

August Scroll

Pastor's Corner



"...seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledges of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence..."
2 Peter 1:3 (NASB)

Dear Smyrna Family,

I write this entry from the great state of Texas. Johanna, Laura and I came out to visit Johanna's sister and her family for a few days. We decided to use a little more of my vacation time this year than before. I'm very grateful for a great team of co-laborers that make it possible for us to be away for a while. These days are beneficial for all of us - including you. I enjoy reading when I'm on vacation and on this trip I have been able to finish the book The Trellis and the Vine by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne. This is one I recommend to all who are interested in church life and more importantly, how the church should actually function.

Friends, let me say that I understand that most of us were raised to think of the church functioning as one man, the pastor, serving the entire congregation. He is supposed to preach great sermons, visit everybody as they want, plan activities for the church, reach new people, do follow up, and on and on. The congregation tends to see "the man" as the professional who is paid to do all that stuff. The truth is that one man can't do all of this and frankly shouldn't do all of this. This is not what the Bible calls a pastor to do. I have been thinking about the church a lot and what success really is. During our VBS week I was reminded of the beauty of working your way out of a job. Ashley Bobo, Kalley Saye, and their whole team did such a fantastic job that absolutely nothing was required of me. Several times I met with children who had made a decision to trust Jesus as Lord in my office but other than that I was free to do ministry. During VBS week I visited several hospitals, wrote 8 daily devotions, cut a widow's grass and planned for preaching. What a great week. Now just think for a minute if nothing could be done unless I did it. What if every time an issue came up the adult involved raced to my office to get

me to take care of the need? I could not have accomplished anything else. Thank God that we are working to break those bad habits.

Our structure is becoming one where every disciple becomes a disciple-maker. The "reason" behind what we do here at Smyrna is training people to do ministry. Did you know that Paul refers to over 100 people in his life as fellow workers in the ministry with him? Partnership is the norm for the Christian life. Friends, it is so sad that there are too many people who sit around sulking and complaining about what others are not doing rather than getting involved in ministry. We who are saved were saved to be partners in advancing the gospel. Our impetus for all that we do in serving the church is to help everyone "grow in conviction (their knowledge of God and understanding of the Bible), their personal character (making sure you grow in holiness and that your life is in accord with sound doctrine), and competence (to develop necessary skills to do His will)." When everyone is doing ministry together, we will accomplish so much more and advance the gospel like never before. The day is coming, beloved, when members of Smyrna will see all of its members as "counting". It is sad and pathetic when one of our deacons has visited a home only to be told. "No one from the church has visited me." The deacon is made to feel like a nobody! When he is there with you, I am preparing a sermon, writing a lesson, planning for a meeting or visiting someone else AND you are being visited. We all count because we are all ministers on the same team. We are going to keep pushing this because it is right and biblical.

Devoted (in the right way),

Pastor Robert



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

Volume 14, Issue 8

August 2018

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Special Points of Interest:

- ▶ Deacon's Meeting, Aug. 6th @ 7:00 pm
- ▶ BOP Luncheon, Aug. 8th @ 11:00 am
- ▶ Outdoor Movie Night, Aug. 17th @ 7:00 pm
- ▶ BMen Breakfast Fellowship & Workday, Aug. 18th @ 8:00 am
- ▶ Finance Committee Meeting, Aug. 28th @ 7:00 pm

A MESSAGE FROM. . . AARON BOBO, ASSOC. PASTOR

As I sit here in my office today, I have found myself reflecting on a simple but important question regarding ministry and how we conceptualize different facets of the Christian life. While simple in its construction, the answer to this question has profound implications for how we live and the way we do ministry. Very simply stated, I wonder how you would answer this inquiry, are discipleship and evangelism connected or separate?

Having grown up in a “church world” I would have to say that I have more often than not been taught (implicitly rather than explicitly) that evangelism and discipleship are distinct entities. Discipleship is growing in knowledge, deepening your walk with the Lord while evangelism is leading others to know God. This explains why “discipleship” is almost always attached to our classes and outreach coincides with activities

I’ll be honest, while I understand the heart and even some of the reasons behind these distinctions; I’m not convinced that they are biblical categories at all. In fact, biblically, I believe the reality is that those who are faithful “disciples” are inherently “evangelists”. There is no such thing, according to the Scripture, as a growing disciple who is not faithful to proclaim the Gospel to those who are lost.

This has enormous ramifications for how we conceptualize “discipleship” including the reality that our discipleship ministry must encourage and even require that we as disciples become evangelists. This will be the focus of the next school year at Smyrna. Our staff is committed to encouraging, modeling and equipping each of us to be faithful in the area of evangelism and we see this commitment as one that operates under the umbrella of discipleship.

For this reason, over the next few weeks you will be hearing about our first foray into this emphasis which we are calling the “me+3” campaign. Essentially, we will be asking each of you to prayerfully identify three local individuals and/or families, friends, co-workers, etc. Once we identify these people we will collectively pray for them in our Caregroup time during the Sunday school hour on August 5th and unite together to invite them to our upcoming movie night (August 17th) for the purpose of getting to know them and encouraging them to come hear the Gospel.

Our hope and prayer is that each of the members of Smyrna Baptist (including the pastors) would be encouraged, strengthened, equipped, and reminded of the need for faithful evangelism in our community and abroad. This is the first step of many this year to prepare and encourage our church family to be faithful to our call to make disciples!

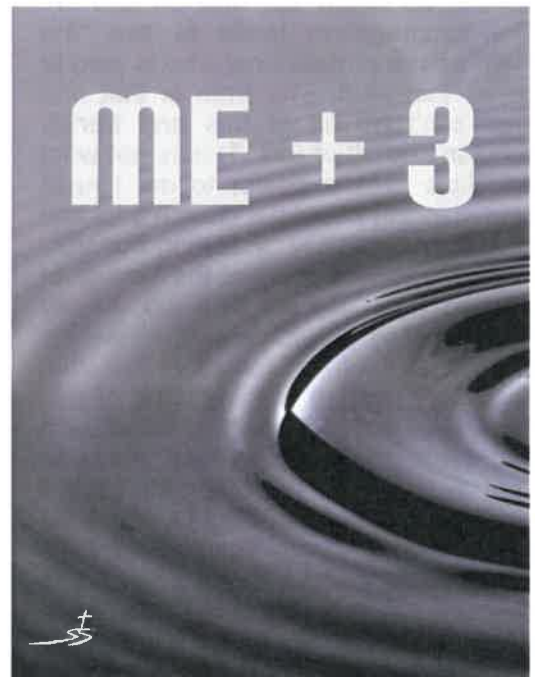
Devotedly,

Pastor Aaron

Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education

Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org

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Greetings Smyrna Family,

Last month, I had the privilege of writing about the everyday nature of mission work. I tried to relieve the burden you might feel for not going on mission trips. Of course, you should feel a little bit of a burden *if* you don't go on mission trips because you are lazy or don't want to sacrifice the vacation time. *But*, I'm assuming the best.

Nonetheless, if you are indeed someone who just needs an extra push, let me provide one now! As you know, we have decided to partner with Tim and Toni Robinson and their church plant, The Haven Church, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. We will be taking the first trip up there (also known as the "vision trip") from Oct. 18th - 24th of this year. I know that's not very far away, but this trip will be quite a bit easier in terms of money and travel. This trip will only cost about \$200 per person and the transportation will simply be by car. So, naturally it takes a little less time to plan than, say, a trip to Liberia.

So let this scroll entry serve as an encouragement to step out of your comfort zone this time and go with God on mission! Of course, as I've said time and time before, you can do mission right in your own neighborhood - even your own home. But there is something about leaving your home to do mission that shapes and molds your soul in a positive way.

I will offer one word of caution, however; a "vision trip" (a.k.a. the first trip you take when partnering with someone) is for the purpose of seeing the opportunity. In other words, I am looking for people to go on this brief trip who can potentially lead their own teams in the future, people who want to lead out in a missional way.

I am praying for you, the congregation, that people would step up and show a desire to lead on mission! Please pray the same.

For the King,
Pastor Joe

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



Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - August 2018

Gary, Michele, Ashley, Bethany, and Sophia Kittredge (Liberia, West Africa)

- a. Pray for Gary and Michelle as they prepare to send off their oldest daughter, Ashley, to bible college in Budapest, Hungary.
- b. Pray for the family as they make preparations to return to America for Bethany's senior year of high school.
- c. Pray for people from Smyrna to be raised up to go to Liberia for full-time mission work. What the Kittredge's and the Liberians need most is quite simply more people to join in the work.
- d. 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, no electricity, etc. are on a whole different level most of the time.

Tim Robinson and Family (Fitchburg, Massachusetts)

- a. Now that we have formally partnered with Tim and Toni, pray that more and more doors would open for Smyrna to send teams to Massachusetts to help Tim and The Haven

Church. Remember that our vision - our end goal - is to help The Haven Church do for another what we're doing for them.

Drew Cheatham and Family (Portland, Oregon)

- a. At the time of this writing (7/26), Drew and Eunice have not had their baby, BUT it was due Tuesday (7/24), so she is R E A D Y to have that baby! They're hoping it will be born this Wednesday (8/1), so pray for a smooth labor and delivery!
- b. They are still dying to go to Portland, so please pray that they can have encouragement and perseverance while God has them here in Colonial Heights.

Dinwiddie County

- a. Pray that eyes would be opened and hearts would be softened all around the county and that people would respond to gospel invitations.
- b. Pray that our members at Smyrna would start to see themselves as missionaries right here in Dinwiddie County. That we would continually share the Gospel and invite people to church.

Smyrna Family,

This summer has been full of growth. My family grew with the birth of our son, Gideon. I have been working hard to reverse the growth of my waistline. Stephanie and I have grown through the major change of now having multiple children.

Additionally, I have grown through the day to day, life on life

interactions with many of you! As you are reading this, I hope that you can look back over the most recent season of your own life and identify the ways God has providentially grown you, whether that be blessings, struggle, or other big changes. The reality is this: knowledge is not that hard to come by. Read some books. Listen to a podcast. Go find a smarter person and ask them questions. I have always loved being a student because I am pretty good at gaining knowledge (not that I am the sharpest tool in the shed - I just know where to go to get sharpened). But all the knowledge in the world means very little without wisdom. In fact, the Hebrew word for wisdom literally translates as *skill*. For example: I know a lot about basketball (knowledge). I know the rules, the history, lots of players and statistics, and even the fundamentals of playing. But *skill* is required to put that into action. I have way less skill than knowledge on the basketball court. Knowledge is knowing that the ball goes in the hoop; wisdom is being able to put the ball into the hoop. In life, much patience is required to grow in wisdom, Unlike knowledge, where I can just go read a book, wisdom takes time, experience, and *people* in your life.



In the quest for wisdom, much of it is God's providence. You can't choose where you were born or to whom. But still, you can actively put yourself in situations that bring about growth. There is nothing wrong with spending time with people who are like you - much can be gained through common bonds (e.g. young married couples/parents spending time together). But the Bible often takes a different route. The biblical authors often suggest spending time with people *different* from us, because it is in those relationships that growth in wisdom is facilitated. Two groups I particularly want to encourage you to spend time with are people of a different **age** and/or **culture** than you. Young people, you may be comfortable with other young people, but my guess (from personal experience) is that you probably spend more time making each other feel better than actually challenging one another to growth. There is certainly a benefit to commiserating! But spend time with an older person who can offer you real wisdom (read: skill) to get through this phase. It's a two-way street, also. Older person, spend time with young people to learn what their hopes and dreams are so you can better disciple them. Along the way, my guess is you will see blind spots in your own worldview that their generation struggles less with (and you can help them identify their blind spots as well). In regards to culture, people with different backgrounds will simply ask the Bible questions that you don't. It is not that you both come to different conclusions about the Bible; rather, neither person can gain everything from the Bible humanely possible, so you complement one another in your wisdom gained from scripture.

Rather than covering all the theological reasons for spending time with people different than us, I wanted to present you today with some practical reasons. We all need wisdom. And the best way to gain wisdom is by seeking out people with different experiences and *spending time together*. You will be surprised by how much both parties will grow.

In Christ,

Joshua Rowland, Next Generation Pastor

Email: youthpastor@smyrna1897.org



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

I'm sitting at my computer the night before the week of VBS begins, making it the middle of July...summer is half over! I've also been in the process of reviewing and choosing Christmas music because as soon as choir rehearsal starts back up, Christmas music rehearsal begins. That brings us to August, typically thought of as the end of summer but in the worship ministry, we begin to gear up for the fall and Christmas season. Maybe you've considered being part of the choir. It's a great time to become part of our ministry. We begin rehearsals again Wednesday, August 22nd, 6:30 - 8:00 pm and would welcome more voices uniting in praise to our Savior and Lord!

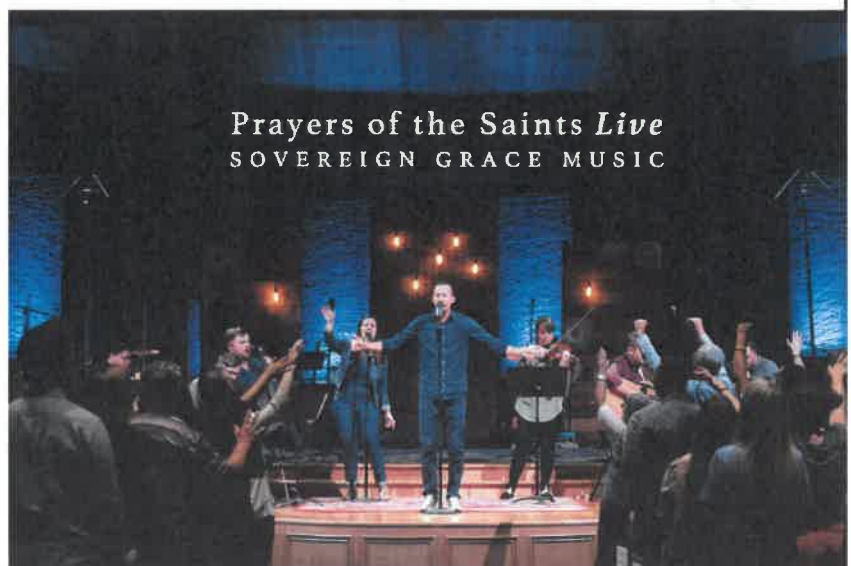
We've enjoyed having Rhonda Kester filling in on the keyboard during the summer and once or twice a month we've enjoyed having Jonna Bowers back with us. We continue to look for talented folks from our congregation to use in various capacities depending on their talents. We've also enjoyed Mike McCoig playing the fiddle (violin), mandolin and banjo. We will also be having Alan Kissner playing the trumpet soon. Are you hiding your talent and not sharing it with your brothers and sisters in Christ? I'd love to talk with you if you have a particular musical talent. We are open to and enjoy variety in the music we choose for our worship services. God is our creator and has gifted all of us in some way to serve the body of believers for His glory! It's our prayer that everyone finds their place to serve, and maybe it would be in the worship ministry!

We have been teaching the congregation some new songs from Sovereign Grace Music. I encourage you to download or order CD's of their latest project, "Prayers of the Saints". We have introduced a few songs already from this project and will do others in the fall. It will enrich your personal worship time and familiarize yourself with songs we do in worship service.

"Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song. His praise in the assembly of His Faithful people. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and harp. For the Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with victory. Let His faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy in their beds." - Psalm 149:1-5

God seeks true worshipers, not great worship; a people not a performance; engagement not entertainment. May it be so on Sundays at Smyrna as we seek to worship in Spirit and truth!

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!



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

AUGUST 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		
August 5th	Brandy Turner	Mary Tucker	Melissa Taylor	Janna Cobb	Danna Gammon	Kim Davis	Kalley Saye
	Peggy Turner	A or R Tucker	Angel Davis	Emily Cobb	Brynat Gammon		
August 12th	Annette Perkinson	Jan Etheredge	Ashley Barnhouse	Ashley Bobo	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Ashley Perkinson	Diana Neville	Gracie Saye	Laura Rowland	Emma Kennedy		
August 19th	Panky Clark	Marian Rowland	Tia Wilson	Mary Hunt	John Clay	Ashley Perkinson	Angela Walker
	Cindy Bain	Angie Adkins	McKenzie Wilson	Catherine Crocker	Kristin Clay		
August 26th	Kathy Miles	Stephanie Rowland	Betsy Adams	Michelle Ochtyun	Johanna Rowland	Aimee Kennedy	Pam Reynolds
	Mason Wells	Melissa Snellings	Reagan Saye	John Ochtyun	Jaeda Rich		



Registration for AWANA will begin August 5th. Forms will be on the table in the Children's Area. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this program please contact Kalley Saye at kidz@smyrna1897.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Calling all girls aged 5 to 17
AHG TROOP VA1897 KICKOFF
 Tuesday, September 4th from 6 to 8pm
 HERE at Smyrna
 We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (Sept-May)
 We offer girls an amazing scouting experience by connecting Jesus to every aspect of our program.
 For more information, contact Aimee Kennedy @ teachingmy34jc@yahoo.com or 712-7467



Smyrna Baptist Church
Calendar of Events - 2018



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

August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Betty Grissom | Tammy Severt | James Kester | Sandi Green |
| Brandi Smith | Gene Wilson, III | Bobby Perkins | Mary Zemko |
| 2 Emma Kennedy | 13 Heather Garrett | 21 Blakely Perkinson | 29 Barton, Sam |
| Abigail Sawyer | Brandon Guton | 22 Kristin Clay | Mitch Saye |
| 3 Diane Burton | 15 Kim Conley | James Fitts | 31 Nathan Turnage |
| 4 Kathy Miles | 16 Jim Harris | Brady Neville | |
| Naurice Wells | 17 Robert Keen | Brad Perkinson | |
| 5 Bonnie Slayden | 18 Ryan Clay | Gabrielle Zinn | |
| 6 Gail Jones | Ashley Perkinson | 22 Melissa Taylor | |
| Amelia Servis | 19 Heather M. Harrison | 23 Bill Chavis | |
| Marcella Zemko | Vivian Rowland | Robert Mayer | |
| 7 Cindy Costley | Preston Twisdale | 24 John Fraser | |
| 11 Jannell McCoig | 21 Emily Allen | Tommy Moore | |
| Rebecca Zinn | Sue Frazier | Jessica Taylor | |
| 12 C. "Sandy" Harrison | David Gray, III | 26 Courtney Crowder | |





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.



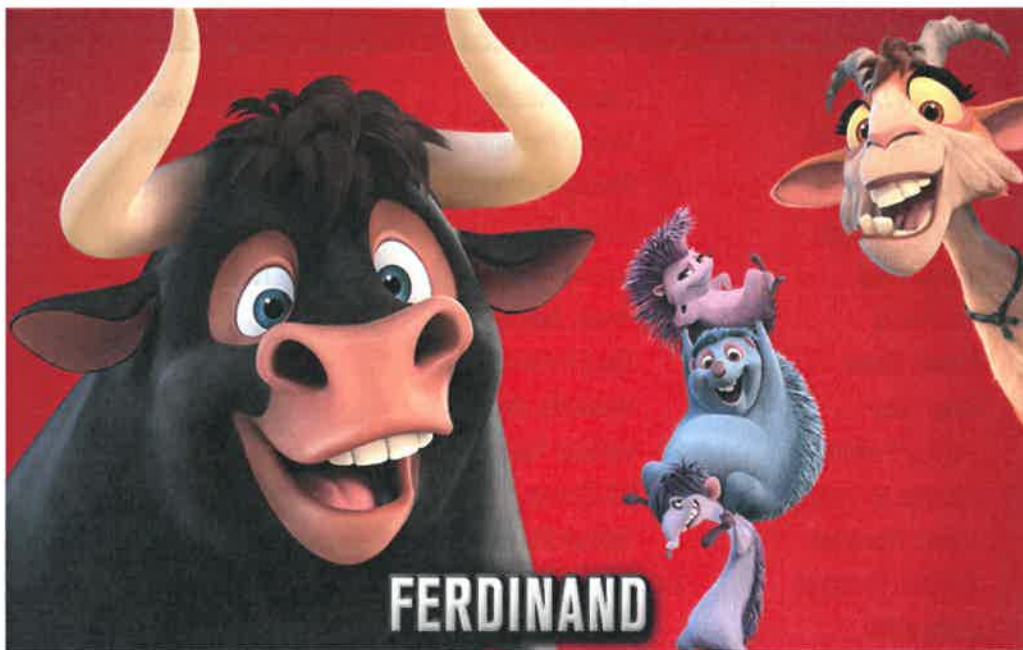
The Sunshine Group

Ages 55+

Our next outing is Friday, August 24th for lunch at Nottoway Restaurant at 11:30. If a ride is needed, meet at church at 11:00 am. Any questions? Call Peggy Edmonds at 804-481-7541



- 🔔 3rd, Mon - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED to observe Labor Day
- 🔔 4th, Tue - First day of school
- 🔔 12th, Wed - BOP Luncheon @ 11:00 am
 - 🔔 5:30 pm - Wed. Night Dinner begins
 - 🔔 6:30 pm - AWANA begins
- 🔔 21st & 22nd, Fri & Sat - ESL Training
- 🔔 30th, Sun - Dennis Swanberg & The Akins



**OUTDOOR
MOVIE NIGHT**
Friday, Aug.
17th

Food trucks will
be open at
7:00 pm

Movie begins
at 8:30 pm

Invite family & friends for a great night out!