern Baptist or an American Baptist or any other descriptor. They hear "Baptist" and an immediate, often negative, image comes to mind. Most often, I find myself saying, "No, not THAT kind of Baptist."

The truth is the world is constantly assessing us by the latest headlines. It is out of our control and regrettable when prominent faith leaders make us look bad or when people hold hate-filled signs. I'm really not interested in making Baptists look better because the kingdom demands more than that. What I'm most interested in, is whether or not we're making Jesus look good. Is the life we're living leading people to want to know the Jesus we're following?

Let's not leave the world guessing who Jesus is based on a few rogue headlines. Let's live in a way to make Jesus look good!

Growing Together,  
Melissa Fallen

### THIS MONTH AT GABC

7/7 VBS

7/9 *Moments of Hope*

7/14 VBS

7/21 VBS

7/20 *Quarterly Business Meeting*

7/20 *Town Hall Meeting*

7/30 VBS  
*Weekend*

# CHURCH NEWS

## Staff Vacation Coverage

Dr. Fallen will be out of the office July 1-15. If you need assistance during this time, please contact B.J. Crowder, the church office, or our chair of deacons, Scott Brannan.

## Summer Book Club Continues

As we break from our weekly programming, Dr. Fallen is leading a summer book club. The next will be on July 31 at 4pm. If you love to read and are interested in participating in good conversation, please see Melissa for our July and August selections. Childcare can be arranged upon request.



## July is VBS Month!

Spark imagination and kick creativity into high gear at Spark Studios(TM). This summer, kids will learn that God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis. The Master Artist is working to redeem, reclaim, and transform us—His creation—to the design He planned for us. Kids will have fun while learning that we are His workmanship (Eph. 2:10) and a masterpiece in process.

We'll have three mini sessions from 5-7pm on the following Thursdays: July 7th, 14th and 21st, followed by our VBS weekend on July 30th-31st, with a goal of kids participating in the worship service on July 31st. Kids are welcome to come to any or all sessions that they can attend.

To sign your child(ren) up, visit <https://forms.gle/AJpUZMK4Mefi954E8> or email [leighanne.collier@gmail.com](mailto:leighanne.collier@gmail.com) for the link. If you'd like to help with any of these sessions, please contact Leigh Anne. We have lots of hands on (helping kids during the sessions) and hands off opportunities (set up before the sessions) and need volunteers both before and during the sessions.



## Music Director Search

Dr. Fallen and our Personnel Committee have begun 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 1. Please be in prayer for this search as we seek God's leadership for this important ministry.

## Town Hall and Business Meeting

Immediately following the July 20 business meeting, our deacons will host a town hall meeting to discuss potential changes to our organizational structure that will impact our constitution and bylaws. Join us for dinner at 5:45 followed by the business meeting at 6:30 and the town hall immediately after.

## Youth News

Summer is officially here! Graduations and parties are over and we look ahead to the next couple of months of summer vacation. A big congratulations to all of our seniors as we had the chance to celebrate them this past month.

As we continue into the month of July we will have our Moments of Hope on Saturday, July 9th. We welcome members of our congregation to help in this effort. There are a variety of different “shifts” you can volunteer for including meal prep, packaging, or serving. Let me know if you have an interest in helping.

Faith Night at the Diamond will be held on Thursday, August 18th. This is a fun time of player testimonials, Christian music, and fellowship and fun. The Youth will be going to this game and would love to invite members of the congregation to go as well. If you would like to go, let me know as soon as you can, because we only have about 20 tickets left. The cost is \$13 per ticket.

This is all just a small sampling of what we have going on this summer. We also have bi-weekly bible studies and a few other offerings as well. We have begun to plan out the Fall and already have our Fall Retreat on the books.

Thank you for all of your support of our Youth Ministry as we continue to strive to offer quality spiritual growth of our youth as well as provide good fellowship among their peers.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. William J. Crowder, Jr.

Associate Pastor for Youth & Family Ministry



## Mission News

**Open Meeting-Sunday July 17, after Morning Worship.** Calling everyone who would like to participate in the annual Shoebox Ministry for Samaritan's Purse. We will begin collecting in early September to pack Shoeboxes to be shipped in November. With the dire economic situations some American families will face this Christmas, turmoil on many continents, and the refugee situation in Europe, the need is great and we need to begin now to have a successful campaign. We'll meet for a few minutes in the Sanctuary to discuss this opportunity.

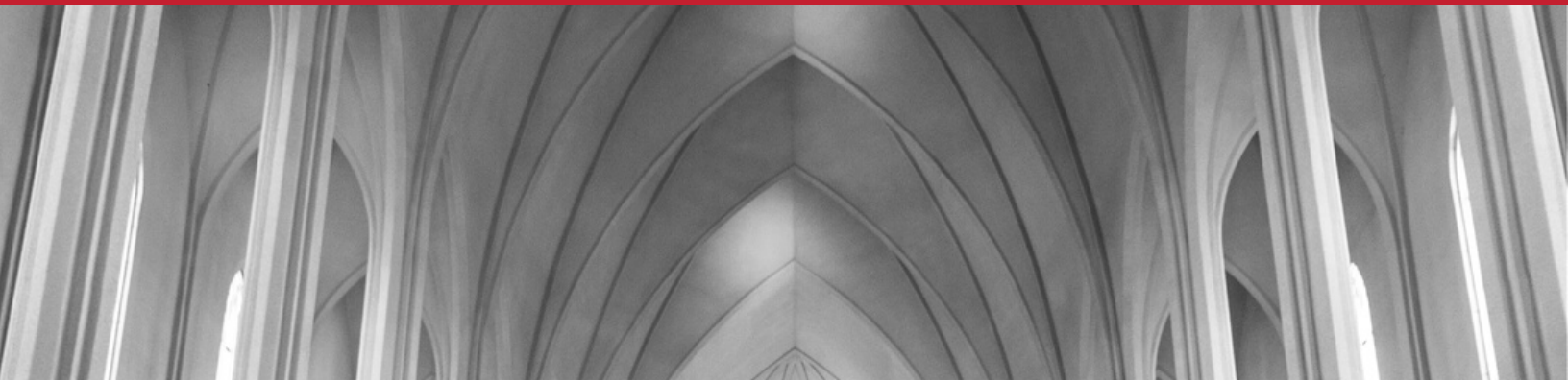
### What you can do now:

1. Pray for success of this effort. Pray for those families and children who will be receiving our love gifts. To date, Samaritan's Purse has distributed nearly 7,000 metric tons of food in Ukraine. They have shipped 20 missions of relief into Ukraine itself and are a part of ministry to 7 million refugees from Ukraine who are spread across Europe. Samaritan's Purse has a partner network of 3,000 churches in Ukraine and neighboring Moldova. You can be sure that your gifts will get to a needy child and his/her family this Christmas!
2. There will be a weekly Scripture focus starting soon. Look for it.
3. Shopping--When you see a good buy, pick up an item or two. Many people shop during the tax free weekends for school supplies for this ministry.
4. If you would rather make a monetary donation, designate it on your check or offering envelope.

Each box we send will need \$10 in shipping costs sent with it.

Can we count on your support? Come join us on the 17th. For further information, contact Shirley Jernigan or Matt Davidson.





## Preaching Schedule:

- 7/3 *Mark 12:28-30*  
*Romans 12:9-12*  
*Passionately Passionate*  
*for the Lord*  
*B. J. Crowder preaching*
- 7/10 *Luke 10:25-37*  
*Some Rules Are Meant to*  
*be Broken*  
*Darrie Lee preaching*
- 7/17 *Colossians 1:15-29*  
*The Invisible God*
- 7/24 *Hosea 1:1-11*  
*Unfaithful*
- 7/31 *Luke 12:32-40*  
*Where is Your Treasure?*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Children's Sunday School will continue 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](mailto: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 during the summer.

Youth Sunday School will resume in the fall.

Adult Sunday School continues to meet at 9:15.

July 3 – All classes meet in the Fellowship Hall – Larry Long will teach the lesson from Lifeway.

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.

Other Sundays in July, 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. July lessons focus on "Jacob's Sons." 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. 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 July come from the book of Luke and focus on "Necessary Actions." These include Going, Helping, Learning, Trusting, and Prioritizing. All women of the church are welcome.

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