

# November Scroll

“But *thanks* be to God,  
 who gives us the victory  
 through our Lord Jesus  
 Christ!  
 1 Corinthians 15:57 (CSB)

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

We've probably all heard church folk say, "I don't know how people make it without church in tough times." I agree with you but we must remember that people don't miss what they never had nor can they genuinely know what they are missing if they never experienced it. For so many, church isn't about a loving family that cares about their well being. It isn't a group of people who are there when times get hard or who celebrate with you when they are good. For many, church isn't a place where folks sincerely love and worship the Father, Son and Holy Spirit openly, honestly, and in gratitude and oftentimes desperation. For many, church isn't a place where you can be you and let people see that you are hurting, struggling, doubting, or fighting just to hold on. It isn't a place where you hear the living and active Word of God proclaimed with complete confidence and dependence. Church, for many, isn't a place where much of anything is actually expected. Well, for me, this church, Smyrna Baptist, is all of those things and more. I really wish that others knew what the church, the Bride of Christ, really was. She is beautiful and absolutely necessary in the life of God's people. I know she is in mine.

For my entire family, we want to say thank you for being you - the Body of Christ. You have cried with us when we cry. You have laughed with us and rejoiced when we have rejoiced. You have held us, fed us, encouraged us, prayed for us, put up with us, and served and worshipped our great God with us. We have grown together through the good times and bad. We've challenged each other, corrected each other, extended patience and grace to each other. We have stood by so many gravesides together and gathered for weddings and births and all that life brings. Through all of it, we have been together and blessed.

Like you, I miss Ed Edmonds, David Turner, Lemuel Duke, Johnny Felter, and Dusty. I wonder how Bob Hatter, Shirley Draper, Marian Harris, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown are doing in heaven. Baskerville and Virginia, Fred and Addie, and Max Barnhouse just can't be replaced. It's been a long time since we've lost Bootie Gupton with those thick eyeglasses. I would have loved to have had more time with Robert "Bob" Creech but the Lord saw fit to get him saved and then take him home. I miss all the little babies that we never got to meet that so many of our young families have lost and I will never forget laying little Trevor Chaplin to rest. The pain that Steve, Diana, and Heather suffered when they lost Stephen was so hard and my heart currently aches for my sister's pain in losing Bill. Still, there you are, loving her and us through it all. I look at you on a Sunday morning and I see strength and faith even where there is pain, suffering and loss - and I am encouraged because I know that "His grace is sufficient." I could go on and please don't be angry if I left out a loved one's name. I remember them.

Through it all, you are right. I don't know how people make it without the church. For me and mine, we love you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you are. Even the "knuckle heads" serve a purpose and are helping us to become more like Christ - even if it's just through patience and perseverance. Life is hard, God is good, and you are a blessing and a gift from God. He is working to make all things new so I know that someday all of us will be alright again. The story isn't over and we are going to be okay as we hang in there and press on towards Jesus. I'm so glad I have you for the journey.

Devotedly,

**Pastor Robert**  
 Senior Pastor  
 pastor@smyrna1897.org



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

**Volume 15, Issue 11**

**November 2019**

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### Special Points of Interest:

- 🕒 11/3 - Business meeting at 6:00 pm
- 🕒 11/4 - Deacon's meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 🕒 11/13 - BOP Luncheon @ 11:00 am
- 🕒 11/18 - 11/25 - OCC Shoebox Collection Week
- 🕒 11/27 - Cart Corral at Food Lion
- 🕒 11/28 - Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed
- 🕒 11/29 - Office Closed

Hello Smyrna Family,

Happy fall Smyrna family! Today I wanted to take a moment to encourage you to extend some appreciation towards an important group of servants in our church body. As many of you know, October is Pastor Appreciation Month. The occasion is set aside for churches to remember to love on and show appreciation for their shepherds. No, this is not a post about how you should appreciate us! Instead I wanted to take this occasion to remind you that there are other men and women who have devoted themselves to your good and the glory of God... our teachers!

Folks, if there is one aspect of our ministry that I am most "proud" of, not because of my effort but because of the glory God receives, it would be the multitude of godly teachers that have been called and raised up at Smyrna. There is no doubt in my mind that a fundamental reason for the health of our church and the stability she enjoys in these days is tied to our teachers. They equip you weekly with biblical lessons, they lead you with godly lifestyles, they facilitate community by encouraging you to interact and dive into the Word of God which provides the basis for our fellowship and they love on you each and every step of the way. And on the subject of new teachers, there will be a new ladies Sunday school class that will begin November 3rd and led by Rhonda Kester. This class will follow the Emmaus Road lesson schedule that most of our classes utilize. If you are a woman that has been looking for a class to join this would be a great option!

Over the last few months, several people have spoken to us (the pastors) stating that Smyrna is "different." They mean this in a good way. What they mean is that the Lord is moving here. They mean their lives are changed. They mean that God is up to something and that this place is not a "business as usual" kind of church. One of the reasons for God's blessing lies in the dedication of your teachers and apprentices. Tell them 'Thank You' today!

**Devotedly,  
Pastor Aaron**

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



Greetings Smyrna Family,

The first thing I want to do is thank you, the members of Smyrna Baptist, for being so encouraging to a young pastor. I preached recently (on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>) and it was... an experience! I have never gotten up to preach with so little preparation, so I wasn't sure what to expect! But, I implored the Lord to help me and I tried my best and it came out, well... I'll leave that for you to decide. But, regardless, you were so encouraging and uplifting that I just found myself being so grateful to be a part of this local body. So, from the bottom (or top? I'm not sure which is better...) of my heart: Thank You.

The spirit of joy in you is something that is not new to me at all. I came here as a first or second grader in 2001 and the last 18 years or so have given me more examples of your joy in Christ than I can count! What a blessing you are to my family!

As I'm writing this, on October 21<sup>st</sup>, I can't help but think about the book of Philippians, which we were studying in Sunday school this past Sunday. Numerous times throughout that book, Paul speaks of the joy he has because of the Philippians. He says that he "longs" to see them time and time again. I want to thank you for being a church body that I "long" to be with. I genuinely miss you when I'm gone and am genuinely refreshed by you when I'm present. What a joy that is!

Let me encourage you to keep pressing on! Keep fighting for joy and for faith in our precious Savior. Work as hard as you might, but rest in knowing that it is God who is working in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

For the King,

**Pastor Joe**

*Assoc. Pastor of Administration and Missions*

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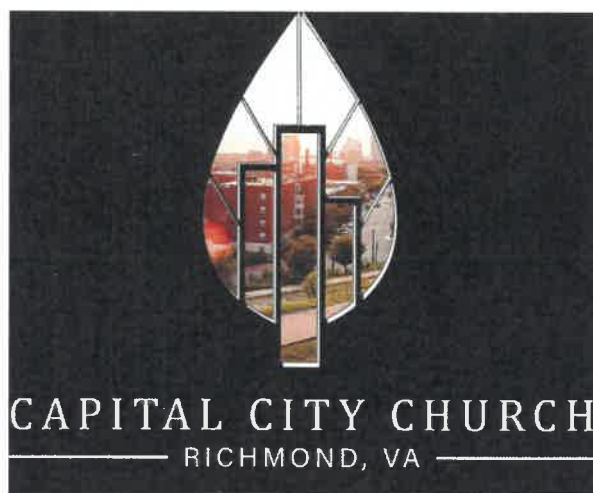
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### Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - November 2019

**Gary and Michele Kittredge, Ashley (20), Bethany (18), and Sophia (10) - Gbanga County, Liberia**

- a. Pray for rest and rejuvenation for the Kittredges during their time in the States. They often feel guilty for "taking the year off," but when they are in Liberia for several years at a time, they have *no* vacation time, *no* days off. And the work is harder than we can imagine. In short: their time in the States is well-earned.
- b. Pray for Ashley as she is back in Budapest for another year of college. Pray for Bethany as she works through her senior year of high school and prepares to go to Budapest herself. Pray for Sophia as she prepares for life

without her older sisters.

**Pastors Josh and Joe**

- a. Pray that the Spirit would move in an undeniable way in the hearts of the members at Smyrna to bring about radical obedience to Christ's command.
- b. Pray for Pastor Josh and Pastor Joe as they and their wives (and a few other couples) train and prepare for the hard work of planting a church in the city of Richmond, Virginia. Pray for peace, wisdom, direction, and joy!

Smyrna Family,

This month, I have been thinking a lot about earthly suffering and God's miraculous ability to heal. There have been many in our church family, some in my biological family, and others who I am sure I just do not know of who are suffering. And it looks different in every case. Some are battling cancer. Some are in abject poverty through circumstances beyond their control. Some are dealing with wayward children. Some experience chronic pain. The list goes on and on. What are we to think?

First, a word about suffering. On one hand, suffering is a result of the fall of man into sin. It is not the way things were supposed to be. Through sin came suffering (of all kinds) and death. Suffering is to be expected, particularly for followers of Christ (2 Timothy 3:12) who are not only living in a broken world, but fundamentally at odds with the spirit of the age. When Jesus performs miracles, he is not only pointing to his greater work of salvation, but also showing the onlookers what creation is meant to be like - a return to true normal, if you will, where there are no lepers, there is no paralysis or blindness, no death. On the other hand, in spite of the broken state of the world, God uses that suffering for glorious ends (cf. 2 Cor. 4:17; 1 Peter 5:10; James 1:12; Romans 5:3-4). It's a mixed bag, isn't it? Is suffering good or bad? Well, both. Ontologically bad, but used by God for good. This is an oversimplification, but if you are suffering now, lean into both aspects. Let the evil of suffering remind you that things are not what they are meant to be, and Jesus will set them right. But do not forget that God is at work even, perhaps especially, in the midst of bitter suffering.

Let's conclude with a little word of warning, so to speak. It takes only a few minutes of internet searching to find some unbelievably disturbing videos of people abusing the concept of God miraculously healing. There are criminal "pastors" who claim that faith always leads to health and wealth, and you can show your faith by lining their pockets or financing their next private jet. I fear for them on the day of judgement. But we must be careful; when we see abuses like that, it is easy to swing the pendulum so far in the other direction that we, too, commit error. As in, we may have the tendency to be so suspicious of healing and miracles that we functionally reject the reality that God still can and does miraculously heal! Regardless of your views on the "supernatural gifts," we all must agree that God can still supernaturally heal at his will. Don't just agree to that intellectually. Pray like it's true. The key: trust God even when he doesn't heal. But friends, don't swing the pendulum so far that we act as if he can't!

In Christ,

**Joshua Rowland**

Next Generation Pastor

Email: [youthpastor@smyrna1897.org](mailto:youthpastor@smyrna1897.org)

**FOOD LION**

**VOLUNTEERS needed for Cart Corralling**

@ **Dinwiddie Food Lion** on

**Wednesday 11/27 from 10am - 2pm**

**4-6 Volunteers needed per 2-hour shift**

**(10:00 am - Noon & Noon - 2:00 pm)**



Some of you have probably heard this before, "the older I get, the faster the time goes by." Sitting down writing this for the Scroll certainly brings that to mind with it being November. Before we know it, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us along with the New Year!

The worship ministry's focus is not only the here and now but also what is coming in the future. We are responsible to be at rehearsals and to be prepared each Sunday to lead in worship. We prepare months in advance for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. There are personal preparations away from group rehearsals, which come together with our combined talents and efforts. We truly are a team that does far more together than we can do individually. In some ways, we function much like the larger body of Christ - the church. We are better together!

You, the body of Christ, are better together in worship, in witness and in work (service). We need each other and the Holy Spirit to empower us to be better. How can we be better in worship? One way is to consistently be in church and Bible study each week, participate in the singing and be attentive to the preached word. That also is a witness and our service. Of course, that is not the only way to worship, witness and work (serve). But it's definitely a great beginning! This reminds me of a hymn I learned as a child, "To Worship, Work and Witness", a mission's hymn. It is our mission to worship, work and witness. It must have been in the back of my mind when sitting down to write this.

Let's all work towards being better together in the here and now and pray as we look ahead to our best days of worshipping, working and witnessing for the glory of God!

We covet your prayers as we continue our preparation for a special time of worship this Christmas!

*Singing His Praises,  
Melodie & Brad*



# Kidz News



If you are unable to volunteer on your specified date/time, please find your own replacement and notify the Children's Dept. Coordinator with your replacements name - THANK YOU for serving the children of Smyrna Baptist Church!



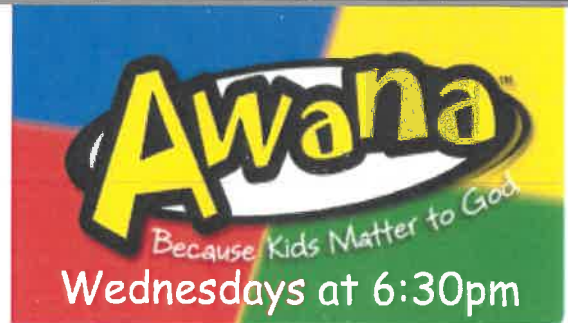
NOV 2019	SS Nursery (9:20—10:40)	Nursery (10:30)	10:30 am - 12:15 pm		Children's Church	Check In (9:15 - 10:30)	Check In (10:30 - 12:15)
			Toddler 1's & 2's	Toddlers 3's			
Nov 3	Annette Perkinson	Jan Etheredge	Tia Wilson	Diana Neville	Kristin Clay	Kim Davis	Kalley Saye
	Ashley Perkinson	Angie Adkins	MaKenzie Wilson	Chris Neville	John Gordon		
Nov 10	Kathy Miles	Stephanie Rowland	Judy Branch	Michelle Ochtyun	Dianne Jones	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye
	Cindy Bain	Melissa Snellings	Alicia Weyworth	John Ochtyun	Allen Jones		
Nov 17	Heather Gordon	Gina Perkinson	Sarah Mitchell	Rhonda Kester	Ashley Bobo	Kim Davis	Angela Walker
	Kalley Saye	Shay Tench	Rachel Mitchell	Diane Burton	Aaron Bobo		
Nov 24	Panky Clark	Lisa Barnhouse	Ashley Barnhouse	Janna Cobb	Pastor Robert	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye
	Mason Wells	Grace Barnhouse	Reagan Saye	Emily Davis	Johanna Rowlnad		

## KIDZ CHOIR

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM

AGES 3 YRS. TO PRE-K - ROOM #114

AGES K-6TH GRADE - ROOM #125



- 🕒 Nov 6th - Food Collection
- 🕒 Nov 13th - Food Collection
- 🕒 Nov 20th - "Thankful Night" - Take food to food pantry
- 🕒 Nov 27th - NO AWANA

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**





# November



## Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events - 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>BOP</b> Wednesday, 11/13 @ 11am		OCC Collection Week 18th - 25th See back of Scroll for Drop-Off times			1	2
3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service  Semi-Annual Business Meeting No other evening activities	4  Deacon's Meeting 7pm	5 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121  <b>AHG- Troop VA1897</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	6 5:30 pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00 pm Kidz Choir 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	7  Good News Club @ DES	8	9
10 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class	11	12 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	13 <b>BOP</b> 5:30 pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00 pm Kidz Choir 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	14  Good News Club @ DES	15	16
17 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class	18	19  9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121  <b>AHG- Troop VA1897</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm	20  5:30 pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00 pm Kidz Choir 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	21   Good News Club @ DES	22	23
24 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class  	25	26 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	27 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Carl Corral at Food Lion  <b>NO EVENING ACTIVITIES</b>	28 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>	29 <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	30

- 1 Della Harrison  
Bonnie Moore  
Noah Perkison  
Pastor Joe Rowland
- 2 Debbie Cates  
Cole Westmoreland
- 5 Roselyn Stell
- 7 John Tucker
- 8 Afton Demaline  
Edith McAlpine
- 9 Jim Erdmann  
Rita Keese
- 10 Alicia Dalton
- 11 Kalley Saye



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Renee Silvestro      | Jack Pack               |
| 13 Patrick Hege      | 20 Phillip Page         |
| John Means           | 22 Cindy Bain           |
| 15 Melanie Lowery    | Skylar McCoig           |
| Bobby Rowland        | Jesse Severt            |
| 16 Franklin Chappell | 23 Jerry Perkinson, Jr. |
| 17 Kris Ongchangco   | Linda Wingrove          |
| Carla Temple         | 24 Emily Davis          |
| 19 Jannette Daniels  | Butch Howard            |

- 25 Eric Blaha
- 26 Noah Kester
- 28 Waylon Sims
- 29 Alison Bobo  
Richard Lane  
Autumn McCoig  
Marty Wells





# 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.



### November & December Class Dinner Schedule

Nov 6th	Aging Gracefully & Branches
Nov 13th	Men's Class & Ladies Precept
Nov 20th	Pathfinders
Nov 27th	NO MEAL - Thanksgiving Week
Dec 4th	Youth
Dec 11th	Generations & Young Professionals
Dec 18th	Melting Pot
Dec 25th	NO MEAL - Christmas
Jan 1st	NO MEAL - New Year's Day

- 🎄 Dec 2 - Deacon's meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 🎄 Dec 11 - BOP Luncheon @ 11:00 am
- 🎄 Dec. 15 - "God in Flesh Appearing" presented by our Worship Ministry @ 10:45 am
- 🎄 Dec 24 - Cart corral at Food Lion - Dinwiddie 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 🎄 Dec 25 - Office Closed



**Shoebox Collection Week**  
**Nov. 18-25, 2019**

### DROP OFF TIMES:

MONDAY - FRIDAY (18th - 22nd) - 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY (23rd - 24th) - 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
MONDAY (25th) - 10:00 am - 12 Noon