

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Smyrna Scroll

Pastor's Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

I can't believe I'm saying this but Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 2017 has been a good year in so many ways but I know that as this year draws to a close, it has been a hard year for many in our church family. As Dennis Felter (Johnnie), Jim Draper (Shirley), Sheila Hatter (Bob), Lynn Rhodes (Dusty), Huntus Duke (Lemuel), Wayne Brent (Ann), Donna Allen (her mom Judy), and A.G. Jones (his mom Betty) face the close of this year and the beginning of the next, they face it with a sense of loss and sadness. They face a year like none they've known for so long. BUT, the beauty in the ashes is that they face it with faith in the Lord Jesus and with a steadfast hope that their loved ones are home with Jesus in heaven and they themselves will be kept by His mercy and grace until they are all together again someday. Men and women, we want to say to each of you that you have represented the Lord well in your time of grief and you are an inspiration to us all. We see in each of you a demonstration of what faith looks like in painful times and what a difference knowing Jesus as Lord makes for the journey. Thank you and God bless you as you press on. Enjoy this Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ like never before because were it not for His coming then this would indeed be a hopeless time. Because of Jesus we know that you've not seen your loved ones for the last time. A day is coming praise the Lord!!

For all of us, I want to remind you that I saw sincere and genuine faith in each of these brothers and sisters as they stood with their loved ones through their illnesses. To any who would say, "If you have enough faith you will be healed" I want to say that is bologna and down right cruel. Shame on anyone for placing more pain and guilt on a suffering saint with that unbiblical foolishness. There are undoubtedly times in all of our lives when in the providence of God, His will is that people get sick and die. All the faith in the world isn't going to change that if it is God's appointed time. As a matter of fact, let me go ahead and confess something to you today. I don't believe people have the gift of healing anymore. There I said it. I believe that some of us do have a greater measure of faith, which is a gift from God and can more easily believe God for healing. Notice, I did not say that God can't heal. I certainly believe that He can and He still does. I do not believe that there are people who can just lay hands on you and call it down at their will and pleasure.

As a matter of fact, I want to remind you that in the Bible as we get into the Epistles, you will not find that type of healing. What you do see is Paul at times sickly, you find Paul telling Timothy to have a little wine in light of his ongoing stomach ailment (1 Timothy 5:23). You find Epaphroditus sick nearly unto death (Phil. 2:26-27). In each of these cases already in the Scriptures you don't see Paul simply healing them. You

see Him trusting that God can if He so chooses. Some would go so far as to say that if when we pray for someone's healing and we end the request with "If God wills" that we have voided our request and shown a lack of faith. Really? How about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane praying to the Father and ending it with, "Not my will but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42)? How about King David when he is praying for his sick son who died? He said, "Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me" (2 Samuel 12:22). Friends, God can heal. But He doesn't always and it is not because His children didn't believe enough. We lost some precious saints this year and it was solely because it was God's will. For that reason, precious grieving brothers and sisters, God's perfect plan for their lives unfolded and His mercy and grace got them safely to heaven. Now, you can continue to trust that His perfect plan for your life will also be enough to sustain you all until you meet again those who have preceded us in death. God bless you all and may our great and Sovereign Lord bless our church in this upcoming year. To Him be all glory and honor. Devotedly, Pastor Robert



Volume 13, Issue 12

December 2017

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Special Points of Interest:

- * Sunday School starts at 9:30am.
- * Community Clothes Closet open Mondays 10-12!
- * Wednesday Night Dinners are at 5:30pm.
- * BOP Monthly Luncheon is Wednesday, Dec 13th at 11am.
- * 'Wonder & Glory' Christmas Presentation Dec. 17th at 10:45 am
- * The church office will be CLOSED Mon. & Tue. Dec. 25th & 26th for Christmas.

A Message from. . . Aaron Bobo, Assoc. Pastor

Merry Christmas to each of you! I can't believe we are already entering into the last month of 2017. Time seems to fly, but as I reflect on this year in the life of our church I am incredibly grateful! We have seen God do so many amazing things, in fact I would go on record as saying that I believe our church is incredibly healthy at the moment. There are many reasons to believe that Smyrna is a vibrant church, but towards the top of the list has to be the growth and involvement in our Sunday school ministry. Many of you are aware that Sunday school has grown quite a bit over the past year, in fact we are averaging 50+ more people in November 2017 than November 2016! In fact, we have grown so much that we are now out of rooms in our current building!

This is great news not just because we love elevated numbers but because we believe that community is so very important. The Scripture is clear that we as brothers and sisters in Christ need each other. In fact, the church is only meant to function as a "family". We are truly brothers and sisters in Christ, but far too often the North American church has treated church less like a family and more like a show that is to be attended once per week. The reality is that community is not developed in sanctuaries as we sing praises and listen to the proclamation of God's Word. This is not to disparage the worship service (we should make worship a priority!) it is merely to state that the church's activity is far more than an hour service once per week.

While we should worship together, we should also grow in fellowship with one another, serve one another, exhort one another, and hold one another accountable. In fact, the phrase "one another" is used 100 times in the New Testament alone! It is obvious that God desires that we be a "one another" church and we can only be faithful to those "one another" commands when we take the time to know each other.

This is part of the reason why Sunday school becomes so important. As we said earlier, it is next to impossible to get to know people if you merely attend the 11am worship service, but in our small groups we can begin to form deep relationships! This is why we began the Caregroup ministry in our classes, to encourage relationships to grow and strengthen and I believe it is on the backs of these relationships that we are seeing our growth. In short, we are now attending Sunday school not just for a Bible lesson (very important) but also for biblical fellowship and ministry.

My purpose today is very simple, I want to encourage those of you who are involved in our ministry to keep pushing! While we celebrate growth, there are still literally thousands of people just in Dinwiddie County that are lost. Let's not settle for a couple of hundred when God calls us to proclaim the Gospel to the thousands that live around us! Secondly, if you are not involved in a class I want to implore you to join one! You need biblical community and this church needs all of her members as well! Its time for all of us to join together in building biblical community. Its time for us to take it upon ourselves to minister to those in need and its time for us to understand that its ok to ask our brothers and sisters in Christ for encouragement and help in our time of need. This kind of community is what we were designed for and its this type of community that provides a visible demonstration to the world of the incredible blessing of being a part of the family of God!

Devotedly,
Pastor Aaron
Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org

A Message from. . . Joe Rowland, Assoc. Pastor

Greetings Smyrna Family,

"Holiday season": two of the most beautiful words in human language. I absolutely love the holidays. From Halloween, to Thanksgiving, to Christmas, to New Years, I can't get enough of the phenomenal fellowship and food. I don't have a single family member that I don't love to see and I really can't think of a holiday food that I don't love to eat! Football is on, basketball is in full swing. Good gracious, I'm crying tears of joy as I write this! (That might be an exaggeration).

What might bring me to actual tears, though, is the thought that not everyone has the joy during the holiday season that I'm so blessed to experience. I can't relate much to family drama, but I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it's out there. Some people sit around the thanksgiving dinner table just waiting for the arguments to start. I also can't relate to going through a first holiday without a loved one, but now my mind goes straight to the "saints in glory" that we've lost over the last year or so and their loved ones still with us. I think about brother Dennis, brother Jim, and my sisters in the faith Ms. Peggy, Ms. Sheila, Ms. Duke, Ms. Lynn. All of these precious people have lost a spouse within the last year or so and (I may be wrong), but I think for most of them it will be the first holiday season without their beloved husband or wife. That's tough. In fact, it's so tough I can't imagine going through it at this point in my life. So, with my grieving brothers and sisters in mind I want to quote a couple verses and then end with a few lines of a beautiful hymn "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

written by Matt Boswell.

1 Peter 5:7: "cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you"

Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 10:23: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

"Christ the sure and steady anchor, Through the floods of unbelief; Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now, Lift your eyes to Calvary. This my ballast of assurance, see his love forever proved. I will hold fast to the anchor, it will never be removed."

I pray that these verses and lyrics may prove encouraging to you all who through joy or sorrow draw near to Christ in this season. Amen.

For the King,

Pastor Joe

Email: assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

SBC Youth
Wednesday Nights
@ 630 pm

Smyrna Family,

I am thankful for you. It is honestly hard for me to express just how thankful for you I truly am. As we approach Thanksgiving (though we can do this all year long), I have been dwelling on things for which I'm thankful, and outside of God's gracious salvation and my biological family, my church family tops the list. Though it may appear disconnected, I want to talk to you a little bit about church membership (of all things) and God's plan for the visible, local church.

First of all, many people do not like the idea of "church membership" or "church attendance". They would claim these are not biblical terms. I concede, those words are not necessarily used in the Bible. However, the concepts, which are an important part of this, are everywhere. Hebrews 13:17 tells Christians to submit to their church elders. How would this be possible apart from a local or organized assembly? In addition, Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to forsake gathering together regularly. Church membership and attendance are simply formal systems of Biblical concepts. Yes, in countries where churches can only gather in secret, there may not be a physical role. But the structure is still there. They may not be able to gather regularly, as in weekly, but they gather as regularly as they can.

I'm not writing to fuss about those things though! I am writing to explain *why* God designed it that way. *Why* He gives us those commands. The answer is simple, and it relates to a doctrine called the Perseverance of the Saints. We cannot lose our salvation because it depends on God's covenant faithfulness, not our own. He will hold fast, as the hymn says. But this isn't abstract. He holds us fast using real means. And the main means of grace that He uses to hold us come through the local church. The proclamation of the Word. Singing praises. The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. And of course, relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. I am so thankful for the local church for a myriad of reasons. Perhaps chief among them is that God uses each one of you to secure my salvation forever. And my wife's, and other family members. And He will use you to call my daughter to Himself. It is in His work, performed by His hand, but you are often the means by which he accomplishes it. Thank you!

In Christ Alone,

Josh Rowland, Next Generation Pastor

youthpastor@smyrna1897.org

A Message from...the Worship Ministry. . .

mg
multi-
generational

wonder
AND
glory

A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR CHRISTMAS

WRITTEN AND ARRANGED BY
JOHN BOLIN & DON KOCH

LifeWay | Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH @ 10:45 am

*Have a Merry Christmas & a Blessed
New Year!!*

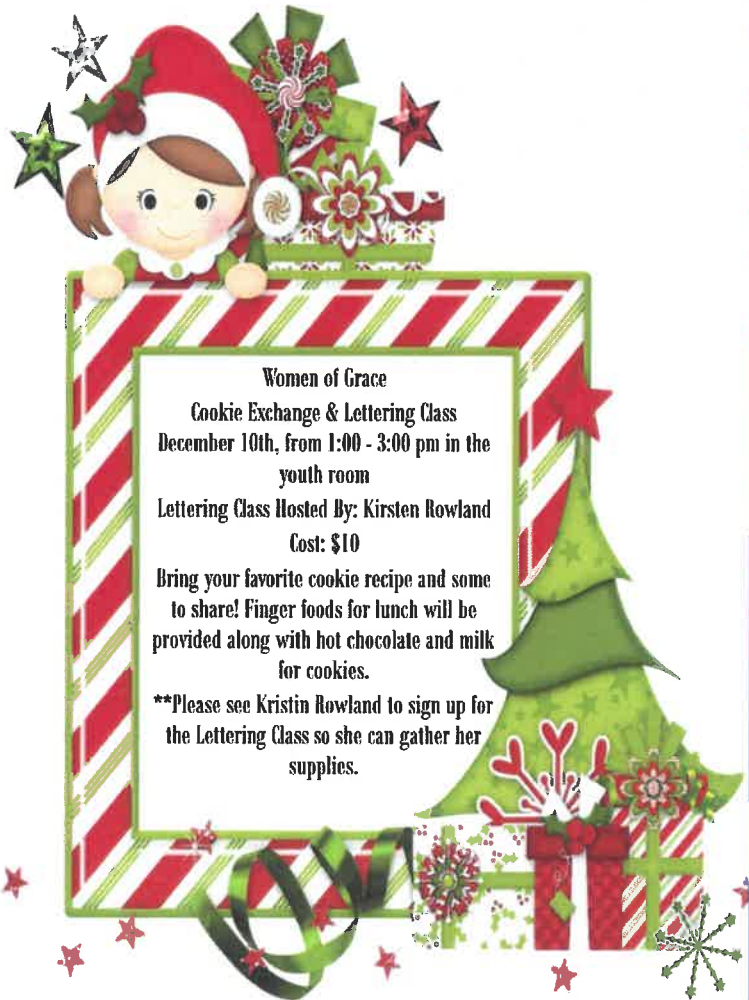
*From Melodie, Brad and
the entire Worship Ministry Group*



**Our Clothes Closet is
Open on
Monday's from 10-12N**

PLEASE CONTACT
**KATHY MILES @ 399-2243 OR
AMY MIZZELL @ 720-5889**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, Dec. 25th

Tuesday, Dec. 26th

Monday, Jan. 1st



**Next meeting:
Saturday,
December 16th at
8:00 am**

All men are welcome to join us for breakfast, a short Bible study and on occasion at the conclusion of a meeting, perform a community project or activity of some sort.

Kidz News



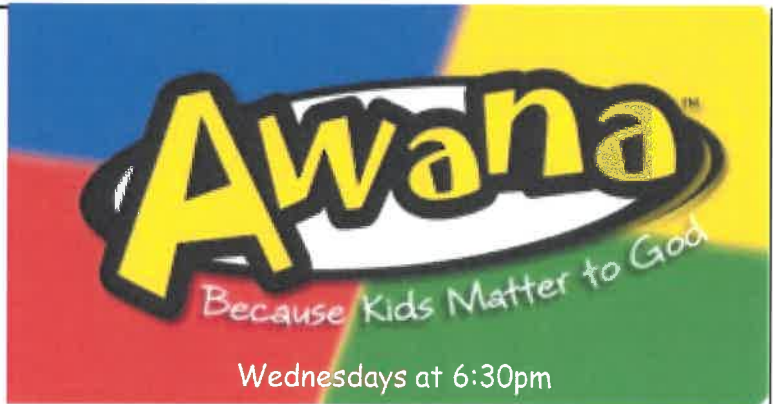
If you are unable to volunteer on your specified date/time, please find your own replacement and notify the Children's Dept. Coordinator with your replacements name - THANK YOU for serving the children of Smyrna Baptist Church!



DEC 2017	<u>SS Nursery (9:20)</u>	<u>Nursery (10:35)</u>	<u>Toddler 1's & 2's</u>	<u>Toddlers 3's</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Check In (9:20)</u>	<u>Check In (10:45)</u>
Dec 3	Ashley Bobo	Gina Perkinson	Alicia Dalton	Shay Tench	Danna Gammon	Kalley Saye	Terri Driskill
	Mason Wells	Kristin Rowland	Samantha Dalton	Robert Tench	Bryant Gammon		
Dec 10	Diane Burton	Brandy Barchanowicz	Brittany Sober	Rhonda Kester	Chuck Page	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Kathy Miles	Sharon Long	McKenzie Wilson	Sierra Servis	Laura Rowland		
Dec 17	Heather Gordon	Mary Tucker	Randall Cornett	Samantha Kidd	Roselyn Stell	Kim Davis	Angela Walker
	Reagan Saye	A or R Tucker	Rebekah Servis	Lauren Kidd	Gracie Saye		
Dec 24	Betsy Adams	Lisa Barnhouse	Renee Silvestro	Janna Cobb	John Clay	Kalley Saye	Pam Reynolds
	Audrey Erdmann	Grace Barnhouse	Angel Davis	Emily Cobb	Kristin Clay		
Dec 31	Panky Clark	Marian Rowland	Ashley Barnhouse	Nicki Stephenson	April Green	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Cindy Bain	Angie Adkins	Reagan Saye	Samantha Dalton	Rebekah Servis		

A Message from our Children's Coordinator...

KIDZ CHOIR
Wednesdays at
6:00pm
 (NO CHOIR Dec. 27th)
Ages 3 to 12
 3 yrs. to Pre-K Room
 114



- ◆ December 6th - Regular Club Meeting
- ◆ December 13th - Regular Club Meeting
- ◆ December 20th - Theme Night - 'Happy Birthday Jesus'
- ◆ December 27th - NO AWANA



Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		BOP Wednesday Dec. 13th at 11am	5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	6:00 - 8:00 pm Grief Share	1	Church/Tree Annual Decorating 10:00am
3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	4 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	5 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 6:00—8:00pm American Heritage Girls	6 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	7 6:00 - 8:00 pm Grief Share	8	9
10 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 1:00-3:00 pm WOG Cookie Exchange/Lettering Class Bldg. & Grounds Meeting 5PM	11	12 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	13 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	14 6:00 - 8:00 pm Grief Share	15 Adult III Sunday School Christmas Dinner	16 B MEN ON MISSION Breakfast & Workday - 8am Worship Ministry Dress Rehearsal 10am
17 9:30 am Sunday School Christmas Presentation 10:45 am	18	19 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 6:00—8:00pm American Heritage Girls Christmas Party	20 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship Service 5:00 pm - Candlelight Service	25	26	27 No Wednesday Activities	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship Service	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED					
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS						

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 6 - John Thomas Walker | Lindsay Cliborne | Makayla Crouch |
| Wilson Miller | Alexis Graham | 20 - Earl Gattis |
| Kendal Marker | Will Kennedy | Carly Cliborne |
| Jaden Baker | Layla Montgomery | 25 - Brody Goodwin |
| 7 - Lauren Kidd | 13 - Jeffrey Cobb | 26 - Judy Schmidt |
| Kara Jones | Dale Andrews | Candi Cornett |
| 8 - Jennifer Perkins | 14 - Lisa Baker | 27 - JoAnne Pugh |
| Brent Slayden | Katelyn Hudson | 28 - Dylan Jernigan |
| Brian Slayden | 16 - Maggie Coleman | 29 - Andrew Edgerton |
| 9 - Alizabeth Bobo | Alexandria Varga | Noah Servis |
| 10 - John A. Slaughter | 17 - Donna King | 30 - Travis Edgerton |
| Wyatt Richmond | Levi Dyson | 31 - Jordan Allen |
| 11 - Devon Westmoreland | 18 - Kathi Charboneau | Kyleigh Allen |
| Danna Gammon | 19 - Kim A. Davis | |



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



5:00 pm

**JANUARY'S EMMAUS ROAD
DEVOTIONS WILL BE READY
DECEMBER 24TH.**

A Three Year Devotion Through the Bible

EMMAUS ROAD

Seeing Christ in Every Chapter of the Bible



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.

Home Missions Project

FIRST FRUITS Food Pantry

Smyrna Baptist Church has started collecting non-perishable food items (can and boxed goods) to help stock the Dinwiddie Food bank on the first Sunday of every month. (Of course, you may bring in items at any time, this is just an easy way to remember to do so.)

Pick up an extra item or two for those in need during your regular shopping trips and then bring in your items and place them in the bin located in the Missions Center.

We can be a blessing to others in need one can/box at a time! If we all chip in, just think of the impact we can make in a year's time . . .

1 can a month x 400 people x 12 months = 4,800 cans!!!!

2 cans a month x 400 people x 12 months = 9,600 cans!!!!

Go! Church - be a blessing to others!!!

Questions? Contact Sheila Hatter

