



31st NEWS SCOPE

110th Church Anniversary Edition

31st Street Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell, Senior Pastor

November 2025



Words From Our Pastor

November is here and we are slowly creeping into the holiday season! One of my favorite holidays of the year is Thanksgiving—not just because of my great affinity for good food, family and some football (Go Ravens)—but because it is a season that forces us to sit and to count our blessings. On Sundays this month we will be walking through a new series called “Growing Through Gratitude” and I hope that our time in the word will help all of us to identify ways to be grateful even in tough seasons. I am also excited for the celebration of our 110th Church Anniversary on Sunday, November 23rd and am asking for all of our officers, ministers and ministry leaders to join us on Saturday, November 22nd at 9am for our Annual Leadership Conference to kick off our weekend of celebration. In this season of gratitude, I thank God for YOU and for our family here at 31st Street and look forward to an incredible time of celebrating God this month!

Scripture of the Issue:

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 136:1 (KJV)

An Excerpt of the Church History

The year is 1912. A great misunderstanding arose between the pastor, the deacons and members of the Fountain Baptist Church, located at 31st and O Streets. Several attempts were made to settle this dispute but proved to be unsuccessful. The St. Luke Hall on N. 26th Street was rented. 200 members began worshipping there. The members at the original Fountain Baptist Church were unable to meet the notes on the church and it was put up for sale. The members at the St. Luke Hall purchased it for \$6,000.00. Deacon and Mrs. W.H. Hewlett helped secure the property by mortgaging their Church Hill home. The St. Luke group took the name 31st Street Baptist Church, and were organized by the Rev. R.O. Johnson, pastor emeritus of Moore Street Church. The deed between the Old Dominion Trust Company, Incorporated, and Trustees of the congregation of The 31st Street Baptist Church, Colored of Richmond, Va. was made on March 20, 1915. In 1916, the newly organized 31st Street Baptist Church called its first pastor, the Rev. Robert C. Williams. The second pastor, Rev. Simon P. Robinson was called in 1918. In 1929, Rev. I.H. Hines was called to the pastorate and the membership increased from 500 to 900. Rev. Hines was considered a master organizer and church administrator who gave all his members a feeling of belonging by establishing various auxiliaries in the church. He passed on June 7, 1961. Rev. W.M. Davis was installed as our fourth pastor on November 19, 1962. On November 16, 1966, our church edifice was destroyed by fire. The congregation immediately began holding worship services in the auditorium of George Mason Elementary School. Weekly prayer meetings were held in members’ homes. Ground was broken for our present structure in March 1968 and in May 1969 the congregation marched from the school into our new edifice. On May 19, 1980 we held our mortgage burning ceremony. Rev. Davis served the congregation until November 1981. Rev. Darrel Rollins was installed as the fifth senior pastor on November 28, 1982. His focus was leading the congregation from membership to discipleship through preaching and teaching. Church membership grew tremendously. Operating under the theme, “Combining Relevance with Reverence, the church continued to witness to the wider community through outreach ministries. With the vision of securing additional space for ministry, our church purchased adjoining lots in the 800 block of N. 32nd Street.

Community Outreach

Giveaway

!!!! NEEDED ITEMS !!!!
CEREAL, PEANUT BUTTER, AND
CANNED MEATS

Donations of food and hygiene items are appreciated. Donation box in Narthex.

Every 2nd Saturday
Fellowship Hall
11 AM - 1 PM

Volunteers are always welcome!
 Thank You!

See Trustee Emeritus Carolyn Brown or Rev. Jan Roane for more info.

Not accepting clothes and shoes at this time.



An Excerpt of the Church History continued...

On June 5, 2007, Dr. Rollins went to be with the Lord. His death left a tremendous void in leadership in our church, and the wider community. On December 17, 2007, the church elected Rev. Dr. Morris Henderson to serve as our sixth senior pastor. Under his vision, a community garden was established on the 32nd Street property. The 100th Anniversary of our church was celebrated on Sunday, November 22, 2015 under the theme: "A Century of Service: Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Today, and Visioning Our Future." On July 30, 2018, the Rev. Dr. Alvin Campbell, our Associate Pastor, was elected by the congregation to serve as our interim pastor. On March 2, 2020, the 31st St. congregation voted overwhelmingly to extend the call to Rev. Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell to serve as the church's senior pastor. Dr. Mitchell would prove to be instrumental in leading 31st St. in our transition and rapid adjustments from in-person worship and other campus activities to the use of virtual platforms due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. On Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, Dr. Mitchell formally ascended to the 31st St. pulpit to lead worship and preach as pastor elect in a mostly empty sanctuary. On Sunday, August 30, 2020, he was installed as the seventh senior pastor of 31st St. Baptist Church.



Let Us Pray for You

Personal and private prayer will be available each Sunday following Worship Service. Just be seated on the front pew on the window side in the sanctuary and a minister will greet you. Be abundantly blessed!

Important Dates

- **Nov 4: ELECTION DAY**
- **Nov 8: COMMUNITY OUTREACH GIVEAWAY**
11 AM Fellowship Hall
- **Nov 9: WIDOWS SUPPORT MINISTRY MEETING**
After Worship Service 2nd flr Conf Rm
- **Nov 11: VETERANS DAY**
To all our veterans, thank you for your service!
- **Nov 16: MISSIONS MINISTRY: Feedmore Project**
Last Day to donate non-perishable goods
- **Nov 22: ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**
9 AM CHURCH CAMPUS
- **Nov 23: 110th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**
10:30 AM Sanctuary
- **Nov 27: HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY**

Share your ministry's activities in the 31st News Scope!

Go to 31sbc.org → Requests → Newsletter to submit your request today!

Weekly Happenings

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM 2nd FLR CONF RM

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM Sanctuary

*Nursery available every Sunday (Fellowship Hall)

*Children's Church on 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday: Girl Scouts 5:30 PM Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM Virtual Sanctuary
(Zoom link available at www.31sbc.org)

Wednesday: Cub Scouts 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Thursday Noon Prayer 12 Noon Virtual Sanctuary
(Zoom link available at www.31sbc.org)

Check out our digital platforms!



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