

July 2026

## Dates to Remember

\* 4th - Independence Day

\* 6th-10th - VBS Decorating Week

\* 13th-17th - VBS - Illumination Station

\* 23rd - Pastor's Book Club @ 11:30 AM

\* 27th - Deacon's Meeting- 6:30 PM

\* 29th - Summer Fellowship @ 5:30 PM



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| PASTORS' CORNER              | 1 -2 |
| A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROBERT | 2-3  |
| FROM DANIEL'S DESK           | 3    |
| YOUTH                        | 4    |
| MUSIC MINISTRY               | 5    |
| SMYRNA KIDS                  | 6    |
| CHURCH CALENDAR & BIRTHDAYS  | 7    |
| VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE & OTHER   | 8    |

# SMYRNA SCROLL

## PASTOR'S CORNER

I assume that most of you are aware of the most recent development within the Southern Baptist Convention. Frankly, I have been somewhat shocked by the amount of news coverage our convention has received, and the attention has reminded me that our culture is still intimately aware of the machinations and decisions of the evangelical church.

Whenever a story is covered by multiple outlets (and podcasts), the framing of the issue is just as important as the details themselves. In this instance, I have seen widely divergent discussions about what happened at the convention and what it means. Some would have us believe that the ruling was a huge step backwards and others are celebrating... what should we think?

Let me try to answer that question by briefly summarizing the situation. Essentially, the SBC voted a few weeks ago to confirm and affirm its position on women pastors. Since its inception, the convention has confessionally believed that men are exclusively called to be shepherds of the local church. This conviction is based on the clear teaching of Scripture (see 1 Timothy 2-3) as one such example. Over the past several years, it has come to light that many churches who are affiliated with the SBC were not honoring this doctrinal commitment which ultimately led to the passing of the new resolution. My point here is that this amendment is not amending anything! Instead, it simply reaffirms and clarifies a longstanding conviction that we have held as a convention of churches.

There have been a few prominent objections to this action. One of them is that this seems relatively unimportant considering our commission to make disciples and the state of our world. Some wonder why we are re-litigating a "settled" issue when the world is careening towards hell and we have a Gospel to proclaim. To be clear, we do believe that the most pressing issue of our day is Gospel proclamation. We agree that the Great Commission is central to our calling as Christians and we affirm the fact that this must create a sense of urgency in our lives. Nevertheless, this kind of thinking is very short-sighted. Recall that Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples and part of that process was to "teach them to obey ALL that I have commanded you." There is no tension between evangelism and biblical faithfulness. In fact, if a group of churches choose to be unfaithful to the clear teaching of Scripture, they cannot fulfill the Great Commission!

Even more to the point, we as Southern Baptists cannot expect the Lord to bless our efforts to evangelize the lost and grow disciples if we are not heeding God's Word. This is the real crux of the issue. Historically, when denominations ignore the biblical teaching on women pastors, they set a precedent that leads to their ignoring other biblical commands! Some of you

might wonder how the Methodists or Episcopalians, or some Presbyterians have drifted so far. Have you ever questioned what took place in our mainline denominations that led them to affirming homosexuality (what God calls an abomination), or transgenderism? What happened to our churches that used to preach solid doctrine but now speak nothing but squishy emotivism that radically alters the world's understanding of God and saps the church of the strength of the Spirit who will not reward heresy? The answer is that in the past they chose to deny the clear teaching of Scripture and, usually, the first issue that they capitulated on was women pastors. Once the course has been set to re-interpret or flatly oppose what the Bible teaches, there is not course correction coming save repentance and a return to biblical obedience.

I suppose I am saying two things. First, I am proud today to be a Southern Baptist. Transparently, Pastor Robert and I have been preparing for some time to consider leaving our convention. If this issue went differently, we would have had to have some hard conversations as a body, but I praise God for the vast majority who voted to honor the Lord and His Word. Second, we must continue to press on in the truth. No issue is too small, and no command is a candidate to be ignored. We either embrace the totality of the Word of God or we embrace our autonomy, it cannot be both.

Blessings,  
Pastor Aaron  
abobo@smyrna1897.org



## A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT ROWLAND, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF CARE

Dear Smyrna Family,

I sit here this afternoon having just dropped off 6 of our grandkids after having at least 2 and as many as 6 spending the night at our home since June 12. For the most part it was a lot of fun, and we were able to do some exciting activities with them. We took them bowling for the first time ever, went to Kenny and Kathy's home for a wonderful evening of swimming, crossed the James River on the ferry, and had a picnic, shortened by rain, on the banks of the James River. Oh yeah, and Grandma made homemade clay of which they made various shapes along with a brief Bible lesson about the Potter and the clay. All in all, it was a great time, and they are a really "good" group of kids. We stayed up too late, got up too early, ate too much junk, and spent too much money on ice cream (Papa's fault).

I discovered over the past twelve days that I still have a lot of room for a tremendous amount of sanctification. I found that I would do well with them for a period of time, and then one more, "I want that" or "He touched me" or "When are we going to..." put me over the edge. I wanted my own space, my quiet moments, to get out of the bed when I wanted to, and to not have to worry about the next "Papa this" and "Papa that." I felt that I was a good papa for most of the time, and yet I sit here feeling bad about how I behaved at times. I hate knowing that there is still so much selfishness in me and so little patience. I don't know why that is really. I know this – I don't like it and I want to get better. I thank God for forgiveness and the kid's resilience.

Many have been the times that I have sat with many of you and talked about the struggles of the “raising kids” season of your lives. I have given you all sorts of advice and admonished you to hang in there, to remember that the years will go by so fast, that you need to remember God’s grace, and learn to be content with where you are. There is a part of me today that wants to say, “Forget everything I said!” But then, I know it’s true even though this has been a tough reminder that it isn’t easy maintaining a sweet walk with the Lord, your spouse, the kids, and your sanity in this season. God bless you, dear ones, as you train your littles up in the admonition of the Lord and may He truly give you grace, strength, and moments to gather your senses all along the way. Have a great summer and don’t forget to breathe!

Devotedly,  
**Pastor Robert**



#### MESSAGE FROM DANIEL WEATSON - PASTORAL RESIDENT

Last month I read John Piper’s large book called Providence. This was an extensive treatment of an important doctrine. To help us grasp what God’s providence actually is, Piper in part defines it as, “The act of purposefully providing for, or sustaining and governing, the world...it is all-embracing, all-pervasive, and invincible. Therefore, God will be completely successful in the achievement of his ultimate goal for the universe.” Piper takes his readers on a journey from before the world began all the way to the return of Christ and the future eternal state. The vast array of topics he addresses shows that God is unfolding His plan from the smallest of details up to the grand cosmic scale.

This work is a good treatment of how our great God interacts with His creation. It covers the natural world, which includes disasters. The workings of kings and governments are also addressed. How do Satan and evil forces fit into God’s plan? Piper expounds on these topics as well. The nature of conversion and what it looks like to live under God’s guiding care are considered too. Piper is a helpful guide as you ponder these and many more areas of God’s providence.

Piper’s goal is for his readers to savor the greatness of our God in His works and in His nature. One of the helpful aspects of this book is that it is not a stuffy, ivory tower work that treats the subject from a distance. In considering the wonderful doctrine of providence, Piper endeavors not only to inform our minds but to move our hearts to joy as we ponder the magnificence of God’s personal involvement in His creation. As a man who has walked with God for decades, Piper’s pastoral heart shines through the pages he has written. While traveling through this book, I saw a man captivated by God. Piper beckons his readers to join him in being awed by our majestic God.

**Daniel Watson**  
dwatson@smyrna1897.org

# **CEDAR RANCH RETREAT YOUTH CAMP**

**WORSHIP – STUDY – GROW**



## **Facilities/Amenities:**

- 68 Acre Ranch in Culpeper, VA
- Bunk Beds
- Three meals a day/Snacks
- Camp T-shirt
- Worship Center

## **Activities:**

- Worship/ Bible Study/TAWG
- Nature Explore
- Swimming Pool/Pond
- Team Games
- Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, GAGA Pit

**AUGUST  
10-13**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

- ✓ Cost is \$275 per camper
- ✓ Registration opens May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- ✓ Limited spots



**Scholarships are available**

I once read "Forever Music, A Tribute to the Gift of Creativity" by Edith Shaeffer, wife of theologian Frances Shaeffer. In it she writes about our creativity coming from the Creator. Because we are created in His image-His image bearers, we all have creativity in us. In Jaylyn Geist's article for The Gospel Coalition, "We're All Creatives", she states, "God created the universe and everything in it (the most creative act of all) to show His glory. When we create, we're displaying His glory. We're worshiping God through the talent He gave us. A good portion of the Bible is poetry and song, and the rest tells His story in creative, diverse ways. His Word is a story, a song, a poem. It's art."

Many people would argue they aren't creative. Children express creativity through stories, and professionals like engineers, homemakers, gardeners, chefs, business owners, and writers apply it in their work. Creativity goes beyond what we tend to think as creatives, i.e., artists and musicians. Geist goes on to say, "It may seem like we can create on our own, that our inventive ideas stem from personal experiences or merely from observations of our world. But where do all these things come from? Are our experiences simply random strings of events that happen to make their way into our lives? We cannot create something from nothing, as our God is able to do. Our creativity comes from Him and Him alone. One of the most intimate and beautiful ways to worship God is by creating something beautiful that showcases His glory." We do that in our work life, our family life and our social life. "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31.

As we gather to worship on Sundays, we strive to combine our various talents and creative ability to give glory to God corporately through teaching, preaching, singing, playing of instruments, preparing media slides, adjusting sound and lighting production, and all the other areas of service. We are being image bearers.

Without God, we have no words to write, the singer has no voice, the preacher /teacher has no words to speak. It all comes from Him and for Him! To God be the glory!

**"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen"**  
**Romans 11:36**

**"Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created." Revelation 4:11**

Singing His Praises,  
Melodie Parsons



SHINING A LIGHT ON  
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

**ILLUMINATION  
STATION** JOHN 8:12

Smyrna Baptist Church  
18971 Carson Road  
Dinwiddie, VA  
(804) 469-9363

**VBS JULY 13-17**  
8:45 AM - NOON

FOR KIDS 4-12  
YEARS OLD



Scan to  
Register

As we move through the heart of summer, I am reminded of how faithful God has been to our Children's Ministry. Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and excitement is building as we prepare for what promises to be an incredible week of sharing the Gospel with children and families in our community.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, donated supplies, prayed, and helped prepare for VBS. Events like this require many hands and willing hearts, and I am so grateful for a church family that continually steps up to serve. Every conversation, every snack served, every game played, and every Bible lesson taught creates opportunities to point children to Jesus.

While summer often brings vacations, camps, and busy family schedules, it also presents unique opportunities for discipleship. Some of the most meaningful faith conversations happen outside the walls of the church—around the dinner table, during a road trip, on a walk, or while enjoying time together as a family.

As parents and grandparents, we have been entrusted with a tremendous responsibility. Deuteronomy 6 reminds us to talk about God's truth throughout the ordinary moments of life. Discipleship is not confined to Sunday mornings—it happens day by day as we intentionally model and share our faith with the next generation.

♥ **Vacation Bible School is almost here!** Please continue praying for our volunteers, children, and families who will attend. Pray that hearts will be open to the Gospel, relationships will be strengthened, and lives will be changed through the power of God's Word.

♥ **Looking Ahead to Fall:** This fall, with the addition of a second Sunday School hour, we will need additional volunteers to help keep our Children's Ministry staffed and thriving. One of the exciting benefits of this new schedule is that many volunteers will have the opportunity to serve for one Sunday School hour while still attending and being spiritually nourished during the other.

Several individuals have already expressed interest in serving in this capacity, and I am thankful for the hearts God is stirring to invest in the next generation. If this is something the Lord has been placing on your heart as well, I would love to talk with you. There are opportunities to serve in a variety of roles, and together we can continue creating a safe, welcoming, and Christ-centered environment for our children to grow in their faith.

♥ **Volunteer Appreciation:** Thank you for your faithfulness throughout the year. Whether you serve every week or help behind the scenes, your ministry matters. The seeds you plant today may not always be visible immediately, but God is using your obedience to make an eternal impact.

As we continue through this summer season, let us remain intentional in our faith, committed to discipling the next generation, and expectant for all that God will do in the days ahead.

Thank you for serving so faithfully and for allowing God to use you in the lives of children and families.

With gratitude,

**Erica Chaplin**

[echaplin@smyrna1897.org](mailto:echaplin@smyrna1897.org)

| Sun                                                                             | Mon                                                   | Tue                                                                                         | Wed                                                               | Thu                                                                         | Fri                                                       | Sat                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b><br>9:45 am - Sunday School<br>11:00 am - Worship Service |                                                       |                                                                                             | 1<br>Lisa Barnhouse<br>Mike McBride<br>Joe Parsons<br>Joann Terry | 2<br><br>Jeff Springston<br>James Wells                                     | 3<br><br>Charles Barton<br>Shay Jones<br>Kathy Tarleton   | 4                                        |
| 5<br><br>Daniel Cornett<br>Aaron Reynolds<br>Brennan Slayden                    | 6<br><br>Avery Outlaw<br>Catherine Spain              | 7<br><br>Caleb Covey                                                                        | 8<br><br>Gina Perkinson<br>Amelia Polk                            | 9<br><br>Brinley Jones<br>Ryan Smith                                        | 10                                                        | 11<br><br>Monroe Adams<br>Jeremiah Davis |
| 12<br><br>Debbie Westmoreland                                                   | 13<br><br>Jeff Johnson<br>Karen Sheppard              | 14<br><br>Jeff Clausen                                                                      | 15<br><br>Samantha Jones<br>Michael Lewis                         | 16<br><br>Hucky Miller                                                      | 17<br><br>Linday Miller                                   | 18<br><br>Johanna Rowland                |
| <b>VBS — ILLUMINATION STATION 8:45AM — 12 NOON</b>                              |                                                       |                                                                                             |                                                                   |                                                                             |                                                           |                                          |
| 19<br><br>Jefferson Perkinson<br>Christine Toler                                | 20<br><br>Madeline Chappell<br>Cheryl Joyner          | 21<br><br>Brittney Chappell<br>Paul Dimaio<br>Jessica Etheredge<br>Liam Healy<br>Becca Mize | 22<br><br>Angie Adkins<br>Cameron Puttkamer<br>Tim Smith          | 23<br><br>Pastor's Book Club - 11:30 AM<br><br>Lori Chappell<br>Tommy Hoyle | 24<br><br>Tracy Drake<br>Autumn Leshner                   | 25<br><br>Mae Phillingane                |
| 26                                                                              | 27<br><br>Deacon's Mtg - 6:30 PM<br><br>Lester Harris | 28<br><br>Riley Lunsford                                                                    | 29<br><br>Summer Fellowship 5:30 PM<br><br>Bryan Fore             | 30<br><br>Alison Adams<br>Carol Anne Bishop<br>Joe Pierce                   | 31<br><br>Brian Adkins<br>William Chappell<br>Pam Kissner |                                          |



**HAPPY**  
**BIRTHDAY**



## 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.

# July 2026 - Children's volunteer schedule

| DATE             | 9:30 - 10:45   |                             | 10:45 - 12:15  |                     |                          |                            |                   |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
|                  | CHECK-IN DESK  | NURSERY                     | CHECK-IN DESK  | NURSERY             | 1'S & 2'S                | 3'S                        | CHILDREN'S CHURCH |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  |                | Terri Shell                 | Audrey Erdmann | Sariah Williamson   | Scotty & Heather Leshner | Nathan & Brooke Daniels    |                   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Audrey Erdmann | Sabrina Rusek               | Chuck Johnson  | Brandy Barchanowicz | April Green              | Candi Cornett & Janna Cobb |                   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Kim Davis      | Alicia Dalton & Sharon Long | Kim Davis      | Becca Mize          | Chris & Brooke Dimaio    | Ricky & Ashley Elder       | Alyssa Long       |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Pam Kissner    | Catherine Parson            | Amanda Joyner  | Laura Hoyle         | Kyle & Alyssa Pitcock    | Christy George             | Frankie Lunsford  |

**SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH**

## UPCOMING EVENTS For JULY

**JUL 13-17**  
**VBS - ILLUMINATION STATION**  
**8:45 AM - NOON**  
 Shine bright in a dark world at VBS. While many people claim to know about Jesus, many are in the dark about who He really is. During VBS, kids will explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals.

**JUL 23 PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB**  
**11:30 AM** in the youth room  
 We will discuss the first chapter of "The Drulsed Reed" by Richard Sibbes.

**JUL 29 SUMMER FELLOWSHIP**  
 We will provide burgers, hot dogs and drinks. You bring a side dish or dessert to share. There are games set up for the kids and adults.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 804-469-9363

## SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Weather permitting

~~June 24~~      ~~July 29~~

**August 19**

Starts at 5:30 PM

We provide the meat and drinks - you provide a side dish or dessert

There will be water games set up for the kids so bring a towel