

SEPTEMBER 2025

Dates to Remember

- * 2nd - Red Cross Blood Drive 11AM-4PM
- * 5th - OCC Packing Parties begin
- * 8th - BOP Luncheon 11AM
- * 11th - Children's Ministry Volunteer Luncheon at the Scott farm 11-2
- * 15th - Semi-Annual Church Business Mg -6:30 PM
- * 16th - Pastor's Book Club at Roma's
- * 27th - Deacon's meeting @ 6:30PM

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SMYRNA SCROLL



PASTOR'S CORNER

A few days ago, I had the privilege of teaching our Discover Smyrna (new members) class. We were talking about the importance of unity and honoring leaders, and this discussion led us to Hebrews 13:17 which says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." As we talked about the importance of everyone pulling in the same direction and honoring those who are in authority, the thought occurred to me that we are experiencing the goal of this verse... it is a joy to be one of your pastors and, I believe, it is important for us to let you all know!

Smyrna people, you all are a blessing to both of your pastors. We love you and we are thankful for you and, frankly, we are so very proud of you. Your reputation in this community, your love for one another, your hunger for the Word of God and your desire to serve Him is truly remarkable. It is a blast to see you grow and to be confronted with the many ways that you are making a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Today, I'd like to talk about one of those methods of making much of God and that is your vocation. On Sunday evenings, I am teaching a Christian history class. Each week, we are studying the life and thought of a faithful, and fruitful, figure in antiquity and last week's subject was Abraham Kuyper.

Kuyper's contributions to the church were numerous but, perhaps most of all, Kuyper taught about the totality of the Christian life. His famous tagline (translated into English as "all of Christ for all of life") reminds us that everything we do or say has the potential to bring God glory. We bring the Lord glory when we sing praises to His name or read and meditate upon His Word and obey or serve those in need. While these categories deserve our attention, they do not constitute an exhaustive list of how God gains glory through us. In addition to these more overtly "religious" pursuits, we bring God glory in our vocation and in our daily tasks. God gains glory, stay at home mom, when you take care of your children, providing a joyful and nurturing environment and this includes diaper changes and macaroni and cheese meals in addition to biblical instruction. God gains glory, contractor, when you build a sturdy and beautiful deck or wire a house with such precision and concern so as to make it both safe and convenient. God gains glory, teacher, when you know your subject matter so deeply in order to train

generations in the truths of God's created order.

In all these things, Smyrna folks, your example and love of Christ can shine through and I want you to know that it does. I take so much joy in hearing of your excellence, in seeing your love of all that God has created and in hearing the stories of others who have heard what you have to say about Christ because they have seen the way in which you have honored Him in your daily tasks. Keep it up church and thank you for making your pastor's job something we can do with joy.

Blessings,

Pastor Aaron

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A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT ROWLAND, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF CARE

This month (October) we will celebrate our 11th year with the Bobo family serving, growing, and leading. What an amazing and blessed journey it has been. I know that we were confident when we hired Ashley, I mean Aaron, but we could never have imagined how absolutely blessed we would be. God has demonstrated His love and favor on this congregation for a long time, but I can't think of a clearer demonstration, beyond His very presence, than the addition of the Bobo's over a decade ago. I know it is all glory to God and rightly so, but I will be forever grateful that He and Ashley lead us and love us the way they do. They do the hard work of disciplining themselves, studying to show themselves approved and capable, and investing endless amounts of time into ministry.

I will always be thankful for what God did before they arrived, but I am even more grateful that He brought them to help us get to a level never before reached in discipleship, Sunday School attendance, and other areas of growth, health, and maturity. Another milestone that we reach this month as well is the completion of his first full year as our Lead Pastor. I know he doesn't like that terminology, but you all know what I mean. Pastor Aaron, my pastor, is leading this staff and our congregation with extreme competence, godliness, professionalism, and humility. He knows how to lead with boldness, courage, a strong hand if necessary, and with compassion, gentleness, patience, mercy, and grace. Again, I could never have dreamed that the transition would go so smoothly and that we as a congregation would not miss a beat. I hoped it would be this way, but this exceeded even my expectations.

I believe that you will see at the business meeting this month that we have worked extra hard to reduce the budget as we, like you, want to pay this debt off. I honestly believe that we will do it in no more than 2 years, and I hope even less. I mention this for two reasons. First, I am excited that we were able to reduce the budget to help you see we understand and are trying to be fiscally responsible. Second, I want you to see that your Pastor is wise beyond his years and along

with the many amazing ways God has gifted him to lead and serve, He has also given him a mind and heart that sees the big picture and leads us in light of that. I can't wait to see what God does through our church family, and I know you join me in thanking God for the leadership God so graciously brought to us 11 years ago this October 27th. As you thank God for Aaron, remember to thank God for Ashley, his wonderful bride and partner in ministry, and the girls too. We love you Bobo family.

Forever grateful,
Pastor Robert
rrowland@smyrna1897.org



FROM THE DESK OF DANIEL WATSON, PASTORAL RESIDENT

During September I read the book, Disciplines of a Godly Man by R. Kent Hughes. This work provides specific instructions for various areas of life. It is a helpful resource for men to put into action as they walk with Jesus. Hughes writes as a seasoned Christian, author, pastor and professor. He has been following Christ for decades. His goal here is to help men faithfully follow Jesus in many aspects of their lives.

Hughes focuses on the responsibility that men have to be growing in their faith. Part of this responsibility is to be disciplined. He emphasizes it this way, "It is an immutable fact that we will never get anywhere in life without discipline-especially in spiritual matters." The instruction he gives is biblical and practical. The disciplines he introduces are intended to lead men into deeper obedience and fellowship with Jesus. The results of these changes will be seen in other areas of a man's life.

This book is not a work that merely focuses on theories that are disconnected from reality. Hughes gives examples from the friendship of David and Jonathan from the Old Testament. He also uses the lives of past leaders, theologians, athletes, his own life as well as his personal friends. Two of the great values of this work are that it is faithful to the Bible and it is an easy read. The guidance he provides can be put into practice from the very first chapter. His pastoral heart really shines through the pages of this work.

Implementing the advice and wisdom from this book will be helpful for the man of God who is longing to increase his faithfulness to Christ. Whether you are a new believer who is looking for direction in your sanctification, or you have been a believer for a while and are looking for a resource that could strengthen habits you have already formed, this work will be helpful to you. If you have ever read 2 Peter 3:18 and thought to yourself, "How exactly do I do that?", this work can benefit you by giving you direction. I recommend you read it and be challenged, helped and encouraged to walk faithfully with Jesus.

Sincerely,
Daniel Watson
dwatson@smyrna1897.org

YOUTH

Our youth ministry has enjoyed kicking off another school year of ministry which includes time together on Wednesday evenings. This year's point of emphasis has been strengthening and stabilizing our discussion groups. Each evening, we meet together to go over a passage of Scripture (currently, we are working through the book of Romans) and then we separate into age/gender groups (middle school boys, middle school girls, high school boys and high school girls) which are led by faithful and godly parents/leaders.

The goal of this time will be to help our students apply what has been taught and to give them the opportunity to build relationships with one another and more mature disciples for the purpose of growing in the truth and seeking help when needed. I am so thankful for the godly parents and leaders who have volunteered to give of their time this year and I look forward to growth.

The ministry has grown and we pray it will continue to grow as others in our church family prioritize this time of study for their student. If your student has not joined us yet, next week is a great opportunity to give our study and discussion time a try! We would love to see you soon.

Blessings,

Aaron Bobo



High School Youth
TRIP TO THE
PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 19TH

\$20 per person

plus additional money for any drinks at the farm or if you purchase a pumpkin

**THERE WILL BE A PIZZA LUNCH
 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
 WORSHIP SERVICE THEN WE WILL
 LEAVE FOR
 THE CHESTERFIELD BERRY FARM**

For more info: contact
 Daniel Watson or Kristin Clay

A MESSAGE FROM ERICA CHAPLIN , CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Hello Families,

Fall is in full swing—and so is our ministry! As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, we're witnessing beautiful signs of growth, connection, and God's faithfulness all around us. Our kids are thriving, our volunteers are shining, and our ministry is moving full speed ahead—with hearts full of gratitude and eyes fixed on what God is doing.

☺ **AWANA Kickoff: A Powerful Start!**

We launched AWANA this year with **113 kids and 44 volunteers**—nearly matching last year's final count of 116 right from the start! That's not just exciting—it's extraordinary. And based on past trends, we typically welcome another two dozen registrations between November and March. We're on track for our biggest year yet!

Each week, our building is alive with laughter, learning, and the light of God's Word. From Scripture memory to small group moments, we're watching hearts grow and friendships deepen. Thank you, parents, for making AWANA a priority—you're helping shape a generation of faith-filled leaders!

☺ **Church Business Meeting: Your Voice Matters**

Parents, I know your calendars are full—but I want to encourage you to carve out time for our upcoming Church Business Meeting. These gatherings are vital to the health and direction of our church family. The decisions made here directly impact the ministries your children are a part of, the resources we steward, and the vision we carry forward together.

Your presence brings unity, wisdom, and strength. Whether you're new or seasoned, your voice matters. Let's lead by example and show our kids what it means to be prayerful, engaged, and invested in the life of the church.

☺ **Children's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon: You're Invited!**

To our incredible volunteers: we see you, we appreciate you, and we want to celebrate you! You're invited to a special Harvest Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, October 4 at 11:00 AM, hosted at my family farm—a place I cherish deeply and feel blessed to share. This farm has been shaped by generations of love, faith, and hard work, and it's an honor to welcome you into its peaceful, welcoming space.

Come enjoy a delicious meal, heartfelt fellowship, and a few surprises that reflect just how grateful we are for each of you.

☺ **Supporting Our Kids in Fall Sports**

If your child is participating in a fall sport this season, we'd love to cheer them on! Please share their game schedule with us—either by emailing it to me or leaving a copy at the desk. We'll post all schedules on the Children's Ministry whiteboard so our church family can celebrate and encourage our kids throughout the season.

As autumn wraps us in golden light, we're reminded that ministry—like harvest—is a labor of love. Every child's smile, every volunteer's gift, every moment of connection is part of the beautiful story God is writing here.

Thank you for being part of this season's joy and for helping create a place where faith flourishes and hearts are encouraged!

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." —Galatians 6:9

With joy and gratitude,

Erica Chaplin

echaplin@smyrna1897.org

A MESSAGE FROM WORSHIP MINISTRY

There is room for **more!** **More** what, you may ask? We've seen **more** folks in choir this fall, some new and some returning after taking a break! That being said, we still need and want **more** voices to lead our church body in worship each week! You can think of the choir as a "smaller" group within the larger church body with a specific purpose; singing as an example to encourage the congregation to sing in worship, unity and community. Stated another way, a choir also serves as a visual example of how the larger body functions within worship.

You may also ask, what skills do I need to be part of the choir at Smyrna? Do I have to audition? Do I need to have prior experience? Do I need to read music? At Smyrna, you do need to match pitch (carry a tune) but there is no audition. Most of the time (but not always), people that love singing, match pitch. If you are not sure about that, I can help you. No prior experience is necessary, we learn together, beginners and experienced singers alike. You do not have to read music. Below are brief explanations of kinds/types of choirs. Smyrna's worship choir falls mostly into the Parts choir category, but at times tackle music of a trained choir. We emphasize the primary goal of worshiping God and the secondary goal of striving to do our very best while being as excellent as possible for His glory!

Here are various kinds or types of choirs.:

- *Melody ensemble*: This is a group of expressive but not necessarily experienced vocalists. Their primary purpose is to reinforce the melody. They can lead and teach the congregation songs.
- *Parts choir*: This is a step above a melody ensemble. People are actually singing harmonies. Some vocalists that are gifted musically can sing parts. Others that don't, sing the melody or tune.
- *Trained choir*: This is a group of people who know how to read music and can prepare special songs to sing for the church. The advantage of a choir like this is the amount of repertoire that's available to sing. The disadvantage is that sometimes choirs like this can become confused about the difference between producing excellent music and worshiping God. That certainly doesn't have to be the case.

All that being said, there is always room for **more!** Another benefit - having **more** in the choir could open up **more** seats in the congregation when we get to the point of the choir needing to stay on the platform during the service. It's wonderful being in a growing fellowship of believers! So all of you that are interested in being a part of the worship choir, we meet 6:30-8 p.m. and another rehearsal from 8:15-9 p.m. It is not too late to jump in learning our Christmas music! Reminder: You can find each Sunday's worship set on Spotify under Smyrna Sunday Playlist and the following new songs anywhere you stream your music.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th @ 6:30 PM

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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OCTOBER 2025**BIRTHDAYS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Gigi Young	2 Red Cross Blood Drive 11:00 - 4:00 Whitney Collins Mark Perry Dale Snead	3 Aiden Jones Steve Perkinson Cheryl Smith	4 Sydney Bradley Sarah Mae Wamsley
5 OCC Packing Party - 12:30 pm	6 Cody Long	7 Patti Kidd Savannah Taylor	8 BOP Luncheon @ 11 AM Jimmy Barchanowicz Kenny Miles Melodie Parsons Kevin Shifflett	9 Wallie Blount	10 Ruth Mayer David Tench	11 Kids Ministry Volunteer Luncheon 11-2 Carol Hege Ivan Slayden
12 OCC Packing Party - 12:30 pm Nathan Daniels Danielle Montgomery	13	14 Tommy Chappell Hudson Lane Judi Reighard	15 Church Business Mtg 6:30 PM No other activities*** Mykalah Tench Oakley Williamson	16 Pastor's Book Club - 11:30AM @ Roma's	17 Jerry Perkinson, Sr.	18 Alaina Williamson
19 OCC Packing Party - 12:30 pm	20 Brandy Barchanowicz	21 Beth Johnson	22 Daniel Davis Anniston Outlaw Mark Silvestro	23	24 Deborah Creech Declan Elder	25 Trey Berry
26 Mike Green Dillon Ladd	27 Deacon's Mtg @ 6:30 PM	28 OCC Packing Party - 6:30 PM Zachary Polk	29	30 Jimmie Simmons Angela Waker	31 Frankie Lunsford	

**★ ★ 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 - Youth/Adult Choir Practice

*** Oct. 15th - Dinner at 5:30 and Business Meeting at
 6:30 PM only - No other activities scheduled



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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.

October 2025 - Children's volunteer schedule

DATE	9:30 - 10:45		10:45 - 12:15				
	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1'S & 2'S	3'S	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
5 th		Terri Shell	Chuck Page	Sariah Williamson	Linda Mohr	Candi Cornett & Erica Chaplin	Vera Mitchell
12 th	Audrey Erdmann	Gina Perkinson	Chuck Johnson	Brandy Barchanowicz	Diana & Chris Neville		Carla & Derrick Temple
19 th	Kim Davis	Alicia Dalton & Sharon Long	Kim Davis	Melissa Snellings	Brooke & Nathan Daniels		Nikki Russell
26 th	Pam Kissner		Russ Joyner	Laura Hoyle	Heather & Scotty Leshner	Marisol & Amanda Joyner	Brittney Chappell & Alyssa Long

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
PACKING PARTY
SCHEDULE**

- OCT 5 - COLLEGE & CAREER AND BRIDGES
- OCT 12 - MEN'S, WOMEN'S & LADIES PRECEPT CLASSES
- OCT 19 - PATHFINDERS, BRANCHES & AGING GRACEFULLY
- OCT 28 (TUES) - PARENTS R US (6 PM)
- NOV 2 - GROWING FAMILIES & FAMILIES IN FELLOWSHIP
- NOV 9 - MELTING POT, GENERATIONS & REFOCUS

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT EACH PARTY
PARTIES WILL BE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



SS Class Dinner Schedule

- ◊ 1st - Families in Fellowship
- ◊ 8th - Refocus on Christ
- ◊ 15th - High School Youth
- ◊ 22nd - Growing Families
- ◊ 29th - Men's & Women's Classes

OCTOBER EVENTS

- OCT 2 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**
11 AM - 4 PM
- OCT 5 OCC PACKING PARTIES BEGIN**
CHECK YOUR SS CLASS SCHEDULE
- OCT 15 SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**
6:30-8:00 PM
- OCT 26 NIGHT OF WORSHIP**
6:30 PM