



31st NEWS SCOPE

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

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

July 2026



Words From Our Pastor

Summer is officially upon us (though it has been hot since the end of May) and I am excited about what the month of July will have in store for us. As the country celebrates and reflects on 250 years on the 4th, we too will use this month to rejoice, reflect and to rest. This month we will spotlight the men and young men of our church and community- first through our partnership with 31st Cares, Inc to host our 2026 Man Talk Summer Academy on July 20-24 at 31st Street. We are excited to host our largest group yet and we will still receive new registrations and sponsorship donations until July 12th online at www.mantalkrva.com. Man Talk leads right into our annual Men's Day weekend- culminating on Sunday, July 26th- where we will celebrate and be led by the men of this village. Finally, as is our custom, our Bible study is suspended during the month of July (though our Sunday School program will continue) so that our teachers and educators may enjoy a time of reflection, recharging, and rest! I look forward to continuing to journey together this month as a family and as always- I love you and there is nothing you can do about it!



Scripture of the Issue:

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV)

"Surprise! Surprise! What a Time We Had at Vacation Bible School 2026!"

There was a wonderful SURPRISE PARTY atmosphere at 31st Street Baptist Church during our Annual Vacation Bible School 2026, held Monday, June 1 through Thursday, June 4. What an amazing time we had as we gathered together for a week filled with faith, fellowship, learning, and fun!

Each evening featured exciting activities and a different theme, all centered around celebrating God's love, learning His will, and encouraging one another to continue doing His work. Throughout the week, participants enjoyed themed nights that included Crazy Hat Night, "What Would You Wear to Jesus' Party?" Night, and Bling and Diamond Attire Night. Everyone came dressed to celebrate and share in the joy of Christian fellowship.

One of the highlights of the week was the culminating program, where each class presented its own interpretation of the theme, "Surprise Party with Jesus." It felt as though we were seated in a grand theater as each class creatively shared lessons about faith, discipleship, and God's love. The presentations were inspiring, entertaining, and a true reflection of what the students had learned throughout the week.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all of the teachers, staff, volunteers, and everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School a success. Special thanks go to Lay Leader Antuane "Ramon" Moore, Dawn Godfrey, Deacons Beverly Wynn and Jacquelin Johnson, and Trustee Emeritus Yvonne Jones for their dedication, support, and service. We are also grateful to those who contributed through food, crafts, decorations, and countless acts of kindness that helped create a memorable experience for all.

Vacation Bible School 2026 was truly a blessing, and we thank God for the opportunity to grow together in faith and fellowship. We look forward to seeing everyone at Vacation Bible School 2027!



www.31sbc.org



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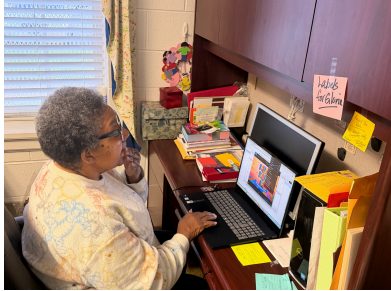
info@31sbc.org



823 N. 31st Street
Richmond, VA 23223

"Surprise Party" **Vacation Bible School**

Children and Youth Day 2026 was a wonderful success. During the service, the children were celebrated with medallions as their accomplishments were shared with the congregation. Following this, Pastor Mitchell delivered a powerful message to bless them. Afterward, everyone gathered outside for food and festivities. Thank you to everyone who made this day so special.



SHARE Saturday **Community Outreach** **Giveaway Event**

July 11th 11 AM -1 PM

Thank you for your expedient support to restock our Community Pantry. We are in need of Peanut Butter and paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper and tissues as well as baby products, children hygiene items and activity books. Contact Jan Roane or Carolyn Brown for concerns.

MAN TALK

JUL 20-24

REGISTRATION



Young Men: 6th-11th Grade

The Children's Ministry invites everyone to Faith Night #2 at the Flying Squirrels baseball game on Thursday, July 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at CarMax Park. We'll be seated in Section 116. Get your ticket at carmaxpark.com and join us.



Important Dates

- July 4: Independence Day
 - July 7: WIDOWS SUPPORT MINISTRY MEETING
1 pm 1st Flr Conf Rm

FIRST TUESDAY YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY
6 pm 2nd Flr Conf Rm

LPC Choir Rehearsal
6 pm Sanctuary
 - July 9 & 23: PROGRESSIVE LEAGUE MEETING
1 PM Fellowship Hall
 - July 11: SHARE Saturday
(Community Outreach Giveaway Event)
11 AM to 1 PM Fellowship Hall
 - July 11 & 18: Kingdom Kidz Dance Practice
10:30 AM Sanctuary
 - July 26: MEN'S DAY
- ***** July 20-24 Man Talk Summer Academy *****

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

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

Weekly Happenings

Morning Prayer Call 6:00 AM Mon - Fri
[youtube.com/@JoshuaMitchellTV](https://www.youtube.com/@JoshuaMitchellTV) (replay available)

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)

Monday Line Dance Ministry 7 PM Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Bible Study SUSPENDED for month of July

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