

# SMYRNA SCROLL



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH  
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

## PASTOR'S CORNER

It is not uncommon for people to reach out with concerns regarding their soul. Many godly and earnest believers have wrestled with questions about their security in Christ. Unfortunately, over the years, some have been taught that they can lose their salvation. This is concerning because there is no clear line which would denote the “point of no return” which means that good brothers and sisters can be overwhelmed at the tantalizing and paralyzing thought that their previous moment of sinful indiscretion may have cost them their eternal standing before the Lord.

Typically speaking, there are two tracks I take to reassure those who are worried. Now, to be clear, I am not speaking about people who have called themselves “Christians” with little to no fruit to substantiate their claim! If a person seeks counsel who shows no evidence of a love for Christ and no indication of the moving of the Spirit of God in their lives, it may well be that they have never been saved to begin with!

Nevertheless, I have found that most who are tender enough to be concerned with this question are true believers who need to be reminded of some fundamental truths. The first truth is that those who are worried about their relationship to Christ are often demonstrating a perceptiveness and care that only comes as a product of salvation. Stated differently, people who are anxious about such things are often imbued with the Holy Spirit and therefore given life which makes the prospect of losing that life so concerning! Stated differently, it can be a very good sign that you are worried! While your concern is misguided, it is evidence that you have something you cherish and this is often evidence of conversion.

Second, and more fundamentally, those who are worried about losing their salvation ground their hopes in the wrong source. We are not saved by our performance; we are saved by a faithful and able God! Herman Bavinck expresses this truth well saying, “Because Christ is a perfect Savior, who brings not only the possibility but also the actuality of salvation, He cannot and may not and will not rest before those who are His own have been bought by His blood, been renewed by His Spirit, and brought where He is, there to be the spectators and sharers of His glory.” Do you see the point here, Jesus is the One who saves! He isn't finished with you, dear believer, and He won't give up on you. He died to redeem you, He sent the Spirit to indwell you, and He will continue to intercede for you until you make it home.

When you are tempted to think about your own performance as the ground of your assurance, remember that Jesus' performance is all that matters. He was perfect in His life and victorious in His death and that perfect power is enough to see you through as well.

Blessings,  
**Pastor Aaron**



## March 2026:

- \* 3<sup>rd</sup> - Red Cross Blood Drive 11 AM - 5 PM
- \* 7<sup>th</sup> - Kids Ministry Conference at Swift Creek Baptist
- \* 12<sup>th</sup> - Pastor's Book Club at 11:30 AM
- \* 26<sup>th</sup> - Senior Adult Lunch at Nanny's BBQ at 11:30 AM
- \* 28<sup>th</sup> - Music Ministry Dress Rehearsal at 10 AM
- \* 29<sup>th</sup> - Music Ministry Easter Presentation at 11 AM
- \* 30<sup>th</sup> - Deacons Meeting @ 6:30PM

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Dear Smyrna Family,

One of my favorite passages in Scripture has always been Philippians 3:10. It says, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.” The cry of the Apostle Paul’s heart, and mind too, is to know Jesus Christ. He wants to know Him deeply and personally which helps us understand how he can write in the verses preceding this one that everything else is rubbish or dung compared to knowing Jesus (vv. 7-8).

What I have come to realize lately is there is a reality within this verse that demands far more of each of us, if we are to intimately know Him, than I first realized. You see, who wouldn’t want to know Him in the power of His resurrection. That sounds great to be able to live victoriously in this life with the same Holy Spirit power at work in us that raised Jesus from the dead. I think we would all sign up for that kind of power to be unleashed in our lives. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with that desire to know Him through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through us. Unfortunately, that is not all that the verse says.

In Paul’s desire to know Jesus above everything else, he realizes and declares that he wants to know Jesus by joining in His suffering as well. I think it is fair to say that we will not be fully in union with Christ unless it entails some hardships and difficulties in this broken and fallen world. Too many of us are surprised by suffering and often allow it to drive us away from Christ rather than to Him. We must not fail to realize that part of truly knowing Jesus comes as a result of suffering as a follower of His. That is the “fellowship of His suffering.” To want to know Him is to want to share in His sufferings; The two go together!

As we step into a relationship with Christ it is the first step to, “That I may know Him.” There is a long journey ahead that will include the power of His resurrection and fellowship of His suffering. Please dear ones try to remember that when you experience suffering, the desire of our heart was that we know Jesus deeply. To come to know Him deeply is a result of sharing in suffering. You can’t fully know Him otherwise. An example of this is the life of missionary Helen Roseveare who served in Congo. She experienced blessings and some horrific experiences at the hands of soldiers who attacked her medical clinic. When she felt that God had abandoned her and that she could not go on, she remembered the prayer years ago that God would help her come to know Jesus as she prayed Phil. 3:10 to Him. He reminded her in her suffering that this was part of the journey to knowing Jesus – the One who suffered, bled, and died for our sins. This was for her, the fellowship of His suffering and the answer to her prayer; at least in part.

Friends, it is in our faithfulness in suffering that the world gets a picture of the message of the cross of Christ. This is what Paul meant when he wrote, “I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s suffering” (Col. 1:24). You and I get to become the personal presentation of the sufferings of Christ on the cross when we accept and are faithful in our own suffering. It is here that we experience the closest possible identification with Christ; that we truly know Him.

Devotedly,

**Pastor Robert**

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My book of the month for February was Theology for Ministry. It was a helpful work that reminds pastors, and those aspiring to be one, of the importance of theology in their ministries. It is a work that is a collection of essays written in honor of Dr. Sinclair Ferguson for his faithfulness as a pastor and professor. Every contributor has benefited from the years of experience Dr. Ferguson has as a teacher of the Bible and the theology we derive from it. Each chapter was written by a different author. Each chapter addressed a different subject of theology.

One of the unique features of this book is that it was written by pastors and is tailored toward pastors. All of the contributing authors are either currently pastors or have been pastors in the past. Most of the authors bring this emphasis to light. By reading their chapters you can tell that theology was brought into their ministries. One of my favorite quotes from the book comes from Martin Bucer, "True theology is not theoretical, but practical. The end of it is living, that is to live a godly life". For many of the authors, theology was not just a course they took in seminary. Theology is an integral part of how they shape their ministries.

If you have ever been interested in tackling a book on theology, this one is a good starting place. These authors do not shy away from deep, and sometimes difficult doctrines. Some chapters will need to be read multiple times to fully grasp them. One of the ways this book stands out from a typical systematic theology textbook is that it helps you see how theological concepts can be implemented into church ministry. These faithful men have attempted to motivate pastors, and those who are in ministry, to see the practical value of including rich theological truths in the roles God has placed them. This book is a resource I will keep returning to in the years to come.

Sincerely,

**Daniel Watson**

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**A FREE EVENT**

# **KIDS MINISTRY CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 7 @ 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

**Swift Creek Baptist Church, Midlothian**

Please contact Erica Chaplin if interested - (804) 894-0442

# YOUTH

Brother Floyd Crocker led us in a devotion during our deacon's meeting this past Monday evening. The passage he utilized was 2 Timothy 3:16-17. That is a familiar text to those of you who are at Smyrna! Nevertheless, there are always truths we can glean from Scripture and today I pray to encourage you to consider one as it relates to applying the Word of God to our lives.

Paul explicitly states that one of the goals of God's revelation is to "equip us for every good work." Stated differently, the end of knowing Scripture is to apply it to our lives so that we can walk in good works. The Bible must be understood. There is a very important place for comprehension as it relates to Bible study. However, the Bible must be applied in order for it to have its full effect.

This means that we must be good students of the Word and we must be good "doers" of the Word which entails taking what is given to us on the page of Scripture and applying it to the way we live and think. Church family, to be blunt, so much of what ails us as modern day Christians is not errors in our theology, it is inconsistency in the way we apply our theology! We "know" what is right in theory, but when it comes time to consider how to do what is right, we are prone to err.

We are given to fall victim to bad arguments, which take Scripture and twist it. Sometimes we allow presuppositions (assumptions) that are not true, biblically speaking, and when we allow such nonsense, our conclusions are always faulty.

These observations lead me to my admonition to you who are youth or parents of youth. Beginning this Wednesday evening (March 4<sup>th</sup>), we will be walking through a month of "biblical worldview training". Every Wednesday night we will examine a popular idea (as expressed in an article or social media post). We will take the time to dissect each idea, examine the assertions in light of Scripture and see how God would have us respond. Our goal is to equip the young saints for every good work by showing them that so much of what is platformed as "good" is really evil in disguise. These will be important, formative, nights for our students and I hope we can teach them how to think biblically and I hope your student will join us!

**Aaron Bobo**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
MARCH

- 3** RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE  
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM IN THE GYM  
REGISTER AT: [WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG](http://WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG)
- 7** KIDS MINISTRY CONFERENCE AT SWIFT CREEK BAPTIST - MIDLOTHIAN  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
[WWW.SCMV.ORG/KIDS-MINISTRY-CONFERENCE-1616](http://WWW.SCMV.ORG/KIDS-MINISTRY-CONFERENCE-1616)
- 12** PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB  
11:30 AM IN THE YOUTH ROOM
- 29** MUSIC MINISTRY'S EASTER PRESENTATION AT 11:00 AM  
"OUR TESTIMONY SONGS OF THE REDEEMED"



## SENIOR ADULTS LUNCHEON

Our Senior Adults are invited to gather together for a wonderful time of food and fellowship at Nanny's BBQ! Come enjoy a delicious meal, sweet conversation, and time together as friends.

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 AM

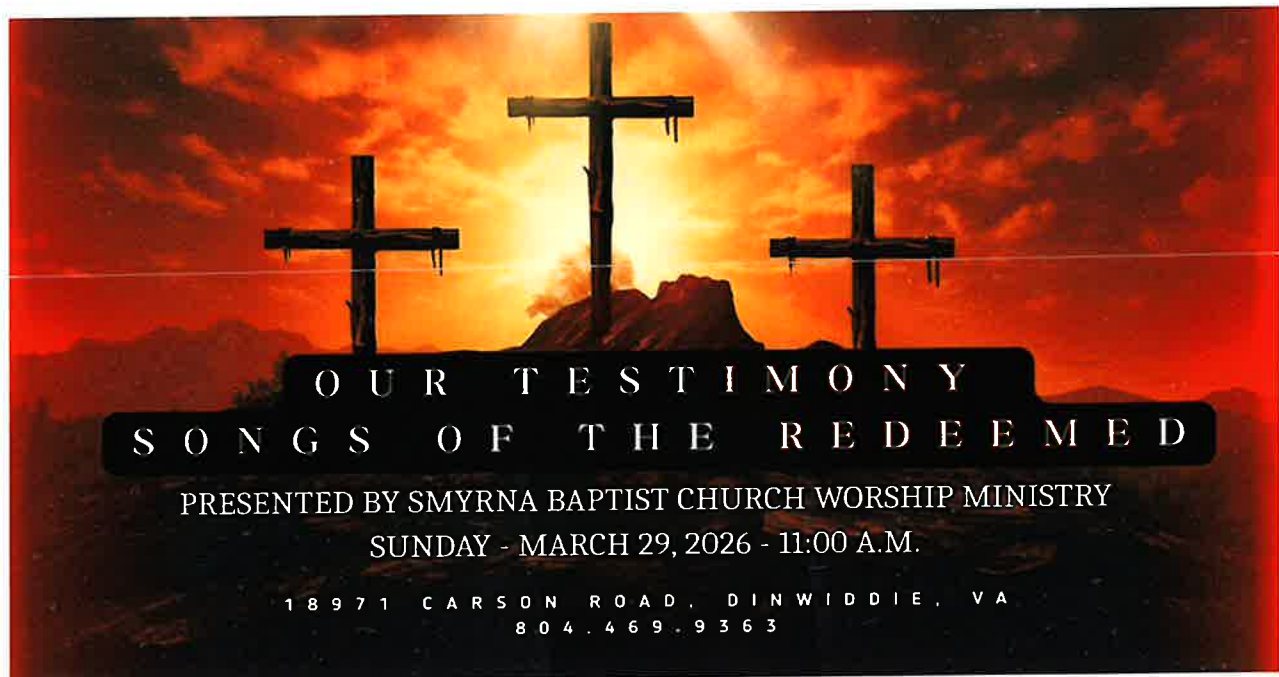
The cost for lunch is \$15.99 per person, plus tax and the cost of your drink.

Have you ever thought that congregational singing is a holy privilege? As Pastor, hymn writer and professor of worship ministries at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Matt Boswell put it, “When we gather as the people of God, it’s more than just a people getting together in a room. It’s a group of people who were once dead in sin, now alive in Christ. And so it is a high and holy privilege to gather in the name of Jesus.” He also states we should see “the gathering of the church as a living miracle.” Who doesn’t want to witness a miracle? We can see it with spiritual eyes each and every week as we gather to study the Word, sing the songs of the redeemed and hear the Word preached. We shouldn’t show up each week with the attitude, what can I get out of this? Boswell further states, “we want to come with open hands and open hearts, meeting with the Lord, meeting with His people, encountering Him in His great glory, and encouraging one another as His day draws near.” That should make us want to sing to the top of our lungs!

When we gather to worship we aren’t there to observe, we are there to participate! Are you leaving the service saying things like, “that made me feel good”, “the music was the music I like”, or “I was in a good mood today”. We should be thinking of God’s goodness to us, giving thanks leading us to actively participate in rejoicing as we lift our voice in song and attentively listen to the Word proclaimed! We could actually start before we drive into the parking lot, we can pray that the Holy Spirit would empower and fill us as we sing! Pianist and worship director Rynne Molinari states, “we should worship prayerfully, actively, regularly, purposefully (prioritizing it), selflessly (not thinking about our own tastes), repentantly and lovingly.” May we come together each week to participate by preparing ahead of time through prayer and Bible study! Our worship should be an outpouring from our daily walk with the Lord as we gather with the saints on the Lord’s Day!

We will be introducing a new song this month, “The God We Love (Nicene Creed)” by CityAlight & Matt Redmon. The Nicene Creed is also called the Creed of Constantinople. Simply put, the creed is a summary of the gospel of Jesus Christ, it says who God is – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is an ancient text originating at the council of Nicaea (in modern day Turkey, AD 325) and reached its final form at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD. Look up the history and the song and be ready to sing it with us soon!

Singing His Praises,  
**Melodie Parsons**



Dear Families,

March always feels like a quiet invitation to pay attention. Beneath the lingering chill of winter, something is happening underground. Seeds are resting in the soil, roots are stretching deeper, and life is beginning to form long before we see the first bloom. Growth is happening—but it's hidden. Lately, the Lord has been stirring something in my heart about how closely that mirrors what is happening in the hearts of our children.

When life gets busy—and let's be honest, life is almost always busy—it becomes easy to notice what needs correcting before we notice what's going well. We hear the arguing before we notice the kindness. We see the mess before the effort behind it. Sometimes we move quickly to fix what's wrong without pausing to celebrate where growth is already taking place.

Correction absolutely matters. Scripture is clear about that. But I've been reflecting on how powerful it can be when we intentionally train our eyes to look for the good in our children. What if we became families who looked just as carefully for evidence of growth as we do for areas that need guidance? Because the way we see our children truly shapes the way we speak to them.

These early years are full of trial and error, big emotions, and constant learning. Our kids will get things wrong—that's part of growing up. But they are also showing us beautiful glimpses of who God is shaping them to be. They pray honest, unfiltered prayers. They try again after failing. They share, include, forgive, and worship with a kind of joy that often teaches *us* something about faith. Much of that growth is happening beneath the surface.

Before a seed ever breaks through the soil, it is already alive and developing. In the same way, the small choices our children make—the quiet acts of kindness, the effort to tell the truth, the courage to try again—are signs that God is at work in them. When we choose to notice those things, we begin to see them more clearly and more often.

And there is real power in a child hearing, "I'm proud of you." Not only when they succeed, but when they choose kindness. When they tell the truth. When they try again after getting it wrong. When they include someone who feels left out. Those words help shape who they believe they are becoming.

Our Heavenly Father models this so beautifully. He corrects us when we need it, but He also delights in us. He sees every small step of obedience and every quiet act of faithfulness. That is the heart we want to reflect to our children.

As we move through this season of quiet growth, may we become families known for seeing and speaking the good. Because when children consistently hear what they are doing right, it sinks deep into their hearts—and they begin to live from that truth.

I am so grateful for each of your children. It is truly an honor to walk alongside your families as we nurture the seeds of faith, character, and love that God is growing beneath the surface.

With gratitude and joy,

**Erica Chaplin**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Erin Dodson	2 Scotty Leshar Berkeley Westmoreland	3  American Red Cross Blood Drive 11AM-5PM Amanda Joyner	4 Nominating Committee Mtg. at 9:30 AM Gabrien Elder Andrea Peavyhouse	5 John Kennedy	6 Hatcher Bain Marigold Servis	7  At Swift Creek Baptist Church 9:00-3:30
8  Clara Wells	9	10 Earl Chappell Brandy Turner	11	12 Pastor's Book Club @ 11:30 AM at Smyrna Rudy Etheredge, III Darlene Frain Kady George Vanessa Williams	13 Chris Dimaio Chelsi Holderfield	14
15	16 Jaimee Clary Ellis Dahowski Penelope Faulkner	17 Megan Gray	18 Jamie Dalton Allie Lewis Olivia Gibbs	19 Mason Glasper	20  Melody Harrington Catherine Mizzell Petra Schweizer Arrow Taylor	21 Elena Adams David Kidd
22 Ashley Bobo Christian McCaffity Maya Rusek	23 Deacons Meeting @ 6:30 PM Alyssa Long Mike McCoig	24 Amy Jackson	25 Megan Demaline	26 Senior Adult Lunch at Nanny's BBQ @ 11:30AM	27	28 Music Ministry Dress Rehearsal @ 10 AM 🎵
29 Music Ministry Easter Presentation @ 11 AM 🎵 June Gray Betty Mayes	30 Terri Driskill Kurt Jones Angela Poarch Caleb Williamson	31 Judah Williamson				

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:45 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - Worship Service  
6:00 pm - Smyrna 'U' classes

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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE**

5:30-6:15 - Dinner  
6:00 - 6:30 - Kidz Choir  
6:30 - 7:30 - Mid-Week Bible Study  
6:30 - 8:00 - AWANA, Youth, & Worship  
Ministry Practice  
8:15 - 9:00 - Worship Ministry Practice





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### 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.

## March 2026 - Children's volunteer schedule

DATE	9:30 - 10:45		10:45 - 12:15				
	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1 & 2'S	3'S	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
1 <sup>st</sup>	Angie Adkins	Melissa Snellings	Amanda Joyner	Ashley Shifflett	Cheryl Joyner	Jennifer Miller	Brad & Ashley Perkinson
8 <sup>th</sup>	Pamela Reynolds	Krista Jones	Terri Driskill	Lisa Barnhouse	Glenn & Brittney Chappell	Sarah Mae Wamsley	Jamie Morini
15 <sup>th</sup>	Kim Davis	Holly McCaffity	Kim Davis	Amelia Servis	Scotty & Heather Leshar	Ashley Bobo	Amie Davila & Megan Demaline
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rudy Etheredge, Jr.	Andrea Peavyhouse	Danna Gammon	Meredith Outlaw	Diana Neville	Sarah Brewer	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Angie Chappell	Mykalah Tench	Chuck Page	Melissa Snellings	<b>5th Sunday Family Worship</b> - No children's classes today - only nursery available		



### SS Class Dinner Schedule

- ◇ 4<sup>th</sup> - Refocus on Christ
- ◇ 11<sup>th</sup> - High School Youth
- ◇ 18<sup>th</sup> - Men's & Women's Classes
- ◇ 25<sup>th</sup> - Growing Families

