



The Presbyview

From Pastor Smit's Desk – January 2019

Purpose Statement: TO GROW IN CHRIST

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas celebration and your New Year is blessed of the Lord. I'm thankful for all of you and look forward to the year ahead.

As I mentioned last month, we as a leadership have crafted a 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. Everything we do, 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. This statement helps us to focus on how to do that exactly. So the next few months I want to use these articles to help define what each of these means.

Last month we looked at *KNOW* and saw 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.

The second part of the purpose statement is to GROW. The natural tendency of this word in the context of the church often means to grow in size (numerically) or to grow the bottom line (financially). While these are hopefully a part of the growth that comes in the church, this is not the main idea of this term. Since we as a church are to be primarily concerned with discipleship, our growth must be focused on growing spiritually both individually and corporately. How are we maturing, and being stretched in our faith? How are our views of God and His Kingdom being expanded? How are we learning to trust Him in all things? How are we changing and reforming into what God calls us to be? These and many more are the relevant questions when it comes to this purpose of “to Grow in Christ”.

If you have children or grandchildren then you will know that if a child is not reaching certain physical and/or behavioral benchmarks for their age, the pediatric community will label their growth as “failure to thrive”. This designation can mean that they are not getting the proper nutrients, or some other illness is preventing them from growing because healthy children should naturally grow. The same is true spiritually. If we are children of God, redeemed by Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, the natural spiritual progression should be growth -an inconsistent, yet upward trending growth in grace and sanctification. The hindrance to this type of growth is our own sin or lack of a consistent spiritual diet.

The growth that we are looking for can be theologically defined as sanctification. The catechism says it well when it speaks of sanctification as “*being renewed in the whole man after the image of Christ, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*” Did you notice that it says “more and more”? That is the growth that we speak of! God, by His grace and Spirit are reforming us to be more like Christ. That our actions, behaviors, words, thoughts, and deeds would be pleasing to God and reflect Him who we have faith in. That our whole being would be sanctified (set apart) for the Lord. That type of growth will never end (must not end!) until the Lord calls us home, or He comes to be with us.

Our growth cannot and will not happen by itself, nor by ourselves. The Lord is pleased to work through you and within the context of the local body of believers in the church. As we welcome, love, serve, pray, instruct, encourage, forgive, stir, and bear one another burdens, we will GROW – by and with one another. Jesus said, “*I am the vine; you are the branches*” and individually and collectively we must abide in Him (Jn.15:5). What a pleasure it is to grow as a mature believer (branch) in Christ (the True Vine) and to do so in the context of the local church.

As you begin this new year – pray for GROWTH – spiritually for yourself, for your family, as well as for your church family. May God be pleased to hear our prayers.

God bless and Happy New Year!

Keenagers Luncheon Meeting

On Tuesday, January 15th 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!

January Circle Meetings

Tuesday, January 8th – 10:00 A.M.

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

Tuesday, January 8th – 7:15 P.M.

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

Thursday, January 3rd – 10:00 A.M.

Faithfulness Circle - Will meet in the church parlor.

Saturday, January 12th – 8:45 A.M.

Kindness Circle - Will meet in the church 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.

January 2nd ~ No Meal

January 9th ~ Regular Meal

January 16th ~ Regular Meal

January 23rd ~ Regular Meal

January 30th ~ Regular Meal

Shepherding Group Fellowship

Elder Dan Hall's Shepherding Group will meet at the home of Wayne & Patty Ramsey on Saturday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee will meet Sunday, January 13th 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, January 19th at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, January 24th 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, January 14th & Monday, January 28th at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Matt Hammond.

Greeter Schedule

January 6th

Church Wing— Jim & Janice Pitts

School Wing— Smadja Hart

January 13th

Church Wing— Jill, Gina & Stella Fogarty

School Wing— Howard & Jean Campbell

January 20th

Church Wing— Chip & Sis Howell

School Wing— Dervon Douglas

January 27th

Church Wing— Randy & Page Whitfield

School Wing— Rose Zang

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

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.

January 6th

Infant— Kristin Soileau/Kelly Becker
 Toddler— Evelyn Canup/Brandon Soileau
 2's & 3's—Tansy Ridings/Rose Zang
 Extra—
 Floater—Paige Crooks
 Children's Church—Paris Garrett/Eryn Ridings

January 13th

Infant— Page Whitfield/Kelly Becker
 Toddler— Jean Campbell/Howard Campbell
 2's & 3's—Anh Phan/Ruth O'Neal
 Extra—
 Floater—Ella Becker
 Children's Church—Paris Garrett/Denise Phan

January 20th

Infant— Crystal Katrek/Kelly Becker
 Toddler— Gail Stallings/Ellen Milberger
 2's & 3's—Julie Ramsey/Dwight Thomas
 Extra—
 Floater—Stella Fogarty
 Children's Church—Micayla Clark/Gina Fogarty

January 27th

Infant— Smadja Hart/Jill Fogarty
 Toddler— Caroline Wesley/Josh Stevenson
 2's & 3's—Amanda Stevenson/Mary MacGregor
 Extra—
 Floater—Lily Becker
 Children's Church—Ruth O'Neal/Lucy Katrek

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Ann Marie Kelly	5
Ann Burnette	6
Clyde Carter	7
Wayne Hughes	10
Nathan Hughes	12
Bob Wylie	15
Pat Jackson	16
Bill Pruett	17
Lindsay Kate Hines	21
Stuart Ogburn	24
Andy Fogarty	29



Baby Shower

All ladies are invited to attend a baby shower for Britta (Jordan) Lee hosted by the Love Circle on Saturday, January 5th beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Brunch will be provided. Britta & Jordan are expecting a baby boy and registered at Amazon. Please sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend.

Bethany Soup Lunch

The Women in the Church will host a Bethany Soup Luncheon on Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 20th immediately following morning worship in the fellowship hall.

From Pastor Joel



Stefanie and I would like to thank the whole congregation for your support throughout the year. We were well loved by you all through your thoughts and prayers that saw us through some difficult challenges in 2018. Thanks to all who gave us gifts in the month of December – they were especially treasure and appreciated. We as a family are blessed to serve such a supportive and loving congregation.

*Thankful to be your pastor.
 God bless.*

Dear SPC Family,



Chip and I are so blessed to be in a very loving and caring church family. I would like to thank everyone for the many prayers and concerns for me during my illness, surgery, and recovery. The many meals, cards, phone calls, and visits were much appreciated.

*Thank you so much
 Love in Christ
 Sis Howell*

January

2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 	2	3 10:00 a.m. Faithfulness Circle	4	5 10:00 a.m. Britta Lee's baby shower
6  11:00 a.m. Worship Service & Communion 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	7	8 10:00 a.m. Love Circle 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting 7:15 p.m. Gentleness Circle	9 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	10	11	12 8:45 a.m. Kindness Circle 6:00 p.m. Dan Hall's Shepherding Group
13 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	14 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	15 11:30 a.m. Keenagers Luncheon	16 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	17 6:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting	18	19 8:30 a.m. Men of the Covenant
20 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 12:30 p.m. Bethany Luncheon 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion	21	22	23 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	24 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl meeting	25	26
27 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	28 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	29	30 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 6:00 p.m. WIC council 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	31		