

Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church

12320 Winns Church Road, Glen Allen, VA 23059

Phone: (804) 798.5512 • Fax: (804) 752.2401 •

Web: www.winnsbc.org

January 2025



Dear Church Family,

It always seems that the start of a new year is a good time for fresh starts in life. Whether it's dropping something that was counter-productive, or beginning something that's expected to be productive, the incoming year seems like a good starting gun to get going.

Our church has had a year of transition and change. Though we usually prefer that everything stays the same, God often uses such times to introduce good that we might not have been open to if everything did indeed stay the same. I can't say for sure what He has in mind for Winn's in this new season of our church's life, though I do have some ideas for ministry opportunity that may be coming our way.

Whatever the particulars are, we all know what He expects from us generally if we are to be ready for whatever those ministry opportunities may be. We know that we are to continue to be committed to His word, but not just by saying we are, but by actually practicing that which the Lord preaches. It is imperative that we live clean, love one another, refrain from gossip-both speaking it AND listening to it. We must give each other the benefit of the doubt, knowing that the judgement by which we judge will be the measure by which we will be judged. Slow to anger and quick to forgive should be apparent among us, as well as understanding that we have enough stacked against us by our culture, we don't need to be tripping up our brother or sister in Christ.

It is my prayer that we go into the new year unified, and with eager anticipation of how God may use us!

Resolutely marching forward,
Pastor Jeff

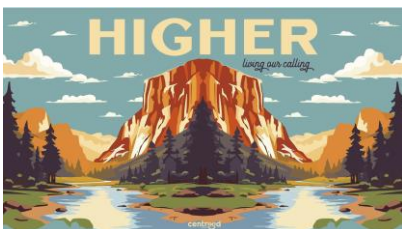


It may be cold out now but summer will be here before we know it.

There will be a brief informational meeting on January 19, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall following services, for those interested in children's camp. Attending the meeting is not a commitment.

Our camp dates are June 16-20, 2025

This camp is for completed 3rd - 6th grade students.





SAVE THE DATE

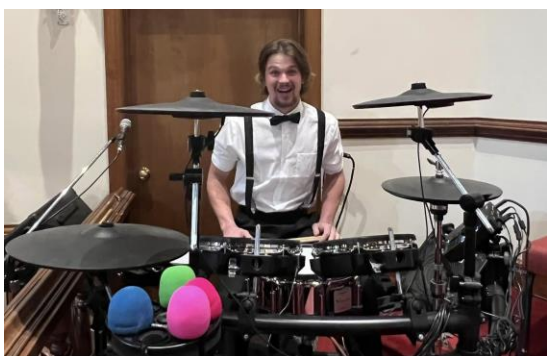
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH – 9AM

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN AWANA TO ENTER THE GRAND PRIX!



Mrs. Sharon Nunn, we did it!!! Thank you for your HUGE part in making this weekend so special and beautiful; I could not have done it without you!! You have been like a sister to me, and I will treasure our friendship for many years to come!! There isn't another person here on earth that I would have had as my "partner in crime"!! You were ALWAYS the voice of reason and "MY CALM" AND my therapist....they didn't pay you nearly enough!!! We made a GREAT team! Thank you for sharing this wonderful journey with me and for ending it on such a HIGH NOTE; that was our prayer!! I love you so much!!

A special thank you to ALL that participated in and attended our last musical, "Hope Awakes In Bethlehem"! It was a blessing to have so many folks in front of me and behind me come out and celebrate the birth of our Savior!! May your Christmas be different this year because you have unwrapped that most important gift ever, Jesus Christ!!!





Good Morning Church Family,

Having just having gone through Thanksgiving and with Christmas upon us, and the new year just around the corner, we have so much to be thankful for! I hope you have plenty of time to be with family this Christmas season as well. The Christmas musical was amazing, I hope you were able to come and be blessed by that. We sure will miss Mrs. Kathy leading us in worship. I want to wish her the greatest of blessings as she continues to serve the Lord.

Change is not something that most people like, but life does bring us changes throughout life and it is very important to seek the Lord and His will for yourself each and every day. Some of the greatest times of growth in my life personally have directly resulted from the Lord bringing me through circumstances that departed from the status quo: being called to preach, spontaneous opportunities to talk to someone about Jesus and them getting saved, being able to be stretched by God for future service that I didn't realize at the time, etc. If I had my choice to change or not change – I would go with not changing personally. I think almost everyone would. But there's little opportunity to grow and be used by the Lord while never being open to His direction. Trust the Lord, no matter what. He will do great things when we get to the end of ourselves and fully depend on Him.

We must guard our hearts and minds and be careful not to give any ground to the enemy. He seeks to divide. But God has called us to the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. While the changes coming are going to make things a little different schedule wise, we will remain a solid Bible believing church that values ALL of our church family. I am especially looking forward to having everyone in a single service. I believe the schedule change to be a positive thing for the church. There was some back and forth on when to hold the service and Pastor Jeff wanted everyone to know that they are valued. Things ended up with the same time period we have now due simply to logistical reasons. There will be a combined service at 9:30 a.m. for all ages as well as the 6pm service which will remain in place. All Sunday schools will be happening during the 11 a.m. time slot and this will allow all children of school age to attend with their families in the service and not miss children's Sunday school. Children's church will be discontinued for the time being, but we should gain strength and greater fellowship being in the same service. I really think that will be healthy for our church. If you teach a class and therefore can't be in Sunday school, I will continue my 8:30 class in room 108/109 in order to offer an opportunity for you to be with other adults and have fellowship. I hope to see you there!

You need to know me and Pastor Jeff, and the staff love you and we are committed to doing whatever God desires to faithfully lead as He has called us to do. I am also thankful for Josh, as the Lord prepares him for ministry as well! If you know a man that isn't part of the men's ministry on Wednesday nights, be sure to let them know to come on Wednesdays at 6:30 to the Yellow House or see Josh Parker or Ronnie Smithwick. They've got a great thing going and it is a vital part of our church.

We all need to be open to what the Lord has for us, and to keep in mind that we personally need to keep our eyes on Jesus. Because He is the One we will all report to after this life. Let's make Him proud! Let's do our best for Jesus and be an active part of the body of Christ and to give Him our 100% until we are relieved by our Lord at His coming.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Doug

Worship Through Pain

God is faithful no matter the circumstances. This is my position. This is my belief, and I worship it accordingly.

In October I tore the MCL, ACL, Meniscus, and other assorted things in my knee. I've been in constant pain since. A "little mercy" from the Lord is that I have learned a new sympathy for those in pain and I'm grateful for that.

So, what do I do when I don't "feel" like worshipping? The Holy Spirit led me last year to memorize a scripture, Habakkuk 3:17-19. I didn't know at the time how it would apply to this season:

Habakkuk 3:17-19

(17) Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
(18) Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
(19) The Lord God is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer's *feet*,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.

My response to the time of pain: "I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation." You don't have to feel good to hold your position of faith and worship accordingly. You don't have to always have a smile on your face to worship. Let your heart remain steadfast knowing in whom you have put your faith.

Some of us will have relief from the physical or emotional pain in this lifetime. For some, the sweet relief will be on the other side with Jesus. That is for God to determine. Regardless, let this be your position of faith: "I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

Also, I know that this kind of pain is a training ground. There are persecuted believers around the world who live daily in danger, in hunger, and separation from family and other believers. I pray that God will take this brief season and work patience in my spirit to be able to withstand anything that comes against me in this spiritual war. This morning my wife Jenna mentioned the rib I broke earlier in the year. "Seems like nothing compared to this." Yep. That experience was like the lion and bear David defeated while he was watching the sheep. These experiences gave David confidence in his God as he offered up his courage to face the evil meant against his flock.

God, please use our trials to build us into stronger warriors in the spiritual battle. Give us the strength to hold rank and praise you no matter the circumstances. And please comfort the afflicted- those who are in physical pain and those who suffer in the spiritual war around the world.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

- (3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort
(4) who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
(5) For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.
(6) If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in your patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.
(7) And our hope for you is firm because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

Caleb

Winn's Baptist Church
12320 Winns Church Rd
Glen Allen, VA 23059
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Christmas Holiday Schedule

At different times some of the staff will also be taking additional time off.

Please feel free to call anyone on staff on their home or cell phone.

The main church voice mail will be checked daily for any messages.

Even at limited office hours, we are always available to you.

December 25th, January 1st, No regular Wednesday evening activities.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5pm

There will be no evening service Sunday, December 22nd & 29th

