



“His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness” 2 Peter 1:3

## Pastor’s Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

So often we talk about the value and importance of the Word of God in your life. I cannot begin to count the times that we have referenced Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and talked about how we should talk about the Word when we get up, lie down, as we are walking and just doing life. Moses is stressing that the Word be with us throughout the day. It is to be a central part of our relationship as a family in our discussions. It is to be in us, with us and surround us as we live and breathe. But, there is more. Friends, we are not only to remember the Word, but we are also told in Deuteronomy 6:10-11 that we should remember what the Lord has done for us. Everything we have and are, He has provided.

Now, let me focus for the rest of this entry on Deuteronomy 6:16. We are told here, “Don’t be like people at Massah who put the Lord to the test.” What is that all about? It was a critical moment in the life of Israel recorded for us in Exodus 17:1-7. Israel thought it was dying of thirst as they didn’t have enough water and complained vehemently against the Lord. What was the test that they were putting the Lord to? It was simply this, is the Lord really among us or not? This beloved, is a root question of faith. You and I find ourselves in the wilderness sometimes and wrestle with the same doubts. We find ourselves wondering where He is, if He is with us, and did He bring us to this point to let us die? Where is God?

When you are enjoying all that God has blessed you with, and all of a sudden trials and heartaches come, you must resist the urge to behave like the Israelites in Massah. These questions will enter your heart but you must believe that God is always with you. God is always blessing you. God is always taking care of you. Precious people, fight for your

faith. It burdens my heart when I think of the struggles that many of you are facing and walking through. I so wish I could make it all go away and fix your problems. I want to fix you. There is a great truth that is so often hidden from our eyes and only revealed to us spiritually by faith - God is fixing you! The way He is fixing you is so much better than what I would do. He is fixing you for all of eternity and He is doing it so that it will last forever.

I hope and pray that your walk with the Lord is so real that you will have no trouble telling others in your life (kids, grandkids friends, coworkers) about what God has done in your life. Look at Deuteronomy 6:20. I hope that if your child or grandchild asks you about why God did this or that, you can say, “When I was a slave to sin, the Lord saved me and brought me out with His mighty hand.” Obey Him beloved not to earn His love but because you are so thankful that you already have His love and you can’t get over the way He has taken care of you. Do you have a story to share? Pause today and consider the ways in which the Lord has blessed your life. Pray for eyes to see all the good in your life flows from Him and all the grace for the struggles does too. Beloved, settle your heart that He loves you and then lean into Him for strength as you press on in this sometimes really difficult journey. Invite Him in and hold to Him for dear life. He is good and He is faithful.

Devotedly,  
Pastor  
Robert



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH  
building community • equipping believers • serving jesus

Volume 15, Issue 5

May 2019

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### Special Points of Interest:

- ▶ Deacon’s Meeting Monday May 6th @ 7pm
- ▶ Mother’s Day - May 12th
- ▶ Widow’s Luncheon from 12:30-2:30 on May 19th.
- ▶ Church office closed Monday May 27th for Memorial Day
- ▶ AWANA Closing Ceremony -May 29th - Everyone is invited!

Hello Smyrna Family,

Business meetings offer a unique opportunity for the staff and other leaders to reflect on the previous several months. It's sometimes encouraging and other times sobering but constructing a report on the year's events is always insightful. As I was looking over the "fruit" of the discipleship ministry over the past 6 months or so one of the things that immediately emerged was the incredible blessing and joy the apprenticeship program has been to me. Furthermore, I fully believe that a main reason why the church is as healthy and stable as it is can be traced back to the ponderance of Godly men and women who are faithfully ministering every week as teachers and future teachers. My momentary reflection didn't end there however, instead I began to reflect on the fact that I'm not sure if I have ever told you (the congregation) the reason and biblical support for an apprenticeship ministry.

4 plus years ago I began serving at Smyrna in the area of discipleship. One of my chief duties and tasks as a pastor generally and a pastor over our teaching ministry (Sunday school, small groups, Sunday nights at the time) specifically was to equip others for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12). It has been my conviction that a chief reason for many unhealthy churches can be attributed to the truth that most churches view ministry as something the pastor does and the preacher almost always submits to this false judgement! What this yields are churches full of unhealthy and immature members who ought to be using their spiritual gifts but instead need someone to teach them again the elementary truths of the faith (Hebrews 5). This fleshes itself out in the dead, dry, weak churches and we don't want to be one of those.

So, believing that I must equip saints for ministry and seeing that my ministry specifically had to do with teaching I realized very quickly that my job was to raise up and equip other saints to teach. While one who grew up in the church might think this odd or at least new, the Apostle Paul believed this quite strongly writing to Timothy that his job as leader or pastor of the church of Ephesus was to pass on "the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses." Timothy did this with the goal of being able to "entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." Paul's stated desire was for Timothy not just to teach the masses but to raise up others to do the same. The ministry then would be one not just of addition but multiplication.

This is what we have sought to do at Smyrna and in so doing we have learned some lessons along the way. When we set out to train teachers we began with an 8-week class. The class was good and even somewhat fruitful but we began to realize that it had flaws. For instance, many folks might be experts in the theory of teaching but if they are not given the opportunity to teach we still don't know if they have a gift of teaching! Furthermore, this class offered no practical experience and no relationship through which a new teacher could pick the brain of an experienced teacher and grow. As I examined the Bible it became quite clear that this was not the biblical model either. In fact, what we find in the life of Jesus, Paul, Peter and others is that their methodology for training leaders was much more as "as you are going approach." They allowed others who were young in the faith to follow them, ask questions, observe and even lead out underneath their supervision. In short, your staff at Smyrna began to realize that these future leaders were really "apprentices".

The apprenticeship ministry then is based on the biblical example. We want to give men and women the opportunity to teach. We want them to learn from experienced teachers in preparation, classroom management, leadership and counseling. We want to have a "pipeline" full of qualified teachers who can birth new classes, reach more people, and grow into mature teachers of the Word and we want this because we truly believe that teachers are held to a higher standard of judgment (James 3:1).

Now, what does that have to do with you? Well in a very real sense our prayers will be answered as God calls and gifts our congregation for this important work! The ministry here at Smyrna is growing, it's expanded so quickly that we are now scrambling trying to find space for new classes and that is all because men and women are faithfully teaching God's Word and teaching others to teach it as well! God is blessing this ministry and He may very well be calling you to be a part of it. Your call won't be evident by telling us you're "called". Many folks think they want to lead for various reasons but your call will be evident as we see the fruit and dedication of your life. Remember what Paul told Timothy? Find "faithful" men and entrust them with the Gospel. The condition of their selection was faithfulness to the local church...won't you be faithful to our ministry at Smyrna? Won't you be faithful to growing in your walk with the Lord, offering thoughtful input in your classes, ministering and encouraging those in need? I pray you will because we desperately need more "faithful" folks to entrust with the ministry of teaching the Word!

**Devotedly,**  
**Pastor Aaron**  
Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education  
Email: [assocpastor@smyrna1897.org](mailto:assocpastor@smyrna1897.org)



Merry May Smyrna Members,

May this May mitigate the monstrous muck manifested as pollen! That was fun. Alliteration's awesome. Anyways, what's not so fun is this atmosphere of pollen we've lived in for the last 30 days. My allergies rear their ugly head in the form of sinus pressure headaches, so if my head looks to be 3 sizes smaller...it probably is. Hopefully you have fared better over the last month or so!

Another aspect of May that excites me is the end of my school semester. As you probably know, Pastor Josh and I are currently earning masters degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. What you might not know is that we only have a few more classes before we graduate (again)! By this time next year (Spring 2020), we will be weeks away from being done with our M.Div. -- praise the Lord! It's been a great experience and we've been shaped immensely by hundreds of interactions with professors, students, and books.

One of the most important lessons I've learned during my time in seminary is that there's more to life than learning lessons. Sound confusing? Let me explain. Over the last few years (since August 2016 to be specific), I've taken classes with numerous young men and women who are very smart. Their doctrine is robust and biblical. They check all the boxes. But, somehow, their lives don't quite match their test answers. They can write a wonderful 15-page essay, but they struggle to love their neighbor. Why is that? Well, it's the same reason why the Pharisees could memorize entire books of the bible and miss Jesus. It's the same reason why some people can sit in church for their entire lives and do devotions every morning and still end up in hell.

There's not space to get too deep into all this right now, but suffice it to say that just "knowing the right things" isn't enough. Ironically, we know that. That's nothing new to us. But, nevertheless, it's so easy to think that if we think rightly then everything else will fall into place and it's just not that cut and dry. There's one key ingredient that's missing from this equation and that's...love. Doctrine, theology, and right thinking are wonderful and necessary. But they are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. We study doctrine and develop theology and train our thinking *so that* we can know and love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves. Most important lesson I've learned in seminary? Never lose sight of what it's all really about.

For the King,  
**Pastor Joe**

*Assoc. Pastor of Administration and Missions*  
Email: [assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org](mailto:assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org)



## Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - May 2019

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

- a. Pray that the family can get everything in order as they prepare to return to America in June.
- b. Pray for Ashley as she is doing an internship in Texas this summer.

**National Missions**

- a. Pray that everyone here at Smyrna would catch the vision for Kingdom work, specifically: church planting in Richmond, VA
- b. Pray that our members could be a great witness for Christ in our local schools and everywhere in our community.



Smyrna Family,

Sometimes I wonder if I should write a little "series" or something in the Scroll. But, to be honest, I love that this is a place for the staff to simply share some current thoughts, so that is what I will do this month! This month, I have been thinking a lot about church programs. Don't skip the rest! I know it sounds boring, but bear with me. I am not opposed to church programs at all. In fact, they are largely unavoidable. Gathering on Sundays is a program. Any time we organize something like feeding the homeless or Awana, that's a program. But I want to pose a question: Is it possible that we love programs because *they relieve the guilt we feel for failing to do discipleship and evangelism in day to day life?*

Hear me out. I am not saying we should get rid of Awana, Sunday school, discipleship classes, or any other programs. Programs, in and of themselves, are not the problems. Here is how problems can arise. Parents may fail to disciple their children in the slightest all week, but they made it to Awana - this is an unhealthy pattern. Or perhaps a person has not shared the gospel with anyone in a decade, but they attend Sunday night class on evangelism. Maybe a person has refused to give to the church or be generous in other contexts, so they sign up for feeding the homeless. All of those programs I've mentioned are great! But the purpose is to serve, *not relieve the burden of sin in our lives*. Does that make sense? That conviction you may feel from not sharing the gospel, not discipling your children, or not being generous? You're supposed to feel that conviction, because you are sinning.

So, do we stop any and all programs? Of course not. Instead, we must all think well and teach others what programs are and what they aren't. They aren't a substitute for spiritual discipline. They aren't to relieve you of conviction for abdicating your Christian responsibilities. They are boot camp for spiritual warfare. Another analogy I heard: learning a lot about scripture and theology is wonderful, but it's just like adding legos to the pile -- you still have to actually build something with them. I think programs can be great, because we all need more "legos." But at some point, we need to step up and build something with them.

In Christ,

**Joshua Rowland**  
Next Generation Pastor

**YOUTH**

**If you would like to sponsor a child for camp or be a chaperone please contact Pastor Josh Rowland for details.**

**MYRTLE BEACH**  
JUNE 17-21, 2019

DAVID PLATT

MOZAIC MSC

KB

VERTICAL WORSHIP

DREW WORSHAM

Give students a week full of surf, sand, group-bonding community, dynamic worship and powerful teaching in God's Word at one of the most desirable beaches on the East Coast.

**STUDENT LIFE CAMP  
SIGN UP HAS BEGUN!**

Sign up sheets are at the Children's Welcome Center desk. **SIGN UP NOW!**

 STUDENT LIFE

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

### 9 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHRISTIAN HYMNS by Joe Carter TGC

1. A hymn is a religious song or poem of praise to God sung during Christian worship, typically by the whole congregation. The singing or composition of hymns is called hymnody, while a writer of hymns is known as a hymnodist. A collection of hymns is called a hymnal or hymnary. A student of hymnody is called a hymnologist, and the scholarly study of hymns, hymnists, and hymnody is hymnology.
2. The term hymn is derived from the Greek *hymnos* "festive song or ode in praise of gods or heroes," used in the Septuagint (earliest Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures) to translate several Hebrew words meaning "song praising God."
3. The music to which a hymn may be sung is known as the hymn tune. Many English hymns were written in a particular hymn metre (i.e., a specific number of syllables for the lines in each stanza of a hymn) so that the hymn could be sung to a tune already known by the congregation. For example, "Amazing Grace" is written in common metre (8.6.8.6) and sung to the tune of the song known as "New Britain".
4. The earliest references to Christian hymnody come in the New Testament. Two references are made in the Gospels (Matt. 26:30 and Mark 14:26), likely referring to the singing of the Psalms. Hymnody is also mentioned in Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; and James 5:13.
5. Until the 18th century, most hymnody in churches consisted of singing of the inspired Psalms. During the Protestant Reformation, some reformers, like Martin Luther, began to include hymns, while others like John Calvin held to a principle of exclusive psalmody. The British hymnodist Isaac Watts has been called the "the liberator of the English hymn" for helping to move from exclusive psalm-singing to hymns. As Robin A. Leaver says, Watts believed through psalmody "that only Old Covenant themes were customarily sung among New Covenant people." In his preface to *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* (1707), Watts wrote:  
While we are kindling into Divine Love by the Meditations of the loving *Kindness of God, and the Multitude of his tender Mercies*, within a few Verses some dreadful Curse against Men is proposed to our Lips; That God would add *Iniquity unto their Iniquity, not let them come into his Righteousness, but blot them out of the Book of the Living (Psalms 69, 16, 27, 28)*. which is so contrary to the New Commandment, *of loving our Enemies*. [Emphasis in original]
6. The earliest post-New Testament reference to hymnody come from a letter the Roman statesman Pliny the Elder sent the Emperor Trajan (c. AD 113) describing his interrogation of Christians:  
They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so.
7. Charles Wesley, the younger brother of Methodist founder John Wesley, wrote 8,989 hymns. Wesley wrote an average of 10 lines of verse every day for 50 years, and completed a hymn every other day. During his life, he never heard his fellow Methodists sing his hymns in Sunday worship. At the time, Methodists were still part of the Anglican Church, and the Church of England did not officially approve the singing of hymns until 1820—32 years after Wesley's death.
8. Although Fanny Crosby didn't begin writing hymns until she was in her 40s, she became one of the most prolific hymnodists in the English language. Crosby is believed to have produced about 9,000 works, though as the *Encyclopedia Britannica* notes, "the exact number is obscured by the numerous pseudonyms (as many as 200, according to some sources) she employed to preserve her modesty." Although a medical treatment by a man pretending to be a doctor caused Crosby to be blinded as a child, she considered her condition a blessing. "If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it," Crosby said. "I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me."
9. Modern musicians tend to distinguish between hymns and other forms of church music such as worship and praise songs. But Augustine had a broader and more inclusive definition of hymn. In his commentary on Psalm 148, Augustine said: Know you what a hymn is? It is a song with praise of God. If you praise God and do not sing, you do not utter a hymn: if you sing and do not praise God, you do not utter a hymn: if you praise anything else, which pertains not to the praise of God, although you sing and praise, you utter no hymn. A hymn then contains these three things, song, and praise, and that of God. Praise then of God in song is called a hymn.

Singing His Praises,  
Melodie & Brad



#### A Few of the Hymns & Songs for May

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us", "Forgiven" (Sovereign Grace Music), "Death Was Arrested", "O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer", "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah", "The Cause of Christ", "The Gospel Changes Everything"

# 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!



10:30 am - 12:15 pm

MAY 2018	<u>SS Nursery (9:15—10:30)</u>	<u>Nursery (10:30)</u>	<u>Toddler 1's &amp; 2's</u>	<u>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>
May 5th	Brandy Turner	Michele Snead	Rachel Mitchell	Megan Demaline	Stacey Dyson	Kim Davis	Kalley Saye
	Peggy Turner	Sharon Long	Sarah Mitchell	Mike Demaline	Angel Davis		
May 12th	Annette Perkinson	Mary Tucker	Brandy Barchan.	Mary Hunt	Aimee Kennedy	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye
	Ashley Perkinson	Tucker girls	Alicia Weyforth	Rebekah Servis	Emma Kennedy		
May 19th	Heather Gordon	Jan Etheredge	Tia Wilson	Lauren Kidd	Bryant Gammon	Kim Davis	Angela Walker
	Kalley Saye	Angie Adkins	Mckenzie Wilson	Samantha Kidd	Danna Gammon		
May 26th	Kathy Miles	Stephanie Rowland	Melissa Taylor	Rhonda Kester	Aaron Bobo	Aimee Kennedy	Pam Reynolds
	Cindy Bain	Melissa Snellings	Cheryl Joyner	Diane Burton	Ashley Bobo		



## WE'RE HEADED TO CENTRIKID!

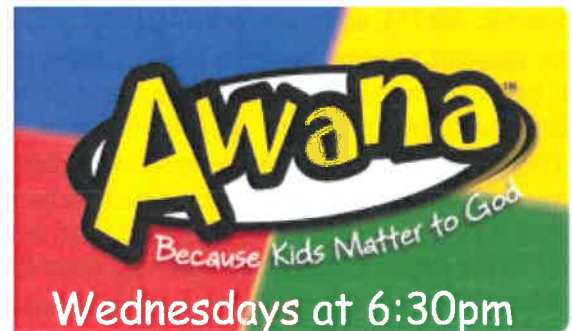
CentriKid is a high-energy, intentional, gospel-centered overnight camp for 3rd–6th graders. Their mission is to help kids experience the time of their lives and learn more about the message of Jesus Christ. This takes place through track times, rec, worship, Bible study, church group time, and a variety of other fun events. CentriKid Camps are committed to providing content that is rooted in Scripture, a safe location, kid-friendly programming, and staffers who are deeply invested in your kids.

Sign up your kids today! Or see Mrs. Kalley

Cost 180 00 per child or

220 00 Which includes care package

These care packages include all team specific items to get campers completely prepared for OMC: CentriKid backpack, OMC t-shirt, water bottle, and other fun gear for their team color



- 🌸 May 1st- Regular Club Night
- 🌸 May 8th- Moving Up Night
- 🌸 May 15th- Regular Club Night
- 🌸 May 22nd- Luau Night
- 🌸 May 29th- Awards Ceremony (our last AWANA til September- boo-hoo)

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Closing AWANA Awards Ceremony on Wednesday May 29th. (There will not be worship team practice or prayer meeting that evening).  
The Ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m.



# Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events - 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ladies Bible Study Every Wed. @ 10 am through May 29th.			1 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class	6 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	7 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	8 BOP 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	9	10	11
12 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class	13	14 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	15 5:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class Widow's Luncheon 12:30	20	21 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 American Heritage Girls Troop VA1897 6-8 pm	22 6:30pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class	27 Church Office Closed Happy Memorial Day!	28 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	29 Closing Awards Ceremony!!! Awana	30	31	BOP Wednesday, 5/8 @ 11am

## May Birthdays

- |                     |                          |                  |                 |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Analeigh Bobo     | 15 Jean Bishop           | 24 Aaron Long    | 29 Lynn Rhodes  |
| Audrey Erdmann      | Aaron Graham             | 25 Allison Page  | 31 Karina Davis |
| Katherine Wells     | 16 Allen (AG) Jones, Jr. | Lee Phillingane  | John Mellick    |
| 3 Ronald Snellings  | 17 Sharon Connelly       | Marian Rowland   | Steve Schmidt   |
| Presleigh Slayden   | 18 Jane Byrd             | 26 Donna Allen   |                 |
| 4 Billy Lewis       | 19 LeAnn Adkins          | 27 Ashley Jones  |                 |
| 5 Alan Kissner      | 20 Dennis Felter         | Michelle Ochtyun |                 |
| 6 Cothran Rainey    | 21 Jewell Barnhouse      | 28 Joe Bryant    |                 |
| 8 Linda Slayden     | Aaron Bobo               | Peggy Turner     |                 |
| 9 David Gammon      | David Hale               | 29 Tami Gibbs    |                 |
| 10 Michael Conrad   | Diana Neville            | Terrie Grissom   |                 |
| 12 Blake Montgomery | 22 Melissa Taylor        | Deni Harris      |                 |
| 13 Harry Saye       | 23 Roger Arnett          | Jess Mohr        |                 |





**SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
building community • equipping believers • serving jesus

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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.



AMAZING ENCOUNTERS  
WITH JESUS  
JOHN 20:31

VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL  
JULY 15-19, 2019

wednesday night  
**DINNER**



#### May Class Dinner Schedule

- |      |                                            |
|------|--------------------------------------------|
| 5/1  | Generations & Young Professionals          |
| 5/8  | Parents 'R' Us                             |
| 5/15 | Branches & Growing Families                |
| 5/22 | SALT, Aging Gracefully & Refocus on Christ |

Dinners end May 22nd! We will resume in September.



There are **OCC SUPPLY** bins located in the foyer and in the Children's area to drop off your donations for OCC shoeboxes.

### MAY Gift Ideas

#### Hygiene Items

- Comb
- Hairbrush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Bar soap
- Deodorant



- ✦ June 1 - BMen Breakfast Fellowship @ 8:30 am
- ✦ June 3rd - Deacon's Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- ✦ June 4th - AHG Closing Ceremony @ 7:00 pm
- ✦ June 9th - Baccalaureate
- ✦ June 13 - Last day of school
- ✦ June 16 - Father's Day
- ✦ June 17-21 - Student Life Camp at Myrtle Beach, SC
- ✦ June 24-28 - Centri-Kid Camp at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, VA

**SUMMER**

