



31st NEWS SCOPE

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

December 2025



Words From Our Pastor

It's the most wonderful time of the year! December has already brought us chilly cold and our very first snow of this winter season and I look forward to all that this final month of the year has to offer. As 2025 comes to a close, there are some important happenings to be aware of! Our annual church meeting will be hosted in the sanctuary on December 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. where we will review all the Lord has done for us in 2025, elect a new officer, and approve the budget for next year. During our advent season, we are excited to participate in the annual Christmas Fellowship hosted by our Missions Ministry and a new experience, "Christmas in the Arts," that will be hosted in the Sanctuary on December 19th leading into our Christmas worship experience on Sunday, December 21st. Finally, we will conclude our year together on Wednesday, December 31st for our New Year's Eve service at 7:00 p.m. Let's end 2025 together- praising the Lord for all God has done!

Scripture of the Issue: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Ministry Spotlight: ACTS 2

The Acts 2 Benevolence Ministry is one of the most important ministries at 31st Street Baptist Church and probably one of the most misunderstood (but thank God for News Scope Spotlight articles!). While our Acts 2 Ministry officially kicked off at the top of 2025 in its current form, it is really the combination of two older ministries of our church. For decades our Benevolence Ministry, led by the diaconate (Deacon body), was focused on providing assistance to 31st Street members who found themselves in need of assistance with rent, utilities, and other crucial needs. However, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with so many of our neighbors and church hill residents coming to the church office each week for tangible support- Dr. Mitchell launched the creation of the "31st Cares" Ministry- designed to provide the same kind of benevolence to non-members in need. "31st Cares" Ministry also provided funds to support organizations and ministries who needed assistance for important causes.

For a few years, our Benevolence Ministry and the 31st Cares Ministry worked as two separate ministries, but after the establishment of the non-profit 31st Cares Inc., it

it was decided that to avoid confusion- the "31st Cares" name would solely be utilized to identify the work of the non-profit entity and that all benevolence- for members and non-members- would fall under one ministry, now known as our Acts 2 Ministry. This measure was voted on and passed by the church in our 2024 annual Church meeting and in 2025, Acts 2 has been a blessing to both members in need and to our community. Most recently, the funds raised for Acts 2 were utilized to be a blessing to each of the 186 RIC Airport TSA workers who were employed during the governmental shutdown. The work of the ministry, through the generosity of our congregation, is literally helping to change and support lives in our church, community, and beyond.



www.31sbc.org



804-226-0150



info@31sbc.org



823 N. 31st Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Important Dates

- **December 9:** LPC Choir Rehearsal
6:45 PM Sanctuary
 - **December 11:** Annual Church Meeting
7 PM Sanctuary
 - **December 12:** Children's Ministry
Winter Wonderland
Sneaker Ball
6:30 PM Fellowship Hall
 - **December 13:** Community Outreach
Distribution Event
11 AM to 1 PM
Fellowship Hall
 - **December 14:** Annual Christmas Fellowship
presented by the Missions Ministry
12 PM to 2 PM Fellowship Hall
- *****Angel Tree Gifts due December 14*****
- **December 19:** Christmas in the Arts
Sanctuary
 - **December 21:** Christmas Worship Experience
10:30 AM Sanctuary
 - **December 25:** Merry Christmas
 - **December 30:** Children's Ministry
Christmas Tacky Lights Tour
6 PM to 9 PM
 - **December 31:** New Year's Eve Service
7 PM Sanctuary
 - **January 1:** Happy New Year
 - **January 6:** Widows Support Ministry Meeting
3 PM 2nd Flr Conf Rm

Check out our digital
platforms!



31sbc



31st Street
Baptist Church



Children's Ministry Christmas Tacky Lights Tour



The children of 31SBC are cordially invited to participate in a Christmas Tacky Lights bus tour through Richmond and the surrounding areas on Tuesday, December 30, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. All attendees are requested to assemble at the church between 5:30 and 5:45 pm; the bus will depart promptly at 6:00 pm. There is no charge for child participants; the fee for adults is \$22.00. Seats for adults are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Adult participants will serve as chaperones. We encourage you to reserve your seats as soon as possible. Reservations may be submitted in advance during Children's Church in the fellowship hall or by contacting Sheila Baker or Ramon Moore.

Community Outreach Event

On December 13, 2025, our Community Outreach Giveaway Event will include a **Kids Table**. Volunteers will serve as personal shoppers with the children as their parents and guardians shop for items in our pantry. Along with the regular non perishable contributions, please **donate kid friendly items to include hygiene items, new hats, gloves, socks, books, coloring books, activity books, crayons, water based markers, games, puzzles, and healthy snacks**. Thank you in advance. Volunteers are always needed! This is a church wide project! As always, you are appreciated! May Godly blessings fall down on you! Beginning January 2026, a sign up list will be in the church office for the various church ministries to sign up to volunteer on a second Saturday along with our regular volunteers. More information will be provided at a later time.

**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 CANCELLED in December

Wednesday: Cub Scouts 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall

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



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