



# 31st NEWS SCOPE

"Year of Discipleship: Look Like, Love Like, Live Like JESUS"

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

February 2026



## Words From Our Pastor

Happy February Family! I pray that you and your family have been able to brave the cold and that the first month of the year has been productive and peaceful. We made it through our fast! I'm grateful for all of you who took advantage of the opportunity to develop the important spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and study of the word and I have been encouraged by the stories of God's answered prayers. Classically, the month of February is an exciting time at 31<sup>st</sup> Street as we celebrate Black History Month and reflect on the love we have for culture and one another. This February is unique as we will also begin the Lenten season- starting with a special Ash Wednesday service on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a powerful night of prayer, reflection on the word, and the administering of ashes as symbols of repentance. It's going to be a great month at 31<sup>st</sup> Street and I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us once again!

At 96 years of age, the skilled, hardworking and kind Mr. Roosevelt Byrd reflects on his reality that God has been blessing him for a long time. Born and raised in Richmond, VA and growing up 2 blocks away from the church, Mr. Byrd recalls his childhood days at 31<sup>st</sup> Street, where his grandfather Deacon Brown served. He played football and baseball with several "church buddies and attended George Mason Elementary School. In his adulthood, he was a longtime usher and served on several committees. He takes great pride in his service as the Assistant Scoutmaster for the

Boys Scouts troop at 31<sup>st</sup> Street, which was the best troop in the district and contributed to the development of many young men who are successful and productive members of our society, including our very own Rev. Dr. Leo Keith. As a loving father of four children and devoted husband for 60 years to the late Mrs. Jacqueline Hutchins Byrd, Mr. Byrd is a family man and cherishes the love of his family. He worked two jobs for over 20 years to provide for his family and used the homemaking skills his mother taught him to contribute to the upkeep of their home. He offers this advice to us: "Tell people you appreciate them and thank them for what they do. Be nice." Mr. Byrd loves 31<sup>st</sup> Street and appreciates the love that has always been shown to him by his fellow church members. He also notes, "When you get old, you appreciate the love and kindness people give you and coming from your pastor [Pastor Mitchell], it means a lot. He's not only a good preacher and speaker, but a very loving man and I have a lot of respect for him."



### Scripture of the Issue:

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations."

Psalms 90:1

## Black History Month Spotlight

Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness." Proverbs 16:31

During this Black History Month, we'd like to shine a light on two of our eldest church members.

At 103 years of age, the sweet and lovable Mrs. Rosa J. Gentry is our eldest church member. Affectionately referred to as "Mother Gentry," she is a longtime member of 31<sup>st</sup> Street and has faithfully served in several capacities, including being an active member of Willing Workers, Missionaries, Progressive League, and Pastoral Relations. She also served as a Sunday School teacher. Perhaps dearest to her heart is her work as



President of the Flower Club. In this role, she helped to beautify the church, especially for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. As a mother of four children, her advice to others is to "Raise your children up in the Lord." Mrs. Gentry's family honored her in a recent publication stating, "She is a testament to strength and a living treasure. Her life is a beautiful tapestry woven with strength and wisdom. You are an inspiration and a true blessing to our family and to the friends who love you. It's a blessing to cherish every moment with such a remarkable woman. - With Love, Your Family."

**NOW HIRING**

**Facilities/Campus Manager**

31ST STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FACILITIES & CAMPUS MANAGER TO JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM. THE FACILITIES & CAMPUS MANAGER ENSURES A WELCOMING AND WELL-MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR WORSHIP, EVENTS, AND DAILY OPERATIONS.

INTERESTED? CONTACT A TRUSTEE OR EMAIL: [info@31sbc.org](mailto:info@31sbc.org)

SAVE THE DATE!

**Vacation Bible School**

**6/1/26 - 6/4/26**

Classes for all ages. Needed: Teachers, Teacher Aides, Arts & Crafts Support. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Lay Leader Ramon Moore, Deacon Sandra Hansboro, Deacon Jacqueline Johnson, Deacon Beverly Wynn, or leave your name and contact information in the church office / via email to [info@31sbc.org](mailto:info@31sbc.org). Background checks are required.

## SHARE Saturday

### Community Outreach Giveaway Event

The next date for our SHARE Community Giveaway Event will be **February 14, 2026, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Church Family, you have been a blessing to many in the community and within our own church! Thank you and May God Bless your efforts! We are in need of **hygiene products: body wash, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, toilet paper, for children and adults, items for babies to include diapers and pull ups.** We also need items for our Children's table to include **books, workbooks, games, puzzles, coloring books.** We are low on the following **nonperishable items: cereal, canned meats, peanut butter.** A special shout out to our volunteers! **Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated and are asked to arrive by 10:00 a.m.** to help with set up, updates and our devotional period. We will let you know when we will begin to accept clothing and shoes again. You may contact Trustee Emeritus Carolyn Brown, Rev. Dr. Pat Heath, or Rev. Jan Roane for concerns.

**VMFA**

GIANTS: ART FROM THE DEAN COLLECTION OF SWIZZ BEATZ AND ALICIA KEYS

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WILL BE VISITING THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup> TO VIEW THE "GIANTS" COLLECTION AND THE "SKETCH-IT" EXHIBIT, A TOUR-GUIDED INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN.

FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
DEPARTURE (FROM CHURCH) - 10:15 AM  
RETURN - 3:00 PM

Payment must be submitted by Wednesday, February 11, and may be made during Children's Church.

Transportation by van is available for children on a first-come, first-served basis.

ADMISSION:

- \$10 ADULTS
- \$8 STUDENTS (K-12)

## Important Dates

- Feb 3: WIDOWS SUPPORT MINISTRY MEETING  
1 PM 1st flr Conf Rm
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday EMERGE Young Adult Bible Study  
6 PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr Conf Rm
- Feb 8: CUB SCOUTS Sunday
- Feb 12 & 26: PROGRESSIVE LEAGUE MEETING  
1 PM Fellowship Hall
- Feb 14: SHARE Saturday  
(Community Outreach Giveaway Event)  
11 AM to 1 PM Fellowship Hall
- Feb 18: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
7 PM Sanctuary

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

Go to [31sbc.org](https://www.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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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](https://www.31sbc.org))

Check out our digital  
platforms!



31sbc



31st Street  
Baptist Church



[www.31sbc.org](https://www.31sbc.org)



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