



# The Presbyview

## Why Have a Youth Ministry? (Part 1)

As mentioned last month, we are glad to announce that Danny Myers has accepted our position of Assistant Pastor. He hopes to move with his family from Columbia, South Carolina in May and join us in the work. One of his primary areas (yet not solely) will be focusing on working with youth in and outside of the church. This brings up the very appropriate question, what purpose does a youth ministry have in the local church? The next two months we will seek to answer this question..

One does not need to look far to find an assortment of different ideas of what constitute a youth ministry in the local church. Some churches completely de-emphasize the idea of youth as a separate entity of the church. They see the family unit as the only grouping that the Bible allows, which means that the “youth group” is the family, and the “youth ministers” are the parents. These types of churches hold little to no teaching or events designed especially for the youth. Other churches have a full-blown, always on-the-go, youth ministry. These churches emphasize the need for everything to be geared toward the children and youth. These youth groups turn into a mini-church, made up of only youth. With two seemingly conflicting view of youth ministry, how is one to know what is best for the church as a whole, and the youth particularly? Well, as always, when approaching such subjects that deal with faith and practice, it is a good reminder that the Word of God is our sole guide. When we do so we see two important emphasis emerge.

First, we need to be reminded that the Lord is the creator of all things, including children (Ps.139:13-16). This means that no child comes into this world by accident or mistake, but each has been created by God. Furthermore, by God’s sovereign hand, each child has been placed into a specific home. No one is to be left without a home or a familial relationship, which is why God places special concern upon the widow and orphan (Isa.1:17; Jm.1:27). This familial relationship is to be more than a roof over their head, and people to take care of them. God’s purpose for having families is so that godly offspring are produced (Mal.2:15). Since godliness does not come naturally, intentional steps must take place so it does. Those intentional steps are the raising, teaching, discipling, and interceding for the children the Lord has given. Ephesians 6:4 states, “*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*” This Scripture states that it is not primarily the responsibility of the state, or even the church, but the parents (under the oversight of fathers) to raise the children given to him. From this we can draw a very basic, yet foundational truth of Scripture – God calls parents to raise children in a godly manner.

Second, while the Scriptures do emphasize the family unit as primary, that does not mean there is not a secondary, yet very important role for the church to play. The church has a responsibility to “*serve one another in love*” (Gal.5:13) and use their gifts, “*for the work of ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ*” (Eph.4:12). In Titus 2, Paul exhorts Titus to teach the older women that they are to “*admonish the young women*” (2:4). This is not just a responsibility for women to teach women, but also, men teaching men, old teaching young, families teaching other families, etc. There is a corporate responsibility that extends beyond that of the familial unit to teach, train, and disciple. This corporate responsibility comes from the fact that we have a covenant duty to God and to one another. The covenant extends to more than just individuals and families, but to the body of believers as a whole.

This corporate and covenantal responsibility of ministering to one another, therefore, applies to how we look at youth in the church. Each church member has a responsibility to help, primarily by assisting the parents, to raise and nurture the children that have been entrusted by the Lord to that church. That is why it is a biblical principle that at every baptism of children, the members of the congregation stand up and take a vow to, “*undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child.*” How will individuals fulfill this covenantal vow if there are not specific venues in the church to assist and nurture the youth in the church? It cannot be done well if the family unit is the only recognized relationship of teaching and discipleship in the church. Therefore, having a youth group or events, where other members of that church can have a godly influence upon the youth, is both needful and biblical. It is a way that the corporate body of Christ can and should be a part of assisting the parents in their biblical duty of raising children.

Next month we will look at some of the practical aspects of what this type of youth ministry may look like in the local church. But as we close, we are delighted to announce this addition to our staff, but more so in the expansion of our ministry to children, youth, and beyond at Smyrna Church as we collectively seek to Know, Grow, & Show forth the love of Christ. Join us in prayer and using your gifts in quest of this purpose.

# Keenagers Luncheon Meeting

On Tuesday, April 16th we will meet at the Pasta Bella on Austell Road @ 11:30 a.m. for a time of Bible study, food, and fellowship. Hope to see you all there!

## April Circle Meetings

**Tuesday, April 9th – 10:00 A.M.**

Love Circle - Will meet in the church parlor. Nursery is provided.

**Tuesday, April 9th – 7:15 P.M.**

Gentleness Circle - Will meet at the home of Page Whitfield.

**Thursday, April 11th – 10:00 A.M.**

Faithfulness Circle - Will meet in the church parlor.

**Saturday, April 13th – 8:45 A.M.**

Kindness Circle - Will meet in the fellowship hall.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

The cost for Wednesday night meal is \$4.00 per person with a \$12 cap per family. Please sign the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to make your reservation or call the church office by 3 P.M. on Monday.

**April 3rd ~ NO Meal (Spring Break)**

**April 10th ~ Regular Meal**

**April 17th ~ Regular Meal**

**April 24th ~ Regular Meal**

## *Good Friday Service*

The Seven Last Words of Christ  
by Théodore Dubois  
On Friday, April 19th beginning at  
6:30 p.m.

## Missions Committee

The Missions Committee will meet Sunday, April 14th immediately following the evening worship service in the church conference room.

## MEN OF THE COVENANT

The men of Smyrna Presbyterian Church will gather for our Bible study & a season of prayer on Saturday, April 20th at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, April 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. We hope to see you there.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's Bible study will be held Monday, April 8th & Monday, April 22nd at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Matt Hammond.

## Greeter Schedule

### April 7th

Church Wing— Dan & Donna Hall

School Wing— David & Gail Stallings

### April 14th

Church Wing— Jill, Gina, & Stella Fogarty

School Wing— Howard & Jean Campbell

### April 21st

Church Wing— Smadja Hart

School Wing— Crystal & Lucy Katrek

### April 28th

Church Wing— Tom & Maxine Miller

School Wing— Ralph & Evelyn Canup

### May 5th

Church Wing— Julie Ramsey

School Wing— David & Gail Stallings

### May 12th

Church Wing— Jim & Janice Pitts

School Wing— Smadja Hart

### May 19th

Church Wing— Jill, Gina & Stella Fogarty

School Wing— Howard & Jean Campbell

### May 26th

Church Wing— Chip & Sis Howell

School Wing— Dervon Douglas

# Nursery Schedule

We ask that all assigned nursery workers report at 10:30 a.m. to relieve choir members. Sign up sheets will be placed in the Narthex for volunteers for SS and Night Nursery coverage.

## April 7th

Infant— Page Whitfield/Kelly Becker  
 Toddler— Amy Stiles/Jamie Hughes  
 2's & 3's—Amy Grantham/Joy Douglas  
 Extra—Spencer King  
 Floater—Stella Fogarty  
 Children's Church—Paris Garrett/Gina Fogarty

## April 14th

Infant— Crystal Katrek/Kelly Becker  
 Toddler— Caroline Wesley/Josh Stevenson  
 2's & 3's—Amanda Stevenson/Josh Fogarty  
 Extra—Danny Powell  
 Floater—Denise Phan  
 Children's Church—Paris Garrett/Lucy Katrek

## April 21st

Infant— Meg King/Margaret MacGregor  
 Toddler— Ruth O'Neal/Brandon Soileau  
 2's & 3's—Leah Thomas/Rose Zang  
 Extra— Scott Crooks  
 Floater—Lily Becker  
 Children's Church—Micayla Clark/Ella Becker

## April 28th

Infant— Courtney Anders/Evelyn Canup  
 Toddler— Tansy Ridings/Scott Holland  
 2's & 3's—Susan Holland/Mason Anders  
 Extra— Mike Becker  
 Floater—Will Holland  
 Children's Church—Ruth O'Neal/Eryn Ridings

## Spring Workday

Please join the Deacons on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> to help spruce-up the church campus before our Easter celebrations. Projects will include spreading pine straw and mulch, Lion's Den clean up, painting, and other items of needed maintenance. Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there.

## Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for VBS for the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. If you are available to assist, we need about twenty volunteers to serve as teachers, leaders, or helpers. Please let Bill or Linda Pruett know if you can serve, or speak with either if you have questions. Beside being an important ministry to our own covenant children, VBS is one way SPC serves Smyrna families.

# April Birthdays

## Happy Birthday to:

David Stallings.....	3
Gail Stallings.....	5
Smadja Hart .....	5
Yetunde Fogarty.....	7
Denise Phan .....	9
Mazie Thomas.....	9
Mary Stevenson .....	13
Jason Whitaker.....	17
Kendra Bediam .....	20
Jamie Hughes.....	21
Taylor Whitaker.....	24
Maxine Miller .....	26
Lily Becker.....	29



# Easter Egg Hunt

All children of SPC ages 0—12 are invited to our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be two areas for the hunt (one for ages 3 and under) and (one for ages 4-12). Bring the kids out for a fun time of Easter egg hunting!!

# Camp BridgeMont

We will be heading back to Camp BridgeMont the week of Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. We will depart from the church at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning and will return by 8:00 p.m. Friday evening. Children will need money for lunch on the way to camp and dinner on the way home. The estimated cost for each camper will be \$140.00. Please contact John ridings if you need additional information @ 770.265.8250. A sign-up sheet and applications are available in the Narthex. The deadline to sign-up is June 16<sup>th</sup>. Please submit your applications & payment to the church office.

# April

# 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Spring Break—No School					
<b>7</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship Service & Communion 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	<b>8</b> 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m. Love Circle 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting 7:15 p.m. Gentleness Circle	<b>10</b> 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Faithfulness Circle	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00 a.m. SPC Spring workday 8:45 a.m. Kindness Circle
<b>14</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11:30 a.m. Keenagers Luncheon	<b>17</b> 5:30p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	<b>18</b> 6:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service	<b>20</b> 8:30 a.m. Men of the Covenant 11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
<b>21</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion <b>EASTER            SUNDAY</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 6:00 p.m. WIC council 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				