

# The C R O S S T I E

## Take Me Out To The Ballgame!

Don't Miss Out on the Fun!  
Brought to you by the SRBC Family Fun Team

Join Smoke Rise Friends on a trip to the Braves vs Houston Astros Game on July 31st at Turner Stadium.

\* Tickets are \$5/person \*\*There are no longer any remaining seats left on the Prevost bus, however, we will be taking the minibus but seats will fill up fast! -- tickets are still available.

\* Chick-fil-A box is \$5/person (optional) & includes sandwich, coleslaw, and potato chips.



Bus leaves at 5:30pm.  
First pitch is at 7:35pm.



For more information contact Linda Cummings @ 770.459.5856

SRBC Family Fun Team will be announcing more "Fun" events soon! Watch for notices.

## Volunteers needed for Katrina Relief monthly trip

Our project list is growing.

We have the Prevost motor coach available and Jimmy guarantees a good ride! The church is ours so there is plenty of room. Ruth and Mary always keep us well fed. It is hot this time of year, but are you going to let that keep you from bringing hope to a family that will soon begin a "3rd" year in a FEMA trailer?

Projects available on this weekend trip are:

1. New roof only half complete for David Ncaise
2. Drywall finish in Adam Fields' house
3. Kitchen counter, electrical, and bathtub tile for Cora Wells
4. Complete handicap ramp for Cecil Fayard
5. Install cabinets in new construction for George Cannette family
6. Install drywall, exterior siding repair, and exterior door in Glenn Broadus' trailer
7. Install cabinets in new construction for Martha Ann Tarver

Contact Jim Huston (678-300-9303) or Greg Everett (770-318-5915, [geverett@wilwat.net](mailto:geverett@wilwat.net)) for more information or to sign up to help.



The July 27, 2007  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

**"Kick-Off" Sunday**  
for the new church year is Aug. 12th.  
We start the day with breakfast at 9am  
in the Fellowship Hall. There will be  
**NO 8:30 a.m. service that day!**

## Audio Help Needed

Adult Needed to Help With Audio: The audio committee needs one adult volunteer. The committee is responsible for meeting all the audio needs of the church. In addition the committee is also responsible for weddings, funerals, and special events. No experience is needed. On the job training is available

Also Needed is a Youth to Help With Audio: Daniel Mitchell, Ben Norman and Stephen Keeney have been on the committee for several years. They have graduated and there is a need for one or more high school youth to serve.

\*\*Please call Bill Blanton at 770-921-4115 to volunteer.

## Prime Time Mystery Trip!

**September 24**

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

## Branson, Missouri Trip

**Oct. 7-12**

**SOLD OUT!**

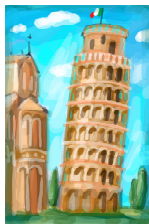
But you can still place your name on a waiting list in case a space becomes available.

Don't forget our orientation meeting on Wednesday, August 29 at 6:00 p.m. in room S223. See you then!

## "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.



## Multi-Media Report

Sunday's bulletin contained a report from the pastor and the Multi-Media Committee about video equipment for the sanctuary. Copies will be mailed to each member and placed on the website. Call the office if you have questions or use the email address provided in the letter.

## A BIG Thank You!

A BIG thank you to Arlene Kirkland for recruiting our Greeting Team for Sunday mornings. Also, thank you to all those volunteers on the team: Susan & Joel Gilbert, Gray Booth, Cheryl & Ed Brantly, Shirley & Brooks Tuck, Elnor & Jim Melton, Dixie & Bill Tyson, Nancy & Richard Davis, Inez & James Bryan, Ann Follett, Elbia & Charlie Coe, Sandra Langston, Sheila Dean, and Dianne Champa.

We can always use more greeters. Please contact Arlene Kirkland or Linda Cummings to volunteer.

## Nominating Committee has Begun Its Work

Please pray for them as the committee seek God's guidance. They are Kim Catoggio, Pam Culberson, Paul Denton, Carol Ann Fulgham, Wayne Martin, Brenda Neisler (Chair), and Jim Rountree.

## Faith & Issues

Sundays at 9:45 am; Room A125

August Schedule

This month we will learn about prayer from other faith traditions and in doing so we will examine and affirm the prayer practices of our Christian faith.

**5** Prayer Traditions Series: How do Christians Pray?

**12** Prayer Traditions Series: How do Jews & Muslims Pray?

**19** Prayer Traditions Series: How do Hindu's & Buddhists Pray?

**26** Recent archaeology discoveries that challenge or inspire our faith?

## Rebecca Orton To Be Ordained

You're invited to the Ordination Service of Rebecca Orton to be held in the Smoke Rise Chapel at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday July 29. A reception for her will follow. Come support Rebecca as she continues her life of service through ordination.

## Birth

Congratulations to Casey and Katie Lewis on the birth of a daughter, "Makay Grace," born July 5; grandparents are Terry and Linda Cantrell.

## Weddings

Tara Stecher and Matthew Garcia were married June 22. Matthew is the son of Dan and Nancy Garcia.

Jennifer Anders and Christopher Turner were married June 23. Christopher is the son of Jimmy and Carole Turner.

Cheryl Anderson and Todd Davis were married July 21. Cheryl is the daughter of Jack and Judy Curry.

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Sandra Etheridge whose brother died; Lou Tankersley, whose aunt died; to the family and friends of former member Robert S. Painter; and, to the family and friends of Bill Patrick; Bill had been a member of Smoke Rise since 1996.



**Smoke Rise Baptist Church Nursery Ministries**

**Invites You to a Baby Shower**

**for Allison Sutton**

**and Baby-to-Be Caleb**

**Sunday, August 26 at 12:15 p.m.**

**Room 209**

## YOUTH News

**Middle School Pool Party**

Sunday, August 5, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Teachers will take students to Cedar Creek Pool.

Cost is \$3 for hamburgers and hot dogs.

Parents, please pick up your son or daughter at Cedar Creek Pool at 4:00 p.m.

## Notes from the Pastor

### Trading Love?

#### Romans 5:6-8

#### A Communion Devotion

The calendar had just turned to October and it was a beautiful fall day. It did not stay that way very long near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, though. A lone gunman by the name of Charles Carl Roberts IV stepped into a one room Amish school and opened fire. He killed five little girls and injured five more.

As you would expect, the attention of the entire country was focused upon this tragedy at the Nickel Mines School and these quiet, humble folk in Bart Township of Lancaster County. They taught us a lot that week about the radical nature of Christian love. On the evening of the shooting, family members of the slain children visited Carl Roberts' parents and told them they had forgiven their son. They knew that the Roberts family was grieving, too, and offered to help them with their grief. People are still writing about the gracious response of the Amish to this disaster.

What are you going to do this week to help someone that has mistreated you? How are you going to be the presence of Christ in their life and confront them with the redeeming power of God's love? Today's text and this sacred table demand that we answer these questions.

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:6-8.

Let me tell you what I think we do very well in our society. **We are good at trading love.** We trade it with those that are like us and those that like us. We trade it with those that treat us with respect, dignity, courtesy and compassion. We trade it with family and friends when they are on their best behavior. There is nothing wrong with this, but if this is all we do, we are falling far short of what the gospel calls us to do.

The gospel challenges us to go to the next level in building relationships and community, the level of sacrificial love. It demands that we not merely trade love but give it away. It expects us to offer love to those that don't deserve it and those we would rather ignore or even hurt. It compels us to love people at their best and their worst. It requires that we love the lovely and the unlovely.

I know this is rare and certainly it is not easy. Even Paul admitted that someone may die for a good person or a noble cause, but it was highly unlikely that anyone would die for an enemy. Yet, the gospel gives us no choice. Jesus did it and so must we.

**Why?** We are his disciples and our mission is to make the world better by building bridges to people rather than walls between them and us. We are a peculiar people, the Apostle Peter wrote, because we are to be about building inclusive communities of understanding, equality, justice, mutual respect, grace and love. To do any less is to refuse to be a disciple of Christ, misunderstand the purpose of the gospel, ignore God's call upon our lives and fail to recognize the significance of Holy Communion.

Listen carefully to the words of Jesus uttered in the Sermon on the Mount. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray

for those that persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous. If you love those that love you, what reward will you get? Are not even tax collectors doing this? And if you greet your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48.

**How can we do this?** I don't think we can, at least without a lot of help. I'm sure even Jesus struggled to love his enemies and spent many hours in prayer asking for God's help. "If it is possible," he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will be done but thine."

Examine your relationships. Are you merely trading love or are you giving it away? Who is in your life right now that is most difficult for you to love? How are you going to be the presence of Christ in their life this week and confront them with the redeeming power of God's love? Make this a matter of prayer today.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

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## SRBC Deacon Nominations

The Deacon Selection Committee requests your assistance with their work of nominating persons from our congregation to serve as deacon for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2008. Please list individuals you feel qualify for this important office. The qualifications for deacons can be found in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Place your suggestions in the offering plate or bring them by the church office and drop them in the suggestion box by July 29. Thank you!

## Letters of Appreciation



Dear Smoke Rise Friends,

*I would like to express my appreciation to you for all the prayers, cards, calls and deeds of kindness during my illness and stay in the hospital and at home. It's a joy to be a part of such a caring church.*

Dee Miller

Dear Smoke Rise Church,

*The Doverspike and Duvall families appreciate so very much all of the cards, calls, food received, the prayers and love shown during the illness and death of my sister, Mrs. Nell Doverspike.*

Orene Duvall

## Upcoming Katrina Trip

Our project list is growing - We have the Prevost bus and Jimmy guarantees a good ride! Its hot this time of year, but don't let that keep you from bringing hope to a family that will soon begin a "3rd" year in a FEMA trailer!

\* The upcoming Katrina Trip is Aug. 2-5. Sunday at 12:00 after worship there will be an informational meeting in the Parlor. Your help is still needed in Biloxi, MS!

Contact Jim Huston at 678-300-9303 or Greg Everett at 770-318-5915 or [geverett@wilwat.net](mailto:geverett@wilwat.net) for more information or to sign up to help.

## Indoor Soccer

4 - 8 Year Olds  
 Saturday Games beginning September 8  
 Parents' Meeting  
 August 21 at 7:00 p.m.  
 For more information call,  
 Jill Wade at 770-413-2133, Ext. 224

## Attention Nursery Parents/Extended Session Volunteers

It is time to sign up for August, September and October service dates.  
 The scheduling poster is outside the Nursery Office.

## Lilburn & Stone Mtn. Co-ops Need School Supplies

Please help families who are not able to afford school supplies for their children. Items needed include: writing tablets, book bags, college & wide ruled notebook paper & notebooks, dictionaries, hi-lighters, pencils (colored & #2), scissors, hand sanitizer, boxes of tissue, erasers, pocket folders w/ brads, graph paper, composition books, markers, pens (blue, black & red), glue sticks (no glue bottles) & rulers. Thanks.

## Thanks! Lilburn Co-op New AC Funds Received

Thank you for your help. The co-op has received enough funds to purchase the badly needed AC unit. Lilburn & Stone Mtn. Co-ops always welcome monetary donations as their clients have so many financial needs.

## Memorial Fund for George Belden Established

This fund will be used for a scholarship for those pursuing a degree in teaching. To contribute mail checks to North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) Foundation, 70 Alumni Dr., Dahlonega, GA 30533 writing on the memo line, George Belden Memorial Fund or contact Jeff Boggan, Dir. of Dev., 706.864.1999, for online contributions.

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of July 18, 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
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,242,548.61	\$1,472,919.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>22,155.95</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,264,704.56	\$1,472,919.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,041,862.12	\$1,175,263.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	25,198.57	24,225.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	62,883.03	90,906.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	112,558.65	137,990.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	35,441.92	40,750.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>3,128.30</u>	<u>10,873.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,281,072.59	\$1,480,007.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 347,564.32	

#### 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	+2,580,395.91
Expenses	<u>-2,773,170.05</u>
Cash Balance	\$ 1,198.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 6,382.40



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 Minister of Adult Education/Outreach  
 Minister of Music  
 Minister of Youth  
 Interim Minister to Children  
 Minister of Recreation/Missions  
 Nursery Director  
 Pastor Emeritus

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

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 Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW

Counselor  
 Counselor  
 Counselor

Thank you for the great response for twin beds.  
 Your generosity is very much appreciated.

— Elbia Cole