

**The
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International Night

April 18

Dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. with a Foreign Flair!

Come experience the food, costumes and customs of our world neighbors!



**7th Annual Smoke Rise Open Car,
Truck and Motorcycle Show**

May 5.



Smoke Rise Summer Camp

May 29 - August 3

Camp is available from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m



**The April 13, 2007
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church**

Its almost time for our April Prime Time trip!

We will be going to the Wild Animal Safari at Pine Mountain on April 19th. We will also take a drive through Callaway gardens to see the beautiful flowers and have lunch at the Piedmont Restaurant. The cost is \$24 per person and lunch is on your own (the restaurant will serve a buffet for \$14 per person including tax). Bring or send a check to Linda for a reservation; you can contact her with any questions at 770.469.5856.



Stone Mountain Coop Needs Volunteers

Smoke Rise has been asked to work at the Stone Mountain Coop food pantry from Monday, May 5, through Friday, June 29. For those eight weeks, we need two volunteers from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please contact Becky Seay at 770-381-6865 to volunteer or receive more information.

Faith & Issues

Sunday at 9:45 am; Room A125

April Schedule

- 15 Understanding the faith of our young people
- 22 Understanding other Christian traditions: Who are the Quakers?
- 29 Understanding other Christian traditions: Who are Episcopalians?

Wednesday Nights Have Grown!

The Nursery and Preschool departments have been blessed with regular high attendance in our two, three, four and five year old classes and we need additional helpers.

If you can help on Wednesday nights, please contact Amanda Coe Burton at aburton@smokerisebaptist.org or Kellie Denton at kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org.

Relay for Life

SRBC's third Relay for Life event is May 11-13. Team members pay \$10 to register and agree to raise \$100 for the American Cancer Society. Make sure to look at the Cross Tie (find it [online](#) or in your mailbox) to read local participant testimonials. Join us in Relay for Life! Call Bill and Cathy Blanton at 770.921.4115, Sheila Dean at 770.498.1673, or Daniel Weatherby (Youth Captian) at 770.931.1444.

Attention Nursery Parents and Extended Session Volunteers



It's time to sign up for May, June and July service dates. The scheduling poster is outside the Nursery Office.

The Parenting School:

Explaining Death, Loss and Tragedy to Your Children

Sunday, May 6, 2007; 9:45 am in the Chapel

Speaker is Dr. Doyle Hamilton, III.

Doyle is a certified pastoral counselor and a licensed marriage and family therapist. He will talk about some age-appropriate ways to help your child understand death, loss and tragedy.

Video of Siberian Mission Trip

Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Jim Palmer and Wilson Echols will present a video of their recent mission trip to Siberia and Chernobyl.

Uth News

- Register now for summer camps.
- **BIG STUF CAMP** June 6-10 for grades 6-12
\$300 to Panama City Beach
Get you name on the waiting list.
- **WORLD CHANGERS** June 30-July 7
for high school only — a few spots remain
\$260 to New Orleans

Fire Safety

What do you need to know to protect your home and family? Our own Thad Smith with the Gwinnett County Fire Department will show us the basics of fire safety that everyone should know. Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Ministry Presents:

Sacred Spaces —

Creating Beauty through the Seasons of the Church

Worship is a primary part of our week - it renews and refreshes our spirits, and if done thoughtfully, it can engage our senses. Danny Vancil will create different kinds of floral arrangements for worship and teach us about the use of visuals as an aid to our worship. He also promises a few extra surprises for the home! Tuesday, May 8, 2007; 6:30 p.m. Tickets (\$10) go on sale beginning Sunday, April 8th in the Sanctuary Breezeway. Includes Lou's delicious Spring salad buffet.



Mark your calendars now for VBS!

Sunday, June 10 – Thursday, June 14.

Sunday: 4:30-7:30pm

Monday – Thursday: 5-7:30pm

Wedding

Jonathon Schulz and Elizabeth Vinson were married on March 31. Elizabeth is the daughter of Janet Palmer.

Births

Jackson Thomas was born March 24 to Scott and Tami White; grandparents are Red and Teressa Owens.

Wesley David was born March 28 to Bill and Julie King; brothers are Will and Wyatt

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Joyce Lovern and Vivian Harris whose aunt died; Joy Reddick whose mother died; Norma Harris whose sister died; Ken Morgan whose step-brother died; Debbie Lloyd whose mother-in-law died; Page Fulgham whose sister died; Brenda Gulley whose mother died; and Dick Reasoner, whose wife Diane died. Dick and Diane were members for 17 years.



Notes from the Pastor

Easter

Words are inadequate to express what we experienced at Smoke Rise on Easter. My heart overflows with joy and gratitude. I thank God for his beloved presence and for all that led us in worship. They went above and beyond the call of duty and I deeply appreciate it.

As a matter of fact, the Lenten season in our church was most meaningful. The Ash Wednesday service, the Lenten speakers on Wednesday evenings, the Maundy Thursday service, the Lenten play put on by the drama department and the six Sunday services during Lent were inspiring and heart-warming. Few times have I worshipped with a sense of wonder and awe as I did this year during Lent. I cannot tell you how much this means to me. All the services and programs prepared me for the grand celebration of the resurrection on Easter. So once again, I say thanks to all that led us through this most holy time of the year.

CBF Spring Meeting

This year Smoke Rise hosted the Georgia Cooperative Baptist Fellowship spring meeting. We were honored to host this meeting and put out the welcome mat for our broader Baptist family. I wish I could pass along all the compliments voiced during this two-day event. People from all over the state expressed their appreciation for the use of our fine facilities and the host of volunteers that took care of every need.

Quite frankly, I don't know when I have been prouder of Smoke Rise. Every detail was carefully planned which was evident as the meetings progressed. In particular, Lou and her fine kitchen staff exceeded all expectations. The banquet and two receptions they prepared rivaled anything you would experience at the Stone Mountain Marriott. They were exceptional and made the meetings even more meaningful.

Thanks Linda, Kathy, Danny, Kellie, Rebecca, Ernie, Tim, Lou, Ron and crew, and many volunteers for a job well done. You worked hard behind the scene for months to make sure everything was ready for our guests. My only concern is that word will get out how well you did and many other groups will want to come. If I were in charge of scheduling a meeting, I know where I would have it!

Spring Programs

Traditionally, April and May are two of the busiest months in our church. This year will be no different. Carefully look at the calendar and make note of the many services and programs coming our way. The schedule is full of concerts, recitals, year-end recognition programs, recreational activities and baccalaureate. Go on line to www.smokerisebaptist.org to get the latest details. By the way, if you are not receiving the bi-weekly emails from the church about current events and activities, call the office and give us your email address or go on line and sign up. You don't want to miss these emails. They are wonderful!

Plains Revival

Many of you have asked about the revival I conducted at the Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains. I had a wonderful time with the good folk in Plains and appreciated the change of pace for a few days. I stayed at the Plains Inn, which I highly recommend. The Inn has seven rooms that are large and beautiful. It is a bit like stepping back in time and reliving days gone by, at least it was for me.

My revival began ten days after the tornado hit Americus, eight miles from Plains. The devastation I saw was indescribable. That community looked like a bomb had been dropped on it.

Perhaps you saw my picture in the *AJC* with President and Mrs. Carter as we toured the hospital in Americus after the tornado destroyed it. I am amazed that no one was killed and only a few were injured. The hospital staff had little warning but acted quickly to get patients into hall ways away from windows and exterior walls. That saved a lot of lives because many rooms were completely destroyed.

Speaking of the Carters, I was humbled by their gracious hospitality. More than that, I was impressed with their faithfulness to their church. Both of them are actively involved, teaching Sunday school, serving on committees, visiting the sick and responding to requests for help from church and community members. Mrs. Carter is a deacon, which keeps her busy.

One of the highlights of the week for me was watching them come into the fellowship hall on Wednesday night an hour before the service for the potluck dinner. They were carrying their dishes just like everyone else and stood in the serving line waiting their turn to fill their plates, talking about the weather, spring planting, grandchildren and the Braves. I like that humble, servant model of Christianity. I recall another powerful leader that exhibited it.

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who, being in the very nature of God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" Philippians 2:5-7.

Go visit the Plains Inn sometime and President Carter's Sunday school class. I believe you will enjoy both.

Thank You!

I must say thank you one more time for being a part of this wonderful church. Your involvement and support mean the world to me. I tell prospects all the time that Smoke Rise is a warm, loving community of faith that will make you stronger and your spiritual journey more enjoyable. I believe this because this is what Smoke Rise has done for Jackie and me. Walking with you has enriched our lives more than you will ever know. Thanks for being traveling companions along a fascinating journey.

Until Sunday,
Bob

Our Newest Members

Jon Blouin, 1073 N. Jefferson Road, Apt. L., Decatur, GA 30033, Telephone: 404-538-2181. Deacon: Bob Carter.

Mrs. Rae Howard (wife of Dave Howard, who is already a member), 513 Autumn Walk, Canton, GA 30114; Telephone: 678-592-9920. Deacon: Jack L' Amoreaux.

Debbie McNamara and Corry Anne McNamara, 3733 Woodrose, Snellville, GA 30039; Telephone: 770-979-5401. Deacon: Charlie Hopkins.

Smoke Rise Summer Camp May 29 - August 3

Camp is available from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and every enrollment of 2 weeks or more includes a Six Flags and a White Water season pass.

Visit and enroll on-line www.smokeriseministries.org/camp.

Field trips, swimming, music, crafts, academics, and a Christian setting define our 6 - 12 year old "Spirit" group. Teens focus on growth through team building, creative academic challenges, and community service. Rock climbing, Six Flags and a program of recreation, academics, study and service create an active and challenging experience.

GREGORY BURDETT, Director: SmokeRise Summer Camp at 678-469-1377 or e-mail to: gburdett@bellsouth.net.

International Night

April 18

Dinner begins at 5:15 with a Foreign Flair! See the International displays created by our Wednesday Night Children's Mission groups and witness a special presentation by our Acteens. Come experience the food, costumes and customs of our world neighbors!

Car Show

The 7th Annual Smoke Rise Open Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show will be held May 5. Please visit www.smokeriseministries.org/carshow for details and contact information.

Motorcycle Ride

The 2nd Annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Ride is planned for May 19. Please visit www.smokeriseministries.org/motorcycleryide for details and contact information.

Ushers Needed

We need ushers for all Sunday's. Please contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 or lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org to volunteer. Let me know which Sunday of the month you prefer and which worship service (8:30AM or 11AM). Thank you in advance for your help.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of March 31, 2007

Three hundred sixty-nine families have pledged \$1,883,535.20 to date for the 2007 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 537,975.17	\$ 631,251.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	10,733.18	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 548,708.35	\$ 631,251.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 460,481.48	\$ 487,959.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	7,376.38	7,925.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	28,586.83	38,710.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	53,810.96	57,814.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	15,378.96	16,250.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	738.90	4,458.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 566,373.51	\$ 613,116.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 403,649.43	

FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:

Four hundred forty-nine families have pledged \$2,689,784.00 to the Faith, Family & Future Campaign.

Funds designated by Finance Comm	\$ 30,000.00
Add'l Funds from Finance Comm	+ 163,972.14
Contributions	+2,570,247.31
Expenses	-2,764,219.45
Cash Balance	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 15,333.00



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OUR STAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor
Linda Cummings	Interim Administrator/Senior Adults
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Adult Education/Outreach
Danny Vancil	Minister of Music
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Minister of Youth
Kellie Denton	Interim Minister to Children
Tim W. Adcox	Minister of Recreation/Missions
Amanda Burton	Nursery Director
Truett Gannon, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus

Smoke Rise Counseling Center
Affiliate of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia
770-469-6547

Gloria White, M. Div., LCSW	Counselor
Rene Ely, M. Div., LMFT	Counselor
Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW	Counselor

The SRBC Cookbooks are Back!

Back by popular demand - Smoke Rise Cookbooks!! A limited number of *Smoke's Risin' in the Kitchen* Vol. III, first printed in 1999 are available in the church office. They are \$15 each.