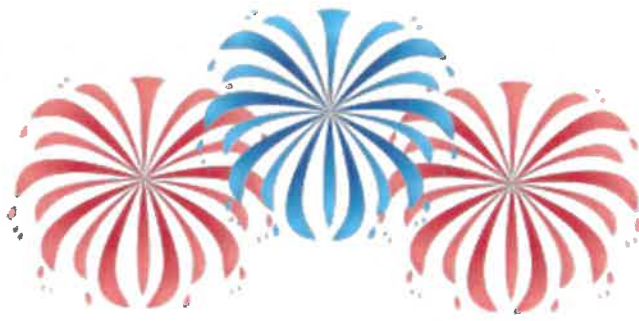


July Scroll



For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

~Galatians 5:13

Pastor's Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

As I sit here today, I find myself rejoicing in my salvation. I thank God that He settled in my heart so long ago as the Holy Spirit illuminated the truth of Scripture to my mind, revealed clearly His own work in my heart so that I could see the reality of sanctification (being transformed into His image) in my life, and as He bore witness to my own Spirit that I am His child. This, my friends, has been producing a great joy in my life that so often sustains me on my Christian journey. I hope that makes sense to you. This is a never ending source of peace and strength as I know I can never be lost once I am saved. I praise God that I am secure because of Jesus and not because of me. To be sure of your salvation, Christ must be central, not you or me.

One thing I have found to be true in a person's life is that a high degree of Christian assurance is not found where there is a low level of obedience to Christ. The reason is that there is no evidence of sanctification taking place which must lead to an uncertainty as to whether the Spirit is even within. Sinclair Ferguson said in his book *The Whole Christ*, "If Christ is not actually saving us, producing in us the obedience of faith in our struggle against the world, the flesh, and the Devil, then our confidence that he is our Savior is bound to be undermined." Friends, I want you to understand today that a huge part of being sure of your salvation is your obedience. Paul said in Romans 1:5 that part of his ministry was to "bring about *the obedience of faith* among all...." Obedience strengthens faith and ultimately proves it. What we should surmise then is that if there is no obedience, there is no faith and if there is no faith, there is no salvation. If there is no salvation there surely should be no assurance.

How does one know? John wrote in John 20:31 and 1 John 5:13, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life." John is obviously burdened by this issue. He wants them to know if they are saved or not. John gives us four things to look for in our lives to encourage us towards assurance. Here they are:

- 1) Obedience to His commands. In 1 John 2:4 it says, "The one who says I have come to know Him and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."
- 2) Righteous living - There should be a personal character that is consistent with our new family of God (1 John 5:1-3).
- 3) Not sinning - Now that sounds like an impossibility, but what he is talking about is not practicing sin.
- 4) Being a loving person - This confirms the presence of faith (1 John 5:18).

Now I want to be sure to emphasize that this level of obedience is a result of faith not the other way around. In other words, if there is genuine saving faith within you, there will be obedience to a degree and that level will grow as faith is exercised through obedience. Faith is not a product of our efforts. It comes from a true and clear view of who Jesus Christ really is. A better grip of Christ produces fruits of obedience. Our goal is to keep preaching and teaching the Word until the true Christ is formed in you. Everything else will fall into place.

Devotedly,

Pastor Robert



Volume 14, Issue 7

July 2018

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Special Points of Interest:

- ▶ July 4th (Wednesday) the church office will be closed. No evening activities.
- ▶ BOP Luncheon is July 11th at 11:00 am.
- ▶ VBS Week is July 16th - 20th. VBS will be from 8:45am - Noon.
- ▶ Our 5th Sunday Breakfast Fellowship is July 29th.



Hello church family!

As I write this, it is hard for me to believe that we are already halfway through this calendar year. Time sure does fly by! I wanted to take a moment today to explain a bit about a new emphasis in our discipleship ministry at Smyrna.

Many of you have noticed that our staff has been advertising a "Resource of the Week" for the past several Sundays. These resources might be pamphlets in our HomePointe resource center, books available for purchase or in our library, helpful online articles or even sermons that are made available to you. Our hope as pastors is that these would be of valuable assistance to you as we grow together in Christ.

One of the realities that we mentioned often during our HomePointe series is that we must be growing in our walk with God if we are going to be equipped to be faithful to do what He has called us to in making disciples. While we certainly believe that the primary means of growth is found in study of the Word and prayer (hence the Emmaus Road), we also understand that we grow as a product of learning from other biblically faithful authors and preachers who would take God's truth and distill it for us on a given subject in our lives. The goal of the resource of the week is to place at least one piece of helpful material in your hands to stimulate and encourage your growth on a weekly basis.

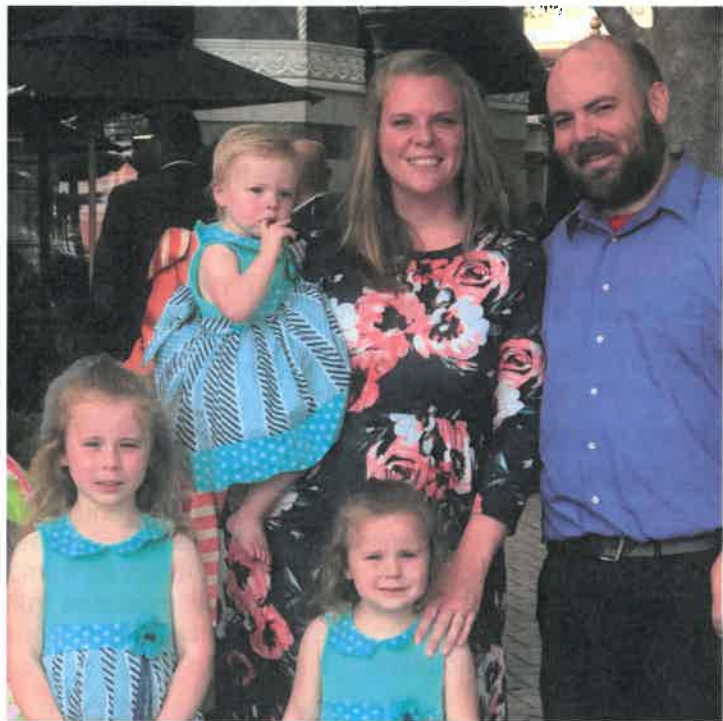
You will find this resource on the table in the center of the front foyer each and every Sunday. We want to encourage you to pick them up and prayerfully walk through these helpful tools in faith that God might use them to bring about sanctification in your own life and to equip you to minister to others as well!

**Devotedly,
Pastor Aaron**

Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education



Building Strong Families



Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org

Greetings Smyrna Family,

I'm back from the country of Liberia a changed man! How was my trip?...I'm glad you asked! For one, I realize how spoiled I am here and how much I take for granted. But, really, it's not all the comforts I have here that are the problem; it's what I do with them. In other words, I came back, not feeling bad for having a house with running water and electricity, but feeling convicted that I don't use that house for kingdom purposes like I should. See, when you go on a mission trip, the guilty feelings upon your return are pretty normal. But, you have to make sure that you're feeling guilty for the right things! As I already said, none of us should feel guilty for living in comfortable houses and using disposable paper products, etc. What we should feel guilty for is having all those things and *not* using them for the mission of God! We are blessed to live in America, with all our money and comforts and ease of living, so *that we could be a giant blessing to the rest of the world!* How are we doing with that? I'll let each of us answer for ourselves, but I have a feeling that we're not doing that great.

Do you remember when we had the missions emphasis Sunday along with the missions-themed musical? (It was back in early May.) Well, I hope you remember what I spoke about on stage that morning. I talked about the word *leverage*. To leverage something means to use it to maximum advantage. I asked the congregation to think about how they could leverage their talents (what they're good at), their desires (what they like doing), and their opportunity (what's available to do), for the glory of God. You don't have to go across the world to do mission. You don't even have to go across the country to fulfill the Great Commission. Just look at what God's blessed you with and know that the main purpose of it is to bring glory to His name. I hope that this truth actually relieves some burden from you. You really don't need to feel bad for not going on mission trips. "Doing mission" isn't really that complicated! Just look for ways, in your day-to-day life, to bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.

For the King,
Pastor Joe

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



Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - July 2018

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

- Pray for Gary and Michelle as they prepare to send off their daughter, Ashley, to school in Budapest, Hungary.
- Pray for people, from Smyrna or otherwise, 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.
- 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 most of the time.

Tim Robinson and Family (Fitchburg, Massachusetts)

- 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.

A MESSAGE FROM... JOSH ROWLAND NEXT GENERATION PASTOR

Smyrna Family,

Two weeks ago I led our youth group to Student Life Camp in Myrtle Beach, SC. I want to start off by thanking you for your prayers and financial support. They are both worthy investments in the Kingdom! This camp was particularly expensive, and without many donations, we would not have been able to attend. In fact, if I am being honest, there were times when I was not entirely sure it was a wise decision. We couldn't crash the budget or anything, but I do want to spend money wisely.

I can confidently write to you today to say that it was worth it! Andrea Sims said that for the first time in fifteen years of attending youth camps, she was not ready to leave when it ended. To sit under the preaching of David Platt is always a treat, but he was filled with the Spirit in a special way two weeks ago. Our students were engaged and focused. Almost all of them were taking notes. We did sermon review after each message, and they all had great insights and questions. The worship through song was excellent as well (Vertical Worship and Crowder). But the heartbeat of Smyrna, expositional preaching, has filtered down into the youth group. They all feasted on the Word.

Though the preaching and teaching was incredible, that only took up a few hours of the day. The rest of the time, we were deep in bible study and community building. This camp was unique in that the students spent most of their time with one another as opposed to with randomly assigned teams or groups. It was a joy to see the community of Christ strengthen in our young people. I watched students with different hobbies and friend groups come together in unison. I watched them look out for one another and work to make sure everyone was included. This is partly what it means to "church." The community of Christ is compelling when it is distinct from the world, not wrapped up in it. I learned from them this week as well.

In Christ,
Pastor Josh,
Next Generation Pastor

Drew Cheatham and Family (Portland, Oregon)

- 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.
- Pray that God will provide a way to go and that He would give them patience and wisdom in the meantime.

Dinwiddie County

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



Thank you to all those that sponsored a child for Kids Camp at Eagle Eyrie this year. Your support is very much appreciated!

**For His Kingdom,
Kalley Saye
Children's Ministry
Leader**

Talent...we hear that word often especially in the realm of worship ministry in the church. He or she is so talented at playing the piano, guitar, or another instrument. Doesn't he/she have a talented singing ability? Beyond the superficial, what does that mean? How and why are people talented? Talent is not reserved just for those with musical interests. The definition of talent in the dictionary is "a special athletic, creative or artistic aptitude, the natural endowments of a person, any of several ancient units of weight."

Talents come from God and He has given them to us to invest and will hold us accountable for our stewardship of them. The following are excerpts from, "**Have You Buried Your Gifts**" Jon Bloom, Desiring God staff writer. The word "talents" comes from Jesus - both the English word and what the English word means. The word is in our vocabulary because of Jesus' parable of talents in Matthew 25:14-30. In this parable, a master entrusts each of his servants with a certain number of talents to invest while the master is gone on a journey. To Jesus' original hearers, a talent meant a very large unit of monetary value. People whose net worth equaled a talent were very well off. People whose net worth equaled numerous talents were rich. But this parable is not really about stewarding money. It is about stewarding the gifts and abilities God entrusts to us. This is why the English word "talents" doesn't mean money, but gifts and abilities. When we say people are talented, we don't mean they're rich, we mean they're gifted.

Talents are given. The implication of this is clear; none of us has any ground for boasting in our "talents." What is true about receiving the gospel is true about receiving talents: "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). But Jesus includes an important phrase in "he gave...talents...to each according to his ability." In English this can be a bit confusing, since "talents" and "abilities" can be synonyms. It can sound as if Jesus is saying God gives us abilities according to our abilities. But in Greek the meaning is clearer. The word translated "abilities" in this sentence is *dunamis*, which most commonly means power or capabilities. What Jesus is getting at here is that God graciously entrusts to his servants certain skills and a certain amount of power to employ them. God gives us certain *abilities* and certain *capabilities*.

The second thing to notice is that in choosing talents as the metaphor for the abilities God entrusts to us, Jesus makes clear to us that God values highly the gifts he gives us. We must not undervalue what we have been given. Some are given more, some are given less, but all are given much. And Jesus tells us "everyone to whom much is given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand more" (Luke 12:48). Jesus's point in the parable of the talents: 1) God gives us certain grace-gifts (talents), 2) God gives us a certain amount of power to invest them, and 3) God expects us to employ all the strength he supplies (1 Peter 4:11) to invest what he entrusts to us.

So we must each ask: what are we going to do with our talents? It's a sobering and liberating question. It's sobering because we know our own selfishness, that we are prone by our sin nature to act like the worthless servant who neglected the stewardship. But even such sobering reflection is a grace, because it can shake us out of our self-centered stupor and motivate us to greater diligence. But the question is also wonderfully liberating, for at least two reasons: 1) God himself supplies us with everything we need, both our talents and our strength to manage them - both our abilities and our capabilities. 2) Realizing this frees us from comparing ourselves with others. We can be free from envying servants who are more talented and/or have greater capacities than we do. And we can be free from judging servants who are less talented and/or have lesser capacities than we do. God is the talent and power-giver, and he holds each of us accountable only for the "grace given to us."

You have been given talents. They are valued very highly by the Lord. What are you doing with them? Let this question sober you and liberate you. For to every servant who is faithful with the talents entrusted to him, the Master will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:23). This is what we want to hear. Invest your talents well, for the joy.

For His Glory!,
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!



JULY 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		
July 1st	Kathy Miles	Stephanie Rowland	Tia Wilson	Michelle Ochtyun	Roselyn Stell	Kim Davis	Pam Reynolds
	Mason Wells	Melissa Snellings	McKenzie Wilson	John Ochtyun	Gracie Saye		
July 8th	Jordan Smith	Chena Crocker	Betsy Adam	Diane Burton	Johanna Rowland	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Holly McCaffity	Catherine Crocker	Reagan Saye	Rebekah Servis	Jaeda Rich		
July 15th	Ashley Bobo	Lisa Barnhouse	Renee Silvestro	Rhonda Kester	Cheryl Joyner	Ashley Perkinson	Angela Walker
	Heather Gordon	Grace Barnhouse	Laura Rowland	Gracie Saye	Rebekah Servis		
July 22nd	Audrey Erdmann	Gina Perkinson	Brandy Barchanowicz	Shay Tench	Stacey Dyson	Aimee Kennedy	Pam Reynolds
	Betsy Adams	Kristin Rowland	Janelle McCoig	Robert Tench	Angel Davis		
July 29th		Michele Snead	Randall Cornett	Samantha Kidd	April Green	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
		Sharon Long	McKenzie Wilson	Lauren Kidd	Reagan Saye		

Smyrna Baptist VBS 18

July 16th - 20th
8:45 - 12noon







Students Pre-K through 6th Grade

Register online @
tinyurl.com/smyrnnavbs2018

JULY

Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events - 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 Deacons Meeting 7pm	3 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Church Office Closed	5	6	7	
8 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service  LORD'S SUPPER	9	10 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	11 11:00 am BOP Luncheon  6:30pm Mid-Week Worship	12	13 10:00am - 2:00pm Manna Ministry	14	
15 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 12:15pm - WOG Ladies Retreat Info Mtg (only 10 minutes to pick up packets)	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 8:45am - 12:00 Noon						21
22 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	23	24 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	25 6:30pm Mid-Week Worship	26	27 10:00am - 2:00pm Manna Ministry 11:30 am Sunshine Group Luncheon at Nanny's 	28	
29 9:30 am - 5th Sunday Breakfast Fellowship 10:45am Worship Service	30	31 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121				 Wednesday, 7/11 @ 11am	

July Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Lisa Barnhouse | 8 Brittany Sober | 20 Heather Gordon |
| Rick Jung | 9 Laura Rowland | 21 Allena Gattis |
| Mike McBride | Ben Sober | 22 Angie Adkins |
| Joe Parsons | 11 Jeremiah Davis | 25 Mae Phillingane |
| KJ Shifflett | Donna Tanner | Michael Price |
| Greg Stamp | 12 Charles Evans Jr. | McKenzie Wilson |
| Joann Terry | Susan Means | 26 Tim (TJ) Allen |
| 3 Shay Tench | Lexie Moseley | Edgerton, Patricia |
| 5 Daniel Cornett | Thomas O'Bryan | Abigail Tench |
| Barbara Kaufman | Debbie Westmoreland | Jill Thomas |
| Aaron Reynolds | 13 Jonan Elder | 27 Lester Harris |
| 6 Kayla Boyd | 14 Marin Westmoreland | 28 Sharon Nowak |
| 7 Connor Cliborne | 16 Joby Baker | 29 Ezra Edmonds |
| Victoria Twisdale | 17 Kirstin Andrews | 30 Alison Adams |
| 8 Laura Pate | Haley Upton | 31 Brian Adkins |
| Wayne Pugh | 18 Johanna Rowland | Pam Kissner |





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

Ages 55+



Our next outing is July 27th for lunch at Nanny's Restaurant at 11:30. If a ride is needed, meet at church at 11:00am.
 Any questions? Call Peggy Edmonds at 804-481-7541



AUGUST

- * Monday, 6th - Deacon's meeting at 7 pm
- * Wednesday, 8th - BOP Luncheon at 11:00 am
- * Friday, 17th - Community Movie Night at 7:00pm Movie will start at 8:30pm Tentatively scheduled: "Ferdinand"
- * Saturday, 18th - BMEN Breakfast/Workday Fellowship at 8 am



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ITEM of the MONTH - CLOTHING ITEMS

- Shirts and pants
- Underwear
- Shoes and socks
- Hat/scar/mittens
- Tote bag/purse
- Sunglasses
- Hair bows
- Friendship bracelets
- Flip-flops
- Etc.



5th Sunday
 SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
Breakfast Fellowship
 April 29th **July 29th**
 Sept. 30th Dec. 30th
 In the Sanctuary during the Sunday School Hour
 *No Adult Sunday School on above dates
 Coffee, Juice and light refreshments will be served.



MANNA MINISTRY SCHEDULE 2018

January 12th	July 13th
January 26th	July 27th
April 13th	October 12th
April 27th	October 26th

For more information on Manna Ministry please contact Lee or Max Phillingane
 Lee - 731-0368/Mae - 733-1812