

August Scroll

Pastor's Corner

"That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God."
Ecclesiastes 3:13
NIV

Dear Smyrna Family,

** (A 17-year old girl's perspective on dating and growing up will have to wait until next month.) **

Last month my family and I had the opportunity to go to the beach for a summer vacation. We had a nice time as we played in the ocean, ate good food, spent time goofing off, and taking in a few sites like the lighthouse in Hatteras. Johanna and I had all four of our children, their wives, our grandkids, and even Brian and Angie Adkins. We sure are grateful that we actually love being with our family. We always have enjoyed them and still do. That is a gift from God. Anyway, the week ended and we had to head on back home. Johanna and I were driving along and as I pulled into our driveway, I had this thought, "I don't have to go anywhere to have genuine joy, peace, and contentment in my heart and mind." Don't misunderstand me, I sincerely love going on vacation and making memories with my family. All I am trying to say is that I enjoy living and "doing life" at home too.

Beloved, I think it is an amazing gift to wake up each day and realize that God is good and He is here. You see, what I am getting at is that we shouldn't have to "get away" from life in order to find the things that God promised to give His children all along the way. It is imperative that you stop thinking of joy and peace as something that is out there in front of you that needs to be discovered at the end of a rainbow. The very thing that you need and desire is produced by the Holy Spirit inside of you. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and you will see that He produces these things in you as you abide in Him. That means as you live in obedience to His Word. If you do not obey then you are not truly loving Him. But if you do obey (abide) then you can rest assured that the things you think you need to go find will simply be a part of who you are no matter

where you are. When you live this way, the journey to "wherever" is part of the joy.

Family I am often convicted of the way I act. I hate the way I get discouraged or frustrated with little things in this life. I am ashamed of the way I stand up in church and sing about how Jesus is enough and how much I love and adore Him and then turn around and live like a child pouting that I'm stuck in traffic or have to wait 90 seconds at a traffic light. I get mad when the internet is a little slow or I'm not getting what I want out of a day. I thought Jesus was enough. I thought I was content. I thought I was spiritually mature and satisfied with God's sovereignty and grace. The truth is that I am satisfied when I'm getting MY way and things are going like I think they should. Oh, how I need to repent of my false humility and lean into the Lord for more mercy and grace.

Brothers and sisters, I am thankful for His patience with us in the sanctification process but please let's not take that for granted. Becoming like Christ is truly a work of grace but it takes hard work too. Denying self and keeping your mind focused on "things above" is not always easy but it is oh so rewarding. It is in those good moments that you realize that He is enough and there truly is joy, peace, contentment, and real blessing all along the way. Life can sort of be like a perpetual vacation when you are walking with Him and experiencing His presence.

**Devotedly,
Pastor Robert**



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

Volume 15, Issue 8

August 2019

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Special Points of Interest:

- 🌿 Aug 12th - Deacon's Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 🌿 Aug 14th - BOP Luncheon @ 11 am
- 🌿 Aug 17th - BMen Workday @ 8:30 am
- 🌿 Aug 20th - Red Cross Blood Drive
- 🌿 Aug 23rd - Outdoor Movie Night

Hello Smyrna Family,

A few weeks ago, Pastor Josh and his apprentice, John Ochtyun put together a panel discussion in our student ministry. The format was rather informal and the goal was to allow students to ask anything. The desire of course was to encourage and help our youth understand that there is a real veracity to the Christian worldview. We want our young people to graduate with a faith that is their own, one that has been tried and found viable! We desire them to really embrace Christ and to follow Him all their days and we believe this happens as the Word of God is applied to their lives and the Holy Spirit allows them to see the wisdom of God manifest in this life He has created.

This post really isn't about that day however, instead it is geared towards memories that were brought back to me of my days in student ministry (a decade) and the lessons I learned along the way. The method I employed in youth ministry changed radically from my first years as a youth pastor to my last few. In my early days I thought that parents and other adults were a necessary but undesired presence. Essentially, I bought the lie that students came to get away from adults and because of this the absolute best thing I could do as a youth pastor was to offer an environment that the kids mostly dominated. Now, to be clear, I am not saying that we were trying to emulate a night club! Instead, what I am referring to is a ministry that was run by students, for students, with as little "outside input" as possible.

The troubling product of my ministry (and almost every other student ministry I knew of that time) became more and more clear over the years. I realized that youth would get involved and even stay faithful to the ministry until graduation but upon their entrance into the real world many of them (most of them!) simply drifted away. The numbers back this observation up by the way. Depending on which survey you consult, you will find between 70-90 percent of young people who are active in youth ministry leave the church after graduation, many of them never to return.

Church family, if I were to be so bold, I would tell you that the numbers at Smyrna (at least over the past 15 years or so) are actually quite in line with this statistic. The obvious question we must ask is why? Why is it that students tend to drift? Some would say it's all their fault. Obviously these folks are responsible before the Lord for their actions. There is some truth to this statement and we don't want to run from personal accountability but I would argue that there is a deeper reality at play that demands something of us...and I'd argue it based on a statement I heard about 5 years into my ministry...

Around the time that I really began to understand this issue I was at a conference in which this very question was asked to a panel. Why is it, they asked, that so many youth simply leave our churches in their late teen years? The answer was simple but it blew me away, they leave the church because they were never really part of the church to begin with! Now think about that for a moment. If student ministry is just a bunch of kids in the back of the building spending time amongst themselves and never interacting with the rest of the body, what are they attached to? The answer is that they are only tied to a group of folks who are transient! Their friends graduate and while there is an expectation to continue in the church the reality is that they know no one in the church. They've never met the senior adults, they don't know the young families, they don't have areas in which they've served, and they do not belong in the body in any meaningful sense.

So, how do we combat this? Two thoughts: first, parents engross your families in the life of the church. By this I mean spend time with people of all ages. Allow your children and students to know and build relationships with seniors and middle-aged folks and other young families. Help them to understand by your own actions that the church is a family full of other men and women who love them. Take the initiative! Second, help us fight this "student only" culture. You see, if the goal of a student ministry is to bind or meld youth together with the church as a whole then we must ensure that the church as a whole is represented in our student ministry! I know Pastor Josh would love (and could use) your help. There is a great need for many Godly adults to invest in students and frankly, the more the merrier! To be as frank as I possibly can, the goal

of student ministry isn't 100 kids and 5 adults, the goal is 100 kids and 100 adults (or more). Only when our students connect with the church as a whole will they be a part of the body. Would you be a part of our effort to take initiative in ensuring that our students know and love the body of Christ here at Smyrna?

**Devotedly,
Pastor Aaron**

Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education
Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org

A MESSAGE FROM . . . **JOE ROWLAND**, ASSOC. PASTOR

Greetings from Puerto Rico!

I'd like to say I'm writing this on vacation, but alas, I'm not! I'm writing this while on a disaster relief mission trip. To be more specific, I'm writing this while waiting to be taken to the local clinic to have a slightly-infected ingrown toenail cut out! I watched my team drive away this morning to fix broken roofs and hand out meals to the locals... and I'm sitting here with my swollen toe propped up.

Not exactly how I pictured this trip going!

But that's pretty typical of this life, isn't it? Rarely do things go exactly as we planned. Maybe it's a blown tire, a bad storm, a scary medical report, or a silly little ingrown toenail.

When life is unexpected, there's comfort in knowing we have a God who's never caught off guard. We have a God that's never surprised or taken aback. And even more than that, we have a God that ordains all things for His peoples' good and His glory. That means that not only does God always know what's going on, but that he's also using every little bit of it for a grand purpose! Not a millisecond is wasted in God's world.

So, This nasty ingrown toenail is annoying and painful. But it's not meaningless. It's never meaningless. God knows better than I do, so I'm happy.

For the King,

Pastor Joe

Associate Pastor of Administration and Missions
Email: assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org



Devin Boyd, Mary Hunt, Kristin & Joe Rowland,
Johanna Rowland & Larry Caramelo

Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - August 2019

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

- Pray for peace for the Kittredges as they entrust their work in Liberia over the next year to those that they have trained up for the task. Pray that everything would go well while they are here.
- Pray for their eldest daughter, Ashley, as she is doing an internship in Texas this summer. Pray for it to be a wonderful learning experience -- and fruitful too!

Pastors Josh and Joe

- Pray that everyone here at Smyrna would catch the vision for the Kingdom work of church planting.
- Pray for Pastor Josh and Pastor Joe as they and their wives (and a few other couples) train and prepare for the hard work of planting a church in the city of Richmond, Virginia.

Smyrna Family,

Sometimes I am not sure what to write for the scroll entries. I generally decide to write about my experiences over the month and what facets of faith and life I am thinking about. I pray that it is beneficial to you, dear reader! This month, in the heart of Summer, I am thinking about schedules. Sounds boring, I know, but bear with me. I am a public school teacher, so my schedule goes from very rigid to basically nonexistent in the summer. That has an, how do you say, adverse affect on my children. Schedules are vital for kids! Any parent would agree. They are more content, their behavior improves, and my stress decreases. We maintain some semblance of a schedule, but during the summer we are just all over the place! Consistency has been tough!

What does that have to do with life and faith? I have been thinking a lot about spiritual disciplines recently, like bible reading. Or perhaps, gathering with other saints. We love for these to feel "organic" or unforced. But you know what? Our sin nature makes that kind of silly, if I can be honest. We don't drift towards holiness. We must be disciplined (see that root word in there, shared with *disciple*?). In the same way that my children need a consistent schedule, we need to consistently plan and execute a schedule for our spiritual disciplines. But what exactly does that look like?

Well, it can look like many different things, depending on the person. But I would start by finding a legitimate Bible reading plan. Just a few minutes a day and you will finish it in a year. Bump it up a bit and you can read it twice in a year. Please, for all that is holy, do not drop your Bible and decide to read whatever page it opens up to. I suppose that is better than not reading it, but your Bible is not a magic spell book. It is God's revelation of himself to us. Take it seriously. The same is true of your prayer life. Don't aimlessly close your eyes and "think." Plan out specific things to pray about each day of the week. Perhaps missionaries on Monday, your Sunday school class on Tuesday, and so on and so forth. The lesson for today, folks, is that we must be intentional. Just like my children's behavior drastically improves when they are on a consistent schedule, you will see your spiritual life soar when you finally commit to consistently partaking in the spiritual disciplines!

In Christ,

Pastor Josh,

Next Generation Pastor



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.

Meeting - August 17th @ 8:30 am

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

For those of you who say "I can't sing," I thought this excerpt from Keith & Kristyn Getty's book, *Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family and Church*, would be an encouragement to you:

Sometimes we meet people who say, "I can't sing" -- as in, "The sound that comes out of my mouth when I sing is not what I was hoping for." Perhaps this is you, and you can recall an awkward conversation as a child when you were asked to mouth the words, rather than sing them, or you were told that being a member of your school or church choir might not be the "Best fit" for your gifts. But if you can speak, you can sing. God designed you to sing and gave you everything you need to sing as well as he wants you to. He's far less concerned with your tunefulness than your integrity. Christian singing begins with the heart, not the lips (Ephesians 5:19).

When our young daughters sing together, the older is more confident than the middle one, who is in turn more fluent than the youngest. This may change as they all get older, but the point is this -- to their parents' ears, each voice isn't only as important as the others; each is as treasured as the others. Your heavenly Father cares whether and what you sing, but he doesn't mind how well you sing. While we may have choirs within our churches made up of voices who have expertise and ability, the congregation of a church is the ultimate choir, and it is without auditions -- everyone can and should be in it. The beauty of such a congregational choir is that our voices and hearts are knit together in praise. It's exhilarating to be part of a body of believers singing truth together.

We recently met with a missionary to China who was home on furlough in America. After the singing, he said how wonderful it was to be able to sing freely with other believers again, for the part of China he lived in imposed heavy restrictions on such a thing. "Oh, how my heart misses the singing," he said. Your voice may not be of professional standard, but it is of confessional standard.

It's worth adding, though, that the more we practice something, the better we become at it. And we seek to improve in what we truly value. To learn to walk takes time, and we first must learn to press down on our feet. To learn to speak takes time, and we must first open our mouths and make sounds. To praise God in tuneful song takes time, and we grow better at singing by singing. And once we've reached our peak, if it's still some way short of tuneful heights, a sense of humor is a useful ally. Some people do have a special gift of singing absolutely every note slightly off pitch (which is, ironically, hard to do). Since we sing to encourage and praise, not to impress and earn praise, we can smile about that and sing anyway. One of our band members, Zach White, recently told us of the inspiration his dad has been to him and his siblings when it comes to singing in church. Mr. White is always the most passionate singer in the congregation, despite having only three notes he can actually sing (all lower than his namesake, Barry), and none of them are in tune. But it never holds him back. He has grasped what congregational singing is, and is not, about.

Kristyn's vocal coach for the last 14 years, Kim Wood Sandusky, has several decades of experience in training professional singers across genres. She points out, we are all singers, some of us have talents that allow us to sing with beautiful tones and good pitch, while others have talents to sing with their soul. What a beautiful sound we all make as singers to our heavenly Father's ears. There are those of us who may have vocal constrictions that come through health struggles or have been there since birth. If you can't speak but sing by signing with your hands or through whatever means God has given you, you bless the community of believers as we join with one heart and one voice until the day all tongues will sing to him. We're so grateful for the work of signers who enable the whole congregation to so meaningfully engage in the lyrics we sing. Church, let us sing!

For His Glory!,

Melodie & Brad



WORSHIP MINISTRY REHEARSALS
WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 28TH AT 6:30 PM

Kidz News

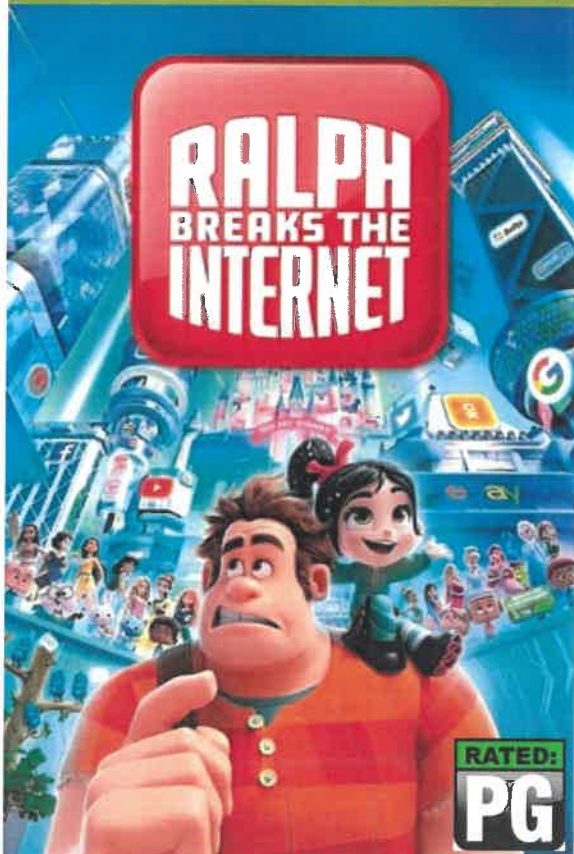


If you are unable to volunteer on your specified date/time, please find your own replacement and notify the Children's Dept. Coordinator with your replacements name - THANK YOU for serving the children of Smyrna Baptist Church!



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community • equipping believers • serving jesus

AUGUST 2019	SS NURSERY (9:20 - 10:40)	NURSERY (10:30)	10:30 am - 12:15 pm			CHECK-IN (9:15 - 10:30)	CHECK-IN (10:30 - 12:15)
			TODDLER 1's & 2's	TODDLERS 3's & 4's	CHILDREN'S CHURCH		
August 4th	Panky Clark	Lisa Barnhouse	Ashley Barnhouse	Kurt Jones	Cheryl Joyner	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Mason Wells	Grace Barnhouse	Angel Davis	Ashley Jones	Rebekah Servis		
August 11th	Mykalah Tench	Joe Rowland	Brittney Chappell	Diane Neville	Allen Jones	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye
	David Tench	Kristin Rowland	Glenn Chappell	Chris Neville	Dianne Jones		
August 18th	Holly McCaffity	Ashley Perkinson	Amelia Servis	Janna Cobb	Stacey Dyson	Kalley Saye	Angela Walker
	Amber McCaffity	Laura Rowland	Emma Kennedy	Emily Davis	Angel Davis		
August 25th	Audrey Erdmann	Michele Snead	Linda Mohr	Mary Hunt	April Green	Kalley Saye	Pam Reynolds
	Betsy Adams	Sharon Long			Reagan Saye		



OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, August 23rd
Showtime @ 8:30 pm

Bring your lawn chair or blanket for a fun family night under the stars!

Free popcorn & drinks!

There will be food trucks selling their items beginning at 7:00 pm.

Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events - 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			BOP Wednesday, 8/14 @ 11am	1	2	3
4 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	5	6 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	7 11:00 am BOP Luncheon 6:30am Mid-Week Worship Ladies Bible Study Youth Kids Wacky Wednesday	8	9	10
11 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	12 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	13 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	14 BOP 6:30am Mid-Week Worship Youth Kids Wacky Wednesday	15	16	17 B MEN ON MISSION BMen Breakfast Fellowship at 8:30 am
18 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	19	20 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 	21 6:30am Mid-Week Worship Youth Kids Wacky Wednesday	22	23 OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT	24
25 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	26	27 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	28 6:30pm Mid-Week Worship Youth Kids Wacky Wednesday Worship Ministry Practice	29	30	31

August Birthdays

1 Betty Grissom	13 Phylise Lewis	21 Jann Etheredge	24 Rebecca Cliborne
Brandi Smith	15 Mady Cheely	David Gray, III	John Fraser
2 Emma Kennedy	Kim Conley	James Kester	Tommy Moore
3 Diane Burton	Gabriella Perkinson	Bobby Perkins	Jessica Taylor
4 Kathy Wells	16 Jim Harris	Blakely Perkinson	29 Sam Barton
Naurice Wells	17 Shannon Costley	22 Kristin Clay	Mitch Saye
5 Bonnie Slayden	Robert Keen	Brady Neville	
6 Amelia Servis	18 Ryan Clay	Brad Perkinson	
7 Cindy Costley	Ashley Perkinson	23 Bill Chavis	
Autumn Madison	19 Vivian Rowland	Caleb Cheely	
Rick Mohr	Joshua Servis	Karmin Diaz	
11 Jannell McCoig	Preston Twisdale	Robert Mayer	



If your name does not appear on our *Birthdays Calendar* that means we do not have your birthdate in our records. Please call the church @ 469-9363 (Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm) to update the records we have on file or email admin@smyrna1897.org. Thank You!



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH

building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

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Dinwiddie, VA 23841
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E-mail: admin@smyrna1897.org

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.



Blood Drive Smyrna Baptist Church

Gym
18971 Carson Rd.
Dinwiddie, VA 23841

**Tuesday, August 20, 2019
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Not enough people donate blood. Only you can fill the #MissingTypes.

Download the Blood Donor App | 1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org/MissingTypes

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- 2nd - MON. - OFFICE CLOSED for Labor Day
- 3rd - TUE. - American Heritage Girls begins at 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- 9th - MON. - Deacon's Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 11th - WED. - BOP Luncheon at 11:00 am
- 11th - WED. - Evening dinners resume at 5:30 pm

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Starting September 11th at 5:30 pm

DATE	SS CLASS
9/11	Men's Class & Ladies
9/18	Pathfinders
9/25	YOUTH



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ITEM of the MONTH - SEPTEMBER

GAMES & PUZZLES

