



'The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.'
Philippians 4:9

Pastor's Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

This past Sunday (March 24th), Johanna and I took a couple of days to 'get away', so on Sunday morning we decided to watch pastor Josh, our son, preach. We enjoyed 'looking in' on the congregation where we have served, worshipped, and grown in the Lord for nearly 18 years. It was nice to be able to tune in even though we were hours away. I certainly believe that 'online' services are helpful in a few ways. Those who are sick or homebound can surely benefit greatly by being able to hear the sermon and feel connected to a local body of Christ. When another brother or sister visits to encourage, it is great for the homebound believer to be able to talk about the sermon and be a part of the exhortation and discipleship ministry of the church. If a soldier or missionary is in a place where there is no vibrant church, then this ministry could be a blessing. But...

I can tell you first hand that it is not the same thing at all. Even though my wife and I had every reason to be invested in the sermon, it was nowhere near the same. We missed the fellowship and community of the local body of

Christ. We missed standing with you and singing in praise and worship to the Lord. We missed worshipping with you around the preaching of the Word together. We missed the encouragement of witnessing and being a part of the body of Christ in prayer, in giving, and in rejoicing over the decisions that were made in response to the preaching of His Word. Let me say boldly and clearly -- online viewing (including TV) was never meant to take the place of corporate worship and I am extremely concerned with the direction that many churches are going in making "online membership" a norm. It is an unbiblical approach to church growth as there is no practical way a local church can minister to the "members" that are hours away from the rest of the church. "Live" church is not LIFE in community. Someone is going to have a hard time explaining why it would not be wiser to encourage people to join local bodies that are in reasonable driving distance where they can truly be in community and where they can both serve and be served. Church membership is more than a person watching the sermon and sending in their money.

Beloved, I have come to realize that when church members have experienced genuine community in the

local church, even a few below average sermons won't run them away. Why? Because they are connected at the heart in real fellowship at a deep level. This is what church should be. We should miss the sweet benefits of being in community with a group of believers when we are apart. We should be living in community in such a way that we couldn't imagine life without that network of brothers and sisters. Hebrews 10:24-25 can be more than another "command" to go to church. It can be and should be the nature of our relationships in community that cause us to grow in our likeness of Christ. Other believers are meant to be means of God's sanctification process in our lives. The depth of community cannot be experienced "online". Dear friends, use it when you need it but please don't forsake assembling together because staying home and tuning in is easier. What you lose will far outweigh the convenience that you gain. God bless you beloved. I look forward to worshipping with you every Sunday morning in the presence of the King and each other. I love you.

Devotedly,
Pastor Robert



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community - equipping believers - serving Jesus

Volume 15, Issue 4

April 2019

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Special Points of Interest:

- ✚ April 1-5 - Spring Break for Dinwiddie County students
- ✚ April 6th, Saturday - BMen Breakfast @ 8:30 am
- ✚ Deacons Meeting, Mon. April 8th @ 7:00 pm
- ✚ Beautiful Older People (BOP) luncheon is Wednesday, Apr 10th @ 11:00 am
- ✚ Easter Sunday - Music Presentation - April 21st
- ✚ Semi-Annual Business Meeting - April 24th
- ✚ Manna Ministry - April 12th & 26th

Hello Smyrna Family,

It's become somewhat of a tradition at Smyrna to host a "Secret Church" event in the spring. Many of you have experienced at least one of these opportunities to learn and, if you're like me, you came away both incredibly blessed and loaded down with biblical truth from Dr. Platt (the leader and teacher.) Secret Church has become something that I anticipate greatly over the years. I've learned so much biblical truth in these precious times, but in my conversations with many of you over the past few days I've been reminded that the name doesn't necessarily explain the purpose of the event very well. For this reason, I wanted to take a moment to give you all a better idea of the logic and goal of Secret Church.

Secret Church derives its title from an experience Dr. Platt had in China several years ago. Being a closed country to the gospel, there is no opportunity (literally) for any type of biblical education in the country. No Bible based resources can be disseminated and therefore knowledge of church leaders is quite limited. This meant that Dr. Platt's presence (being a seminary professor at the time) represented an incredible opportunity for these men to learn upon his arrival.

David shares the story of agreeing to meet with pastors in an undisclosed, nondescript location each day of his two week stay just to teach. He shares how these men were willing to leave their livelihood (most of them farmers) and walk various distances just to sit in a room for hours and hear the Word of God taught. The result of this experience for Dr. Platt was both conviction and resolve. He was convicted because he knew that our churches often do not place the same kind of emphasis and hunger for the Word as what he encountered in China and he resolved to attempt to "get back to the basics", stripping away all of the lights and "fluff" of our gatherings by committing to simply teach the Word without pretense for several hours. This was the genesis of "Secret Church". The name then is in homage to our brothers and sisters who must meet in secret and the format mirrors the time he had together with pastors in the closed country of China.

All of this means that Secret Church is really about one thing, Bible study! Over the years there have been several different topics discussed but this year's subject is perhaps one of the most crucial. Dr. Platt will be leading us through the Word of God to attempt to discern what the Bible says about the Gospel, possessions and prosperity. Many of you know that there are teachers out there who would claim that God's chief desire is your material blessing. Some would even go so far as to say that your lack of wealth is an indication of God's displeasure towards you! This of course is totally opposed to biblical teaching and we would love for you to join us as David proves that very point and equips us to know the truth in a way that both encourages and strengthens us for the days ahead.

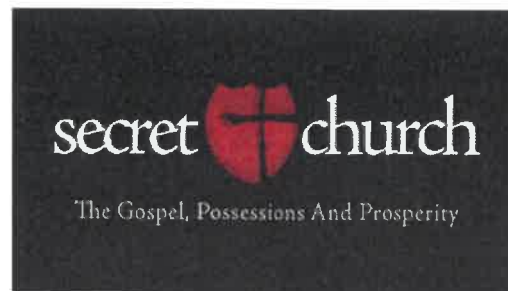
If you would like to attend, the cost is \$5 to cover the study guide which is an incredible resource! You can either register online through our website (smyrna1897.org) or on our Facebook page. If you'd like to sign up in person you can do that at the Welcome Center. The event will begin at 2:30 pm on Saturday, April 27th and it will go until approximately 7-7:30 pm with a fellowship meal around 5 pm. Childcare will be provided.

Devotedly,

Pastor Aaron

Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education

Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org



Happy April Smyrna Family,

I don't know about you, but golly gee willickers I'm so thankful for warmer weather! Warm weather means no more heavy jackets, more fresh-squeezed lemonade at baseball games, and best of all -- road trips! One of my favorite activities is riding somewhere -- the beach, a park, grandma's house -- with the windows down, the radio up, and my wife beside me. I'm looking forward to enjoying the sights at Maymont Park, exploring the rocky crags of Belle Isle, and finding new, delicious, local restaurants (with outside seating!).

Full disclosure: I'd love for you to join me! Kristin and I, along with Pastor Josh, Stephanie, Penny and Gideon, will be spending a lot of time roaming about the city of Richmond this summer because, as you've heard, the pastoral staff has been praying through sending a team, led by Pastor Josh and myself, to plant a church there.

We want to ensure that our Smyrna family knows that it isn't "Pastor Joe and Pastor Josh going to start their own church." Far from it! It's Smyrna, as a church, birthing a new church for the sake of reaching the Kingdom.

We'd love to take plenty of trips throughout the next several months to explore the city of Richmond and help everyone here at Smyrna to catch the vision, if you will. To see the desperate need for a church in our beautiful capitol city.

So, if you're interested in checking out a new restaurant, or store, or park, or whatever in Richmond - let us know! We'd love to do it together!

For the King,

Pastor Joe

Assoc. Pastor of Administration and Missions

Email: assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org



Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - April 2019

Gary and Michele Kittredge, Ashley (19), Bethany (17), and Sophia (9) - Gbanga County, Liberia

- a. Their number one prayer request is for their preparation to leave Liberia for a year in May to come back to the States for Bethany's senior year of high school. There is a lot to get ready on the farm and at their church for them to be able to leave for an entire year, so they are a bit stressed right now to say the least!
- b. Pray for Ashley as she is still in Word of Life College in Budapest, Hungary. It's tough enough to be alone, but alone in a foreign country is 10 times as difficult.

National Missions

- a. Pray that everyone here at Smyrna would catch the vision for Kingdom work!
- b. Pray that our members could be a great witness for Christ in our schools and everywhere in our community.



Smyrna Family,

This week I have worked through Tim Keller's book on theology of work, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*. I would like to share with you two important ideas I gleaned from this important book. First, work is good. Unlike mythologies in almost every culture, the Bible starts with work as a positive. God works when he creates, and then he assigns that work to his representatives, humanity. Keller explains, "God left creation with deep untapped potential for cultivation that people were to unlock through their labor." Work was a part of paradise. This feels weird to many of us who really can't wait for the work day to end. We mustn't forget, all forms of work have dignity: "...in Genesis we see God as a gardener, and in the New Testament we see him as a carpenter. No task is too small a vessel to hold the immense dignity of work given by God." We honor God and serve our neighbors by doing our jobs well! What an awesome privilege.

But, as with all aspects of the world, work is not as it was intended to be. This is the second idea I was confronted with. Often times, work can be fruitless, or feel pointless, or something selfish - work can become an idol. Work is not ruined, but like our ability to image God, it has been marred by the fall. Now, we are able to envision far more than we will accomplish. Our lack of ability sometimes gets in the way. Other times, outside circumstances mess things up, even when our work is of good quality. This can be very frustrating. It hits different generations in different ways, but it flows from the same source (sin).

Praise God, though, church! Work will not always be this way. One day, when Christ returns, it will be all that it was intended to be. Our work will always be fruitful. We will accomplish what we envision. I often think about those times, in this life, when everything comes together: our work is good quality and fruitful. On those days, we are proud and pleased to work! This is often not the case, but in those moments, we get little shadows of the future that is coming with Christ. Let us look forward to that day eagerly together.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

Next Generation Pastor

YOUTH

MYRTLE BEACH
JUNE 17-21, 2019

DAVID PLATT MOSAIC MSC
KB VERTICAL WORSHIP DREW WORSHAM

Give students a week full of surf, sand, group-bonding community, dynamic worship and powerful teaching in God's Word at one of the most desirable beaches on the East Coast.

STUDENT LIFE CAMP SIGN UP HAS BEGUN!

Sign up sheets are at the Children's Welcome Center desk. **SIGN UP NOW!**





EASTER SUNDAY

SMYRNA WORSHIP MINISTRY
PRESENTS

"LIVING HOPE,
GOD'S REDEMPTIVE
STORY"

APRIL 21, 2019 @10:45 am

SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH

18971 Carson Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841

Photo: Myriad.com

Kidz News



If you are unable to volunteer on your specified date/time, please find your own replacement and notify the Children's Dept. Coordinator with your replacements name - THANK YOU for serving the children of Smyrna Baptist Church!



MARCH 2018	<u>SS Nursery (9:20—10:40)</u>	<u>Nursery (10:30)</u>	10:30 am - <u>Toddler 1's & 2's</u>	12:15 pm <u>Toddlers 3's</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Check In (9:15 - 10:30)</u>	<u>Check In (10:30 - 12:15)</u>
Apr 7th	Mason Wells	Joc Rowalnd	Ashley Barnhouse	Kurt Jones	Robert Rowland	Kim Davis	Kalley Saye
	Kalley Saye	Kristin Rowland	Emma Kennedy	Ashley Jones	Johanna Rowland		
Apr 14th	Mykalah Tench	Lisa Barnhouse	Amelia Servis	Diana Neville	John Clay	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye
	David Tench	Grace Barnhouse	Angel Davis	Chris Neville	Kristin Clay		
Apr 21st	Holly McCaffity	Gina Perkinson	Becky Pack	Janna Cobb	Cheryl Joyner	Kim Davis	Angela Walker
	Amber McCaffity	Reagan Saye	Avery Pack	Emily Davis	Rebekah Servis		
Apr 28th	Audrey Erdmann	Ashley Perkinson	Tia Wilson	Lauren Kidd	April Green	Aimee Kennedy	Pam Reynolds
	Betsy Adams	Laura Rowland	Makenzie Wilson	Samantha Kidd	Reagan Saye		



WE'RE HEADED TO CENTRIKID!

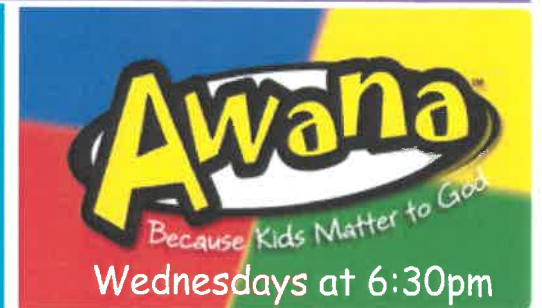
CentriKid is a high-energy, intentional, gospel-centered overnight camp for 3rd–6th graders. Their mission is to help kids experience the time of their lives and learn more about the message of Jesus Christ. This takes place through track times, rec, worship, Bible study, church group time, and a variety of other fun events. CentriKid Camps are committed to providing content that is rooted in Scripture, a safe location, kid-friendly programming, and staffers who are deeply invested in your kids.

Sign up your kids today! Or see Mrs. Kalley

Cost 180.00 per child or

220.00 Which includes care package

These care packages include all team specific items to get campers completely prepared for OMC: CentriKid backpack, OMC t-shirt, water bottle, and other fun gear for their team color.



- ☼ April 3rd - NO AWANA - Spring Break
- ☼ April 10th - Regular Club Night
- ☼ April 17th - Easter Celebration
- ☼ April 24th - Regular Club Night

KIDZ CHOIR
Wednesdays at 6:00pm
Ages 3 to 12

3 yrs. to Pre-K Room 114
K to 6th Grade Room 125



Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events - 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Wednesday, 4/10 @ 11am	1	2	3	4	5	6
SPRING BREAK for Dinwiddie County Schools						
			No Evening Activities			
7 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class 	8 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	9 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	10 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	11	12 Manna Ministry 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	13
14 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class 	15	16 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	17 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Easter Presentation 	22	23 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	24 Business Meeting 6:30 pm - No other activities 	25	26 Manna Ministry 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	27 Secret Church 2:30 - 7:30 pm
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class	29	30 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #fce4ec;"> <i>Ladies Bible Study Every Wed. @ 10 am</i> </div>			

APRIL Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Leslie Ongchangco Elsie Turner 2 Zachary Stone 4 John Dalgard Nichole Kidd Cassidy Marker 5 Hope Lane 6 Betty Perkinson 8 Hailey McCoig Dorothy Onley-Upton 9 Tami Cheely 11 Ronald Bishop Tyler Smith 12 Brooke Bishop 12 John Costley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracy Moseley Elton Stell Mary Katherine (Kate) Tucker Howard Turner Tia Wilson 15 Wyatt Dyson Joshua Mizzell Monica Shifflett 16 Grace Barnhouse Huntus Duke 17 Polly Bryant Lesly McBride 18 Joshua Servis 19 Wayne Slayden 20 Elijah Servis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 April Green Jaeda Rich 22 John (Jay) Cates Kristin Rowland Robert (Bob) Slone 23 Rudy Etheredge Kim Garrett 24 Floyd Crocker Michelle Taylor Rachael Tucker Dan Upton, Sr. 26 Alice Tuck 27 Ben Lowery 28 Aimee Kennedy 29 Grayson Cheely | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bobby Goodwin David McAlpine Amy Mizzell Cadence Taylor 30 Ben Costley Donnie Gibbs |
|---|--|--|--|





SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH

building community • equipping believers • serving jesus

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Mission Statement

Smyrna Baptist Church exists for the purpose of building up a community of fully equipped believers who give glory to God with every aspect of their lives.

Saturday

April 6th @ 8:30 am



Our BMen Ministry (Baptist Men on Mission) seeks to encourage a culture of sincere biblical manhood in our family, church and ministry. We want to involve men by equipping them spiritually and drawing them in to a closer walk with Jesus. We desire to cultivate a Christian brotherhood, in our church, of *multiple generations* and establish strong and healthy friendships while simultaneously serving our church in various ministries.

BMEN will meet once a quarter at 8:30am for breakfast, a short Bible study and on occasion perform a community project or activity of some sort. (i.e. Handicapped ramp installation, church cleanup/maintenance, etc.)

wednesday night DINNER



APRIL & MAY Class Dinner Schedule

April 3rd	NO MEAL - Spring Break
April 10th	Men's Class & Ladies Precept
April 17th	Melting Pot
April 24th	NO MEAL - Business Meeting
May 1st	Generations & Young Professionals
May 8th	Parents 'R' Us
May 15th	Branches & Growing Families
May 22nd Last meal until September	SALT, Aging Gracefully & Refocus



- Woman of Grace (WOG) Spring Tea Luncheon - Saturday, May 4th - Noon - 2 pm
- Deacon's Meeting - Monday, May 6th @ 7 pm
- BOP Luncheon, May 8th @ 11:00 am
- May 12th - **Mother's Day** - No evening activities
- Annual Widow's Luncheon - May 19th - immediately following Sunday Worship Service - 12:30 - 2:30 pm
- May 27th - **Memorial Day** - Church Closed
- AWANA closing ceremony - May 29th