



“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” - Psalm 25:4-5

## Pastor’s Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

I want to take a moment to highlight an area of ministry in our church that has the potential of being a source of encouragement, training, unity, and strengthening for the church, our families, and even our community. You might ask, “What single ministry can do all those things?” The answer is the **BAPTIST MEN**. Let me tell you a little about that group and their impact in the life of our church.

The Baptist Men are led by Mr. Lester Harris. Lester does a great job of making sure that **every third Saturday** (this month the meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup>) of each month at 8:00am a really good breakfast is provided, a solid ten-minute devotion is given, and a service project is planned somewhere in the community (Mr. Roger Arnett helps with project planning). Sometimes that project is on our own church grounds, at a needy family’s home in the community, or at one of our church member’s homes who may have a need. This past month we had a great time serving at Mrs. Sheila Hatter’s home. All I did was pick up pine cones. Wait a minute now, she has a lot of pine cones. The rest of the guys used their trucks and yanked her shrubs up - at her request! It was very manly. The task was carried out but that is not what I want to focus on.

Here is what happens on a typical Baptist Men’s Day. Two or three men will arrive at church by 7:00am to cook breakfast. The rest of the fellas will show up by 8:00 to devour the bacon, eggs, sausage, gravy, etc. like at this past meeting, that was followed by a brief devotion by me. (Other men get to do that sometimes too.) When that was done, we got our marching orders from Lester. Some of the guys stayed back to clean up our mess and the rest rolled out to Sheila’s. The blessing of this service opportunity is the

comradery that is developed as we serve the Lord and our people together. We talk, laugh, joke, work, sweat, and begin to appreciate each other so much more. Every time I leave a work site having served with these guys, I love them all the more. It is worth every minute that we sacrifice of our time. Every one of us has plenty to do but we lay it aside for a few hours and “think more of others than we do ourselves” (Phil. 2:3-5).

Other benefits include the training that can take place between our “seasoned” men and the young guys coming behind us. On work sites, the young guys can learn how to handle power tools, how to build things, and learn truths about life in general as they rub shoulders with the old fellas. You know one other thing, we go home better men to our wives and kids. Together we have been encouraged, instructed from the Word, and changed because we have given of ourselves in obedience to the Lord and in light of a real need in our community. Beloved, something happens when we get on the front line or in a fox hole together. We begin to know each other, to appreciate and understand each other, and to genuinely care about one another. We don’t feel so distant. We actually learn that “that old boy is alright”. You see, Baptist Men who serve together strengthen our families, strengthen our church, bring unity to the body, and help develop another generation of men who are up and coming.

How about considering joining us on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month at 8:00am. You will be glad that you did. I always am! Precious people, I love you dearly. Thanks for letting me serve. To God be the Glory.

Devotedly,  
**Pastor Robert**



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH  
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

**Volume 14, Issue 4**

**April 2018**

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### Special Points of Interest:

- ▶ Emmaus Road (Year II) is available for pick up in the church Foyer
- ▶ Deacons Meeting, Mon. April 2nd @ 7:00 pm
- ▶ Beautiful Older People (BOP) luncheon is Wednesday, Apr. 11th @ 11:00 am
- ▶ Baptist Men will meet Saturday, Apr. 21st at 8:00 am for breakfast & fellowship.
- ▶ 5th Sunday Breakfast Fellowship is Sunday, April 29th at 9:30 am. There are no Sunday School classes that day.



Most of you have noticed the giant tarps that are now covering the area we used to call the missions room. This month and next it is undergoing a fairly extensive remodel as we are preparing to utilize the space as our "Homepointe Ministry Center". Homepointe is a ministry aimed at offering biblical resources and guidelines for families as they seek to be obedient to the call of God to make disciples in their own home.

Unfortunately, the numbers tell us that the church has not been very proficient in making disciples over the last several generations. In fact, the "church" has been in decline numerically for several years in our country. The vast majority of children who grew up in the church will abandon her once they move out of their parents' home and many of them are choosing to no longer even nominally associate with the church or the Christian faith in their adult years.

The question that we have to wrestle with is very simple, why is this happening? Is it because God is no longer willing to save? Hardly. Is it because the Gospel is no longer powerful to save? No! Is it because the Word of God is not sufficient to answer life's toughest and most "relevant" questions? Not at all. Our God is still mighty and His Word is both true and relevant. Instead, the issue we are having in the church today lies in our failure to make true disciples.

Unlike many folks in our day, the staff at Smyrna does not believe that the primary issue is an unwillingness of God's people to raise Godly children. Instead, we are convinced that the chief problem is that God's people have not really been taught how to make disciples. This is certainly a failure on both the part of the individual and the church, but instead of ascribing blame we want to set out to fix the fundamental malady that afflicts us! Homepointe is a resource that we believe enables us to address these issues as it serves to equip families to make disciples at home.

Homepointe equips families in two ways: first the ministry center will be stocked with biblical pamphlets on a variety of pertinent issues. It is imperative that we as a church lead our families with a biblical worldview. The question should not be what does the culture say but what does the Bible say? Homepointe is a physical place for you as you wrestle with those questions as they pertain to things like technology, dating, education and such. Second, Homepointe provides a resource called "Faith Path" that systematically walks parents through the process of gradually discipling their child beginning with implementing a basic daily prayer time for young children and building upon that foundation with Bible study and other spiritual disciplines which increase at every age. Imagine beginning a focused time of prayer with your child at 2 years old and then at 3 starting some basic Bible stories, then a few years later think about this same child at 8 years old understanding the Gospel as it has been taught them by their parents and accepting Jesus and then as a young teen discovering their spiritual gifts and serving in the body of Christ! This is the kind of disciple who will press into the body as they experience freedom because they have been taught both the value and necessity of the Church as a hub of their faith. These disciples won't abandon their faith because they will be tethered to the Word of God and the Bride of Christ!

Our prayer is that Homepointe will be used by God to equip our parents to make disciples in their homes! Beginning May 13<sup>th</sup>, our pastors will be walking through a 6-week series on the importance of discipleship in the family as we unveil this new ministry. We ask that you pray for this time that God would move mightily in the hearts of our people and that you come in prayerful anticipation of how God might work in your own life through the biblical resources of Homepointe!

**Devotedly,**

**Pastor Aaron**

Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education  
Email: [assocpastor@smyrna1897.org](mailto:assocpastor@smyrna1897.org)



Greetings Smyrna Family,

Last month, I wrote about missions. The month before last, I wrote about missions. They say third time's a charm, so here we go!

I assume you remember Pastor Tim Robinson who preached for us on March 18<sup>th</sup>; he's a hard guy to miss! Well, as we mentioned on that day, we feel that God is leading us to partner with Tim in his church planting work in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Fitchburg is a very poor town where drugs, and I mean *hard drugs*, are rampant. You can only imagine how hard Tim's work is up there. Not to mention, he's earning a Master's degree and working at a hospital as a chaplain, which is his primary source of income. The point is this: Fitchburg needs the Gospel and God has seemingly opened a door for us to help shed gospel light in a dark place. However, we never want to make decisions as a staff that the congregation isn't behind, so we are asking you to pray. Pray that God would either *confirm or deny*, in your heart, that we should join Tim in his gospel work in Fitchburg. Even if we end up not partnering with him, we will continue to pray that his work finds great success. Fitchburg needs the gospel one way or another!

Before I go any further, I want to say "Thank You" for our Sunday School classes "adopting" the members of the Liberia mission team. I have seen people begin their fundraisers and I've seen others give extremely generously. God is good!

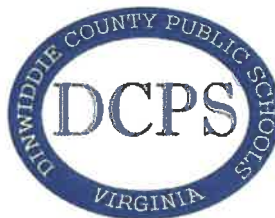
Continue to be in prayer for Drew and Eunice Cheatham, our Portland church planters, as their timeline to plant has been pushed back. They are with child, praise the Lord, so their plans have changed quite a bit. They still have a heart for Portland and we still support them in their Kingdom work. Right now they need patience and guidance!

All this being said, I don't want to neglect our very own community. Sometimes it's easier to send a team across the ocean than it is to minister in our own backyard. But, ironically, ministering in our own county is one thing we *don't* have to pray about. Of course, what I mean is that we are no doubt called to bring the gospel to our county, so that's not an option! One way we want to do that is by showing the love of Christ to our schools. We believe that as our schools go, so our county goes, so we are in the early stages of planning a School Supply initiative. I have met with the County Administrator, the Schoolboard Superintendent, a member of the schoolboard, and the elementary school principals in an effort to sharpen our plan. Please keep this effort in prayer and be on the lookout for it soon!

We also do not want to neglect a very real need in reaching our Hispanic community here in Dinwiddie County. You know that we want to start an ESL ministry, so let me just say you don't have to speak Spanish or be a teacher to help. You just need a heart for the lost!

For the King,  
**Pastor Joe**

Associate Pastor of Administration and Missions  
Email: [assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org](mailto:assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org)



## Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - April 2018

### Gary Kittredge and Family (Liberia, West Africa)

- a. Pray for Gary and Michelle as they prepare to send off their daughter, Ashley, to school in Budapest, Hungary.
- b. Pray for strength and perseverance for the entire Kittredge family. Ministry is hard enough, but the challenges of ministry in a foreign country, away from family, etc. are on a whole different level at times.

### Drew Cheatham and Family (Portland, Oregon)

- a. Pray for Drew and Eunice to have wisdom with what to do next. They still want to move to Portland to minister there, but now that they are pregnant, their plans will have to change.
- b. Pray that God will provide a way to go and that He would give them patience and wisdom in the meantime.

### Tim Robinson and Family (Fitchburg, Massachusetts)

- a. Pray for God to give the staff and congregation direction regarding the possible partnership with Tim.

### Dinwiddie County

- a. As you have already read about in Pastor Joe's entry, pray for our School Supply initiative. Pray that we would be willing to raise supplies and that the ministry would open doors to share the gospel.
- b. Pray that our members at Smyrna would start to see themselves as missionaries right here in Dinwiddie County.



## A MESSAGE FROM . . . JOSH ROWLAND, NEXT GENERATION PASTOR

### Smyrna Family,

Recently, I have been reading on the topic of church membership - anything I can get my hands on! I am convinced that it is an overlooked issue that has massive, reverberating impact later on down the road. I have read and studied the history of Baptist membership, the theology behind it, the implications of that theology, and the modern-day ignoring of each of those. In this issue of the Scroll, I would like to first explain this is a bit more, and then explain why it actually matters at all.

Work through this paragraph with some thought - don't bail! Jeremiah 31:31-40 prophetically describes what the community of God will look like in the New Covenant. This New Covenant Community will be made up of God's people, who now ALL know God and have his law written on their hearts. Unlike Israel of Old, the New Covenant community, what we call the Church, will be wholly made up of regenerate, believing Christians. This means that being a member of the New Covenant community is synonymous with being a Christian. The Bible does not envision a member of a church who is not a believer. The lost are of course welcome, and we should evangelize them! But they are not members of the church, local or universal.

Now, why is this important? Why does it matter? This is so much more than intellectual exercise or mere speculation. In the early 20th century, the Baptist churches in America sacrificed the Biblical vision of a pure church for whatever worked - the efficient church. Holiness was swept away and replaced by pragmatism. Rather rigorous membership processes and loving discipline, churches across the country have 700 on roll and less than half attending (among other issues). Practically, this does harm in at least two ways. First, those who are members but show no fruit at all in grave danger. They may very well be convinced they are "safe" based on membership, when in reality Christ may say to them at the last day, "depart from me, I never knew you" (Matt. 7:21-23). We must warn them - we do so by refusing to affirm them as members (remember that means they are believers). Secondly, weak membership harms the witness of the Church. Though the church will always be made up of sinners saved by grace, we may give less credence to the claim that we are hypocrites if we stop affirming lost people as members (I am speaking generally - I do believe Smyrna has healthier membership processes). These are just a few practical implications of a theological discussion.

I hope you see, then, that *everything is theological*. English Puritan William Ames once said, "theology is the doctrine of living unto God." We embody our theology - what we believe shows up in the way we live. So often, believers think that "theology" is for the pastors and book nerds. That is so far from the truth. How can you love a God you barely know? Want to get to know him more? That's theology. And every high-level theological discussion has *direct practical application for the way we "do" church*. If we desire to submit



everything to the authority of God in Scripture, including membership, we must give it prayerful consideration through the act of theology.

I hope these somewhat jumbled thoughts make sense! Please reach out to me if you want to chat about any of this!

In Christ,  
**Joshua Rowland**, Next Generation Pastor

## A MESSAGE FROM...THE WORSHIP MINISTRY. . .

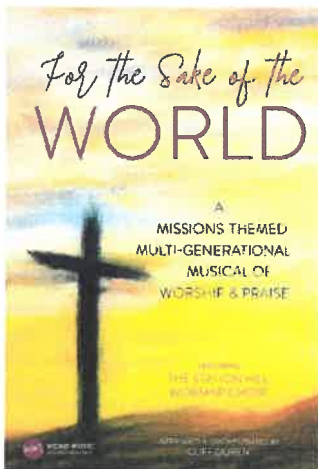
It's spring and even though our March weather had a difficult time exhibiting spring weather, it has arrived! Spring turns our mind to flowers, warmer weather, Mother's Day, dance recitals, graduations and such. Easter is associated with spring as well and in our culture people celebrate with decorated eggs, bunnies and Easter baskets. As followers of Christ, we celebrate His resurrection as we gather on Easter Sunday singing songs of redemption and resurrection, praying, along with the reading and hearing of God's Word. This Easter we will also be privileged to observe the Lord's Supper. The service will also include special music as well as the sermon. It's our prayer that you come with an expectant heart, ready to hear what the Lord has to say to you through various elements in the service on Easter Sunday.

The hymns for April are "Because He Lives", "Behold Our God", "Fairest Lord Jesus", and "A Mighty Fortress" (since we needed to make some changes to the March services, we didn't sing this hymn). These hymns are both ancient and modern. You can find versions of these on YouTube or iTunes. Many of you have recordings of these. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with these so when we gather on these April Sundays, you can lift your voice with confidence as we sing these hymns together in the assembly.

*"Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens." - Psalm 150:1*

*"Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord." - Psalm 134:2*

*"And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord." - Psalm 27:6*



Instead of the Worship Ministry presenting an Easter musical this spring, we will be presenting a musical on May 6<sup>th</sup>, *For the Sake of the World*. This is a missions-themed musical. "Missions and worship are inseparable for believers in Christ. As believers we are made to worship Him, and we are called to share His love with all the world. Worshipping Him in spirit and truth and proclaiming the great gift of His salvation should be our life's mission. God is great and greatly to be praised, and in praising Him we can change the world, as we declare to all who will hear that the Gospel changes everything", from *For the Sake of the World*, *Cliff Duren*, arranger & orchestrator. This musical will be presented at the 10:45am worship service on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Please invite the unchurched, lost family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. You can help us put feet on the message of this musical, "the importance of sharing the Gospel with every man, woman, boy and girl, and taking its life changing message to every nation, every people, in every tongue."

Singing His Praises,  
*Melodie & Brad*



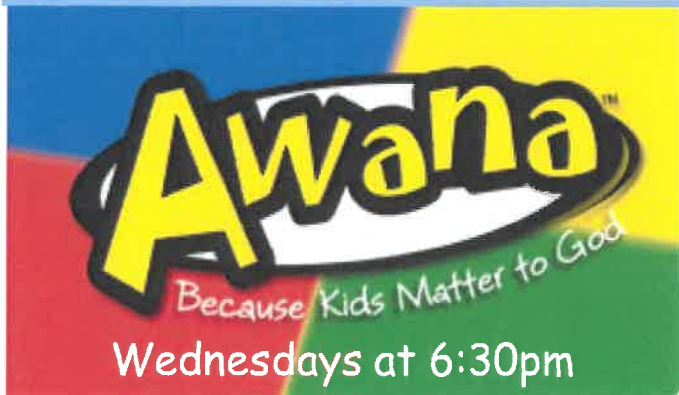
# Kidz News



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!



APRIL 2018	10:30 am - 12:15 pm					CHECK-IN (9:15 - 10:30)	CHECK-IN (10:30 - 12:15)
	SS NURSERY (9:20 - 10:40)	NURSERY (10:30)	TODDLER 1's & 2's	TODDLERS 3's & 4's	CHILDREN'S CHURCH		
April 1st	Kathy Miles	Michele Sloan	Brandy Barchanowicz	Samantha Kidd	April Green	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Heather Gordon	Sharon Long	Janelle McCoig	Lauren Kidd	Catherine Crocker		
April 8th	Panky Clark	Mary Tucker	Randall Cornett	Janna Cobb	Stacey Dyson	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Betsy Adams	A or R Tucker	McKenzie Wilson	Emily Cobb	Angel Davis		
April 15th	Audrey Erdmann	Lisa Barnhouse	Ashley Barnhouse	Ashley Bobo	Cheryl Joyner	Kalley Saye	Angela Walker
	Cindy Bain	Grace Barnhouse	Gracie Saye	Reagan Saye	Sierra Servis		
April 22nd	Brandy Turner	Marian Rowland	Melissa Taylor	Mary Hunt	John Clay	Kalley Saye	Pam Reynolds
	Peggy Turner	Angie Adkins	Laura Rowland	Rebekah Servis	Kristin Clay		
April 29th		American	Heritage	Girls		AHG	AHG



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

3 yrs. to Pre-K Room 114  
 K to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Room 125

- ☼ April 4th - NO AWANA
- ☼ April 11th - Regular club meeting
- ☼ April 18th - Theme Night - PJ's
- ☼ April 25th - Regular Club Meeting

# Smyrna Baptist Church

## Calendar of Events - APRIL 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	2 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	3 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	4 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Re Engage Bldg & Grounds Mtg - 5:30pm	9	10 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	11 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	12	13 Manna Ministry 10-2 pm (Also on the 27th)	14
15 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Re Engage	16	17 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	18 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	19	20	21  Breakfast & Workday 8am AHG Ladies Spring Tea 11:00 - 1:00 pm
22 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Re Engage	23	24 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	25 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	26	27 Sunshine Group Luncheon 11:30am at Nanny's	28
29 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Re Engage	30	9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	 Wednesday, 4/11 @ 11am	 Ladies Bible Study Every Wed. @ 10 am		

### April Birthdays

- |                      |                     |                    |                      |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Ongchangco, Leslie | Jenkins, Jodi       | 19 Slayden, Wayne  | Taylor, Michelle     |
| Turner, Elsie        | Moseley, Tracy      | 20 Servis, Elijah  | Tucker, Rachel G     |
| 2 Slone, Zachary     | Turner, Howard      | 21 Green, April    | Upton, Dan Sr.       |
| 4 Dalgard, John      | Stell, Elton        | Hairfield, Rick    | 25 Zinn, Christopher |
| Kidd, Nichole        | Wilson, Tia         | Rich, Jaeda        | 26 Tuck, Alice       |
| Porter, Ryan         | 13 Reynolds, Pam    | 22 Cates, John     | 27 Overby, Shelby    |
| 5 Lane, Hope         | 15 Cothron, Rainey  | Elder, Travis      | 28 Kennedy, Aimee    |
| 6 Perkinson, Betty\  | Mizzell, Joshua     | Gill, April        | Jenkins, Lewis       |
| 8 McCoig, Hailey     | Price, April C      | Prevatt, Matthew   | 29 McAlpine, David   |
| Moore, Terry         | Shifflett, Monica   | Rowland, Kristin   | Mizzell, Amy         |
| Onley-Upton, Dorothy | 16 Barnhouse, Grace | Slone, Bob G.      | 30 Costley, Benjamin |
| 9 Cheely, Tami       | Duke, Huntus        | Smith, Krystal     | Gibbs, Donnie        |
| Edwards, Seth        | 17 Bryant, Polly    | 23 Elder, Robert   |                      |
| 11 Smith, Tyler      | McBride, Lesly      | Garrett, Kim       |                      |
| 12 Bishop, Brooke    | 18 Bowers, Jonna    | 24 Crocker, Floyd  |                      |
| Costley, John        | Servis, Lucas       | Stamp, Rachel Kidd |                      |



**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.



**The Sunshine Group**

**Ages 55+**

Our next outing is April 27<sup>th</sup> for lunch at Nanny's Restaurant at 11:30am. If a ride is needed, meet at church at 11:00am.

Any questions?

Call Peggy Edmonds at 804-481-7541 or Jewell Barnhouse at 804-861-0149



- ☀ May 5th - WOG Ladies Tea 12 - 2pm
- ☀ May 6th - MISSIONS MUSICAL at 10:45am!!
- ☀ May 9th - BOP Luncheon
- ☀ May 13th - Mother's Day
- ☀ May 13th - Homepointe Unveiling
- ☀ My 16th - Last Wed. Night Dinner until Sept.
- ☀ May 19th - BMen Fellowship
- ☀ May 25th & 26th - Kingdom Conference
- ☀ May 28th - Memorial Day - Church Office Closed



**SATURDAY, APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>**  
 3:30 - 7:30 pm  
 Cost is \$10 per person  
 Includes dinner and handbook for notes  
 Child care will be provided  
 Sign up sheets are in the foyer