

# The Presbyview

## Purpose Statement: TO SHOW FORTH THE LOVE OF CHRIST

The last few months in these monthly articles we have been looking at the new purpose statement that we hope will define what we are trying to achieve as a church. The statement reads as following:

*Smyrna Presbyterian Church gathers together to:*

**Know** and worship the Triune God

**Grow** in the covenant family of God as reformed disciples

**Show** forth the love of Christ as servants and witnesses

*For the Glory of God.*

This statement is to help focus on the main objectives as a church – and not to get lost in the chaos of “doing church” from week to week but “being the church” as the Lord calls us to be. Everything we are, individually and corporately, should be focused on or around these 3 main goals of KNOW – GROW – SHOW. That is because these things summarize the discipleship making process to be disciples and make disciples.

Two months ago, we looked at *KNOW* and how this is more than just a cognitive head knowledge, but rather the basis for relationship with Almighty God. God being a covenantal God has entered into relationship with man through the Lord Jesus Christ and we must know him to be able to love Him and serve Him. How we know Him is through the Word of God & prayer that the Spirit uses to both birth and increase our faith. To know, we must have knowledge, belief, and trust in our God. As our knowledge and faith increases so does our worship and life’s service.

Last month we looked at the second part of the purpose statement, which is to *GROW*. Growth does not necessarily mean numerically in size, or financially in the church budget, but rather growth in our depth of spiritual maturity and faith. Theologically that is called sanctification, where we are being renewed in the whole person after Christ and “more and more” reflecting him in our actions, behaviors, words, thoughts, and deeds. In this way, we must never stop growing.

This *KNOW* and *GROW* should naturally propel us forward to *SHOW* forth the love of Christ to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as to the world. I, as your pastor, am encouraged to hear that Smyrna Presbyterian is a very friendly and loving church, which it is! That demonstrates that the spirit of God is at work amongst you, and the seeds of the Gospel have not only sprouted and grown but are bearing forth fruit. For the chief fruit of the Spirit is love. Jesus says, “*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*” (Jn. 13:35).

This showing forth the love of Christ happens in two primary way: first, through service. The above Scripture reference from John 13 comes in the context of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. A preeminent example of love through service, to which Jesus says, “*For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you*” (13:15). All of us within the church have been given one title – it is that of servant – servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those we are to serve are those who are in need of service. “*God doesn’t need our good works*” Martin Luther said, “*but our neighbor does.*” Therefore, we are to serve in whatever capacity we see a need and are able to fulfill.

The Second way we show for the love of Christ is as witnesses. This may seem to indicate evangelism, which is surely a part of it. But being a witness is more than just the opportunities you have to tell someone about Jesus. Being a witness means all of your life is to be a witness to him. Jesus again says, “*let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven*” (Mt. 5:16). The light of Christ should be seen in whatever context that the Lord puts you in. Both by our actions and by our words we are to give testimony to “*the hope that is within us*” (1 Peter 3:15).

Those are the means, but to whom are we to show forth the Lord of Christ? First, “*for one another*” (Jn. 13:35) within the church. Paul says, “*if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*” (1 Tim. 5:8). This truth applies to the whole corporate church as much as it does to individuals. We are to care for and serve one another. This might be through physical acts of service (giving, serving, providing) or spiritually through prayer and words of encouragement and truth. This is how we demonstrate that we are disciples. Yet second, our love must not stop there. Paul says, “*Christ love compels us*” (2 Cor.5:14). It drives us forward to be servants and witnesses to a world that needs the hope and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to be servants and witnesses in our neighborhood, community, workplace, etc. This is to happen individually as we go out as “*salt and light*”, as well as corporately as we join together to find needs in our community and world.

As we close, what ways are you showing forth the love of Christ in your life? What ways can you grow in your service and witness? What ways can we do better as a church in our community? World? Jesus said to his disciples, “*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). We are called to similar spheres of influence by making a difference in our love and service. Remembering, “*We love because he first loved us*” (1 John 4:19).

# Keenagers Luncheon Meeting

On Tuesday, February 19th we will meet at the O'Charleys on East West Connector @ 11:30 a.m. for a time of Bible study, food, and fellowship. Hope to see you all there!

## February Circle Meetings

**Tuesday, February 5th – 10:00 A.M.**

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

**Tuesday, February 5th – 7:15 P.M.**

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

**Thursday, February 7th – 10:00 A.M.**

Faithfulness Circle - Will meet in the church parlor.

**Saturday, February 9th – 8:45 A.M.**

Kindness Circle - Will meet in the church parlor.

## **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.

**February 6th ~ No Meal**

**February 13th ~ Regular Meal**

**February 20th ~ Regular Meal**

**February 27th ~ Regular Meal**

*Dear SPC Family,*

*Thank you so much for helping me celebrate my birthday. I am so blessed to have the best Christian family and I love you all. Thanks to Jim & Lisa Ogburn and his family for the delicious meal.*

*Happy New Year to you all!  
Lynette Ostell*

## **Missions Committee**

The Missions Committee will meet Sunday, February 10th 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, February 16th at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, February 28th 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, February 11th & Monday, February 25th at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Matt Hammond.

## **Greeter Schedule**

### February 3rd

Church Wing— Dan & Donna Hall

School Wing— David & Gail Stallings

### February 10th

Church Wing— Jill, Gina, & Stella Fogarty

School Wing— Howard & Jean Campbell

### February 17th

Church Wing— Smadja Hart

School Wing— Crystal & Lucy Katrek

### February 24th

Church Wing— Tom & Maxine Miller

School Wing— Ralph & Evelyn Canup

### March 3rd

Church Wing— Julie Ramsey

School Wing— David & Gail Stallings

### March 10th

Church Wing— Jim & Janice Pitts

School Wing— Smadja Hart

### March 17th

Church Wing— Jill, Gina & Stella Fogarty

School Wing— Howard & Jean Campbell

### March 24th

Church Wing— Chip & Sis Howell

School Wing— Dervon Douglas

### March 31st

Church Wing— Randy & Page Whitfield

School Wing— Rose Zang

# 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.

## February 3rd

Infant— Courtney Anders/Amy Stiles  
 Toddler— Mason Anders/Susan Holland  
 2's & 3's—Leah Thomas/Scott Holland  
 Extra—Scott Crooks  
 Floater—Henry Katrek  
 Children's Church—Paris Garrett/Will Holland

## February 10th

Infant— Kristin Soileau/Kelly Becker  
 Toddler— Jamie Hughes/Margaret MacGregor  
 2's & 3's—Hortense Bedia/Brandon Soileau  
 Extra—Mike Becker  
 Floater—Adam Crooks  
 Children's Church—Paris Garrett/Eryn Ridings

## February 17th

Infant— Leslie Boyd/Kelly Becker  
 Toddler— Jean Campbell/Howard Campbell  
 2's & 3's—Rose Zang/Anh Phan  
 Extra— James Wesley  
 Floater—Paige Crooks  
 Children's Church—Micayla Clark/Denise Phan

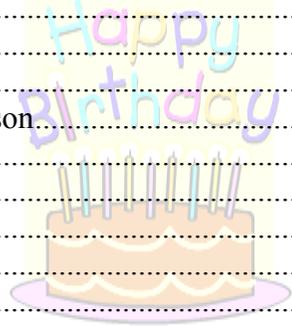
## February 24th

Infant— Page Whitfield/Kelly Becker  
 Toddler— Jamie Hughes/Ellen Milberger  
 2's & 3's—Amanda Stevenson/Dwight Thomas  
 Extra— Andy Fogarty  
 Floater—Ella Becker  
 Children's Church—Ruth O'Neal/Stella Fogarty

# February Birthdays

## Happy Birthday to:

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Joel Smit.....        | 4  |
| Rob Hines.....        | 7  |
| Scott Crooks.....     | 8  |
| Sam King .....        | 8  |
| Eric Gleason.....     | 11 |
| Amanda Stevenson..... | 14 |
| Mark Gleason.....     | 15 |
| Paul Smit.....        | 18 |
| Caden Hughes .....    | 19 |
| Maryella Hart.....    | 21 |
| Kelly Becker .....    | 24 |
| Bowen Thomas .....    | 28 |



# REFORMATION HOPE

God continues to bless His work in Haiti as He provides light in the darkness through Reformation Hope. His kingdom work there is bearing much fruit.

Reverend Jean Paul and Souls Winning Ministries expanded its primary school to include a new high school named Covenant Christian Academy. This high school is also open to other children in the community of La Plaine/Marin. Souls Winning Ministries serves the community of La Plaine/Marin.

The school offers extra-curricular activities such as orchestra and band, seldom seen activities in Haiti. They were able to convert the old orphanage dining hall and kitchen in to a two story high school classroom space. The prayer for 2019 is that the new high school become more self-supporting as additional students are added during the new school year.

Another renovation was the conversion of the original house to offices. The old outdoor awning area will be updated. The hope is that this expansion will benefit both the children of New Joy House as well as the surrounding communities.

There has been news of recent events of civil unrest in Haiti. Reverend Paul continues to seek prayers for Haiti amidst the violence and hopelessness many of the people due to recent changes, primarily a gas price increase. Winning Souls Ministry is providing a center for life and a light-house for those in need. Please pray that God will provide divine intervention so that they are free to do the job that God has called them to do.

God continues His kingdom work in Haiti. Generous donations helped to replace Pastor Paul's worn out SUV with a new vehicle.

Praise to God for the second group of Bible college students who began their Bachelor of Divinity work this past summer. There has been progress in the formation of the new Presbyterian denomination in Haiti. This will help to unite God's peoples and His local bodies of Christ. The efforts of this new denomination also helps to unite kingdom service representatives from both the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the PCA which involvement and support from both Haitian and U.S. partner.

The Haitian partners with Reformation Hope look forward in 2019 to formalizing the new Presbyterian denomination and operating together according to the new Book of Church Order.

In looking forward to 2019, there is much promise for the people of Haiti and for the ministry of Reformation Hope. The primary importance will be moving forward with the fundraising and construction of new facilities in Jacmel.

The Jacmel Construction project continues to need financial support to help complete the multipurpose church, school and pastor's house. This includes clearing the land, building a compound wall as well as a sanctuary, school rooms and pastor's family living space. The 250 Jacmel church members meet in a space with only enough room for 50 people to sit. You can send donations to –

Reformation Hope, Inc  
 12195 Hwy 92, Suite 114-317  
 Woodstock, GA 30188

# February

# 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|  |   |  |  |   |    |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|----|---|
|  |   |  |  |   | 1  | 2<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Anna Ensley's<br>baby shower |
| 3<br><br>11:00 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>& Communion<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>Evening Worship | 4   | 5<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Love Circle<br><br>7:15 p.m.<br>Gentleness Circle | 6<br>5:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday Night<br>Meal<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday Night<br>Activities                                  | 7<br><br>10:00 a.m.<br>Faithfulness<br>Circle   | 8  | 9<br><br>8:45 a.m.<br>Kindness Circle           |
| 10<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>Evening Worship<br><br>7:30 p.m.<br>Mission Committee<br>meeting   | 11<br><br>8:00 p.m.<br>Men's Bible<br>Study | 12<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Session Meeting                               | 13<br>5:30p.m.<br>Wednesday Night<br>Meal<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday Night<br>Activities                                  | 14  | 15 | 16<br><br>8:30 a.m.<br>Men of the<br>Covenant   |
| 17<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>Evening Worship &<br>Communion   | 18  | 19<br>11:30 a.m.<br>Keenagers<br>Luncheon                            | 20<br>5:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday Night<br>Meal<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday Night   | 21<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Deacon Meeting           | 22 | 23  |
| Winter Break—No School   |   |  |  |   |    |   |
| 24<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>Evening Worship  | 25<br><br>8:00 p.m.<br>Men's Bible<br>Study | 26   | 27<br>5:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday Night<br>Meal<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>WIC council<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday Night<br>Activities | 28<br><br>10:00 a.m.<br>Prayer Shawl<br>meeting |    |   |
|  |   |  |  |   |    |   |