

March Scroll

“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” - Psalm 25:4-5

Pastor's Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

In light of my sermon text for this Sunday as well as the reality that many of you have suffered the loss of loved ones and thus experiencing grief and sorrow, I want to use this entry today as teaching and maybe encouragement for you to hold on and keep fighting for your faith. This world is tough and the life of true believers, while on this foreign soil, is often riddled with trials and tribulation. These realities can cause us to doubt and struggle to say the least. Please know that there isn't necessarily anything wrong with you if you struggle sometimes. One writer said, "Doubt is not a bad place to start but it is a bad place to end." So, let's see if together we can't encourage one another to hang in there, not to lose heart, and to keep trusting our great and mighty God - the Lord Jesus.

Beloved, there is no doubt that when a sinner comes to Christ by faith alone because of the power of the gospel, a great deal changes in that person's life. He/she hears the Word of God and agrees with God about their sin and forgiveness through Christ. He is assured of the sonship that is freely given. Consequently, he wants to live as a son of God and begins to struggle against the flesh, the

world, and the devil. He longs for the return of Christ which will finally bring his own perfecting and entry into glory.

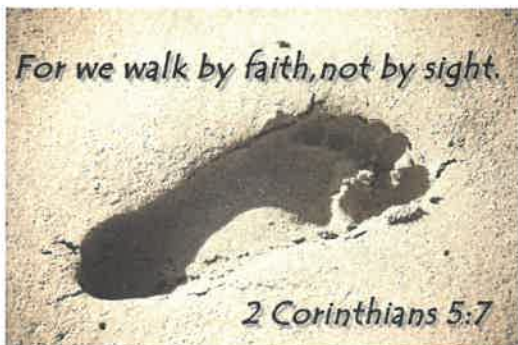
While there are radical changes, there are also things that remain the same. The believer is not perfected in this life. He remains a sinner, though forgiven. Conversion doesn't remove us from the world but puts us at odds with it. So, the believer is a child of God but remains a sinner. She becomes an inheritor of the new age but still lives in this old one. She receives eternal life but unless Jesus comes back before she dies, she will suffer sickness, heartache, and death. Not only do we not escape suffering in this world, we actually lose favor with this world. Suffering is the norm for us. **THIS IS WHY WE MUST WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT!**

What this means dear friends, is that we must live by what we know from God's Word. We must know that we are children of God and that our salvation is sure. We

must trust God for who He is, not based on our circumstances in a given season. We must not live by what we experience alone. Our spiritual reality cannot be gauged by what we feel or by our circumstances. "We are not yet all that we are becoming" (1 John 3:2). If we are to share in Christ's glory we must understand that we are to also share in His sufferings. (See 2 Cor. 1:5; 1 Peter 4:13, 16; Romans 5)

Friends, being a Christian means that we have taken sides in the final warfare between light and darkness. Do you really think that isn't going to bring suffering into your life? But take heart dear friends because Jesus has overcome this world (John 16:33). The answer is not that God remove us from the world but to remind us that Jesus has overcome it. Do not test the truthfulness of the gospel by the weaknesses and sinfulness of the church nor the presence of suffering in this world. Jesus is a conquering, yet suffering servant. We must be too, so hold on.

Devotedly,
Pastor Robert



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

Volume 14, Issue 3

March 2018

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Special Points of Interest:

- ▶ Emmaus Road (Year II) is available for pick up in the church Foyer
- ▶ Deacons Meeting, Mon. Mar. 5th @ 7:00 pm
- ▶ Beautiful Older People (BOP) luncheon is Wednesday, Mar. 14th @ 11:00 am
- ▶ Baptist Men will meet Saturday, Mar. 17th at 8:00 am for breakfast & fellowship.
- ▶ AHG Ladies Spring Tea, Sat. March 17th from 11 am - 1 pm

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

We live in a world of counterfeits. This world is full of deception, because the god of this world, Satan (2 Cor. 4:4), is the great deceiver. Life is full of situations and people that are not what they appear. Deception is so much a part of the framework of this world that businesses and banks spend millions of dollars each year combatting the problem! In fact, the U.S. Treasury department estimates that right now there is over 70 million dollars' worth of counterfeit currency currently in circulation.

The battle is real and it extends well past our pocketbooks. While financial loss is legitimate, the real danger in Satan's deception is found in the lies he constructs in the way of false religions. All of these faith systems masquerade as the real thing. They may include terms that we know, they may construct churches that look like ours, they may be full of men and women who seem wholesome and moral, they may even use the name of Jesus Christ, but they are nothing but a sham. Instead of promised liberation, the result of these false ideologies is nothing but bondage and eternal damnation. While the aesthetics of these churches may look eerily similar, the destination of its adherents are diametrically opposed. The stakes in this discussion are high. Our eternal destiny is dependent upon who or what we believe!

It is in light of this reality that we will gather together for Secret Church 2018 "Cults and Counterfeit Gospels". Join us as we sit under the teaching of Dr. David Platt on this subject on Saturday April 28th. Folks, we must know what we believe, we must know why we believe it and we must be able to spot falsehoods in this fallen world. There is no more fundamental question than this, "what do you believe about God?" Do you know the answer to this question? Is the truth and power of the Gospel cemented in your minds? Are you able to discern that which is good and biblical from lies that are evil and false? Are you curious to know how to respond to the lost men and women who come to your door attempting to convert you to their false beliefs? Are you hungry to know how to equip your children and grandchildren to know and accept the truth and to recognize and reject lies? I pray the answer to all of those questions is a resounding "YES!" and that you will join us on Saturday April 28th from 3-7:30pm.

Like last year, childcare will be provided free of charge. We will break for a fellowship covered dish dinner around 5pm. The cost of the required study guide is \$10 and sign-ups will begin Sunday March 11th in the foyer!

Devotedly,

Pastor Aaron

Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education

Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org



Smyrna Scroll

Greetings Smyrna Family,

Last month I wrote about missions. This month, I'm going to write about missions. Can you see the pattern I'm developing? I hope so.

This coming Sunday (Feb 25) will mark the first training session for our Liberia Mission Team. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks, but our plan is to raise prayer and financial support AND to do so while involving as many people as possible through Sunday School! Our Sunday School classes will be seeking to develop missional emphasis this year, so why not start with our very own mission trip? We will be assigning one mission team member to a Sunday School class (or two) and that class will be privileged to pray for their team member and raise financial support. Our goal for each team member is \$2,000, which is actually not that much money for an overseas mission trip. Remember, we are called as Christians to participate in the spread of the gospel whether by going or sending. I don't say this to guilt you, trust me, but I say this for the good of your own soul: if you are not a goer then you need to be a giver. That doesn't mean that you have to give hundreds (or more) of dollars. It means that you ought to give *what you can* with a joyful heart. I don't know what you can afford, and I don't really care, but God knows and God sees. Please, for your own sake, participate in the Kingdom work!

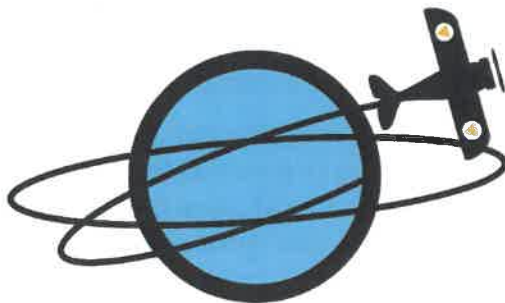
Continue to be in prayer for Drew and Eunice Cheatham, our Portland church planters, as their timeline to plant has been turned back. They are with child, praise the Lord, so their plans have changed quite a bit. They still have a heart for Portland and we will still support them in their Kingdom work.

Mark March 18th on your calendar, as a Fitchburg (west of Boston) church planter Tim Robinson will be bringing the Word that morning. I can't wait for you to meet him and hear his heart for what the Lord is doing in Massachusetts. If you are interested in spending time with Tim in a few weeks, please let me know and we will arrange that.

For the King,
Pastor Joe

Assoc. Pastor of Administration and Missions

Email: assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org



MISSION
TRIP



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* Designed by TownMailUSA.com

Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - March 2018

Gary Kittredge and Family (Liberia, West Africa)

- a. Pray for brother Gary as he is training a new ministry partner, Amos Margai. Amos is a native Liberian. Pray that the Lord would continue to work in Amos and that the training would be effective.
- b. Also, Gary is currently writing curriculum with which to train other ministry leaders, so pray that he would manage his time wisely, as he is very busy from sunup to sundown. Pray that God would guide Gary as he writes this Biblical training material.
- c. PRAY FOR RAIN! They haven't had rain since November last year and are in desperate need of it. Pray that God would open up the heavens - literally!

Drew Cheatham and Family (Portland, Oregon)

- a. Pray that God would give Drew and Eunice patience to minister where God has placed them right now.
- b. Pray that Eunice's pregnancy would continue smoothly.

Tim Robinson and Family (Fitchburg, Massachusetts)

- a. Pray for Tim as he prepares to fly down to preach for us on March 18th.
- b. Pray that God would speak to Tim and open up his eyes to the text he will be preaching.
- c. Pray for his family as they will be without Tim that weekend.

Dinwiddie County

- a. We are thinking about ways to reach the Hispanic population in our community, so please pray that God would make a way.
- b. We also want to reach the working poor in our community, so pray that God would lead us in that endeavor.



Please pick up a *Monthly Missions Prayer Guide* on the Missions Table in the foyer for prayers that you can be praying for our various mission teams at SBC.

A MESSAGE FROM... JOSH ROWLAND, NEXT GENERATION PASTOR

Smyrna Family,

I'm am so excited about the future of our youth ministry. This past week, one of our students texted me and a few other people to ask for prayer. They had just finished sharing the Gospel with a lost friend, and wanted us to pray for the fruit. At the same time, I have also seen our youth reaching out to new students and welcoming them. Numbers have recently increased, but even more importantly, we are seeing spiritual growth in our group. There are numerous young leaders who are committed to the Gospel; I believe God will raise up preachers, church planters, missionaries, and other people for other areas of service!

Another really exciting development in our youth ministry is our Prayer Mentor Program. I have organized it and am preparing folders for all potential mentors, preparing to roll it out in March. This will be a formal system that informally connects the youth with older saints in our congregation. It is my conviction (and a Biblical truth) that the church is to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to the young generations. Additionally, I believe older generations can learn from the younger ones. The beauty of discipleship is that it is a two-way street - both learning from the other. Our flesh often pushes us to relax and spend time with those who are just like us. We are comfortable, and it is easy.

Conversely, the Bible calls us to go outside of our comfort zones and reach out to those both older and younger than us. I pray that you will consider reaching out to a youth and letting them know you are praying for them! Get to know them. Help them establish deep roots in our church - not just in youth ministry. So many students graduate and leave the church for good; it is an American epidemic. I think so much of that is because of the isolation of youth groups from the rest of the body. Let's fight to keep that from happening!

In Christ,

Joshua Rowland
Next Generation Pastor



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

Each Sunday at least one song in our worship set is a hymn. It could be an old hymn or a modern hymn. What exactly is a hymn? Simply put, it is a song of praise to God. They contain much truth and often incorporate portions of Scripture. Many were written centuries ago and are filled with doctrinal truth. Even in Jesus' day, hymns were part of Jewish worship. After the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn (Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26). In scripture, Ephesians 5:19 states "be filled with the Spirit addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" (ESV). Colossians 3:16 continues that idea: "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 thankfulness in your hearts to God." So what is the difference between psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? This has been addressed in previous articles, so just to review, The book of Psalms is the collection of songs written under the direction of the Holy Spirit (Mark 12:36; 2 Peter 1:21) by ancient Jewish leaders such as David, Moses, and Solomon. These inspired songs were part of the Hebrew Scriptures and used in corporate worship. Many of our modern worship songs are based on the Psalms. A "spiritual song" could refer to any song with a spiritual theme, such as a modern praise chorus or a song of personal testimony. A spiritual song might express the joy of one's salvation, revel in the grace of Christ, exalt the greatness and power of God - in short, a spiritual song can communicate a wide variety of sacred themes. A spiritual song could also be what Scripture elsewhere calls a "new song". From psalms to Revelation, the Bible encourages us to "sing a new song to the Lord" (Psalm 96:1; 144:9; Isaiah 42:10; Revelation 5:9; 14:3). Psalm 40:3 states, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."

This month we will be using three hymns in our worship services; "Jesus Shall Reign", Isaac Watts, rendition of Psalm 72 (so could be considered singing a Psalm); "Blessed Assurance", written by Fanny Crosby, which is more of a testimony in song (spiritual song) and "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", written by Martin Luther. In recent months Christians have been celebrating the 500th anniversary of reformation, so I will focus on this great hymn. **In addition to being a great reformer, Bible translator, political leader, preacher & theologian, Luther was also a musician. As a child he sang in a boys' choir and played the flute. He often borrowed secular tunes for his hymns. Luther once wrote, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." His most famous hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is also based on a Psalm, Psalm 46. Originally written in German, it is difficult to translate because the original is so vivid. There are at least 80 English versions available. The most popular was done by Frederic Henry Hodge. All of these songs are included in most hymnals today and have stood the test of time.

It's our prayer that we become more of a singing church so the truths we sing, along with the Word of God, take root in our hearts as we continue to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only" James 1:22.

On another "note" ...the choir is continuing to work on a Mission Musical, "For the Sake of the World", to be presented on Sunday, May 6th. It's not too late to get in on this! We will be extending our March rehearsals to 8:30 to aid in our preparation for this special event. We meet in the choir room, 6:30-8:30 pm, each Wednesday.

"His Name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed." Psalm 72:17

Singing His Praises,
Melodie & Brad



***Portions taken from "150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories" by Robert J. Morgan.*

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

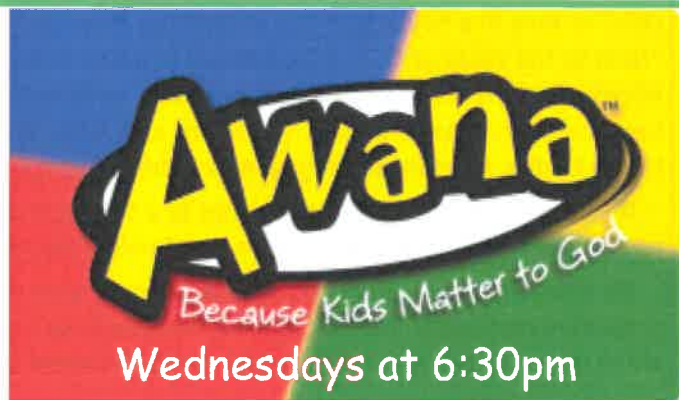
MARCH 2018	<u>SS Nursery (9:20—10:40)</u>	<u>Nursery (10:30)</u>	<u>10:30 am - Toddler 1's & 2's</u>	<u>12:15 pm Toddlers 3's</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Check In (9:15 - 10:30)</u>	<u>Check In (10:30 - 12:15)</u>
Mar 4th	Brandy Turner	Stephanie Rowland	Tia Wilson	Michelle Ochtyun	Roselyn Stell	Kim Davis	Pam Reynolds
	Peggy Turner	Melissa Snellings	McKenzie Wilson	John Ochtyun	Gracie Saye		
Mar 11th	Annette Perkinson	Diana Neville	Brittany Sober	Diane Burton	Johanna Rowland	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Ashley Perkinson	Jan E	Rebekah Servis	Angel Davis	Joyce Andrews		
Mar 18th	Amelia Servis	Chena Crocker	Betsy Adams	Shay Tench	Danna Gammon	Kalley Saye	Angela Walker
	Holly McCaffity	Catherine Crocker	Reagan Saye	Robert Tench	Bryant Gammon		
Mar 25th	Ashley Bobo	Gina Perkinson	Renee Silvestro	Rhonda Kester	Chuck Page	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Mason Wells	Kristin Rowland	Laura Rowland	Sierra Servis	P Page		



JUNE 25th - 29th

Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg VA

*Sign up sheets are at the Children's Check-In area
For more information please contact Kalley Saye*



- ☼ March 7th - Regular club meeting
- ☼ March 14th - Regular club meeting
- ☼ March 21st - Regular club meeting
- ☼ March 28th - Easter Celebration

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

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

Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events - 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ladies Bible Study Every Wed. @ 10 am				1	2	3
4 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	5 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	6 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	7 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	8	9	10
11 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Re Engage Study begins Bldg & Grounds Mtg - 5:30pm	12	13 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	14 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice BOP	15	16	17 B MEN ON MISSION Breakfast & Workday 8am AHG Ladies Spring Tea 11:00 - 1:00 pm
18 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Re Engage	19	20 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	21 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	22	23	24
25 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Re Engage	26	27 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	28 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00pm Kidz Choir Practice 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	29 BOP Wednesday. 3/14 @ 11am	30	31

March Birthdays

1 Hudson, Amy	9 Servis, Sierra	17 Gray, Megan	Gupton, Allison
2 Adams, Pam	10 Kelly, Basil	18 Upton, Olivia	Wilkins, Hurley
Hudson, Daniel	Perkinson, Brandy	19 Evans, Charles Sr.	25 Cales, Melva
Keen, Nancy	Tench, Robert	20 Mizzell, Catherine	26 Gupton, Debra
Westmoreland, Berkeley	12 Adams, Todd	21 Bowers, Donnie	27 Sneade, Trevor
5 Kennedy, John A.	13 DiRienzo, Aedan	Kidd, David	28 Burke, Cullen
Knott, Virginia	14 Jones, Shirley	22 Bobo, Ashley	30 Jones, Kurt
6 Bain, Hatcher	15 Clark, Paige (Panky)	Hatter, Sheila	
Burton, Ralph	Kaufmann, Robbie	23 Abernathy, Ben	
7 Harrison, Debbie	Mizzell, Eddie	Davis, Matthew	
Jenkins, Jackie	16 Blount, Wallie	Garrett, Delbert (Boo)	



If your name does not appear on our *Birthday Calendar* that means we do not have your birthdate in our records. Please call the church @ 469-9363 (Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm) to update the records we have on file or you can update it yourself via MY SMYRNA on our website www.smyrna1897.org.
For help getting setup with MySmyrna (where you can manage your own data such as address changes, phone, email changes, view directories, view volunteer opportunities & more!!) call the church office or email admin@smyrna1897.org.



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH

building community • equipping believers • serving jesus

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Dinwiddie, VA 23841
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E-mail: admin@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.

Kids
MINISTRY
Conference

MARCH 3 2018

SWIFT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
7511 North Spring Run Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

8:45 AM to 2:30 PM

GAME ON!

GEARING UP FOR LIFE'S BIG GAME
2 Peter 1:3

Gear up!
Get ready!
Game on!

VBS July 16-20, 2018

APRIL

- 🌸 April 1st - EASTER
- 🌸 April 8th - Lord's Supper Observance
- 🌸 April 11th - BOP Luncheon
- 🌸 April 13th - Manna Ministry
- 🌸 April 21st - BMen Fellowship
- 🌸 April 27th - Manna Ministry
- 🌸 April 29th - 5th Sunday Breakfast Fellowship
- 🌸 April 29th - Annual Widow's Luncheon