



31st NEWS SCOPE

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

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

January 2026



Words From Our Pastor

It's a brand-new year family! I thank God for leading us safely through the conclusion of our "Year of Growth" in 2025. And this year we are shifting gears to the "Year of Discipleship" in 2026! Discipleship, at its essence, is the intentional and systematic process of becoming a student and follower in the teachings, the will, and the way of Christ. As we will come to learn through the course of the year- discipleship is a critical part of the life of an individual follower of Christ, but discipleship is also the core of our mission as a church community at 31st Street! In fact, our church mission statement defines us as a local church dedicated to moving people "from membership to discipleship through worshiping, witnessing, ministering, missions, and teaching." To this end, all throughout the year, our programming from the pulpit to our bible studies and special activities, will be designed with one primary aim: to help us to look like, love like, and live like Jesus. With this in mind, I invite all of us to begin the year recommitted to participating regularly in at least ONE Christian educational opportunity- to include our weekly Wednesday Night Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom or our Sunday Church School Class at 9:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. I also invite you to join us in our New Year's Fast, January 5-31, as we invite you to a time of daily prayer and to unlock the power of the spiritual discipline of fasting! Thank you for an amazing 2025, let's see what God has in store as we build disciples in 2026!

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:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Ministry Spotlight: Worship & Arts Our Weekly Rhythm

Happy New Year Church Family!

As Director of Worship and Arts, I want to give you an overview of what our team manages week to week. We focus on creating structured, meaningful worship experiences that honor our heritage while incorporating contemporary elements.

Here's a breakdown of our key responsibilities:

Service Planning

We work closely with the pastoral team to plan each service. We coordinate with selected themes, and structure the order of worship for a cohesive and purposeful flow, from standard Sundays to seasonal observances.

Music Ministry

Music forms the core of our gatherings. We direct four vocal ensembles: the Combined Adult Voices, YAYA (Y.outh A.nd Y.oung A.dult) Voices, Male Chorus, and Little People Choir. This includes weekly rehearsals, song selection, and coordination with instrumentalists to support congregational singing and special presentations.

Digital Worship

We oversee live streaming, video recording, and online distribution, handling technical setup, post-production editing, and timely uploads to ensure reliable access for remote participants.

Fine Arts

We integrate dance, drama, visual arts, and spoken word elements—organizing rehearsals, designing stage visuals, and supporting members in using their creative gifts to enhance the worship message.

Social Media

We maintain a consistent online presence through posts, graphics, and reels that promote events, share service highlights, and encourage engagement across platforms. These efforts rely on strong collaboration with our tech team, hospitality volunteers, and the broader congregation. We're always open to new participants, whether in music, arts, production, or content creation.

As we step into 2026, we celebrate the successes God granted us in 2025 and look forward with anticipation to the new events and projects ahead.

Minister Douglas Mosby
worshipleader@31sbc.org

Director of Worship and Arts

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JANUARY 11, 2026
2 PM
SIEGEL CENTER

**VCU
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
GAME**

VCU **VS** **DUQUESNE**

TICKETS: ADULTS \$12 CHILDREN \$6

PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT TO SHEILA BAKER DURING CHILDREN'S CHURCH TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FUN AND MEMORABLE OUTING TOGETHER!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CHILDRENMINISTRY@31SBC.ORG

31st Street Baptist Church
823 N. 31st St Richmond, VA 23223
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Important Dates

- Jan 5 - 31: New Year's Fast
- Jan 6: WIDOWS SUPPORT MINISTRY MEETING
3 PM 2nd flr Conf Rm
- 1st Tuesday EMERGE Young Adult Bible Study
6 PM 2nd Flr Conf Rm
- Jan 10: Community Outreach Giveaway Event
11 AM to 1 PM Fellowship Hall
- Jan 8 & 22: PROGRESSIVE LEAGUE MEETING
1 PM Fellowship Hall
- Jan 11: Congregational Care Fair
12 PM Fellowship Hall
(immediately following Sunday Worship)

Children's Ministry
VCU Women's Basketball Game
2 PM Siegel Center

Check out our digital platforms!



Community Outreach Giveaway Event

Happy New Year Blessings! Thank you for your generous donations to our Community Outreach Giveaway Event and for volunteering during the distribution! You are greatly appreciated! Our next event will be **January 10, 2026**. We appreciate all donations; however, we are in need of **hygiene products** for the next event to include **body wash, soap, feminine hygiene items and deodorant** for adults and children, baby products, as well as **canned meats and peanut butter**. We are not accepting clothing or shoes at this time. This is a church wide project, so **volunteers are appreciated and requested to be here by 10:00 a.m.** to help with the set up and for our update and devotional period. Please remember to check the expiration dates on your donations. **All leaders of our ministries, organizations and auxiliaries are requested to commit to at least one month or more with our other regular volunteers for your group. A sign-up sheet will be in the office!** Please contact Trustee Emeritus Carolyn Brown, Rev. Dr. Pat Heath or Rev. Jan Roane for concerns.

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)