

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

2 Corinthians 13:14

Pastor’s Corner

Dear Smyrna Family,

(An open letter to the parents of a young man from the perspective of a 17-year old young lady)

Hello,

First of all, I want to say that I am thankful for the men in my life. I have a dad who is always there and although I only met one of my grandpas a few times before he died (the other died way before I was born) I am glad I can remember him. Some of the older people in my church treat me like a granddaughter, so that’s really nice too. So many of my girl friends don’t have that these days. Their moms have had different relationships throughout the years, or worse yet, seem to have multiple partners whenever they want. Though many of my friends would like to try to be different in their relationships as they mature, what is modeled for them is so far away from what God designed because Satan is such a deceiver. Us girls fight more battles in our minds than anywhere else!

Anyway, I just want to let you know that sometimes we all have good intentions, but situations make keeping these good intentions difficult; it is so very hard to do. Honestly, I really, really, really need your help. So often in this society, especially as Christians, the girls have to carry the brunt of the fight to keep ourselves pure. That is so unfair! The guys are given vehicles, often brand new ones (yes, I know, us girls get them too) with little to no restrictions on where they can go or what they can do as long as they make it back by ‘curfew’. Do you know how hard it is to choose NOT to hang out with a guy who has no rules or boundaries? Especially as a teenager? Do you remember what it was like? When you add in the fact that he’s good-looking and popular, well, that makes it even more difficult!

I know, I know...my parents and my youth pastor remind me all the time that I can do all things through Christ (such as resist

temptation), that I need to be more Christ-like, that I need to resist the devil and flee. And I try, I really do try. But please help me. Ask your son where he is planning to go, what he is planning to do, and who he is planning to see whenever he leaves the house. Have those really awkward conversations about how he shouldn’t play with a girl’s heart and feelings. Have more conversations about the fact that her body isn’t his to do with whatever he wants to. That even if we are in a relationship that we feel is “long term” that doesn’t mean we are ‘married’ and he shouldn’t ask or expect her to treat him as if we are. He shouldn’t expect the “benefits” that go along with real marriage and commitment. Please take a look at his cellphone any time you want (I’m sure you pay for it) and talk with him about how the internet can be so persuasive in many areas (pornography, dating rules, what all the ‘cool’ kids do, etc.) I know you lived in a different time, but in our generation we have seen more sexuality and promiscuity than you could imagine. It is everywhere... TV, ads, magazines, the internet, social media. We are bombarded! Guys think it’s not a big deal, but it messes with their perceptions and they think that’s what a solid relationship is like. When we don’t give in or do what they want, we are the problem and they just move on like its nothing.

You see, us girls are so bent on belonging to someone special, we want someone to love us. And when we fail at finding that love we look to your sons for that. Please teach them (and us) that we have to be satisfied in who we are at Christ’s feet first. Teach your son to protect me instead of use me. Tell him to honor and respect me instead of degrade me. Teach your sons to become godly men and pray for us to become godly women. PLEASE!! I’m counting on you!

Prayerfully,
Johanna Rowland



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus

Volume 15, Issue 9

September 2019

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Special Points of Interest:

- 9/2 - Church Office Closed for Labor Day
- 9/3 - AHG begins at 6:00 pm
- 9/9 - Deacon’s meeting at 7:00 pm
- 9/11 Ladies Wed. morning bible study begins at 10:00am
- 9/11 - BOP Luncheon at 11:00 am
- 9/11 - Wednesday night dinners begin at 5:30pm
- 9/27-9/29 - AHG Camp at Kehukee

A MESSAGE FROM. . . AARON BOBO, ASSOC. PASTOR

Hello Smyrna Family,

A few months ago I asked you all to pray for our church as we made some decisions regarding future growth in our discipleship ministry in the area of Sunday school. At the time I referenced the reality that growth is a wonderful, blessed reality but it brings with it certain inevitable challenges. Of all the “problems” churches face, the problem of needing space is by far the choice issue. We are grateful that we have grown to the point that we need more room and now, by God’s grace, we are ready to move ahead in the next phase of attempting to grow by reaching men and women and making disciples in Sunday school.

As many of you know, our apprenticeship ministry has been a true blessing to our church. Several of you have commented on how blessed you’ve been by various men reading scripture and even preaching in the stead of the pastors here at Smyrna. We are indeed grateful for how God has raised up men and women who desire to teach the Word of God accurately and faithfully. Now we are ready for several folks to have the opportunity to lead their own classes and so we will be “birthing” at least three new classes in the next 6 months. Brother Kurt Jones will be beginning a new class for young adults in October and two more will be birthed in the timeframe of November - January.

What this means is that we will be making room! In fact, BMen already began the process of helping us accommodate more folks as we have been working on a solution to partition our current gym into four classrooms. These partitions will be mobile as we use the gym for various other ministries and programs during the week but they will serve as a helpful tool for us to divide up a large space. We will be moving some of our “younger” classes into the gym so that hearing hopefully won’t be an issue! Also, we will be moving back over our two classes currently meeting at the West Campus for Sunday school.

My plea to you is similar to the one before. I realize that many of you will be asked to relocate classrooms but I want to ask you to remember that we are doing this because of growth! Smyrna folks, the simple fact is that we have more people coming to study God’s Word and grow in community than we have space for at the moment. What a blessing!

Secondly, I want to let you know that this added space will be accompanied by an added emphasis. Now that we have some more room to fill we will begin attempting to engage one “prospect” per month per class. Each of your classes will be given a name of a person or family for your class to pray for, call to invite and welcome into your groups! We believe whole-heartedly that the church is meant to be a community and that community simply cannot happen in a church our size during a worship hour alone. Instead, our hope is to incorporate many men, women and children into groups for their own growth and the glory of God!

Will you join us in this mission? If you are not a part of a Sunday school class currently I want to invite you to join one, now is the time, there is room for you! If you are part of a class, I want to ask you to begin to prepare your hearts to engage others. Think about those you know who aren’t currently involved, pray for God to soften their hearts, be bold (and perhaps uncomfortable!) in reaching out to them! May God continue to grow His church at Smyrna and may He find willing instruments in us to further His mission on drawing men unto Himself.

Devotedly,

Pastor Aaron

Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship & Education

Email: assocpastor@smyrna1897.org

FALL CLASSES START SEPTEMBER
22ND AT 6:00 PM. CLASS
DESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE
MAIN FOYER.



Greetings Smyrna Family,

Have I ever told you that I love you? I hope I have, but just in case I haven't: I love you. We've been family for almost 20 years. And, you know, I plan on staying family until the Lord calls me home -- regardless of my home address. For deeply forged are the bonds of the family of Christ. They surpass county, state, and country lines. They cross geopolitical and socioeconomic boundaries. Believe it or not, the bonds of the body of Christ even supersede time. We are eternally connected to those saints that went before us and those that will follow after. We are but one link in an eternal chain of Christ followers, and that's a beautiful thing.

There's really nothing quite like the body of Christ, the Church. If someone asked me *why* I'm a member of a church, my first response wouldn't be "because I'm supposed to be. That's what Christians do." My initial reply would be more along the lines of: "I'm a member of a local church because I *love* to be. Because there's little else in this world that brings me as much joy. I don't know what I'd do without the body of Christ."

You know why so many teenagers leave the church when they leave their parent's home? Because what they saw for so many years was parents that had no joy in the body of Christ. And, because we're wired to be joy-seekers, the kids wanted no part of that joyless existence of drudgery when they finally had their own choice.

Let me challenge you today: Is church more often a joy than a burden for you? Or is it the other way around? If church is more of a burden than a joy for you, let me tell you: something's missing. Without talking to you, I can't tell you exactly what is missing, but I can tell you that something's off. I'm a mechanic of souls, so trust me on this. Your engine is firing wrong and we need to take a look under the hood.

The body of Christ is a beautiful thing, so let's strive for it to be so in our lives.

For the King,
Pastor Joe

Assoc. Pastor of Administration and Missions

Email: assocpastor2@smyrna1897.org



Monthly Missions Prayer Guide - September 2019

Gary and Michele Kittredge, Ashley (19), Bethany (17), and Sophia (9) - Gbanga County, Liberia

- a. Pray for peace for the Kittredges as they entrust their work in Liberia over the next year to those that they have trained up for the task. Pray that everything would go well while they are here.
- b. Pray for their eldest daughter, Ashley, as she prepares to go back to college and pray that Bethany had a fruitful internship in the veterinary field.

Pastors Josh and Joe

- a. Pray that the Spirit will move in a radical way in the hearts of the members at Smyrna to bring about radical obedience to Christ's commands.
- 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, VA.



A MESSAGE FROM... JOSH ROWLAND, NEXT GENERATION PASTOR

Smyrna Family,

Recently, I have been studying the Doctrine of the Trinity quite a bit. It is a wonderful, confusing, mysterious, and *essential* doctrine of Christianity. R.C. Sproul once said it is the *shibboleth* of the Christian faith -- meaning, it is a distinguishing feature that defines a group. In other words, if you do not affirm the Trinity, you are not a Christian. This may sound harsh, but I want to very briefly explain why that is the case.

First, the Christian God is the same God in the Old and New Testaments. And in both, God is *one*. Deuteronomy 6:4 tells us, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." In Isaiah 44:6-8, God says, "I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God." That does not change in the New Testament. Jesus himself said in Mark 12:29, "The Lord our God is one Lord." Paul reaffirms this in 1 Corinthians 8:4-6, Ephesians 4:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, and elsewhere. Christians are not polytheists; we worship *one* God.

And yet, the Father, Son, and Spirit are all addressed as God in different texts. The classical Christian distinction here is that there is one God *in three persons*. Hopefully you recall that lyric from "Holy, Holy, Holy." Colossians 2:9 says that in Christ "all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." In John 10:30, Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." A bold statement! Paul continues in Colossians 1:15-16 to explain that "The Son is the image of the invisible God... in him all things were created... all things have been created through him and for him." And who could forget John 1:1, which says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." There are many verses ascribing the same to the Spirit, but I will just list some references here for you to view later (1 Cor 6:19, Genesis 1:2, the coequal presence of all three persons in Matt 28:19-20 and 2 Cor 13:14).

Now, in what way is that practical? Okay, Josh, I affirm the Trinity and will now get on with my day. On the contrary, this doctrine is immensely practical! In everything we do as Christians, we can consider the impact of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the plan of salvation: the Father plans and sends, the Son goes and acts, the Spirit regenerates and seals! (Just one example.) I also think we should consider the way we speak in Trinitarian language. "God" is a fine term, but rather nebulous. "Allah" is just the Arabic word for god. Every religion claims to follow a "god" of some sort. But Christians follow *the one true God*, who exists in three coequal and coeternal persons as Father, Son, and Spirit. Let's start talking that way. Let's be distinctly Christian in a world of ambiguity and flimsy opinions!

In Christ,

Joshua Rowland

Next Generation Pastor

Email: youthpastor@smyrna1897.org

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

September...summer has ended (maybe not summer temperatures), school starts and church life picks up after a season of vacations, conferences, rest and relaxation. The Worship Ministry is back to weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays as well as Kidz Choirs. I would really like to encourage parents and grandparents of children, preschool - 5th grade, to get your children in Kidz choirs. It's important that we get our children singing and worshiping at an early age! Ashley Bobo and Heather Gordon will be leading K-5th grade and Carla Temple will be leading the preschoolers, ages 3-5. They meet Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Wednesday supper is at 5:30 (beginning Sept. 11th) so get there close to 5:30 so the children can be fed and make it to choir! They will be working on songs to lead in worship on Sundays as well as music for Christmas.

The adult choir has just begun work on their Christmas music, "*God in Flesh Appearing*". It would be a great time to come be a part of rehearsals each Wednesday at 6:30pm. Watch for dates for a Christmas music workshop in the near future. The workshop is a time for fellowship and to get a good grasp on our Christmas music. Each person receives a practice CD to help in preparation. Songs this year include songs written by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Travis Cottrell, with arrangements by Shane and Shane, among others. We are excited to begin working on these wonderful songs that lead us to worship as we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Some thoughts on the importance of Children's Choirs

Children learn by watching the role models in their lives, but they also learn by participating. Providing a children's choir in which they can learn, grow, move, and serve in God's kingdom is an important way to accomplish spiritual growth in each child's life. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Involving kids in worship ministry early can keep them involved as teenagers and then continue on into adulthood. A children's choir can be an invaluable tool to train children up to be lifelong worshippers and can also be a way to bless the congregation.

Children learn to work cooperatively with others in ministry. When children are presented the opportunity to minister to the congregation in a church service, they will most often rise to the occasion and take their role seriously. Children's choir provides the stage on which they can be taught to use their God-given talents in the Lord's service. Songs learned, especially in childhood, can stay with us for life.

A planned time to teach children hymns, Sunday school songs, scripture songs, and even full musicals is a testament to a church's dedication to training its children -- the next generation. The purpose of music in the church is to lead worship. When children have the opportunity to participate and lead in this way, they learn valuable lessons about being a worshipper and leading others in their own worship practice. The opportunity for children to put their focus on God in the activity of music opens the door to greater understanding of experiencing and sharing God's love. Children are an integral part of the Kingdom. We have the responsibility to make a place for them. Allowing the children to minister through music in the church service keeps the church-at-large mindful of the children and their value. It is also another tool to keep church music alive as we meet the necessity of bringing up the next generation in "the nurture and the admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 4:6)

Here are some points by prominent church music leadership teams as to why children's choirs are important:

1. Choir helps children develop creative problem-solving skills.
2. Movement activities in choir stimulate the development of the inner ear, which impacts coordination and athletic ability.
3. Choir offers movement activities that cross the midline, which stimulates communication between the left brain and right brain.
4. Songs in choir combines text, melody, harmony, rhythm and movement -- activating the higher learning centers of the brain.
5. Choir develops discipline, concentration, cooperation and self-confidence, which carry over into other areas of life.
6. Choir involves reading, anticipating, listening and memorization skills that enhance academic pursuits.
7. Choir allows children to praise God with body, mind, spirit and voice.
8. Choir helps the 17% of children who need special instruction to discover their singing voice.
9. Choir helps children learn to use their singing voice properly.
10. Choir presentations help children conquer fear and take positive risks.
11. Choir creates a sound track for life -- a faith database of spiritual truth.
12. Singing is a gift you can give children that will last their entire lives.
13. Choir includes rhythmic activities, which helps children develop sequential ordering and organizational skills.
14. Choir plants scriptural truth in the brain through rhythm, rhyme and repetition for a lifetime.

Choir makes a significant contribution to a child's understanding of God and the experience of worship and worship leadership.

*Singing His Praises,
Melodie & Brad*

**KIDZ CHOIR Wednesdays
at 6:00pm
Ages 3 to 12**

3 yrs. to Pre-K Room 114
K to 5th Grade Room 125

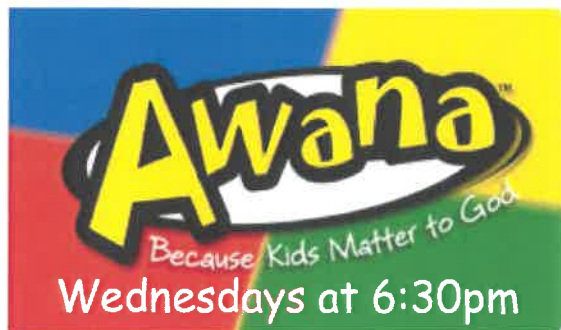
Kidz News



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!



SEPT 2019	SS Nursery (9:20—10:40)	Nursery (10:30)	10:30 am - Toddler 1's & 2's	12:15 pm Toddlers 3's	Children's Church	Check In (9:15 - 10:30)	Check In (10:30 - 12:15)
Sept 1	Brandy Turner	Mary Tucker	Tia Wilson	Lauren Kidd	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye	Kalley Saye
	Peggy Turner	Tucker girls	Mackenzie Wilson	Samantha Kidd	Emma Kennedy		
Sept 8	Annette Perkinson	Jann Etheredge	Judy Branch	Rhonda Kester	Danna Gammon	Aimee Kennedy	Kalley Saye
	Ashley Perkinson	Angie Adkins	Alicia Weyworth	Diane Burton	Bryant Gammon		
Sept 15	Heather Gordon	Stephanie Rowland	Sarah Mitchell	Michelle Ochtyun	Ashley Bobo	Kim Davis	Angela Walker
	Kalley Saye	Melissa Snellings	Rachel Mitchell	John Ochtyun	Aaron Bobo		
Sept 22	Kathy Miles	Gina Perkinson	Cheryl Joyner	Diana Neville	Pastor Robert	Aimee Kennedy	Pam Reynolds
	Cindy Bain	Shay Tench	Angel Davis	Chris Neville	Johanna Rowland		
Sept 29	Panky Clark	Lisa Barnhouse	Ashley Barnhouse	Janna Cobb	Allen Jones	???	???
	Mason Wells	Grace Barnhouse	Brandy Barchanowicz	Emily Davis	Dianne Jones		



- ✍ Sept 11th - AWANA Opening Night
- ✍ Sept 18th - Crazy Hair Night
- ✍ Sept 25th - Regular Club Night



1ST & 3RD TUESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6 PM - 8 PM (SEPTEMBER - MAY)

5 Levels of Fun				
Pathfinders ages 5 - 6	Tenderhearts ages 6 - 9	Explorers ages 9 - 12	Pioneers ages 12 - 14	Patriots ages 14 - 18



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK @ AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS ~ TROOP V01897

Starts Tuesday, Sept. 3rd!

Smyrna Baptist Church Calendar of Events - 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	2 Church Closed for Holiday	3 9:30 am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 AHG- Troop VA1897 6:00 - 8:00 pm	4 6:30 am Youth Kidz Wacky Wednesday Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	9 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	10 9:30 am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	11 BOP Wed. Night Dinner 6:00 pm Kidz Choir 6:30 pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	12	13	14
15 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	16	17 9:30 am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121 AHG- Troop VA1897 6:00 - 8:00 pm	18 5:30 pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00 pm Kidz Choir 6:30 pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	19	20	21  AHG National Day of Service
22 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class	23	24 9:30 am—Noon Busy Fingers Ministry/Room 121	25 5:30 pm Wed. Night Dinner 6:00 pm Kidz Choir 6:30 pm AWANA/ Youth Mid-Week Worship Worship Ministry Practice	26	27 AHG Camp at Kehukee	28
29 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Class AHG Camp at Kehukee	30		BOP Wednesday, 9/11 @ 11am	Ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Study Begins Sept. 11th at 10:00 am		
September Birthdays						

2 Kristin Lawrence
Simon Sims
5 Melody Day
Jeff Nice
6 Linda Mohr
7 Dave Gray, Jr.
9 Amber McCaffity
10 Bryant Gammon
Christopher Smith
Justin Smith

11 DJ Davis
Cheryl Gray
Matthew Miller
13 Chip Bain
John Gordon
Robert Rowland, III
14 Maggie Ford
Landyn Montgomery
15 Chuck R Johnson

Donna Upton
16 Rhonda Kester
17 Angel Davis
Tanya Hale
Samantha Kidd
19 Tim Allen, Sr.
20 Becky Pack
Gary Nanny
21 Lane Green

23 Matthew Long
Michele Snead
24 Stacey Dyson
Jackson Perkinson
26 Kendall Davis
27 Samantha Dalton
28 Joshua Rowland
29 Kathy Peterson
30 Hollie Kennedy





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.

SMYRNA UNIVERSITY - FALL SEMESTER

Begins September 22nd at 6:00 pm



There are four different classes to choose from:

- ▶ Course #1 - *Systematic Theology 101: Knowing God* - Pastor Josh
- ▶ Course #2 - *Families: Don't Waste Your Life* - John Ochtyun
- ▶ Course #3 - *The Explicit Gospel* - Pastor Joe
- ▶ Course #4 - *Church Membership: Becoming One/Being One* - Co-Teachers - Pastor Robert & Pastor Aaron

There are class descriptions, cost and sign up sheets available on the foyer table.

It's that time of year again!
We will start collecting candy
Sunday, September 22nd.
That gives us 6 weeks to get
ready for Hallow Him.



Our candy
competition is
getting a
makeover as
well so stay
Tuned!

OCTOBER

- 6th - Lord's Supper Observance
- 9th - BOP Luncheon at 11:00 am
- 12th - Operation Christmas Child Dinner & Presentation
- 16th - Semi-Annual Church Business Meeting (all other activities cancelled)
- 31st - HALLOW HIM