

The C R O S S T I E

A Scream Free Morning with Hal Runkel

Join National Relationship Expert and Marriage and Family Therapist Hal Runkel on September 23 as he provides a ScreamFree Marriage and Living seminar, and shares excerpts and insights into his new book: ScreamFree Parenting. Raising your kids while keeping your cool.

Church-wide breakfast at 9:15 a. m. Morning discussion starts at 9:30 am and continues during the 11:00 worship hour in the Fellowship Hall.

This is for parents, grandparents, couples and singles...Bring a friend or family member to join us for this exciting church-wide event and outreach opportunity. Children's activities provided.



New for Adults this Fall!



The Young Adult Class

A new Sunday School class began on August 12 designed to meet the needs of young professionals in their 20's - open to married couples and singles. The class is led by Dr. Browning and his wife, Jackie. Please join us each Sunday at 9:45 a. m. in Room 209.

Sacred Space

Sundays at 9:45 in Room A119 beginning Sept. 23, 2007

Sacred Space is an experiential exploration of the varied Christian spiritual disciplines. Weekly experiences will attempt to balance head and heart as together we learn about the history and personalities related to each discipline and the many ways that each one can be practiced for personal spiritual formation. Each weekly session will include time for reflection and silence in preparation for worship at 11:00 am. Anyone and everyone is welcome though some degree of comfort with silence is helpful. To learn more about this experience, please feel free to contact Rick Bennett at rbennett@thefellowship.info.



Sadies Ladies Circle will meet Monday, October 8 at 7:00 at the home of Karen Stitt. All ladies are invited to attend.



Consecration Sunday Is Coming!

October 28

With a Celebration Lunch following the Morning Service
Watch for Details Soon!



The September 14, 2007
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Katrina Mission Trip - October 2007

It is time to consider joining the October 3-6 trip to Biloxi.

The church web site <http://www.smokerisebaptist.org/ministry/mis-sions/index.html> has the latest trip information and sign-up forms.

There is home recovery work available for all skill levels and most ages. Veterans (previous volunteers) are welcome to return again. Mention the upcoming trip in your Sunday School classes. Check out the four-minute slide show on the web site depicting volunteer activities. You will return home knowing that you helped others in need.

Mary Chambers Receives Mission Award

This past Sunday during the 11:00am worship service, Jim Huston, Smoke Rise Katrina Mission Chairman, presented Mary Chambers a plaque for her outstanding contributions to the Katrina Mission on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Mary is the 4,000th volunteer to sign in as a participant in the LeMoyne Blvd Baptist Church home recovery program during 2005, 2006 and 2007, and has made an unequaled twenty-one trips to the Biloxi area with the Smoke Rise mission teams.

Are you interested?

A new vocal ensemble geared to younger adults (50 and under). To express an interest and find out more information please contact the church Music Office by September 30. Call 770-469-5856 Ext. 209 or 214, or email dvancil@smokerisebaptist.org or lginn@smokerisebaptist.org.

Deacons Work on Church Playgrounds

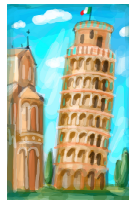
The Smoke Rise Baptist Weekday School, Children's and Nursery Ministries would like to thank the deacons for their recent work on the church playgrounds as a part of their annual mission project. The playgrounds are now safer and more enjoyable for our children.

Special thanks to Bob Jernigan and Bill Blanton for pressure washing, to Walter Martin and Alan Burton for organizing the work team, to Greg Mapoles for providing Chick-fil-A breakfast, and to the following people for participating: Bill Barnette, Alex Burton, Amanda Coe Burton, Terry Cantrell, Cubby Culberson, Margaret Fite, Denny Goodenow, Carole Harrison, Jack L'Amoreaux, Joyce Morrison, Deck Neisler, Bruce Prescott, Paula Reeves, Laura Smith, Karen Stitt, Tracy Swearingen, Doug Torbush, Danny Vancil, and Ginger Zachman.

"Reflections of Italy"

April 21-30, 2008

The Italy tour brochure and reservation forms are in the church office and upper and lower breezeways. Please return them ASAP — deadline is November. However, we need to know if you are interested as soon as possible.



Births

Congratulations to Glen and Trudy Richards on the birth of a daughter, Gabrielle, born July 19; sisters are Danielle and Abigail; and, to Jason and Celeste Jackson on the birth of triplets, "Madeline Kate," "Tyler William," and "Savannah Grace," born September 2; grandparents are Billy and Lynn Buckhalt; great grandmother is Dot Whitelaw.

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Barbara Glessner; Kenneth & Barbara have been members since 1977; to the family and friends of Cecil Hudlow who had been a member since 1980; Phyllis Bailey, whose father died; Beverly Childress, Kathy Moore and Don Needham, whose father died; Shirley Bowden, whose brother-in-law died; Alice McDougald, whose mother died; and to Faye Goodman, whose brother died.

Cradle of Christianity

An Exhibition Tracing the Roots of Jewish & Christian Beliefs & Practices Through Biblical Archaeology

Exhibit at the Carlos Museum

Sunday, September 30, 2007

Leave from Church at 12:15 p.m.

Lunch at Piccadilly Restaurant in Decatur

(Lunch not included in ticket price)

Tickets \$15 per person for a guided tour

(Tickets available beginning Sunday, September 16 in lower and upper breezeway)

Our Newest Members

Carley Batchelor (daughter of Bill and Coley Batchelor), 1010 Pebble Bend Drive, Grayson, GA 30017; telephone: 770-682-8076. Deacon: Mary Ann Niermann.

Joshua "Josh" Denton (son of Paul and Kellie Denton), 4160 Runnymede Drive, SW, Lilburn, GA 30047. Deacon: Joyce Morrison.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith (Pam) Durso, 755 Forest Oak Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044; telephone: 770-979-9389. Deacon: David Low.

Charles "Chase" David Jones, 2180 Deer Oaks Trail, Lawrenceville, GA 30044; telephone: 770-978-5518. Deacon: Bill Hearn.

Steven Prescott (son of Bruce and Faith Prescott), 2915 Brandon Walk Lane, Lawrenceville, GA 30044; telephone: 678-344-8982. Deacon: Richard Swindle.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill (Janet) Rocker, 9305 Delft Way, Alpharetta, GA 30022; telephone: 770-998-7048. Deacon: Nancy Blair.

Medie Wiley and her son Pat, 1980 Oak Branch Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; telephone: 770-736-0990. Deacon: Mike Holcomb.

Mr. and Mrs. Rick (Rebecca) Bennett, 1431 Sandford Trail, Lilburn, GA 30047; telephone: 770-972-0537. Deacon: Alan Burton.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim (Brenda) Curlee, 4970 Hodgkins Place, SW, Lilburn, GA 30047; telephone: 770-381-1618. Deacon: Bob Carter.

James, Jr. and Lauren Huston (son and daughter of Jimmy and Kim Huston), 862 Angevine Court, Lilburn, GA 30047; telephone: 678-344-1094. Deacon: Gail Hunter.

Mr. and Mrs. John (Carrie) Saint-Martin, 4737 Kellogg Drive, NW, Lilburn, GA 30047; telephone: 770-558-1983. Deacon: Charlie Hopkins.

Wedding

Congratulations to Maribeth Lawson and Jason Schaefer who were married on September 8. Maribeth is the daughter of Emmett and Janice Lawson.



Letter of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Friends,

We would like to express our appreciation to you for all the cards, prayers and food received during this difficult time. Our hearts have been touched by the love shown by all of you. Our mother will be missed.

Love in Christ,
The family of Florence Veal

Notes from the Pastor

Dead Man Walking?

John 11:38-44

It was about twenty years ago when my Mother called me one evening. “Your grandmother became ill a couple of days ago and she doesn’t seem to be getting better. I think the end is in sight. If you want to see her, you need to come quickly.”

I certainly wanted to see her one more time and drove two hundred miles to do so. In one way I was glad to have that three-hour drive. It gave me time to reminisce and thank God for the lady that introduced me to feather beds and front porch swings, biscuits and banana pudding, checkers and scrabble.

When I entered her bedroom, the first thing I noticed was her funeral clothes lying at the foot of her bed, including her necklace and earrings. It was the last thing she did before lying down to die.

“Are you comfortable?” I asked her. She assured me she was. “Do you think I am dying,” she asked. “What do you think?” I replied. “Yes,” she said, “and that’s all right. After all, I am ninety-seven and I am ready to go,” she whispered.

We held hands and I shared some special memories. I kissed her on the forehead as she dozed off and quietly left the room. It was the last time I saw her alive. She died a couple of days later. I am so grateful my mother called me and made this final visit possible.

Jesus did not make it back to Bethany before his friend, Lazarus, died. This shocked Lazarus’ sisters, Mary and Martha. They thought he would drop what he was doing and come quickly when he heard that Lazarus was sick, but he didn’t. By the time he arrived, Lazarus had been buried.

With tears in his eyes, Jesus asked where the burial site was. He approached it as if it were his own, surmises theologian Bill Hull. “Take the stone away,” Jesus ordered.

Martha did what anyone would have done in that situation. She offered resistance. “But Lord, by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus insisted that they take the stone away from the entrance to the cave, and they did.

“Lazarus, come out!” Jesus called in a loud voice and according to John, “The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen and a cloth around his neck.” “Take off his grave clothes and let him go,” Jesus told those around him and they did.

This is one of my favorite Bible stories, perhaps because I have been to the place that many believe Lazarus was buried. It is also a favorite because of the reflective questions it raises. Let me share some of them with you.

“Lord, the one you love is sick.” John 11:3. **What would you like for Jesus to know about one of your family members?** Is someone dear to you sick, depressed, confused, worried, angry or feeling guilty? Has your son lost his job or your daughter her marriage? Is your mate living under great stress and overwhelmed with heavy responsibilities? Is your grandchild struggling in school or with an addiction? Are your parents unable to take care of themselves, but not ready to accept it? It helps to talk to someone, doesn’t it, especially God.

“Lord, the one you love is sick.” I hope you spend a portion of each worship service praying for family members. It is not the only time or place you can do this, but I believe it is a wise use of your time each week when you gather with your church family. While you are praying, ask God to give you the wisdom and ability you need to help them, too.

Are you surprised that Jesus cried when he saw Mary and

Martha? After all, there is no mention of Jesus crying until he saw them. What does this say about him? It reveals how important relationships were to him and the intimacy that existed between him and others. I’m not sure you get this in the synoptic gospels, at least not to the degree that John reveals it.

I think John wanted his readers to know that people in positions of power and authority need to care deeply about those that depend upon them. They need to walk in others’ shoes and feel their pain. They need to be moved by others’ tears. Jesus certainly was and I like this model of leadership.

What is the most unusual thing that Jesus, or someone else that loves you, is asking you to do? I assure you that his command to “take the stone away” was most unusual. Even Martha appealed to him to reconsider.

What are you reluctant to do that others want you to consider? Talk to a counselor? Rearrange your values and priorities? Make changes in your lifestyle? Become active in church? Go on a mission trip? Adjust your attitude? Go back to school? Open a business? Forgive someone?

I wonder what you are missing and will miss if you don’t do it. What if the people around Lazarus’ tomb had argued with Jesus and refused to obey him? Look what they would have missed.

What is the ugliest part of your life that needs to be changed? Quit ignoring or hiding it and let Jesus help you change it.

What was in that tomb that day was, by Martha’s own account, not appealing. Lazarus’ body was already decomposing and exposing it would not be a pleasant experience. However, Jesus was not interested in looking at a decaying body in an advanced stage of decomposition, but changing it into something beautiful.

He is also interested in doing the same for us, but we must roll the stone away and let him see our hearts, no matter how ugly it may be. Jesus can reverse the destructive process of sin in our lives through his redeeming love and give us back our self-respect, respect for others, influence, potential, and relationships, but only if we roll the stone away. I hope you will do that today.

I recall a Bill Gaither chorus written about thirty years ago that reminds us of this hope. “Something beautiful, something good, all my confusion He understood. All I had to offer Him was broken and strife. He made something beautiful of my life.”

Roll that stone away.

From what do you need to be released in order to live a full and meaningful life? Is it guilt, fear, an addiction, low self-esteem, a terrible attitude or an unhealthy relationship? I hope you will let Jesus help you identify and overcome it.

One reason I love this story is because of what Jesus said after Lazarus came out of the tomb still wrapped in a shroud. “Loose him and let him go.” John 11:44. Those grave clothes were confining and restricting. There was no way he could live a normal life until they were removed.

There was no way he could remove them on his own, either. He had to have help, and so must we if we are going to overcome the struggles that confine us.

Isn’t this the task of the church, to set people free? Don’t we need to be calling people out of lonely despair and hopelessness into a supportive community of faith? I think so and I think this is one of the strongest lessons this story teaches us.

I think you understand why this story is one of my favorites. It speaks to me in powerful and relevant ways about relationships, compassion, change and hope. I hope you will let it speak to you, too, and help you along your journey this week.

Until Sunday,
Bob

Is God calling you to Honduras?

If so, now is the time to sign up for the 2008 Honduras Mission Team for April 5—12, 2008. The new deadline for Smoke Rise members to sign up is Monday, October 1, 2007. After this deadline, persons from other churches can be enlisted. For the 2008 trip, we can only take 20 to the Ranch. However, since we have expanded our mission to include helping a new Baptist church in Tegucigalpa, we can also take additional team members.

It is first-come-first-serve! Your initial Smoke Rise Mission Application and your \$100 deposit must be turned in by October 1. The smaller number is dictated by the new transportation provided by Honduras Outreach, Inc. We will be traveling in new Toyota Land Cruisers with air conditioning, not that we really need it or anything. Probably won't even turn it on! In addition, HOI has revamped the rules, policies and procedures to insure the utmost safety, security and success of each and every missionary.

If you want further information, you may contact Page Fulgham at 404-316-3544 or call the missions office at the church. You can also look at HOI's website at www.hoi.org

Please prayerfully consider the powerful impact you can have by your simple acts of kindness to those to whom we minister in Honduras. They will be changed; you will be changed; we will be changed.

Please donate your used and no longer needed printer cartridges to the Lilburn Coop. They may be placed in either food bins to be taken to the food coop.

Prime Time Mystery Trip!

September 24

To sign up, call Linda in the church office. This is a free, fun trip and lunch is included!

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of August 31, 2007

Three hundred seventy families have pledged \$1,876,192.40 to date for the 2007 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,484,841.25	\$1,683,336.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>30,177.24</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,515,018.49	\$1,683,336.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,259,197.57	\$1,328,610.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	30,993.88	29,525.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	78,460.26	102,159.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	143,763.51	152,139.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	43,533.56	45,500.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>3,263.30</u>	<u>11,956.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,559,212.08	\$1,669,889.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 315,727.91	

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	+2,587,072.91
Expenses	<u>-2,779,552.45</u>
Cash Balance	\$ 1,492.60
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00



Periodical Postage
Paid at Stone Mountain,
Georgia 30086

SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH
5901 Hugh Howell Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

THE CROSS TIE (USPS 002172)
is published semimonthly by
Smoke Rise Baptist Church
Address Correction Requested

OURSTAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.
Linda Cummings
Kathy Dobbins
Danny Vancil
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.
Kellie Denton
Tim W. Adcox
Amanda Burton
Truett Gannon, D. Min.

Pastor
Interim Church Administrator/Senior Adults
Minister of Spiritual Formation
Minister of Worship & Music
Minister of Families with Youth
Interim Minister to Families with Children
Minister of Missions/Recreation
Nursery Director
Pastor Emeritus

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

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

Counselor
Counselor
Counselor

Academy of Arts Enrolling Students

Now enrolling for private music lessons and classes in preschool ballet tap, children/youth drama, and youth/adult oil painting.

We are also forming new classes in children's art (ages 6-11) and kindermusik (ages 3-5). To enroll or for more information, email us at smokerisearts-academy@yahoo.com or call 770.413.2133 x 226.