



31st NEWS SCOPE

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

May 2025



Words From Our Pastor

Greetings Family! After a wonderful conclusion to the Lenten season and our Resurrection Sunday celebration, I am looking forward to all that the month of May will bring! This month I am excited to celebrate the mothers of our church on May 11th for Mother's Day 2025 and I pray that you will invite the entire family out to celebrate in worship. Sermonically, our theme this month is "Growing In Health and Wealth!", inspired by 3 John 1:2- "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." Our prayer is to walk through biblical and practical principles that will help us grow healthier in our faith and in our finances. You won't want to miss it! Finally, I want to thank you all for donating to our Community Closet as we were able to start the month giving out clothes, food, and hygiene products to brothers and sisters in our community on Saturday, May 3! Thank you for helping us to not simply "have church" but to be the church in these challenging times. I love you and there is nothing you can do about it!



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!

Scripture of the Issue:

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1 (KJV)

Ministry Spotlight: EMERGE Young Adult Ministry

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 (NIV)

This scripture inspired the name EMERGE for the Young Adult Ministry. It reminds us not to conform to the world around us, but to transform into who God would have us to be and to seek to do God's will. The EMERGE Young Adult Ministry seeks to provide a space for young adults aged 18 to 40 seeking community and spiritual growth. We engage in fellowship, community service and bible study.

Some of our past community service events include:

- Donating to the churchwide clothing drive for MLK Middle School
- Donating food items to the Feed More initiative
- Supplying "Welcome Home Kits" and painting in one of the homes for the Real Life organization
- Participating in a clean-up project for the Evergreen Cemetery

We have enjoyed bowling, painting nights, skating, and an excursion to the Carter Mountain Orchard in addition to other outings.

Young adults are invited to join us at 6 PM in the 2nd Flr Conf Rm on the first Tuesday of every month for our monthly bible study and fellowship gathering we simply call "1st Tuesday". Food and childcare are provided. If you are a young adult and have not joined us, consider stopping by for "1st Tuesday". It is not your typical bible study. Hope to see you soon.

For more information regarding EMERGE, please see Dr. Lori Mitchell or Bro. Keenan Winston. You can email us at youngadults@31sbc.org, text us at 804-767-1786, and follow us on Instagram at 31stEmerge.

Pastoral Anniversary Update

Save the Dates and Mark Your Calendars!! Traditionally, August is pastoral anniversary month at 31st Street Baptist Church. It is a joyous time when pastor and people celebrate the journey. This year marks Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell's fifth anniversary as Senior Pastor. Not only is this a monumental occasion, it is particularly meaningful since the first year anniversary occurred in the wake of a global pandemic. The world was on lock down, so pastor and people could not come together to celebrate as intended. However, the pastor (and the people) weathered the storm, conceiving that we would simply go big in year five. To God be the glory!

Suddenly, here we are in 2025, about to celebrate anniversary five. On Sunday, May 18th, the pastoral relations committee will provide a congregational update on upcoming anniversary activities. The PRC will provide the anniversary itinerary, instructions, as well as information on the celebration events, related activities, processes, and affiliated components (like the souvenir book, etc.). The congregational anniversary activities unfold from Friday, August 29th through Sunday, August 31st. We look forward to seeing you immediately after the morning service on Sunday, May 18th for the pastoral anniversary update. Contributing Writer Rev. Dr. Peyton McCoy



MAN TALK RVA SUMMER ACADEMY

Powered by 31st Cares Inc.

July 21-25, 2025

Join us for this powerful week designed to expose minority young men to professional, scholastic and spiritual opportunities for growth!

Registration Begins Online on March 9, 2025
For More Information and To Register, Visit www.31stcares.org

Now Hiring

31st Street Baptist Church is seeking a committed and skilled individual to fill a part time Facilities & Property Manager position. Please find the job description on the church's website. If you have any questions about the position, please see a Trustee.

Scouting for Food



Our Cub Scouts pack 414 is scouting for food. We would love any nonperishable food donations. You can find flyers and boxes around the church. We will be taking donations up until the end of our scout year, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to reach out the Webelos den leader, Niecy Clark.

Important Dates

- **May 3: Community Outreach Distribution Event 11:00 AM**
- **May 6: 1st Tuesday EMERGE Young Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM (2nd Flr Conf Rm)**
- **May 11: Mother's Day**
- **May 18: Congregational Update on Pastor's 5th Anniversary following Morning Worship (Sanctuary)**
- **May 18: Transformation & Recovery Meeting 12:20 PM (Fellowship Hall)**
- **June 9-13: Vacation Bible School**

Have a submission for 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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