

SEPTEMBER

Dates to Remember

- * 1st - Office Closed - Labor Day
- * 7th - Discover Smyrna & Smyrna 'U' classes begin
- * 10th - BOP Luncheon at 11 and ALL Wednesday night activities resume
- * 14th - OCC collection begins
- * 18th - Pastor's Book Club at Nanny's BBQ at 11:30
- * 21st - Teacher training luncheon after service
- * 22nd - Deacon's Meeting at 6:30

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTORS CORNER	1-2
A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT	2-3
FROM DANIEL'S DESK	3
YOUTH	4
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	4-5
MUSIC MINISTRY	6
CHURCH CALENDAR & BIRTHDAYS	7
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS	8



SMYRNA SCROLL

PASTOR'S CORNER

This past Sunday (August 24th), we had the joy of baptizing 24 individuals in the river. Leading up to that glorious occasion, Pastor Robert and I had the joy of meeting with each individual who was a candidate for baptism. There are numerous reasons for these preliminary meetings, one of which is our desire for people to properly understand their calling as Christians does not begin and end with getting wet!

Each individual is different, but there are certain messages that are repeated to every candidate and one of those messages is that baptism is not the finish line for the Christian life. In reality, baptism is just the beginning of the call to follow Christ and that lifetime journey must be followed if baptism is really a declaration of saving faith!

Folks, Christians should be constantly growing and maturing. After all we will never be done growing in sanctification this side of heaven! There will always be things to improve upon (with the Spirit's power) and things to know (by the Spirit's tutelage). This being so, I want to remind you today of one of the motivations for your growth.

I am often concerned with the perspective of many believers precisely because it seems so self-centered. For instance, I have had numerous Christians tell me that they do not desire to grow in their knowledge because they know Christ and that is enough to get them where they are going! While that short-sighted view has severe personal consequences, it also loses sight of one of the primary ways we have been called to help others. Think about this for a moment church, what if the knowledge you acquire isn't simply for your own benefit but for the blessing and wellbeing of those you love?

Consider a doctor who decides that he knows enough to pass medical school and, therefore, has no need to grow in his knowledge of the human body and what ails mankind. He may well reason that he is equipped enough to make money and, therefore, has no need to further his competency but this neglects the very people he is called to help! A doctor doesn't grow simply for his own benefit, he grows in his understanding so that he can assist others in need. In the same way, Christian, your call to biblical understanding is not simply about your getting into heaven or personal benefits, it is just as much about those you might be able to help.

What if those you love come to you with an earnest question or in need of guidance in the future? Are you growing today so that you can assist them tomorrow? What if the Lord puts a co-worker or

neighbor in your life who needs the Gospel? Are you maturing in your understanding so that you can share life-saving news? If not, I would encourage you to consider those around you, particularly those you love, and let them be further motivation to press in and study.

Blessings,
Pastor Aaron



A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT ROWLAND, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF CARE

Dear Smyrna Family,

Can you believe that we just baptized 24 more people in the Nottoway River, and we have at least 5 more for this month? There are signs of life all over our church family. We had the privilege and responsibility of sitting with a large number of these folks to talk about what it truly means to be "saved" and the fact that we need to be saved because we are in very real trouble. Often when I ask a person why they want to be "saved", they don't know. They simply know they should be, they need to be, and that they want to go to heaven. Here is an important fact: until a person comes to surrender his or her life and will to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the wrath of God remains upon them because of their sin and unbelief (John 3:36b). This is why you need to be saved dear ones. The devil and your sin are issues, but the real problem is that God's wrath is directed at you, justly so, because of your rebellion against Him.

We tried hard to make sure each person understood that baptism added nothing to the all-sufficient work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and that getting baptized was not the end of their need for obedience to the Lord. I have unfortunately witnessed people who must have thought getting baptized was like getting their ticket punched to heaven or acquiring some type of insurance policy against hell. Some act like getting baptized is the equivalent of getting the golden ticket that gets you into Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory. It is not!

Brothers and sisters, whether it is baptism, reading the Bible through, or any other step you take, achievement you make, or commitment you keep, please develop the mindset that you will never reach a point where you could say, "That is enough. I have arrived and have all of Jesus that I want or need." I most definitely want you to be confident in your salvation. I want you to know beyond doubt that you are truly saved and going to heaven. We should know this and find peace in it. I want you to know and hold firm to the doctrines that are dear to our faith. At the same time, I want you to know that God, His Character, His nature, and His Word are infinite, and you will never arrive at knowing it all.

It is so easy for us to act like those who disappear after baptism are so terrible, and yet in many ways, others behave as if they have reached the line sufficient for salvation and need to do no more as well. I invite you once again to jump in with both feet this fall as we study and serve together in ministries offered to us here at the church. My hope is that we would all say with Paul, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own...I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12,14). Beloved, I am so thankful for all of the spiritual and numerical growth that we are experiencing in our church family. I know there is so much

more that we can come to experience and to know as we excel still more in every area of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Join in as together we run with single-mindedness, determination, and perseverance so that we may obtain the imperishable gift the Father has for us (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

Devotedly,
Pastor Robert
rrowland@smyrna1897.org

FROM THE DESK OF DANIEL WATSON, PASTORAL RESIDENT

Most recently I completed the book Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics by Graeme Goldsworthy. This work unpacks what hermeneutics is, the art and science of interpreting the Bible. It also surveys the landscape of interpretive methods and movements throughout church history. He warns of the dangers of having a poor hermeneutic and recounts some of the consequences that left their imprint on the history of interpretation. To have a Gospel-centered hermeneutic is to view Jesus as the ultimate focus of the Bible and faithfully interpret it through Him.

Goldsworthy powerfully states that a true understanding of the Bible must be based upon the person and work of Christ. His person means that Jesus is the divine Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, and is the One who took on human flesh. His work, in broad strokes, includes everything from the plan of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in eternity past to save His people from their sins, and His actual work of accomplishing salvation. It moves on to His exalted state where He is seated at the right hand of the Father presently interceding for His people. It also includes His second coming and everything that entails. A key point that Goldsworthy is making is that the work of Christ not only guides the flow of the Old and New Testaments, not only provides individual salvation; His work is also directing the progression of history. All of reality only makes sense in light of Jesus. Goldsworthy puts it this way, "Gospel-centered hermeneutics is above all the endeavor to understand the meaning of any aspect of reality, including the Bible, in light of him who is the Light of the World."

As I am thinking over the ideas that Goldsworthy penned (this was a technical work that was a more difficult read for me) I think three passages of Scripture will be useful to form a good starting point to keep in mind as we approach the Bible. Acts 17:27-28 reminds us that we are dependent on God for our existence. Hebrews 1:1-4 shows that Jesus is the greatest and final revelation of who God is. Lastly, 2 Corinthians 10:5 instructs us to "take every thought captive to obey Christ". Remembering these few verses is just one way to position ourselves to develop, or strengthen, a Gospel-centered hermeneutic in order to see Jesus correctly as we encounter Him in the Scriptures.

Sincerely,
Daniel Watson
dwatson@smyrna1897.org



YOUTH

It's time for student ministry to ramp up for the 25-26 school year! I am so thankful for the fruit that we are seeing within our youth group and grateful for the opportunity to continue to lead this vibrant ministry. As of this writing, we have now baptized over 10 students during this calendar year! It has been a joy to see the Lord move and we pray that we will be blessed to be able to continue to raise up vibrant, joyful and reproducing disciples of Christ.

As we turn the page to the fall, here are a few things that are coming quickly:

1. Parent meeting:
 - a. Join us on Sunday September 7th immediately after service for a BRIEF (emphasize "brief") parent meeting
 - b. The goal of this meeting will be to organize and involve parents in various capacities within our student ministry
 - c. We will need:
 - i. Volunteers to help on Wednesday evening
 - ii. Willing servants to help plan youth missions opportunities and fellowships
2. Wednesday night Bible study
 - a. We are beginning our Wednesday evening Bible studies on September 10th
 - b. Our plan will be to walk through the book of Romans (verse by verse) during the calendar year
 - c. Additionally, once per month we will be taking an evening to do a little "worldview formation" where we examine a popular claim in culture and contrast it with biblical truth
 - i. The goal of this time together will be to help our students think biblically and understand how the world twists and distorts what God has clearly told us!

Blessings,
Aaron Bobo

A MESSAGE FROM ERICA CHAPLIN , CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Hi Families,

September is here, and with it comes a fresh new season in our Children's Ministry! We had such a wonderful summer together – from the joy and energy of **Vacation Bible School**, to the creativity and fun of **Worship Arts Camp**, plus the sweet milestone of **Promotion Sunday** as kids moved up to their new classes. God has truly been faithful in every moment, and we are so thankful for the way He is at work in the lives of our children and families.

As school routines begin to settle in, we know that life can quickly fill with homework, sports, and activities. In the middle of all the busyness, our prayer is that your family will continue to find moments to grow in faith, worship together, and remember that Jesus is at the center of it all.

This fall, we look forward to helping kids build strong foundations through God's Word – whether it's singing praises in **Children's Choir**, diving into Bible truths in **AWANA**, or growing closer to friends in **Sunday School groups**. We are excited to partner with you as together we point children to the hope and love of Jesus.

Some important dates to remember and mark on your family calendar:

◇ **Smyrna U Begins - September 7**

- Smyrna U is back this fall! These Sunday evening gatherings (6:00-7:00 PM) are a wonderful way for parents and adults to dig deeper into God's Word and grow in faith together!
- While parents are in class, we'll provide childcare and fun evenings for kids – giving children time to play with friends and enjoy activities in a safe environment.
- To make this possible, we need volunteers that are willing to help with childcare Sunday evenings between September and December. Even serving once helps lighten the load for everyone. If you'd like to be part of this ministry by volunteering, please see Erica.

◇ **Children's Choir Begins - September 10**

- Our new season of Children's Choir begins this month! Open to kids K-5th grade. We'll learn fun, faith-filled songs and prepare to share in worship!

◇ **AWANA Kickoff - September 10**

- AWANA is back! Kids age 3-6th grade are invited to join us Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 PM for scripture memory, fun games, small group time, and powerful lessons from God's Word!
- Registration is open now. (Scan the QR code below to register for AWANA)

How You Can Pray:

- For kids to grow closer to Jesus as routines get busier.
- For AWANA leaders as they disciple children in scripture memory and truth.
- For families balancing school, sports, and faith life to find rest in God.

Save these Dates for October:

- ◇ **Oct. 5** - Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
- ◇ **Oct. 15** - Church Business Meeting

- * *Parents, we encourage you to attend this important meeting to hear updates, share feedback, and celebrate what God is doing in our church! Your involvement helps guide the ministry of the whole church, including our children's programs.*

We're looking forward to a season of learning, singing, and growing together in God's Word. Thank you for letting us partner with your family in this journey of faith!

With love in Christ,

Erica Chaplin

echaplin@smyrna1897.org





It's time to get back to rehearsals! Would you consider being a part of the worship ministry? No audition needed to join the choirs! Wouldn't it be wonderful and an encouragement to our congregation to fill the platform with worshipers leading in singing praises to our Lord each Sunday? There are **two opportunities, the 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. time slot for adults not involved in other areas of service during that time and the 8:15 p.m-9:00 p.m. time slot for students (12+) and adults.** We rehearse the same music in both rehearsals, preparing songs for Sunday and special events such as Christmas, Easter and Worship Nights. For more information on the choirs, speak with Melodie Parsons. If you are interested in the band, speak with Brad Perkinson. You can find us on the platform every Sunday!

Here are some benefits to being a part of choir:

- It boosts your well-being and Spirit:** The body releases endorphins (natural mood boosters) when you sing, It reduces stress, improves breathing and enhances memory. It deepens your spiritual connection allowing you to express your faith in a beautiful and uplifting way.
- It forges wonderful Friendships:** the choir is a great place to meet people and build lasting friendships. Being a part of choir creates a natural bond providing a supportive community.
- It gives you the experience of joy making music with believers.** It's enjoyable and fulfilling to lead the congregation in worship and expressing your love for the Lord.
- It enhances your musical skills (no experience necessary!)** It's a great opportunity to develop musical abilities. We welcome all skill levels. From just starting out to experienced vocalists. You'll learn about pitch, rhythm, vocal techniques and more.
- It gives you the opportunity to contribute to the Heart of Worship.** The choir plays a vital role in the worship service. Your voice combined with others helps sets the tone, uplifts spirits and guides the congregation in praise. It's a meaningful way to serve the church and worship the Lord!

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16

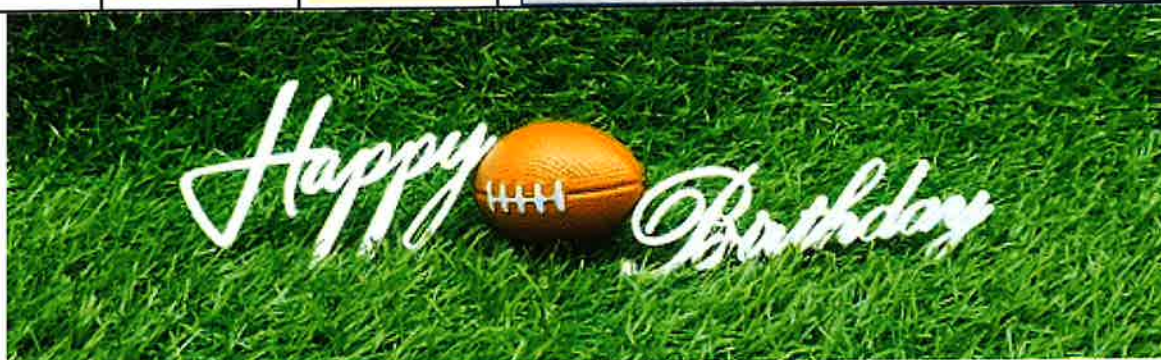
SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

PAGE 7

SEPTEMBER 2025**BIRTHDAYS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Brenda Bishop Sophia Davila	2	3 Finance Committee Mtg - 6:30pm Evie Bowers Christy George	4 Reda Demaline	5 Hunter Chaplin Melody Day Jamie Morini	6 Audrey George Linda Mohr
7 Discover Smyrna begins - 9:45am Smyrna 'U' Begins - 6:00pm Dave Gray, Jr.	8 Katie Antkowiak	9 Nominating Committee Mtg - 9:30am Amber McCaffity	10★★ BOP Luncheon @ 11 AM Bryant Gammon Meredith Outlaw	11 Cheryl Gray Emma Grace Leshner Wyatt Parson	12	13 Chip Bain Emagene Bowers Robert Rowland
14 OCC Collection begins Maggie Ford Landyn Montgomery	15 Donna Upton	16 Rhonda Kester John Mize	17★★ Angel Davis Samantha Kidd Chris Outlaw	18 Pastor's Book Club - 11:30AM @ Smyrna Kelyn Barchanowicz	19	20
21 SS Teacher Training Luncheon - 12:30pm Lane Green	22 Deacon's Mtg @ 6:30 PM Blake Lenz Rachel Patrick	23 Matt Long Michele Snead	24★★ Jackson Davis John Lake Miller Jack Perkinson	25 Feed the football team - 6:30pm Jody Harrington Chris Miller Avery Tench	26 Camille Joyner Robert Mohr Malcolm Schweizer	27 Samantha Dalton Addie Goertz John Joyner
28 Sabrina Rusek	29 Brayden Holderfield	30 Matilda Baker Horace Rowland	★★WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE Beginning September 10th 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			





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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.

September 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
7 th	Angie Adkins	Terri Shell	Chuck Page	Leah Pierce	April Green	Jennifer Miller	Brad & Ashley Perkinson
14 th	Rudy Etheredge	Krista Jones	Amanda Joyner	Lisa Barnhouse	Drew Berry	Ashley Bobo	Jamie Morini
21 st	Audrey Erdmann	Andrea Peavyhouse	Russ Joyner	Meredith Outlaw	Cheryl Joyner	Faith Driggers	Amie Davila & Megan Demaline
28 th	Angie Chappell	Mykalah Tench	Danna Gammon	Hunter & Ashley Shifflett	Glenn & Brittney Chappell	Sarah Brewer	Jessica Etheredge

MEN'S ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	FIELD & GAME TIMES (AM/PM)	OPPONENT
AUG 19	Games at 8:10 & 9:20	Team #4
AUG 26	Games at 8:10 & 9:20	C/C Elite
SEPT 9	Games at 6:30 & 7:20	Base Bandits
SEPT 16	Games at 6:30 & 7:20	Stretch
SEPT 23	Games at 6:30 & 7:20	Wolfpac
SEPT 30	Games at 6:30 & 7:20	Team #4
OCT 7	Games at 6:30 & 7:20	C/C Elite
OCT 14	Games at 6:30 & 7:20	Base Bandits
OCT 21	Playoff Times TBD	

Lakeview Elementary School
401 Taswell Avenue
Colonial Heights, VA 23834



SS Class Dinner Schedule

- ◇ 10th - Parents R Us
- ◇ 17th - Melting Pot
- ◇ 24th - Middle School Youth
- ◇ Oct 1st - Families in Fellowship

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE 2025

SUN 07 DISCOVER SMYRNA & SMYRNA 'U' CLASSES BEGIN

ALL WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES RESUME **WED 10**

THU 18 PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB AT NANNY'S BBQ @ 11:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING LUNCHEON **SUN 21**

MORE INFO: ADMIN@SMYRNA1897.ORG