

SMYRNA SCROLL

OCTOBER 2026

FROM PASTOR AARON

I write this entry 10 days after our Sunday morning schedule change. Changes always remind me that I am more of a creature of habit than I would like to admit! Alterations to my schedule are not always easy and I trust that I am not in the minority in that regard. It amazes me how useful and grounding a routine can be and this means that any shift in normal activities can seem cataclysmic.

These things being so, I want to write today to commend you on your willingness to walk with us as we change our schedule in order to disciple and reach more people. Your kindness and commitment to the Gospel never ceases to bless me (and Pastor Robert). The feedback that we have received reminds me that our congregation truly cares about the mission of expanding the Kingdom and there are so many stories I could tell to illustrate your commitment to this goal.

Church family, I love serving with you! You are a blessing to your pastors and every time you rise up to help our congregation move forward, you encourage us to continue to commit to lead faithfully.

Obviously, the fruit of this change will be more obvious in the months and years ahead, but I did want to encourage you with a brief glimpse into the preliminary results of our shift. Two Sundays ago, our church topped 400 in Sunday school attendance and over 450 in worship. As far as I can tell, 400 people

have never attended Sunday school on the same day in the nearly 130-year history of our church! Additionally, except for special Sundays (Easter, Christmas Eve, etc.) there have been very few Sunday morning services better attended in my nearly 12 years here.

God is on the move, and we are excited to see what He will do! As I close, I wanted to remind you that these developments are not encouraging simply because of the numbers, instead they are evidence that God is at work and they are a visible picture of the grace He bestows on us as we seek to make Him known. Smyrna, I pray that our church is a place that always makes room for new folks even as we are always compelling them to come in from all walks of life. The ultimate joy is not grounded in a numeric figure; the greatest fulfillment of this change will be the opportunity we have to plant and water only to see God give the growth. Would you pray with me that God would continue to move? Would you commit, even now, to remain committed to reaching and discipling others even when it is inconvenient or when the pursuit requires changes? I appreciate your heart and, more importantly, I trust that God will honor your collective desire to make Him known. There are exciting days ahead dear folks, I pray you are ready to see what God may do in the coming years.



FROM PASTOR ROBERT

Dear Smyrna Family,

As pastor Aaron and I have been preaching through our 6-week series, "Life in the Body", it has been a great encouragement to us to witness your response to our messages. Pastor Aaron preached a message on church membership and already we have twenty people who signed up for our 4-week Discover Smyrna class to explore membership. Last week when I preached on building community, many of you approached me to ask how you might be able to get more involved in the life of the church. We continue to stand amazed at what God is doing in our lives together as the body of Christ.

This week you heard a message from Aaron on serving and the last three messages will be on giving, fellowship, and being on mission. We are excited to preach each of those sermons and do so with great expectation that the Holy Spirit will move in our hearts collectively to continue to draw us to Jesus, where we will surrender more of ourselves to His Lordship and find ways to yield more fully in obedience to Him as we grow as one body in service to and love for Him.

In my Sunday night discipleship class on Financial Stewardship, I recently used the parable Jesus told in Matthew 25:14ff, known as the Parable of the Talents. In that parable, Jesus tells the story of a master going away and leaving his workers in charge of his property. To each worker the master gave resources. To one he gave 5 "talents", to another two and to the third person one. You likely know the story, but it basically goes like this: The one man who had 5 talents doubled them. The one who had two talents also doubled them, but the one man who had the one talent, did nothing with it to bless his master or advance his holdings.

The point that Jesus is making is that the master expected his workers to use the gifts he had given them to advance his kingdom, to honor him, and to increase his holdings. To the first two men he spoke with high commendation, honor, and gratitude and blessed them richly by entrusting more of his possessions and kingdom to them. But to the one who did nothing with what the master left him, he took it away and gave it to the others who would use it for good. He scolded the useless and lazy worker as he cast him from his presence. Who are you in this parable? Paul wrote, "It is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

Dear ones, I remind you of this today because I want you to know that the Lord has left you and me as stewards of His belongings here on earth while He is away. He has gifted us nicely and expects us to serve Him and each other as we produce fruit for His glory and kingdom and for our joy and good. Pastor Aaron and I are preaching this series on: "Life in the Body" because we want you to know what it looks like to be a vital part of the Bride of Christ. I am sure that you love the Lord's Bride so let us together make sure that we are doing all we can to bless her, serve her, strengthen and grow her for our Savior's glory. Pay close attention friends as we walk through this series over the next month and examine your own heart and life to see how you are doing. Are you poised to hear the Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," or will He find you negligent, indifferent, and unproductive as His steward?

Hopeful and Expectant,
Pastor Robert



FROM DANIEL'S DESK

Last month I read the book *The Forgotten Trinity* by Dr. James R. White. I had been looking forward to reading this work for a long time. James White is one of my favorite living theologians. Through his sermons, lectures, debates, podcasts and books, he has greatly influenced the way I think, as well as how I understand the Bible. It was through these various avenues that Dr. White helped me correctly understand core doctrines of our faith when I was a young Christian.

This work helps us know God better. While studying to comprehend the doctrine of the Trinity can be daunting, Dr. White is a helpful guide on this journey. Early on he writes these words, "Many of the misunderstandings of the Trinity can be dispelled if we simply remember a basic truth: When speaking of the Trinity, we are talking about one what and three who's. The one what is the Being or essence of God; the three who's are the Father, the Son and the Spirit. We dare not mix up the what and the who's of the Trinity." This basic definition is a guiding principle for the entire book. It is from this foundation that Dr. White takes you deeper into the Scriptures to shine more light on God's revelation of Himself.

Will this book answer all of your questions about the Trinity? No, that is not what it was written for. It is, however, a good starting point if you want to study the Trinity. While it is a good introduction to the topic, you will still encounter terms and concepts that you will need to take time to think through to understand. Just because it is geared towards more of an introductory work does not mean all of it will be easy to understand at first. Yet, the effort will be worth it! Dr. White emphasizes that the main goal in studying the Trinity is to increase your love for God. When you work through this book it will help you see to a greater degree how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit relate to one another. It will show you how each member of the Trinity is involved in salvation. When you finish it, it will help you view the Trinity as a doctrine to be cherished. I encourage you to read it so you can say with greater understanding and confidence what Dr. White says, "I love the Trinity."



Wednesday Night Dinner Schdeule

 October 7th - Growing Families

 October 14th - Generations & Aging Gracefully

 October 21st - High School Youth - Business meeting following - No other evening activities

 October 28th - 8:30 AM Parents R Us

MUSIC MINISTRY

We are off to a great start with our choirs this fall! We have some new faces including some young people that have moved up from children's choir. If your child is twelve, they can stay back a year in kidz choir or move up to the worship choir. They would need to rehearse 8:15-9 p.m. so they can attend Wednesday evening youth meeting.

It is wonderful to have a multi-generational worship choir! After all, it reflects the worshiping body of Christ, all generations together! A multigeneration choir is a visible picture of what it looks like to be united in a world that often feels divided. Older ones encouraging the younger ones, learning together and leading worship together! Although this does not occur everywhere, I am grateful that it takes place here.

It isn't too late to join any of the worship choirs. We have just begun learning our Christmas music as well as other new music. There is plenty of room for more! If you play an instrument, please contact me or Brad Perkinson. You can find us on or near the platform at the end of the worship service. We'd love to talk to you! Rehearsals are as follows:

- 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Kidz Choirs
- 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Worship Choir/Band
- 8:15 p.m. – 9 p.m. Worship Choir

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:5-6

The last Sunday of each month is Hymn Sunday. We will sing hymns with simple accompaniment. Many of us grew up singing traditional hymns and there is much rich theology in many of the hymns of the church. Also, there is something about singing these songs that saints long ago sang as well. Like each Sunday's worship set, that Sunday's hymns will also be uploaded to Spotify. Listen and sing throughout your days and you will be able to lift your voice with confidence as you sing these truths with the saints! Look for Smyrna Sunday Playlist on Spotify.

This month's new song is “*You Will Make All Things New*” by Sovereign Grace Music. This is a rich song highlighting the faithfulness of God, longing, suffering/grief, and the Christian life. Look it up on any streaming service you use.

Singing His Praises,
Melodie Parsons



YOUTH MINISTRY



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH
GATHER & GROW
 COME HANG OUT, BRING A FRIEND, AND GROW IN FAITH!
 FAITH FRIENDS FUN BELONGING

Date: October 10th
Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Scott Family Farm
 23402 Old Vaughan Rd
 Dinwiddie, VA 23841

RSVP by October 3rd
 Call or Text Amie Davila
 804-908-3211

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

*Come for the fun.
 Stay for the fellowship.
 Grow in faith.*

*"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."
 Hebrews 10:24*

FAITH | FRIENDS | FUN | BELONGING | ALL ARE WELCOME



LIBERTY FOOTBALL

MT vs LUJ

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH AT 3:30 PM
 Cost is \$25 per person
 Buy your tickets NOW!

We will be having a tailgate gathering before the game. All are welcome!



FROM THE CHILDREN'S DESK

Dear Smyrna Kids Families,

October is here, and we are settling into the rhythm of a new season! September brought new schedules, new routines, and the return of AWANA, and I am thankful for the patience, encouragement, and willingness to serve that our church family continues to show.

AWANA is off to a wonderful start! It has been such a joy to see our children back together on Wednesday nights, learning Scripture, building friendships, and growing in their understanding of God's Word. I am especially grateful for Scott Lesher as he settles into his role as our new AWANA Commander and for the many leaders who faithfully pour into our children each week. Please continue encouraging our AWANA team and helping your children work through their handbooks at home. Those little moments spent learning God's Word together matter more than we sometimes realize!

Our new Sunday morning schedule is also becoming more familiar, and I want to thank our families and volunteers for the grace and flexibility you have shown along the way. Changes like these take time, but I am grateful for a church family willing to work together to make sure our children are loved, safe, and cared for. Please continue checking your children in each Sunday and helping us maintain the safety procedures we have in place.

We also had such a wonderful time at our Fall Volunteer Lunch at the farm! This has become one of my favorite gatherings of the year. Seeing our volunteers and their families together, enjoying good food, laughter, and a relaxing afternoon reminds me that ministry is about so much more than filling positions on a schedule. It is about people, relationships, and doing life together. Thank you to everyone who joined us and to each person who gives so generously of their time and heart to our children. I am incredibly thankful for you!

Looking ahead, I want to encourage our church family to make plans to attend our October Business Meeting. This is an important opportunity to hear what is happening in the life of our church, stay informed, and be part of the decisions that help shape our ministry and future together. Our children's ministry is one part of a much larger church family, and I hope you will make it a priority to be there.

As we move through October, my prayer is that we continue to be intentional in the way we love and lead our children. It is easy to get caught up in schedules, activities, and everything that needs to be done, but what a privilege it is to help children know Jesus and grow in His Word. Thank you for being part of that work, whether you serve in a classroom, teach at home, pray for our ministry, or simply encourage the people around you. I am grateful we get to do this together!

With love,
Erica



October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Gigi Young	Dale Snead Whitney Collins	Aiden Jones Steve Perkinson Cheryl Smith
4  COMMUNION SUNDAY Sydney Bradley Sarah Mae Wamsley	5	6  Blood Drive 11-5 Cody Long	7 Patti Kidd Savannah Taylor	8 Jimmy Barchanowicz Kenny Miles Melodie Parsons Kevin Shifflett	9 Patti Kidd Savannah Taylor	10 Middle School Fall Gathering @ Noon Shoemaker David Tench
11  Fall Festival @ 1:00 PM Carol Hege Ivan Slayden	12 Nathan Daniels Danielle Montgomery	13	14 BOP Luncheon 11:00 AM Tommy Chappell Hudson Lane Judi Reighard	15  Pastor's Book Club - 11:30AM Mykalah Tench Oakley Williamson	16	17 Jerry Perkinson, Sr.
18 Alaina Williamson	19 Tammy Crabtree	20 Brandy Barchanowicz	21  Semi-Annual Business Meeting @ 6:30 Joanie George Beth Johnson	22 Daniel Davis Anniston Outlaw Mark Silvestro	23	24 Deborah Creech Declan Elder
25 Trey Berry	26  Deacon's Meeting @ 6:30 Mike Green Dillon Ladd	27 Amy Marker	28 Zachary Polk	29	30 Jimmie Simmons	31 Frankie Lunsford

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Smyrna Kids Volunteer Schedule - Sunday Mornings

October 4thOctober 11thOctober 18thOctober 25th

8:30 AM Sunday School hour - Please be here by 8:15 AM

Check-In Desk	Angie Adkins	Tiffany Harvey	Ed George	Kim Davis
Nursery		Terri Shell	Jenna George	Madysen Holderfield
1 & 2 Year Olds		Madysen Holderfield		Brandy Barchanowicz

9:45 AM Worship Service - Please be here by 9:30 AM

Check-In Desk	Danna Gammon	Chuck Johnson	Alison Adams	Kim Davis
Nursery	Mackenzie Gammon			
1 & 2 Year Olds		Cheryl Smith		
3 & 4 Year Olds				

11:15 AM Sunday School Hour - Please be here by 11:00 AM

Check-In Desk			Erica Chaplin	Lesly McBride
Nursery			Leah Pierce	
1 & 2 Year Olds	Brooke Dimaio			

Thank you so much, volunteers!



OCTOBER EVENTS SCHEDULE

OCT
6

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Located in the gym
Go to redcrossblood.org or
scan the QR code to make an
appointment

OCT
11

FALL FELLOWSHIP 1:00 - 4:00 PM

At Memory Lane Acres - 7301 Tranquility
Lane, Sutherland, VA 23885
*Bring a side dish or dessert and a
chair or blanket to sit on

OCT
21

SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING @ 6:30 PM

Only Wednesday Night Dinner at 5:30 PM

NO OTHER EVENING ACTIVITIES

For more details please check the bulletin
boards or call the church office Monday -
Thursday, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM
(804) 469-9363

Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Music
Fishing
Obstacle Course
Inflatable
Corn Hole

Fall FELLOWSHIP

Come join us for Food, Fellowship and Fun!

Sunday, October 11, 2026
at 1:00

Bring a covered dish to share with
our church family.
Hamburgers, Hotdogs and drinks provided.

Memory Lane Acres
7301 Tranquility Lane
Sutherland, VA 23885

All Are Welcome!

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"
Psalm 133:1