



February Scroll

15 Pay careful attention, then, to how you live — not as unwise people but as wise — 16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:15-16 (CSB)

Pastor's Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

I often wonder in times of struggle, will I turn against Jesus in anger or fall into despair or will I trust Him? The questions that will be thrown in your face when you suffer is "Where is your God?" "What good is He if he can't handle this in your life?" Satan will be behind those questions meant to destroy our faith but God's answer will be, "I am right here resting on you" (1 Peter 4:14). His presence is not always romantic or appear glorious but beloved, the cross did not look like glory as it was unfolding. The Spirit of God will always have the last word.

Allow me to take a moment to write about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. This will surely not be exhaustive but it is meant to debunk some of the foolishness that is attributed to Him. What does He do when He comes as the Spirit of God and of glory in a person's life? First of all, John 14:17 and 15:26 says He will bring to our minds the truth of God's Word that we will need in our circumstances. All the forces of darkness will try to confuse you and obscure the light in your most difficult hours. Satan will try to make God

look useless, small, and worthless in your hour of need. The Holy Spirit will counter that with the Truth that you remain faithful. Secondly, John 16:14 says that the Spirit will glorify Jesus Christ. He will help you see the greatness, excellence, and beauty of Christ in your hearts and minds (Ephesians 1:17). The Spirit will help you see Jesus is with you to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). He will sustain within us a love for Christ. He will communicate to our hearts the preciousness and worth of Jesus. It is the Spirit that causes us to be able to believe the truth of 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

Friends, 1 Peter 1:23 tells us that we have been born by the Spirit (imperishable seed) through His Word and His Spirit will cause us to experience the reality of 1 Peter 5:10 which is that we be perfected, confirmed, strengthened, and established. All of this is a result of a personal relationship with Him. He speaks through His Word to us. The Holy Spirit does not guide you willy-nilly with random thoughts. What I mean is that if you are not walking intimately with the Lord by reading His Word regularly and meditating upon it, there is no reason to

believe that He will guide your steps apart from His Word (Proverbs 3:32.) He guides us through the living and enduring Word of God. That is why he says in 1 Peter 2:2, "Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow." The Bible says nothing of the Holy Spirit just randomly speaking to you apart from His Word. Beloved, you must stop elevating your thoughts to the level of "God said." You must quit ascribing your thoughts to God. A simple question to ask is who decides which of your thoughts are God's and which are yours?

The Holy Spirit is a person, He is not a force. John 4:16 says the Father will give us another Helper. Christ is the first one and the Holy Spirit, like Christ, is the next. He relates to us as a person. You must seek Him. How? Meditate on what God has said in His Spirit inspired Scriptures. There is a life-giving connection between His Spirit and His Word. John 6:63 says, "The words that you have spoken are spirit and life." You want to taste, experience, hear from Him--listen to what He has already said and stop looking for something beyond the Bible! (Colossians 3:16)

*Devotedly,
Pastor Robert*



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

Volume 15, Issue 2
February 2019

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Special Points of Interest:

- * Parent/Child Dedication Feb. 3rd @ 10:45 Worship service
- * Sunday evening classes begin Feb. 10th @ 6:00 pm
- * Beautiful Older People (BOP) luncheon is Wednesday, Feb. 13th @ 11:00 am
- * AHG Father/Daughter Dinner & Dance is Feb. 23rd
- * 5th Sunday Breakfast Fellowship schedule on back page

Hello Smyrna family,

Like most of you, I was raised in a church in the south. The culture was not necessarily combative or antagonistic towards my beliefs and that yielded a sense of apathy in my own spiritual journey. I knew there was something more and I knew that I had not taken the time to really reason and think through my convictions. Faith for me was isolated to "religion" and it really didn't come into play in my day to day decisions or lifestyle at all. Of course, I knew that I was to live a moral life and that God disapproved of some things and prescribed others, but that was really the extent of the Christian life as I would define it. What I began to realize is that these "ground rules", so to speak, for faith were not sufficient. I knew there had to be more but I didn't know where to turn.

It was during that season that I stumbled across a podcast that became instrumental in my growth. To be honest, the content was wonderful and quite helpful but the title alone stimulated something in me that has never subsided. The program was entitled "Let My People Think." The point of course is that the Christian faith is one that is based on "thinking." The mind plays an integral role in the spiritual development of any believer as we are to be transformed by its very renewal (Romans 12:1-2)!

Frankly, church family, I'm not sure how well we as 21st century American Christians "think." Our thinking often tends to be undergirded by a type of faceless moralism which is often grounded more in secular institutions or assumptions than eternal kingdoms and realities. While our suppositions might be enough to "get us through" (although I doubt we would make it unscathed) they are certainly not sufficient to provide a reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15).

Our hope as pastors is that we wouldn't settle for "just enough." Instead our desire and calling is to encourage you to stimulate your mind so that you are ready and willing to treasure biblical truth and think accordingly! This is the heartbeat behind our Sunday evening Bible studies that begin on February 10th. We want you to think about things like, where do my political beliefs and convictions come from? When a man or a woman says "God bless America" what are they saying or who are they talking about? Furthermore, what would the Bible say about how we are to think about various issues? Is it possible that no party has it all correct?

We want you to ask yourselves how do I know a church is a church? Just because the name is on a sign does that make it so? What constitutes a biblical church? What is necessary in order to be a true church? How do I evaluate the church and why do we do things the way we do (i.e. baptism, Lord's Supper, membership, etc.)? So many people join and leave churches based on their own subjective rubric, they've never even stopped to consider what standards the Bible would set for a church if it were to be faithful and true.

Simply stated, if we have not thought and reasoned through the Scriptures on these issues then we will be "tossed to and fro by every wind and wave of doctrine." Our hope and desire for you is that you would be firmly anchored in the truth of God and that you would indeed be faithful to the call to "let my people think." Sign up in the foyer as late as Sunday morning February 10th and join us as we think together!

Devotedly,

Pastor Aaron

Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org



B MEN
ON MISSION

Meeting:
April 6th @ 8:30 am



Sunday evening classes begin February 10th
6:00 - 7:00 pm
Childcare will be provided.

Courses offered:

COURSE #1 - Doctrine of the Church: Where Theology Becomes Visible - Pastor Josh Rowland

COURSE #2 - Class is Full

COURSE #3 - Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global - Pastor Joseph Rowland

Sign up sheets are on the foyer table.
Don't miss out on this great learning opportunity!

Happy February Smyrna family,

Last month, I started this article by giving you my thoughts about New Year's resolutions. If I remember correctly, I ended the same article by encouraging you to resolve to do something bold for Christ -- like going to Africa! Let's embark in this month's article by tackling something else you may have resolved to do more of this year: pray.

One of the best ways, in pastoral ministry, to get something to take root in your people's lives is by prayer. If you want to instill a love for the Word, lead your people to pray that they would develop a love for the Word! If you want your people to cultivate a heart for a particular people (like the Liberians) then ask them to pray for the Liberians. God will often use prayer to change the pray-er just as much as he uses it to accomplish His other purposes. Thus, the best place to start in developing a heart for anything (Bible reading, prayer, evangelism, etc.) is by praying for it!

I want to connect this brief discussion on prayer with our fresh need for national mission work. By this point you know that our partnership with Tim Robinson and The Haven Church has been completed because of The Haven Church's merge with another established church in Fitchburg, so we "are in the market" for another national opportunity!

So, I want to ask you to pray specifically that the Lord would burden the people (pastors and members) of Smyrna Baptist Church for national mission work. Maybe that means we will develop a heart to partner with someone in high-need areas such as Las Vegas or New Orleans or New York City or Richmond or pretty much any city! Or, maybe we'll develop a heart to plant our own church members somewhere. Who knows where God will call us. One thing we do know, though, is that God wants us to pray. He wants us to come to Him with blank pages, so to speak, ready and willing to accept whatever burden or calling He places on us. Pray with me and let's see where God takes us!

For the King,
Pastor Joe

MONTHLY MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE

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

1. 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!
2. Pray for Ashley as she is still Word of Life College in Budapest, Hungary. It's tough enough to be alone, but alone in a foreign country is 10 times more difficult!

National Mission

Pray for more opportunities to do mission work here in our own country.

1. Pray for wisdom to see open doors.
2. Pray for courage and boldness to walk through those open doors.
3. Pray that God would impress upon all of us here at Smyrna Baptist the desire to see our country reached for Jesus.



Smyrna Family,

Let's talk about a theology of church planting. Many churches, including our own, affirm that supporting church planting is mandatory for believers. This can be direct (planting a church) or indirect (supporting other plants, financially and otherwise). As long as it is possible for a church, they should be investing in the geographical expansion of the Kingdom. But why? Commitment to an ideal without a theological foundation is unwise - it will crumble against any resistance. We must sink our convictions deep into scripture. So, why do churches plant churches?

First, it is the pattern of the New Testament church. Jesus leaves his followers with the command to "go therefore and make disciples..." in Matthew 28:18-20 ("the Great Commission"). They went about fulfilling this commission by - you guessed it - planting churches. The church is born in two movements: 1) God *invisibly* makes a people through regeneration, and 2) those people *visibly* gather as a body, a local church (shameless plug: sign up for my Sunday night "What is a Church?" course). We see this clearly in Acts 2. The word is preached and the Spirit regenerates many (3,000 and more by the day). This is the *invisible* act of God. Through baptism, those people are then *visibly* added to their number daily (Acts 2:47). Many consider Acts 2 the "start" of the New Testament church. From that point on, do you know what they do? They plant more churches. Almost all of the Epistles are Paul writing to/about churches they have planted in Jerusalem, Rome, Galatia, Ephesus, Corinth, Colossae, Thessalonica, Crete, Philippi, and other cities. It is clear that the primary means of fulfilling the Great Commission, in the lives of the early church, was planting churches.

Let's take a look at the broader scope of scripture. This has always been God's plan. In Eden, the Garden serves as a temple - God's special presence dwells with Adam and Eve, even walking with them "in the cool of the day" (Genesis 3:8). The plan was for them to expand the borders of this "temple," if you will, until the *entire earth* is "filled with knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). Do you know how much of the sea is water? All of it. The vision of Eden is that it would expand across the entire cosmos. The universe would be God's temple, not just a garden, or tabernacle, or temple. God goes about accomplishing this goal throughout scripture. He does so by *dispersing* His people, not building them up in one place. This is the pattern of scripture. There are far too many narratives to go through all of them, but here are a few: Tower of Babel (Gen. 11), Abraham (Gen. 12:1), the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt (Gen. 47:27), and the exile in Babylon (Jer. 29:7). In each case, God is not interested in building a mega-center for His glory, but expanding it across the globe. What about Jerusalem? Wasn't that one central place? Yes, and the glory days lasted one generation. In Revelation, the New Jerusalem is often a metaphor for God bringing His kingdom down to cover the *entire earth*.

This is a quick primer. I challenge you, Smyrna family, to pray, give, and go. Let's support church planting until the earth is "filled with knowledge of the Lord as waters cover the sea."

In Christ,
 Pastor Josh
 Email: youth@smyrna1897.org

CLASS DINNER SCHEDULE

Feb 6th	Generations & Young Professionals	Feb 20th	Parents 'R' Us
Feb 13th	Melting Pot	Feb 27th	Branches & Growing Families



We are created by God to be instruments and with the ability to sing and make music. We've stated many times that we are commanded to sing. In Colossians, Paul writes, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thanksgiving in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16). Music is an important part of worship and praise to God. There are many verses that can be found throughout Scripture and one entire book, Psalms, is the Bible's hymnbook. Here are a few verses in scripture that reference music, both singing and instruments:

- ♪ *Ephesians 5:19 "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."*
- ♪ *Psalms 95:1 "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation."*
- ♪ *Hebrews 2:12 "He says, 'I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.'"*
- ♪ *Psalms 150:1-5 "Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens. Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness. Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre, praise Him with timbre and dance, praise Him with the strings and pipe, praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals."*
- ♪ *Psalms 98:4-6 "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn--shout for joy before the Lord, the King."*

Psalms 33:3 says, "Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy." Notice the word *skillfully*. That's why the worship ministry rehearses...to improve; to play skillfully and sing our best and with excellence for our God, our maker. He deserves our very best as we lead worship each and every week at Smyrna!

February finds the worship ministry rehearsing our Easter music as well as learning new music to introduce to you on Sundays. I'm always excited to begin Easter presentation. It actually begins in December when we are singing through the Christmas celebrations. I prayerfully consider what the Lord would have us learn and sing for Easter. Personally, I love how songs about Christ's blood shed on the cross for me and then His glorious resurrection keeps me in an almost constant state of worship and thanksgiving. So in December and January I'm really having a "life of Christ" from birth to death experience! Actually, that should be our state of mind every week of the year. As we continue through 2019, let's make the gift of Christ and His sacrifice and glorious resurrection the focus of our days instead of the day-to-day grind of politics, social media, and all the other earthly things that can draw us from the gift of joy in living for Christ!

Let's come worship together on Sundays as the Psalmist says, "My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed." Psalms 71:23 (ESV)

Singing His Praises,
Melodie & Brad

Some hymns & songs coming this month:

"Praise to the Lord Almighty", "God of Mercy Hear Our Plea" - Sovereign Grace music, "Psalm 150"
- just to name a few.

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!

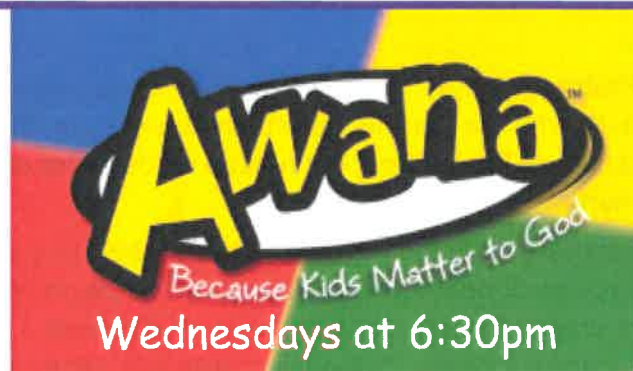


FEB 2019	<u>SS Nursery (9:15—10:35)</u>	<u>Nursery (10:30)</u>	<u>Toddler 1's & 2's</u>	<u>Toddlers 3's</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Check In (9:20 - 10:35)</u>	<u>Check In (10:30 - 12:15)</u>
Feb 3rd	Panky Clark	Stephanie Rowland	Cheryl Joyner	Kurt Jones	Joe Rowland	Kim Davis	Kalley Saye
	Kathy Miles	Melissa Snellings		Ashley Jones	Kristin Rowland		
Feb 10th	Cindy Bain	Marian Rowland	Amelia Servis	Diana Neville	Robert Rowland	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Mason Wells	Angie Adkins	McKenzie Wilson	Chris Neville	Johanna Rowlands		
Feb 17th	Mykalah Tench	Lisa Barnhouse	Ashley Barnhouse	Shay Tench	Aaron Bobo	Kalley Saye	Angela Walker
	David tench	Grace Barnhouse	Emma Kennedy	Robert Tench	Ashley Bobo		
Feb 24th	Holly McCaffity	Gina Perkinson	Becky Pack	Janna Cobb	Cheryl Joyner	Aimee Kennedy	Pam Reynolds
	Amber McCaffity	Ashley Perkinson	Avery Pack	Emily Davis	Reagan Saye		



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

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



- ◆ Feb. 6th - Regular Club Night
- ◆ Feb. 13th - 'Love Night'
- ◆ Feb. 20th - Regular Club Night
- ◆ Feb. 27th - Regular Club Night



Smyrna Baptist Church

Calendar of Events - February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	BOP Wednesday, 2/13 @ 11am				1	2
3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	4 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	5 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	6 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	11	12 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	13 BOP 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	14	15	16
17 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	18	19 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	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 10:45am Worship Service	25	26 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	27 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	28	Ladies Bible Study Every Wed. @ 10 am 'Revelation - Part 1'	

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Bernadine Blount | 13 Carl Sims |
| 5 Taylor McCammon | 14 Mary Tucker |
| 6 Joyce Andrews | 16 Will Fox |
| Lorraine Arnett | 17 Hunter Shifflett |
| Obadiah Lowery | 19 Tony Lowery |
| 8 Timothy Morini, Jr. | 21 Sue Ann Fitts |
| 9 James Servis | 22 Dr. John Clay |
| 11 Janna Cobb | 25 Kevin Day |
| Ann Johnson | 26 Brenda Olgers |
| Levi Mitchell, III | Emma Tench |
| 12 Chuck O. Johnson, Jr. | 27 Annette Perkinson |



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 at 469-9363 (Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm) or email admin@smyrna1897.org to update the records we have on file.



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH

building community • equipping believers • serving jesus

18971 Carson Road
Dinwiddie, VA 23841
Phone: 804-469-9363
E-mail: admin@smyrna1897.org
www.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.



THE SUNSHINE GROUP

(55 and older)

The Sunshine Group meet the 4th Friday of each month for lunch at area restaurants. Lunch begins at 11:30 am. If you would like to carpool meet here at the church at 11:00 am. For more information please contact Peggy Edmonds or Jewell Barnhouse.

5th Sunday
Breakfast Fellowship
 March 31st Sept. 29th
 June 30th Dec. 29th
 In the Sanctuary during the
Sunday School Hour
Coffee, Juice and light refreshments
will be served.
**No Adult Sunday School on above dates*

Parent-Child Dedication

Please join us for this special ceremony on Sunday, February 3rd at 10:45 am

March

- ❖ 10th - Daylight Savings Time begins - set your clocks ahead one hour
- ❖ 13th - BOP Luncheon at 11:00 am
- ❖ 16th - AHG Ladies Tea Party
- ❖ 20th - First day of Spring
- ❖ 31st - 5th Sunday Breakfast Fellowship

BOP (Beautiful Older People)
Monthly Luncheon

Sit-down Lunch \$4 pp

- * Great food, fun & fellowship
- * Guest Speakers, informative topics
- * Special Music

For Men & Women 55 & up!
Next Meeting:
February 13, 2019 @ 11am