

February Scroll

"...but grow in the grace of knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."
2 Peter 3:18 (NASB)

Pastor's Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

...and just like that, the first month of 2021 has come and gone. Before this year gets too far away from us I encourage you to pause right now and take stock of how you spent this 1/12th of the year; 8.3% of 2021 is behind you. What did you do with it? I wonder if you spent this first month any different than all the previous months that, like this one, are here today gone tomorrow. If you are like me, you will often use the phrase, "I just don't have time." Well, you just spent 31 days doing something. Were they profitable? Have you grown over the course of this month? If the answer to these questions is "no", then I implore you today to do something about it. What you may ask?

The staff and I have spent months now preparing ourselves to lead you into a deeper commitment and level of discipleship. Wouldn't it be great to be able to say that this month you finished a good book? Maybe some of you could say I read the Bible every or at least most days in January 2021. You know as well as I do that these days are not going to slow down. You and only you must make the decision to make a change. It is not going to get any easier so you just need to "suck it up" and change some habits. I'm almost tired of saying it and I imagine you may be tired of hearing it, but God has put in place everything you need to grow in Christ. We have been referring to these instruments as "*means of grace*." To repeat, they are gifts that include your Bible which is to be read and meditated upon, prayer to talk to and listen to God, fellowship and worship among the body of Christ, areas for you to use your giftedness in service, and of course the

gifts of preachers and teachers in your life. Peter put it this way, "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:2-3). All that remains is your willingness and choosing to implement these instruments.

The passing of another month is a reminder that we must get to it. Smyrna family, in no time flat it's going to be 2022. Will you have grown as a Christian? Will you be better equipped to lead your family spiritually? Please take advantage of all that we are offering you in the way of discipleship opportunities. There is good preaching, and Sunday school lessons every week. We are teaching catechisms on Wednesday and doing all we can through children and youth ministry training. Moms and Dads, it is of utmost importance that you learn how to disciple your children. Men, you've got to rise up and lead your families in a biblically solid way. Let us endeavor to stop wasting our time from this point on. Beloved, the problem in the nation is not the "bad guys" on the other side. Our problem is much deeper and the Gospel is God's plan for saving a people or nation. Wisdom would have us invest our time in what can truly change our world. Join me as we seek God with our whole heart.

Devotedly,
Pastor Robert
pastor@smyrna1897.org




SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community - equipping believers - serving Jesus

Volume 17, Issue 2

February 2021

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Special Points of Interest:

- * Mon., 1st - Red Cross Blood Drive
3:00 - 7:00 pm
- * Sat., 6th - BMen Breakfast Fellowship & Workday - 8:30 am—Noon.
- * Sun., 7th - Youth Super Bowl Party - 5:30 pm
- * Sun., 14th—Sweetheart Dinner hosted by the youth
- * Sun., 28th—Deacon Ordination Ceremony

A MESSAGE FROM. . . AARON BOBO, ASSOC. PASTOR OF FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION

Hello Smyrna family,

2021 is a year that we go back on "offense" as a church. That's a pithy way to express the truth that God's people are not to be caught in an unending pattern of defense in this fallen and broken world. While it is certainly necessary and acceptable to react to new information, it is even more important that we continue to embrace our God-given marching orders for making disciples in all seasons and contexts.

We began this process a few weeks ago by re-invigorating our Caregroup ministry during the Sunday school hour. The first way to initiate an offensive attack is making sure our soldiers are cared for and well-nourished for the battle that lies ahead. In this case, it has become increasingly obvious that the aspect of the Christian life that is perhaps most lacking in our world today is meaningful community. You can attempt to replicate singing praises and hearing God's Word preached (although there is a corporate dynamic that cannot be totally replaced) in private but the love of one another and the encouragement that comes from enjoying time in fellowship is simply irreplaceable.

This is why our Sunday school classes are making a real effort to give time and space for all of us to enjoy conversing together. We want to: laugh together, cry together, pray for one another and hear each other's needs with an eye towards serving where we can. We want to strengthen each other and, as the author of Hebrews puts it, "stir one another up to good works."

It is our belief that as we are "stirred" we are more effective. In fact, without the encouragement that comes from the body we inevitably grow cold in our walk and life. This belief is established by observation and biblical teaching that we were created for community and it must be embraced by believers if we hope to be useful tools in the days ahead.

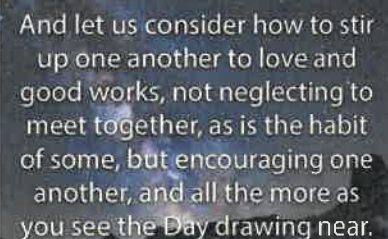
So, what does this mean? It means at least two things. Folks, we really desire for you to do the hard work of consulting the Scripture as you think about your responsibility to the flock. The simple truth that we are commanded to meet together, that's not my interpretation or pastor Robert's conviction, it is a biblical certainty. We are commanded to meet when things are dangerous (look at the context of Hebrews 10:24-25, it is written in the midst of great persecution). Obviously, there are select moments when it's wise to pause for a week or two, and we have proven that we are willing to do so if there arises an obvious threat. However, this is the exception instead of the rule! In general, we must meet together for our own well-being and obedience to the Father.

Second, we are commanded to meet not just for the preaching and singing (although that is incredibly important) but also for the fellowship that cannot occur anywhere else. I often wonder how much of the communal dynamics of worship enters into the thought process of most believers. Do you understand that "worship" online is not the same thing as being connected to the body? How do you stir one another up via a screen? I suppose what I'm saying is that your presence in worship is as much about your brother or sister as it is about you. I pray you will think on these things and reflect, once again, that the church has been established in this season as a beacon of hope. Let's not forsake that which God has given for the well-being of our brother and the resulting salvation of those who need Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Aaron

Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

A MESSAGE FROM. . . JOHN OCHTYUN, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Dear Smyrna Family,

As a parent we often find ourselves trying to put the cart before the horse as the saying goes. What I mean by this is that we want the end result now, but often before the work gets put in. Society hasn't helped in this by creating a culture of instant gratification. We want things as quickly as possible and the exact way we want it. From faster food to newer technological advances, and even to being impatient waiting for a light to turn green. As Veruca Salt from Willy Wonka would say, "I want it NOW!"

Just the other day I found myself growing impatient with Henley's potty training. She knows how to do it and has no problems when she is at church, but when at home she is sporadic. Some days are better than others, but it's really up to what she wants to do that day. My hopes get up when we have a good day, but then we find ourselves taking steps backwards. I found myself wanting this to be over. Not just being able to see a light at the end of the tunnel, but to be there now, outside the tunnel in the bright sunlight.

I'm sure we all fall guilty of this but as Christians we cannot miss a critical part of what God calls us to do and that is to pray. Not just to pray, but like 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing; to pray before we even start our endeavors. Brothers and sisters, this is such a key part that we need not forget. Do you pray before you set out to teach or disciple others? Do you pray before it all starts for our great God to bless the process or do you only go to Him in prayer after, when you are frustrated and have become impatient?

As a church we have been focusing on discipleship this last month. As a parent of a youth, you do not have to look far for one to disciple. They are right in front of you - eating the food out of your pantry and needing your taxi service to be driven around town. It's a tremendous responsibility, but discipleship doesn't stop there. To teach our youth how to disciple, they need to see it first hand from us, the parents. How do you find someone to disciple? Even if you aren't a parent, this is a great question. Maybe the last few sermons have gotten you fired up and ready for the call, but you don't know where to start. Let's take a look at where Jesus started.

¹²In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. - Luke 6:12-16

Hopefully you didn't miss it. We can often glaze right over it but before he chooses his disciples he prays. This is exactly the first step we should take as well. We should begin by asking God to send someone who has the desire to learn and grow. Think back to when a child of yours was still in the womb. Think back to how you prayed and begged God not only for their health, but their spiritual health as well. Reflect on how you prayed for the strength, wisdom, and patience to be able to raise a precious gift of His. Consider how you prayed that God would remove their heart of stone one day and replace it with a heart of flesh. Don't forget those precious heart felt prayers that came first before the child was born.

Church, we often want things now, we want our youth to be godly Christians, we want people to disciple, and we want the end result now. Don't get so eager to put the cart before the horse, don't forget to pray for the opportunities before they come, and most importantly don't miss the wonderful path God has you on right now. Each and every day is a day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

For His Glory,

John Ochtyun

Email: youthpastor@smyrna1897.org



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

I ran across this article, Corporate Worship Provides for Your Soul, by George Robertson from The Gospel Coalition and thought I would share a portion as it relates to the importance of corporate worship:

Something real happens when God's people are gathered in God's house to worship—something that cannot happen by video or audio or in your personal quiet time. The Puritan Richard Sibbes said, "Particular visible churches under visible pastors . . . now are God's tabernacle." And Hebrews 10:25 instructs that we must not "give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."

Scripture reminds us that we do not come to worship just for ourselves; we come for each other.

David's Experience of Corporate Worship

In Psalms 27, David longs for liberation. While the exact circumstances surrounding this Psalm are unknown, it's clear David is emotionally affected. Trapped in emotional turmoil, he waits in defiant hope for emancipation. Because God has been his helper in the past, he knows that God is worth waiting for. As David looks around him, he sees several reasons to wait confidently for God's deliverance. One reason is that he is surrounded by the people of God:

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD." (vv. 4–6)

This psalm highlights three aspects of corporate worship that David finds beneficial in his time of distress:

Worship Is an Experience of God's Beauty

Worship should be the experience of God's beauty in contrast to a world made ugly by selfish attitudes, violence, and pain. Every reasonable effort should be given to make any place God's people gather for worship beautiful. We are embodied souls, so our physical environment shapes the way we think and feel. We gather in worship to gaze on the "fair beauty of the Lord" (v. 4) with spiritual eyes, but, as C. S. Lewis noted, our physical senses will be either aided in that pursuit or distracted by our setting.

Worship Reminds Us We're Not Alone

We also recognize in corporate worship that we are not alone. There is safety in numbers. Elijah was distressed until God told him there were 7,000 in Israel who still worshiped him (cf. 1 Kgs. 19:3–9; Rom. 11:2–5). In Psalms 22:22, David finally finds shelter "in the midst of the congregation." When you come together with other believers on Sunday morning, you have a shelter that others wish they had. It's painful to watch those who don't know God and don't worship with his people grieve a tragedy all by themselves, welcome a new baby alone, endure a physical trauma without the prayers of the saints, or worry because their kids don't have good friends. There is safety in God's house. Among God's people, we can experience "joy" (v. 6).

Worship Realigns Our Perspective

You will find little reason to rejoice if television, social media, or the daily news are your primary diet. But in corporate worship, your perspective is realigned. After a week of news about terrorist attacks, it is in worship that you joyfully remember this world isn't your home. After a week of feeling like you're the only Christian in your school, it is in worship that you joyfully realize you aren't alone. After a week of criticism from a relative, it is in worship that you can joyfully hear God's sweet words of grace to you. After a week of confusion over the future, it is in worship that you can joyfully refocus on the God who is sovereign over your life. Through the gift of corporate worship, God will enable you to "sacrifice with shouts of joy" and to "sing and make music to the LORD" (Ps. 27:6).

George Robertson (MDiv, ThM, Covenant Theological Seminary; DPhil, Westminster Theological Seminary) is senior minister of Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and a Council member of The Gospel Coalition.

I look forward to worshipping with you in corporate worship each and every week!

In His Service,
Melodie



GET TO KNOW YOUR STAFF.....

This month we will highlight the newest member of our staff - Erica Scott Chaplin (Children's Director)

- ♥ *What year did you get married? How did you meet?* I have been married to Jason Chaplin since July 26, 2008. I had been single for quite some time and not going out anywhere. My cousin and his wife somewhat demanded that I get out of the house one night and hang out with them. I met them at "the farm" and was talking with a bunch of friends. A guy I knew showed up from a day of fishing with his friend Jason. Matt introduced us and we all just hung out by the fire for awhile. When I was about to leave, Jason asked for my phone number. My cousin called me after I had left and asked me if Jason had asked for my number. Apparently Jason got my cousin's permission to get my number and talk and see what could be...
- ♥ *Do you have children? What are their names and ages? Do you have pets, and what are their names?* We have three children: Trevor Scott Chaplin—2 years, 7months, 5 days at passing, 12/28/2009—08/02/2012 (passed from CGD); Hunter Scott Chaplin—8 years old, living with CGD, and Brianna Grace Chaplin—4 years old. Pets: Ginger, Jake, Pumpkin, Miss Kitty, Frisco and soon to be another doodle, name????
- ♥ *What further education have you obtained?* I attended Virginia Commonwealth University and have a Bachelors of Science in Business, Major in Business Administration and Management
- ♥ *What is your favorite Bible verse? Does it hold a "special" meaning to you?* John 3:16! My son, Trevor, moved around to multiple rooms while in the hospital and the final room he was placed in was 316. I knew at this point that my son was going to die and the only thing I clung to was John 3:16. I would say that verse to myself EVERY SINGLE TIME as I walked in his room, sometimes even when I walked out of his room. Anytime my mind was racing or fear snuck in, the verse was on repeat in my mind to calm me down and remember to trust and lean on my faith in God. I knew that was the only way I would ever face another day, minute, second with my son in my arms. We never left the hospital or returned home from the day he was admitted, 5/29/2012, until the day we walked out without our son on 8/2/2012. Saying the verse gave me hope in believing my son was in a better place than in that lifeless body in the hospital.
- ♥ *Where do you currently live? Where else have you lived?* We live on my family farm that has been in our family for over 100 years! I was born and raised on the farm. I left home for my freshman year of college but quickly retreated home to commute as I knew city life (RVA) was not for me. Upon graduation, I moved into the farmhouse my dad and I had been renovating. This farm was left to my grandfather from a close relative and was only a mile from my parents. When Jason and I married we lived in this home to begin with until we built our current home on the family farm in Dinwiddie. We have been there 10 years now.
- ♥ *What are your hobbies and interests?* I love photography! Losing Trevor made me realize how precious a photo can truly be. I taught myself how to use a digital camera from the manual. I like to be in control of what the camera is capturing and how it is doing that. I began getting asked by family and friends to take their pictures and it grew into a small side business. As it continued to grow, I learned what types of pictures I enjoyed capturing the most. I have been capturing weddings for over 5 years now. I love the emotion of a wedding day, all the little things that go unnoticed that I am able to grab for my couples; mom's hands as she zips up the bridal gown, dad's tears of happiness as he talks with his son, grandma wiping her tears as she sits on the front row while the vows are exchanged, the snickers and chuckles as a couple stands face to face promising their love. Of course I am asked often what is my favorite part of a wedding day, although very different from most, my favorite is the Mother/Son dance. This is a dance I will never have with Trevor and I pray I am blessed enough to be able to have it with Hunter. It's a small amount of time when a mother gets to cling to her son and block everyone else out. She has him all to herself to express her happiness in how far he has come and all he has accomplished to get to that moment.
I also love working in my flower gardens, exploring the family farm with my family and spending time with family and friends. One of my favorite places is the OBX!
- ♥ *Is there anything else you would like to share? A job you once had, what lead you to Smyrna, etc.?* Most people do not know, prior to my husband wanting me home to raise Hunter and be available to pick up and go for any medical needs, I was a tax auditor with the VA Dept. of Taxation for 11 years. I recall Dawn Upton (in the position I am in now) when Trevor and I were attending thinking she had such an amazing job! Working with children, being able to make a positive impact on their lives and leading them to love and trust the Lord. When we experienced an extremely hard diagnosis for Trevor, I wanted to reach out to Smyrna. I had only been attending a few months but my heart was heavy to contact Dawn. It weighed on me for days and the feeling got stronger, so I reached out to ask for prayer and got so much more. She and Pastor Robert visited Trevor and us in the hospital and it honestly helped me so, so very much in many ways! I had let my faith take a backseat over my college years and I felt (and still feel) God put me at Smyrna when He did, knowing that when tragedy struck I would need the church family, and knowing that this body would strengthen my faith. My faith is the only way I am able to face each day without Trevor.

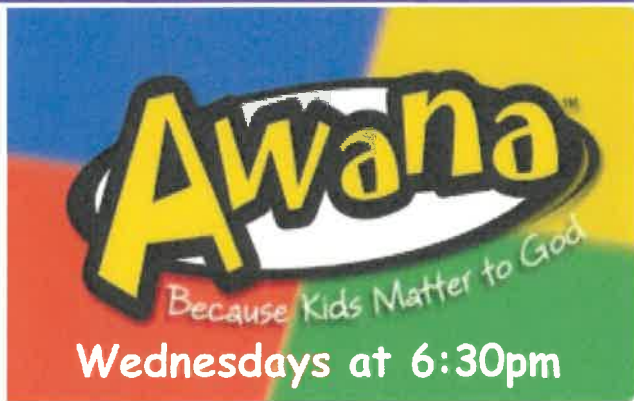


If you are unable to volunteer on your specific date/time, please try to find your own replacement and notify the church office of your replacement. If you are unable to find a replacement, please notify the church office by email ASAP.

If you are available to fill in the blank areas, please contact Erica Chaplin.

THANK YOU for serving in our children's ministry!

FEB 2021	<u>SS Nursery</u> (9:20—10:45)	<u>Nursery (10:30)</u>	<u>Toddler 1's & 2's</u>	<u>Toddlers 3's</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Check In (9:20 - 10:35)</u>	<u>Check In (10:30 - 12:15)</u>
Feb 7th		Lisa Barnhouse	Melissa Taylor	Erica Chaplin	John Clay		Angela Walker
		Grace Barnhouse	Savannah Taylor	Megan Demaline	Kristin Clay		
Feb 14th	Melanie Lowery	Holly McCaffity	Cindi Melvin	Johanna Rowland	Aaron Healy	Pam Kissner	Pam Reynolds
		Amber McCaffity	Emma Kennedy	Robert Rowland	David Gray		
Feb 21st	Sharon Long	Annette Perkinson	Alison Adams	Cheryl Joyner	John Ochtyun	Becky Pack	Terri Driskill
		Blakely Perkinson	Mykalah Tench	Savannah Taylor	Michelle Ochtyun		
Feb 28th	Shay Tench	Lesly McBride	Chris Neville	Glenn Chappell	Sarah Mae Wamsley	Angie Chappell	Chuck Page
		Mike McBride	Diana Neville	Brittney Chappell	Whitney Collins		



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- ♦ FEB. 3RD - REGULAR CLUB NIGHT
- ♦ FEB. 10TH - "LOVE" NIGHT
- ♦ FEB. 17TH - VOTE FOR CLUBBER'S CHOICE - NIGHT #1
- ♦ FEB. 24TH - "SUPER HERO" NIGHT & CLUBBER'S CHOICE NIGHT #2

THE CHAPLIN FAMILY

Ginger, Jason, Hunter, Erica and Brianna



Smyrna Baptist Church

Calendar of Events - February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  3:00—7:00 pm	2 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry West Campus rm#104	3 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Worship Ministry Practice Mid-week Worship at West Campus	4	5	6
7 8:30am Early Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service Youth Super Bowl Party @ 5:30 pm	8	9	10 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Worship Ministry Practice Mid-week Worship at West Campus	11	12	13
8:30am Early Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service Sweetheart Dinner @ 5 & 6:45	15	16 9:30am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry West Campus rm#104	17 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Worship Ministry Practice Mid-week Worship at West Campus	18	19	20
21 8:30am Early Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service	22	23	24 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA/ Youth Worship Ministry Practice Mid-week Worship at West Campus	25	26	27
28 8:30am Early Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service					Ladies Bible Study Every Wed. @ 10 am "Genesis" - starting Feb. 3rd	
February Birthdays						

3 Bernadine Blount	11 Janna Cobb	19 Madison Gordon
Brianna Chaplin	Leah Hunt	Tony Lowery
4 Caleb Morini	Levi Mitchell, III	20 Carl Shell
6 Joyce Andrews	12 Mike Demaline	22 Dr. John Clay
Lorraine Arnett	Chuck O. Johnson, Jr.	25 Kevin Day
Tukychai Canaday	Dianne Jones	Autumn Healy
Obadiah Lowery	13 Carl Sims	Haliza Sims
7 Sarah Mitchell	14 Mary Tucker	26 Brenda Olgers
8 Timothy Morini, Jr.	16 Kimberly Day	Emma Tench
9 Peyton Adams	Will Fox	27 Annette Perkinson
James Servis	17 Hunter Shifflett	



If your name does not appear on our *Birthday Calendar* that means we do not have your birthdate in our records. Please call the church at 469-9363 (Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm) or email admin@smyrna1897.org to update the records we have on file. Thank you!

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.

Child Dedication



We are planning a Child Dedication service in March. If you would like to have your baby/child dedicated please contact the office, Monday - Thursday from 8:00 - 4:00.

More information will be available soon.



- ✦ 7th - Deacon's meeting after service - 12:30 pm
- ✦ 14th - Daylight Savings Time begins - set your clocks ahead one hour
- ✦ 13th - Youth Movie Night @ the Ochtyun's
- ✦ 20th - First day of Spring
- ✦ 27th - AHG Family event - Hike & Picnic at Maymont



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE
 Monday, February 1st
 3:00 - 7:00 pm
 In the gym

To schedule your appointment go to
www.redcrossblood.org

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