

Our Student Leadership



Rev. Mark Simpson
Student Pastor

My name is Mark S. Simpson and I was originally born in Bombay, India and adopted at the age of 2 ½ years old. In 2009, I started my college career at Liberty University pursuing a Criminal Justice degree. It was through my sophomore year, that God called me to youth ministry. I currently hold a Bachelor of Science in Religion with an emphasis in Youth Ministries and a Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics. I am married to the love of my life, Laura Simpson and we have a 21 month old son, Asher Levi. Youth ministry is an amazing opportunity to impact young people's lives with the gospel and equip them to go out and impact others.



Emily McManamey
Student Leader

Hi! I'm Emily McManamey. I'm a junior in high school with a profound craving for coffee and chocolate covered peanuts. If I'm not doing homework, you can usually find me drawing, reading, writing, or snuggling with my fluffy dog, Stan. My favorite part of youth ministry is making people feel included and showing them God's love.



Janet Johnson
Adult Leader

My name is Janet Johnson I was born right here in Lynchburg, VA. I have a degree in Music and Youth Ministries and have had the chance to use them at different churches as well as Chestnut Hill Baptist Church. Right now, I am currently working at Walmart on Old Forest Road in the Deli and the Bakery. My favorite colors are navy blue and white. I love working with the youth because I remember what it was like in my teen years and wish I had Youth Advisors that encouraged me and that I could talk too. Sometimes in those teen years you really don't want to talk to your parents, but still need an adult there just to let you vent on your problems and they will give you encouragement as you go through life's struggles. I want to be there for our youth, not just to lead them, but to watch them grow both physically and spiritually.



I was raised in Charlotte, NC. I went to Atlantic Christian College and graduated with a degree in Deaf Education. I finished my Master's degree at Lynchburg College in the area of Learning Disabilities. I am retired after teaching Special Education for 38 years. Rob and I have been married for 36 years. We have 3 grown children. Our daughter, Caison, and her husband live in Lynchburg with their 2 children. Our son, Scott, is a CPA in Washington, DC. Our youngest son, Jacob, lives in Berlin, Germany where he teaches English. Rob and I enjoy volleyball, softball, and attending Virginia Tech football games. I also enjoy reading and caring for my grandchildren.

Gwen Arthur
Adult Leader



I have always wanted to be more involved in Church activities because I believe this increases your connection with Jesus Christ. Reading and preparing lead to a deeper walk with him. I am interested in helping to influence our Youth into a walk with Christ in whatever way I can.

Craig Oates
Adult Leader