

January 2021

## A Shot in the Arm

During the week of December 11, healthcare workers in the U.S. began getting the first round of covid-19 vaccines. I don't know about you, but as these workers got a shot in the arm, my spirits received a shot of hope knowing there was light at the end of this pandemic. In the same week, covid-19 infections hit all-time highs across the country even infecting one of the most vulnerable in my family. That burst of vaccine hope was tempered with the harsh reality of the present.

As I've pondered this dichotomy, I've come to realize the first several months of 2021 will likely mirror that same week in December: hope and loss commingled. We stand between a virus that continues to infiltrate various parts of our lives and a vaccine rollout that could finally end it. At the same time, we are tired and wishing we could snap our fingers and make it all better.

Undoubtedly, we will all have opinions about how fast we get back to "normal". Every family will have their own comfort level of church activities in which they will participate. What's most important is not necessarily when we do things but how we do them and the ongoing respect and care we offer to one another in the process. I hope the words of Ephe-

sians 4:2-3 guide us into the new year: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

After such a rocky year, a dose of humility, gentleness, patience, and love is a much-needed shot in the arm to get us through the next few months. Think of ways you can cultivate these qualities in your own life. When someone's opinion is vastly different from yours, how might you take a step back and offer some gentleness and patience in understanding them? When your first instinct is to argue, how might you approach the situation with humility and love instead?

When weariness rules the day, the unintended consequences can lead to disunity. But when humility, gentleness, patience, and love rule the day, the light of Christ is able to shine brighter and brighter in our church and in our community. May it be so in 2021!

Hoping Together,

*Melissa Fallen*

## January 2021 Preaching Schedule

Our January preaching series will seek to answer the question: *Who is Jesus?* See some answers below from Mark's Gospel.

- 1/3 Mark 1:4-11 The Beloved, the Son of God
- 1/10 Mark 1:14-20 The Fulfillment of the Kingdom
- 1/17 Mark 1:21-28 The Rabbi and the Exorcist
- 1/24 Mark 1:29-39 The Introvert
- 1/31 Mark 2:1-12 The Extrovert

## January 2021 Highlights

- 1/9 Youth Moments of Hope feeding

## Offering Envelopes

2021 Offering Envelopes are available outside the church office. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

## Youth News

The youth at Glen Allen Baptist remain extremely active during these unprecedented times. We continue to meet regularly on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall, while remaining socially distanced and following all CDC guidelines.

In November, we had 33 youth and parents get together to help package 400 meals for Moments of Hope Outreach Ministry. This was a great day of fellowship, fun, and helping out those less fortunate than us.

For our December activity, we had a local artist come in and facilitate a paint night with our youth and parents. We had 24 attend this event and we really learned who are artists in our group! Many of the art pieces were based on the advent season, with a couple including the nativity scene.

In January, the youth will gather again with Moments of Hope and provide meals for approximately 450 individuals who are homeless or in a similar situa-

tion. As you can see, the numbers continue to rise for the amount of meals we are providing. While this is great for us to be able to help serve so many, it also heightens the awareness of how many people are in need in our local community. Please continue to pray for these individuals and consider helping out with our homeless ministry!

May God bless you and please continue to keep our youth and families in your prayers.

B.J. Crowder



## Thank You

Dear GABC family,

Today Mom is celebrating her 96th birthday in Heaven with her husband and Jesus. Thank you for the years of listening to me not knowing how to help her. Thank God for an easy transition and that I was able to be with her. I am grateful for the cards, phone calls, emails and support from Pastor Melissa.—*Love in Christ, Donna Washington*

Thank you so much for the Get Well cards. They meant a lot to me.—*Grover Barnett*

Many thanks to the GABC family for all your expressions of love during this Christmas season and throughout an unusual 2020. I am blessed to be a part of this church family! *Melissa Fallen*

To All Members of Glen Allen Baptist Church,  
Thank you so very much for your thoughts, prayers and well wishes recently as Chris and I are feeling so *much* better. We enjoy every time we are able to attend Glen Allen Baptist Church as we feel right at home. We wish everyone a happy, healthy holiday season and may God bless you.—*Beth Roth & Chris Boozer (Allen Jenkins' family)*

## Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to Donna Washington and her family in the death of her mother, Vivian Reed.

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Helen Williamson in her death on December 1, 2020.

## Missions Corner

### LAMB'S Basket

Over 90 lbs of food was delivered to Lamb's Basket in December. Please continue your generous donations as hunger never stops. The cart remains outside of the Welcome Center for contributions.

### Elizabeth Crump Nursing Home

The Missions Committee delivered 150 Christmas cards and packets of cookies to Elizabeth Crump Health and Rehab and Elizabeth House residents and staff the week before Christmas. Please remember those in nursing homes and alone during the Virus.

### Cards

If you have any "get well", "thinking of you", or blank cards you would like to donate, please drop them off in the basket outside the church office for our Correspondence Team to use.

## Intern Update

Allie Osborne officially completed her internship with us on December 31. Allie is moving to Atlanta to complete her seminary work at one of our Baptist seminaries, McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. As part of her seminary work, Allie has volunteered to continue leading children's Sunday school and children's messages through April. In addition, she will also begin leading some adult opportunities. Stay tuned!