SMYRNA SCROLL

NOVEMBER 2026

FROM PASTOR AARON

It's Thanksgiving month which means we have every reason to contemplate the myriad of blessings we have received and for which we should be thankful. Consider today's entry a "top 10" for me, as I consider the joy of partnering with Pastor Robert in shepherding such a wonderful group of people.

1. God's grace in salvation: I am reminded of the numerous stories of individuals who have come to Christ over this past year and I stand amazed at God's faithfulness, mercy and might to continue to give the dead life. I wish I had the space to share with you some of the testimonies. God has proven His mighty hand still saves in: hospital rooms and living rooms and rooms of corporate worship. We are joined by several souls who have come into the Kingdom this year and I pray we never take the rich blessing of witnessing the power of the Gospel for granted.

2. A community of faithful disciples: it is astounding to me to witness the strong bonds that are so prevalent in our faith-family. There is great joy in hearing you fellowship and seeing you serve one another and love one another through the good and bad times of life.

3. An army of children: I joked with Ashley that we are going to have to start including a line item in our monthly budget for baby showers! While the expenses might mount a bit, the cost is in no way close to exceeding the joy of seeing young families welcome children into the world and commit, before God and our congregation, to raise them in the faith.

4. A church family that is willing to sacrifice for the mission: over the past few months, I have shared some of the details about our change in schedule with some of my pastor friends. To a man they have commented that your willingness to alter your schedule in order to make space for more is commendable. I agree! I am thankful for your willingness to be inconvenienced for the sake of the Kingdom.

5. A faithful wife: Scripture tells us that a good wife is exceedingly precious. I have found that to be abundantly true. So much of the "behind the scenes" work at Smyrna is carried on by my bride (and many other faithful women in the church). I marvel at God's grace and wisdom in giving us wives to complement us as we seek to walk in faithfulness. Ashley is a true treasure and a blessing I do not deserve.

6. A dedicated co-laborer: As of yesterday, Pastor Robert and I have worked together for 12 years! For the first 10, he was the "lead" and for the last two, I have taken that title

- but the truth is that we are functioning the way we have since the very beginning! We are a team and the relationship we enjoy is special (both in its duration and quality). I thank God for the many ways He serves you and I marvel that God would call me to a place where another can lead in ways that I am comparably weak.

7. A nearly finished residency: Daniel's call to Shiloh is a cause for great joy! I praise God that He brought Daniel to us several years ago and praise Him for the privilege of seeing the Watson's grow. I have no doubt that Shiloh will be blessed by his ministry and I pray that he is the "firstfruits" of many more who will be equipped and sent out by our church over the years.

8. Biblical convictions: it seems that many churches are veering off the path of faithfulness in our dark world. As I consider some of the ministries and men that I have looked up to over the years, it strikes me that God's Word remains the sole foundation for ministry. I thank God that we have His Word and I pray we will continue to build upon His truth.

9. Godly deacons: We were overjoyed to welcome another deacon (Mike Lewis) to the team a few days ago in our business meeting. He will join a group of faithful, humble servants which are so necessary to our ministry at Smyrna. I thank the Lord that He called and equipped so many to stand in the gap so that you all are cared for in your time of need.

10. A certain future: I do not mean that I know how the next 10, 20 or 30 years may play out at Smyrna. I certainly have visions and dreams and I expect that God will continue to bless us as we walk in His ways. Nevertheless, regardless of how the near future may work out, I know how this whole thing ends! Whether we fall in the battle or live to see the Lord's return, there is coming a day, dear church family, when our faith will be sight. On that Day, Christ will display His Lordship for the world to see. My anticipation for that day gives me hope and energy for this day. I am thankful that He has shared His truths about His return with us.

Thankful,
Pastor Aaron Bobo

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family

FROM PASTOR ROBERT

Dear Smyrna Family,

As we have now entered the month of November 2026, it brings us to the precipice of having our interest rate changed at the Bank of Southside Virginia. Some years ago, they gave us a rate of 4.99% which was pretty good for a commercial loan of this size. On November 30th, they will have the opportunity, based on the conditions of our loan, to refinance that rate. We have done a good job of paying down what began as a $3,400,000 loan. It currently sits at $783,000. I personally believe we have done an amazing job with this obligation.

Please never forget that the ministries we conduct and the size of our worship service as well as our Sunday School hours are possible because of this facility and all it avails to us. God has been good! We could not have well over 400 people in a single worship service and over 400 in Sunday School if we didn't have this space. We could not allow the Boy Scouts to meet here, the community and other churches to use the building, the county schools to use the building and park here, and many other services if we had not trusted God to meet our needs. We always said we were building these facilities to bless our community. I think we have remained true to that promise and conviction.

First, I mention this to commend all of you who have prayed for Smyrna Baptist through the years and for all who have given to help get to this point. I truly believe that we will have it paid off by the end of next year. That would mean that we will have paid a 30-year loan in 15 years. I am proud of what we have accomplished together. So long ago, I stated that there would be people who weren't even a part of Smyrna who would end up helping us reach this monumental milestone. To all of you who were not a part of this church family when the decision was made to step out in faith, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You truly are family now and this is your church too. Second, thank you to all of you who have continued, from the beginning, to give sacrificially and faithfully to the Lord through Smyrna Baptist Church. You are truly family and this is your church too.

As we draw near to the end of this month and a new interest rate, I would encourage any of you who plan to give an end-of-year gift in order to lower your taxable income or to meet your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your stocks and holdings that now would be a great time to do that. Please hear me say I am not begging for more money or browbeating any of you. I stand amazed at how faithful you have been in this area of obedience and because of your love for the Lord and His Bride, the church. I am simply letting you know that if you plan to, this will help us reduce our loan debt before November 30 so that the refinance will have minimal impact on our monthly mortgage. In advance, thank you all for who you are and everything that you do. You are an amazing blessing to us, and we thank God for the privilege of serving our Great Savior with you.

Lovingly,
Pastor Robert

FROM DANIEL'S DESK

I recently had the opportunity to read the classic work Christianity and Liberalism by J. Gresham Machen. This book was written just over one hundred years ago. However, it was eye opening to see the insight Machen had concerning what would transpire in the coming decades. While Machen was primarily concerned with defining and defending true Christianity against liberal Christianity, he also addressed crucial areas in the culture. Machen was not silent about the negative effects an embrace of liberalism would have on education, science, art, history, government, and other disciplines too. As liberal Christianity, which Machen rightly says is another religion, began to rise in the early 1920's, its influence would not stay confined to the arena of religion. It was fascinating to reflect upon my time in school, the atmosphere of education at large today, and see that Machen was correct about the destination of education when the infant influence of liberalism emerged in his time.

Two foundations of true Christianity that Machen defends are the truthfulness and historicity of Christianity. He describes the message of the apostles like this, "But if any one fact is clear, on the basis of this evidence, it is that the Christian movement at its inception was not just a way of life in the modern sense, but a way of life founded upon a message. It was based, not upon mere feeling, not upon a mere program of work, but upon an account of facts. In other words it was based upon doctrine…'Christ died'—that is history; 'Christ died for our sins'—that is doctrine. Without these two elements, joined in an absolutely indissoluble union, there is no Christianity."

I encourage you to read this book for many reasons. First, Machen gives us an example of what it looks like to combat false teaching by standing firm on the truth. Second, some of the same issues that were beginning in Machen's time are now mature in our day. Third, understanding Machen's argumentation will strengthen your framework for interpreting what you see in the world today. Fourth, Machen stands as a shining example of what it looks like to embrace the reliability of all that encompasses true Christianity against the tide of unbelief.

Many of the endorsements of this book share a common thought, this work is just as timely today as it was when it was written in 1923. I encourage you to get a copy and see for yourself that these endorsements are true. After taking the time to work through this book you will be stronger in your faith.



MUSIC MINISTRY

"I wanna be your hands and feet
I wanna live a life that leads
To see You set the captive free
Until the whole world hears
And I pray that they will see
More of You and less of me
Lord, I want my life to be the song
You sing"

Until the Whole World Hears

Happy November, traditionally a time to be thankful. There's much to be thankful for in the worship ministry. We are thankful for our choir members that give up their time to rehearse weekly, and on their own, sharing their talents in service through the church body unto the Lord. The same can be said for our band and pianist, who not only rehearse each week with us, but rehearse separately before putting it together with the vocalists. They also practice on their own time outside of church so that our rehearsals together are more efficient. As you can see, much takes place outside of the actual rehearsal time. Being a part of the worship ministry is definitely a commitment that yields much fruit in service to the Lord! This fall, we've experienced a "bountiful harvest" in growth adding ten new faces to the worship choir. For this, we are thankful.

We currently have 44 active worship choir members! We are also thankful to parents who faithfully get their children to Kidz choir rehearsals each Wednesday! As these kids participate each year, they will continue to grow into adult worshipers and worship leaders making worship a part of their everyday life. What a gift to the church, what a gift to the Lord!

Much thanks also goes to our sound and media teams! Without them, all our rehearsing, would fall on "deaf" ears so to speak. They spend a lot of their time making sure the music and the message can be heard and the lyrics and scripture can be seen so that all can engage in the worship services!

The Lord has blessed Smyrna with our faithful pastors that shepherd us so well! They encourage us to use our gifts, pray for us, teach us and lead us so well! Smyrna is a unique church because of the leadership of Pastor Aaron and Pastor Robert, we are thankful for them and do our best to support their ministry!

We are thankful for you, the congregation, that faithfully gathers each week to learn, sing, pray and serve as part of your worship.

A new song we will introduce this month is, "'Till the Whole World Hears", by Sovereign Grace Music. The theme of the song is evangelism, missions, and salvation which goes along with our Lottie Moon offering emphasis in November and December. Listen to it on your favorite streaming service so you can be familiar with the song and sing along when we introduce it.

Singing His Praises,
Melodie Parsons

EMMANUEL

GOD'S GIFT TO US



PRESENTED BY THE
WORSHIP MINISTRY OF
SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13
9:45 A.M.

SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
18971 CARSON ROAD
DINWIDDIE, VA
804.469.9363

YOUTH MINISTRY

I want to begin this entry by thanking the many parents who are serving our students so faithfully. It was a great joy to attend the middle school fellowship at the Scott Farm a few weeks ago. The amount of labor that was so obviously put into preparing (food, games, accommodations, etc.) was evident to all. Thank you to Amie Davila and her team for such a marvelous event.

In a few weeks, we will be heading to the Liberty Football game with over 65 students and adults. As you might imagine, transporting and providing for this many is quite the logistical challenge! We look forward to safe transport to the game, a good tailgate before and a Liberty win (Lord willing)! Thank you to John and Kristin Clay for their hard work in putting this event together.

Additionally, I want to remind all of our students that we will have our annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 16th. As always, this gathering will include food, fellowship, games and a gift swap! Students are encouraged to bring a gift for the swap (no more than $15 in value).

Finally, as we conclude our semester of study, I would like to ask you all to pray for our youth as we enjoy several nights of biblical worldview studies. It is so imperative that our students learn how to think biblically. This means that we must help them understand both how to identify falsehood and how to replace the lies of the world with biblical truths. I want to encourage you all to do all you can to encourage our students to join us as there is nothing more important than building our lives on the truth of the Word and there is simply no way that we can build on the sure foundation of the truth until we know the truth and how it applies.



Wednesday Night Dinner Schdeule

November 4th - Melting Pot

November 11th - Empty Nesters

November 18th - The Solas

November 25th - NO EVENING ACTIVITIES
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FROM THE CHILDREN'S DESK

Dear Smyrna Kids Families,

There's something special about walking through our Children's Ministry classrooms on a Sunday morning. Some children come running through the doors, excited to see their teachers and friends, while others need a little extra reassurance before letting go of Mom or Dad. And somewhere in between, there's usually a toddler who has decided that sharing is simply not on the agenda that morning! It's a wonderful mix of personalities, emotions, and little people learning about the world around them.

Lately, I've been thinking about just how quickly these early years pass. It seems like we blink, and the babies we once rocked in the nursery are heading into preschool. Before long, those same children are carrying Bibles into elementary classrooms and preparing to move into youth ministry. And in that short time, so much is happening in their hearts and minds.

Research on childhood development reminds us that children begin forming their understanding of the world long before they can put their beliefs into words. These early years are foundational, and the experiences, relationships, and truths they encounter can influence how they understand faith for years to come. That's why I believe so deeply in the importance of Children's Ministry, especially our nursery and preschool classrooms.

It's easy to look at a room full of babies or toddlers and see only the practical needs of caring for them. Diapers need changing, toys need picking up, and someone inevitably needs another tissue! But look a little closer.

There's a child learning that church is a safe and loving place. A preschooler discovering that Jesus loves them. A teacher patiently repeating a Bible truth that may one day become part of that child's foundation of faith. *These are not insignificant moments. They're the beginnings of something that can last a lifetime.*

I've come to appreciate just how much consistency matters—a familiar face at the classroom door. Someone who remembers a child's name, notices when they're having a hard morning, or offers a little extra patience. These relationships are built through ordinary moments, week after week, helping children understand what it means to be known, loved, and cared for by their church family. While parents carry the primary responsibility of nurturing their children's faith, it is a privilege for the church to come alongside them. When children see biblical truths lived out by people beyond their own families, they begin to understand that faith is something shared throughout the body of Christ.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, one of the things I'm most grateful for is the people who make all of this possible. Our volunteers give so much more than their time. They offer patience, encouragement, consistency, and love. They may never know which conversation, Bible verse, or simple act of kindness will stay with a child for years to come. Thank you all who volunteer!

With love,
Erica

Smyrna Kids Volunteer Schedule - Sunday Mornings



	Nov. 1st	Nov. 8th	Nov. 15th	Nov. 22nd	Nov. 29th
8:30 AM Sunday School hour - Please be here by 8:15 AM					
Check-In Desk	Audrey Erdmann	Joan Barnett	Christine Marston	Melody Harrington	Kim Davis
Nursery	Lesly McBride	Alicia Dalton Sharon Long			
1 & 2 Year Olds	Karen Sheppard		Alyssa & Kyle Pitcock		Brandy Barchanowicz
9:45 AM Worship Service - Please be here by 9:30 AM					
Check-In Desk	Joan Barnett	Jason Collins	Alison Adams	Mykalah Tench	Kim Davis
Nursery	Meredith Outlaw		Brooke & Nathan Daniels	Sariah Williamson	Melissa Taylor
1 & 2 Year Olds	Kristen & Drew Berry			Cheryl Smith	**Family Sunday**
3 & 4 Year Olds	Candi Cornett Janna Cobb	Ashley Jones	Ashley Bobo	Lori & William Chappell	**Nursery Only**
11:15 AM Sunday School Hour - Please be here by 11:00 AM					
Check-In Desk	Lesly McBride	Abigail Day	Carol Morgan	Chris Miller	Kim Davis
Nursery	Samantha Jones	Frankie Lunsford	Cheryl Smith	Andrea Peavyhouse	
1 & 2 Year Olds	Jennifer Miller	Brooke Dimaio	Jennifer Miller	Jennifer Miller	

Thank you so much, volunteers!

NOVEMBER

OCC National Collection Week
November 16-23, 2026

Nov. 16-20 - 6:00-8:00 PM
Nov. 21 - 10:00 AM - 12: 00 PM
Nov. 22 - 1:00-3:00 PM
Nov. 23 - 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Abram Barchanowicz Noah Perkinson Dalton Sides Lailah Sims	**2** Deborah Cates	**3** Mary Wright	**4** Catherine Parson David Wamsley	**5** Mary Chappell	**6** Franz Davila	**7** Ella Dahowski Jenna George Eric Sohn John Tucker
8 Afton Demaline Edith McAlpine	**9** Jim Erdmann Nora Puttkamer	**10** Carrie Baker Alicia Dalton	**11** BOP Luncheon 11:00 AM Kalley Saye	**12** Allen Andrs	**13** Patrick Hege John Means Olivia Sohn	**14**  Liberty Football Game - 3:30 PM Harper Goertz
15 Bobby Rowland	**16** Franklin Chappell Debbie Schmidt	**17** Carla Temple	**18** Taylor Cutchins Laura Hoyle	**19**  **Pastor's Book Club - 11:30AM** Krista Jones Luke Spain	**20**	**21** Skylar McCoig
22 Cindy Bain Ricky Elder	**23** Rhett Cornett	**24** Taylor Springston	**25** **NO EVENING ACTIVITIES** Brian McCaffity Jennifer Miller	**26**  Davis Ladd Charles Frain	**27** Madison Allen Glenn Chappell Jack Hoyle	**28** William Dimaio
29 Allison Bobo Autumn McCoig	**30**  Deacon's Meeting @ 6:30 Greg Conley Wil Monroe					








SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
FALL CAMPOUT
FOR DADS & KIDS
NOVEMBER 6-7
A GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT WITH CHILDREN.
THIS IS A PRIMITIVE CAMPING EXPERIENCE. TENTS ONLY.
NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
For more information, contact Tony Lunsford or Jimmy James Barchanowicz.


November
AT A GLANCE
NOV. 6-7
Dad's & Kids CAMPOUT
AT CHURCH
NOV. 16-23
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Collection Week
NOV. 19
Pastor's BOOK CLUB
11:30 AM
NOV. 25
NO
WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES


Host
Homes
Open your home and be part of a special time of fellowship!
Holiday Meals
December 4th & 5th
SIGN UPS WILL BEGIN
NOVEMBER 1ST
IN THE MAIN LOBBY.