

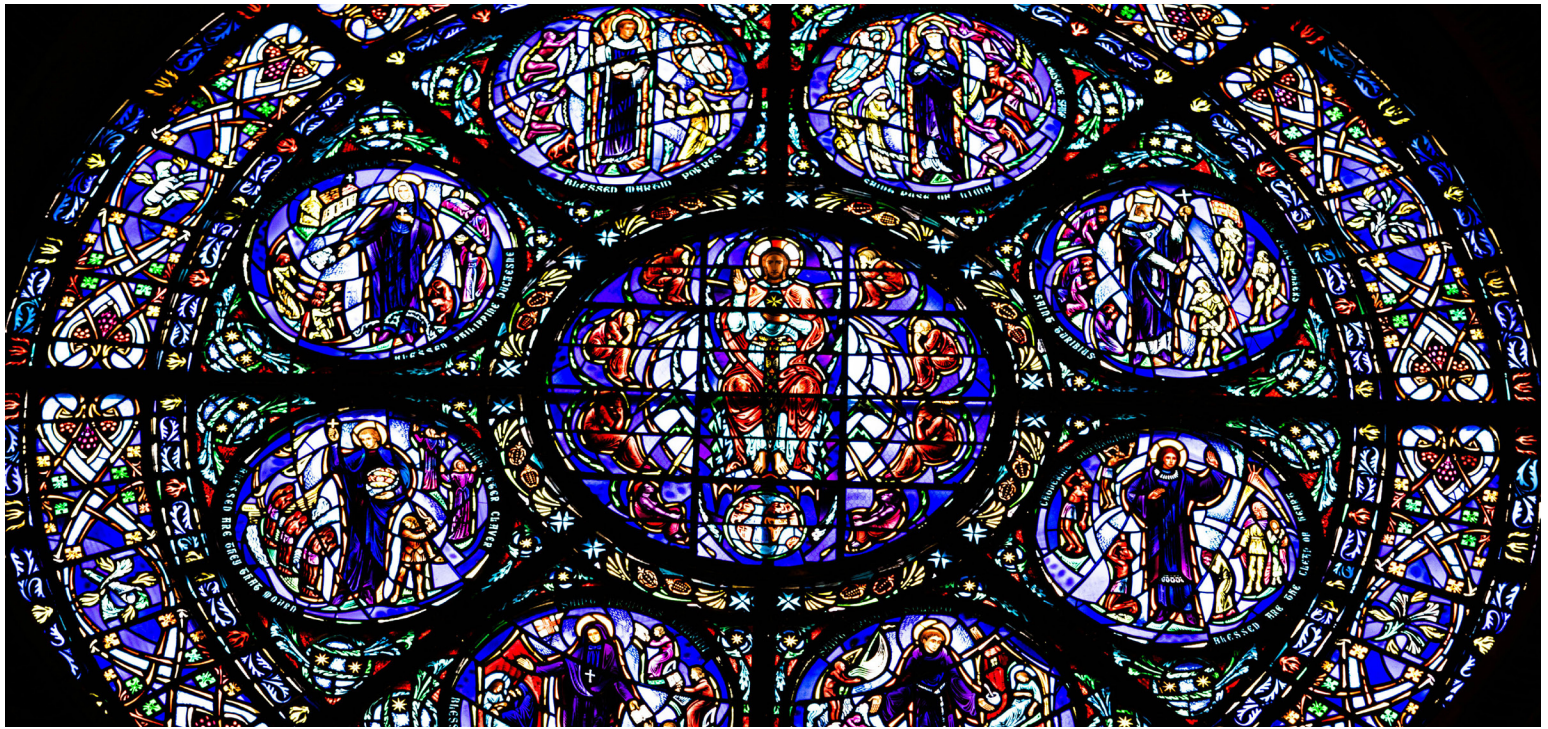


MELROSE
BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

November 2026

Something To Think About



“SAINTS”

When I was in seminary, I took Introduction to Christian Theology with Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright. Every day, Dr. Wainwright would start class by telling us about what Christian saint was being celebrated on that particular day according to the liturgical calendar. Having grown up Baptist, conversation about saints was not something I was used to, so it was illuminating to me to learn how many people over the centuries have been honored with the title of “saint”.

The author of Ephesians uses “saints” in a way that included those people Dr. Wainwright talked about each day but also expanded the meaning to include all disciples of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 says,

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The Church is made up of all the saints, for we are all called to do the work of ministry.

My guess is a lot of us probably would reject that title for ourselves. “I’m no saint!” We have come to associate the word “saint” with perfection. However, what I found so helpful about Dr. Wainwright’s daily lessons on saints was that I came to understand that to be called a “saint” was not a celebration of

perfection in life but a recognition of the perfection brought to all believers through the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Those the Church celebrated as saints with different feast days were those who had attained the heavenly glory that waits for all who call upon Christ as their Savior. The feast days celebrated their works of ministry in life not to separate them from the rest of us but to say, “This is what we all can do!”

In just a couple of days, on November 1, we will celebrate All Saints Day as a church. On this day, as in many other Christian churches, we will remember those fellow church members who have gone on to be with the Lord in Heaven in the last year as well as other family members and friends we may be remembering on this day. The point of All Saints Day is not to remember that someone died; it is to remember the impact and influence their life had and continues to have on our lives. It is also a call to consider that we are given gifts and opportunities to be a blessing to others in our lives. We are called to be saints!

“When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.”

– Revelation 5:8-10

- Pastor Mark

Children & Youth Updates

UPCOMING YOUTH RETREAT

Please be in prayer for our youth and adult leaders as they travel to Eagle Eyrie to the CBF Virginia Fall Youth Retreat from November 13-15. Pray for their safe travels and that they have both a wonderful and meaningful weekend among their peers.



Fall for JESUS
A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR CHILDREN

Let the little children come to me...
Matthew 19:14

Keystone Community Center
101 17th Street SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
(540) 342-8452

Hosted by:
Keystone Community Center
Sponsored by:
Roanoke Valley WMU

Saturday, November 14, 2026
1pm - 3:30pm

MISSION FOCUS:

- Air Apple Bobbing
- Games
- Snacks
- Photo Op
- Missionary Speaker
- Pie Eating Contest
- Vegetable Sale
- Crock-Pot Apple Butter Contest
- Pin the Stem of the Pumpkin

Event for all children and adults
Come and bring your family

Pumpkin Pie and Crock Pot Apple Butter Contest
Call to Register if Participating

Faith Family Community Missions

They offer degrees in Music, Theatre, Worship Leadership, and Production Technologies.

The University of Mobile is a Christ-centered university pursuing excellence "For the Kingdom. To the World." With a vision to multiply Kingdom leaders for the glory of God and the good of the world, the university equips students through Christ-centered learning and community to pursue God's calling with courage, purpose and Kingdom impact.

I want our own college, youth, and children's experiences here at Melrose and at Eagle Eyrie's Music and Worship Arts Camp each summer to reflect this same idea: **We're not just training great singers, actors, instrumentalists or technicians — we're equipping kingdom-minded artists who understand their gifts are ultimately for the glory of God.** *

His opening statement in the seminar poignantly captures my doctoral training for ministry and my personal worship worldview: **"Christian artistry is the faithful stewardship of God-given creativity and skill, entrusted to us as His image-bearers, developed with excellence, and offered back to God as an expression of whole-life worship for His glory and the good of the world."** —Dr. Andrew Goodwin, Dean of ASOTA

I want to talk in my next few columns about his term "whole-life worship" which was a new term to me for the concept I have tried to embody but perhaps not explained in detail over my last four years here at Melrose.

What passages or persons from Scripture exemplify "whole-life worship" for you?

Please take a walk through the hallway toward the youth room that has an entrance right before beside the cross in the Fellowship Hall. The various worship arts of our youth and pictures of their whole-life worship as mission action are posted there on the bulletin board. Discover God's gifts among us here!

Music Ministry Updates

MAKE HIS PRAISE GLORIOUS

I am thankful to Melrose for the opportunity afforded me to attend an impactful conference in September and wanted to share some of the insights I gleaned. Much of my doctoral study in the field of Worship Studies centered on the same concepts emphasized by Dr. Andrew Goodwin, dean of the Alabama School of the Arts (ASOTA) at the University of Mobile who led one of the breakout sessions: **"The Theology of Artistry."**

Their focus at ASOTA is educating students to the utmost ability of their chosen field in the arts and guiding them how to use that in a worship setting whenever they are able.

Lord, repair in us what is broken. Renew in us what has wasted away. Reveal in us and through us what is good and how to use it for You. Amen

- Pastor Connie

* <https://umobile.edu/asotaresources/>

Ministry Updates

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Melrose's dedicated team of volunteers have finished putting together the boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and anyone is welcome to pick up their boxes! Boxes can be found on the table outside the Sanctuary. Collection Sunday for packed boxes will be on Sunday, November 22! If you are not familiar with this ministry, please go to their website [HERE](#).

FROM YOUR PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Pastor Mark has been summoned to federal jury service for the period of November 2, 2026 to February 26, 2027. If called to serve on a jury, he may need to be out of the office for extended periods of time, and will also be limited as to when he can receive or respond to phone calls or requests for assistance. During this season, if you need assistance, we ask that you please call the church office (540-366-6631) instead of calling Mark. Thanks!

ASSOCIATE MINISTER SEARCH SURVEY

The Personnel Committee would like to ask that you please complete a brief survey to help them identify qualities and characteristics that would be important considerations in the hiring of a new associate minister. You can complete the survey online ([CLICK HERE](#)) or pick up a paper copy of the survey from the Welcome Table outside of the Sanctuary. Paper surveys can be returned to the little church in the hallway outside of the Sanctuary. The Personnel Committee asks that all surveys be completed by November 8. Thank you for your time and consideration of these questions!

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

The Melrose WMU is collecting needed items for Keystone Community Center and Friendship House Roanoke. Donations be placed in the marked bin in the Fellowship Hall now through Sunday, November 8. Instead of donations of items from the list, monetary donations are being collected to be used to purchase perishable items.

List of needed items:

Bagged rice (not instant rice)
Bags of beans
Oil
Canned fruit
Canned veggies- corn, green beans
Pasta sauce
Cereal
Oatmeal
Flour
Sugar
Evaporated milk
UHT milk

Non-gelatin dessert mix
Boxes of instant potatoes
Pancake mix (just add water)
Pancake syrup
Dish-washing liquid
Instant Jello (not pudding)
Saltine crackers
Peanut butter (plastic jar)
Jelly (plastic jar)
Granulated sugar (small bag)
Aluminum foil
Cans of soup
Turkey or chicken gravy mix
Chicken or turkey flavored stuffing
Laundry detergent
Instant hot chocolate



PLEASE JOIN US- THANKSGIVING SERVICE

To recognize this season of thankfulness and God's blessings, we will be having a Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We also invite you to join us for dinner before the service at 5:15 PM. RSVP for dinner on the church website [HERE](#).

ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29

Join us for Sunday morning worship at 10:45 AM as we open our hearts and prepare for this wondrous season!

Hanging of the Greens

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT 6 PM

Come and help us deck the halls!

Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 6

"SING THE SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS"

This year's Christmas cantata will help us joyfully recognize the signs of Christmas through song and the story retold by Anna and Simeon.

Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 13

YOUTH LEAD WORSHIP

The youth will be leading us in worship that Sunday morning and bringing us a special message to remind us of the reason for this season.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 20

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Join us during Sunday morning worship as we celebrate the greatest gift ever given with a candlelight service!

FAMILY CAROLING

Instead of our normal Sunday night activities, we are inviting Melrose families with children and youth to join us for a festive night of caroling at 5 PM with hot chocolate to follow!

Upcoming Events



DARTBALL FELLOWSHIP THIS MONTH

Dartball Fellowship will only be meeting for play once this month on Monday, November 2 at 6:30 PM. As always, all levels of play are welcome as well as snacks to share!



UPCOMING: PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Baptist Men's Ministry invite all to join them before Sunday School at 8:30 AM on Sunday, November 8 for a home-cooked breakfast. This is a wonderful way to start your morning!



SAVE THE DATE- SWEET FELLOWSHIP

The Sunday School Leadership invite all them on Sunday, November 15 at 8:30 AM for Coffee, doughnuts, and conversation before the Sunday School hour.

Living Abundantly After Fifty's Monthly Gathering



Honoring Our Nation's Heroes

A Special Presentation by Giles Gilley

Tuesday, November 17 at 10 AM

*Lunch will follow for those interested at Olive Garden.
Mission Action Project- Collection for the Local Office on Aging*

COMING SOON:

LIVING ABUNDANTLY AFTER FIFTY

- **When:** Tuesday, November 17 at 10 AM
- **Where:** Gathering will take place in Fellowship Hall and lunch will follow at Olive Garden.
- **Who:** All those over 50 who are looking for a welcoming time of conversation, serving our community, and sharing a meal together!
- **What:** A special presentation to honor our veterans by Giles Gilley. The Mission Action project will be a collection for the Local Office on Aging.

BUSINESS MEETING REMINDER

The church Business Meeting for the month of November will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:15 PM.



NOVEMBER CREATIVES NIGHT

This month Creatives Night is getting festive! All are welcome on Friday, November 20 at 5:30 PM for a night of Christmas crafting fun! Those in attendance will be able to choose from 4 different ornament designs and make as many as they want! This event is free, open to all, and all materials are being provided. In celebration of this season we will also have some fun Christmas refreshments! No RSVP required this month!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING

Please note that the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 to allow the staff to enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.

MEMORIALS

- In Memory of Dottie Overstreet by: June Nolley
- In Memory of Bob Runyon by: Pathfinders SS Class, June Nolley, Peakers Service, Hollywood's Restaurant
- In Memory of Gerald Dolin by: June Nolley
- In Memory of Susan Hall by: June Nolley

A NOTE OF THANK YOU

"Dear Melrose Family,
Our family would like to say a huge thank you to our Melrose family for all the prayers, cards and support at the passing of our dad and Papa, Bill Preston. It has made the past few weeks easier knowing so many of you are thinking of us. Dad loved his church family!

Also a thank you to the Bereavement teams for the wonderful lunch after the service. It was so nice to gather with family and friends and have a time of fellowship. Dad would have loved it! I have had so many nice comments about the lunch and what a great ministry that is!

Thank you again and God Bless You All!

Rhonda, David, Preston, Daniel, and Macie"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We welcome all to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM. The cost is \$9.00 per person or \$20 for a family up to 4 people. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the church office at 540-366-6631, on the Melrose Baptist Church mobile app, or the church website **HERE**.

November Menu

- 11/4: Barbecue, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, pina colada pound cake
- 11/11: Beef tips with noodles, peas and carrots, chocolate zucchini cake
- 11/18: Hamburger steaks, twice baked potato casserole, broccoli cauliflower salad, caramel apple sheet cake
- 11/25: Roast pork, ranch potatoes, green beans, cobbler with ice cream

FINANCE REPORT

September 2026

Monthly Income: \$63,104.25

Monthly Expenses: \$74,691.56

Year to Date

Total Income: \$526,332.35

Total Expenses: \$584,021.89

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Ushers

11/1: Jack Engel, Bill Caudill

11/8: Don Slone, Debby Hill

11/15: Don Slone, Debby Hill

11/22: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham

11/29: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham

Courtesy Team

11/1: Danny Jarrett, Chip Stephenson

11/8: Larry Wirt, Jeff Poore

11/15: Steven Kennedy, Donnie Daniels

11/22: Barry Wickham, Larry Hicks

11/29: Allen Journell, Annie Richerson

Safety Team

11/1: Suzanne Moses, Jeff Poore

11/8: Gary Hurd, Danny Jarrett

11/15: Gary Dixon, Barry Wickham

11/22: Jeff Ernest, Jeb Wallace

11/29: Larry Hicks, Larry Wirt

Youth Dinners

11/1: Norma Engel, Becky Tobey

11/8: Pat Nagel, Debby Hill

11/15: Janet Bain, Linda Broughman, Alyce Bowman

11/22: Lynette Martin, Jenny Moorner

11/29: No youth and children- Thanksgiving

Hospitality

11/1: Team 5

11/8: Team 6

11/15: Team 7

11/22: Team 8

11/29: Team 1

November Church Calendar

November 1-8

SUNDAY- 11/1

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Children in Action
5 PM Seeds of Youth
7 PM Youth Council

MONDAY- 11/2

11 AM Personnel Committee
2:30 PM Constitution & Bylaws
6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship

TUESDAY- 11/3

10:30 AM Sonshine Choir
13:30 AM WMU Council
12 PM Staff Lunch
2 PM Staff Meeting
6:15 PM Shalom Handbells
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/4

10 AM Beth Calloway
1:30 PM Sunday School Directors
2:30 PM Stitch & a Prayer
2:30 PM LAAF Council
3:30 PM SAM Council
3:30 PM 5th Block
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Bible Study
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 11/5

6:45 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SUNDAY- 11/8

8:30 AM Prayer Breakfast
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Children in Action
5 PM Seeds of Youth

November 9-15

MONDAY- 11/9

10 AM Bible Study

TUESDAY- 11/10

10:30 AM Sonshine Choir
6:15 PM Shalom Handbells
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/12

3:30 PM 5th Block
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Finance Meeting
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Bible Study
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 11/12

10:30 AM Alma Hunt
6 PM Softball Field in Use
7 PM LaVora Sprinkle

SATURDAY- 11/13

CBFVA Youth Fall Retreat

SATURDAY- 11/14

CBFVA Youth Fall Retreat
12-4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SUNDAY- 11/15

CBFVA Youth Fall Retreat
8:30 AM Sweet Fellowship
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Children in Action

Nov. 16-22

MONDAY- 11/16

10 AM Bible Study
11 AM Personnel Committee
11:15 AM Faithful Fitness

TUESDAY- 11/17

10 AM LAAF
2 PM Staff Meeting
6:15 PM Handbell Ensemble
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/18

3:30 PM 5th Block
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Business Meeting
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 11/19

6:45 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

FRIDAY- 11/20

5:30 PM Creatives Night

SATURDAY- 11/21

9 AM- 4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SUNDAY- 11/22

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Children in Action
5 PM Seeds of Youth

November Church Calendar

November 23-29

MONDAY- 11/23

11:15 AM Faithful Fitness
6:45 PM Deacons Meeting

TUESDAY- 11/24

10:30 AM Sonshine Choir
12 PM Staff Lunch
2 PM Staff Meeting
6:15 PM Handbell Ensemble
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/25

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 PM Thanksgiving Service

THURSDAY- 11/26

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY- 11/27

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY- 11/29

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
6 PM Hanging of the Greens

November 30

MONDAY- 11/30

11:30 AM Faithful Fitness

