

# The C R O S S T I E

**Wednesday Night Kick Off for Winter/Spring 2007**

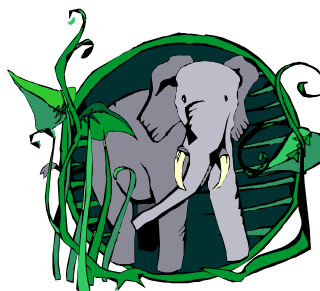
**January 10th! 5:15-6 PM**

**Wed. Night Supper (Fried Chicken!) in the Fellowship Hall**



**6-6:30PM: Children's Music and Missions Rally  
in the Chapel**

**Introduction to the Spring Musical, "The Story Tellin' Man,"  
and Missions 2007 — 6:45PM**



**SRBC Academy of Arts presents Disney's "Jungle Book"  
in the Fellowship Hall**

**See You There!**



The January 05, 2007  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

**PrimeTimeChoir**

begins its new season  
with first rehearsal  
on Wednesday, January 17

New members are invited to join us  
in the Choir Suite at 5 PM



## New Classes Begin

**Sunday, January 7** — “Jesus, the One & Only,” led by Deb Leamon at 6:00 PM in S223. This interactive study will lead you to see a close-up and intimate portrait of the life of Jesus the Messiah. You will view Beth Moore’s video lectures taped on location in Jerusalem and the places where Jesus walked in Israel. 11 weeks. \$15.00 for workbook.

**Monday, January 8** — “Heaven, My Father’s House,” led by Dot Morris at 9:45 AM in S223. This video series from Anne Graham Lotz combines the apostle John’s glorious description of Heaven found in the book of Revelation with reflections on her parents’ charming mountain home. 4 weeks.

**Monday, January 22**, 6-8:00 PM. Julie Cannon, M.A. will lead a 6 week grief support group. To register or for more information, contact Elizabeth Byars at 770-813-1041. Cost: \$12.00 for workbook. Join Us!

## Faith & Issues January Bible Series

The Faith & Issues class meets every Sunday at 9:45 AM in Room A125.

The following is a list of topics to be discussed in January:

- 7th-How the Bible was put together
- 14th-How do we question the Bible?
- 21st-How do we study the Bible?
- 28th-The Lectionary: How can it be used for personal Bible Study?



## Attention Nursery Parents and Extended Session Volunteers:

It is time to sign up for February, March and April service dates. The scheduling poster is outside of the Nursery Office.

Our goal for Global Missions (CBF) and Lottie Moon (SBC) this Christmas is \$15,000. Your generosity will help mission work around the world. Please designate to which mission offering you wish to contribute on your check or offering envelope.

## Please be in prayer for these loved ones serving in the Middle East:

- Jonathan Bartlett, grandson of Betty Wiggins, nephew of Suzanne Simmons
- 2nd Lt. Albert (Bert) Culbreth III, son of Al & Paula Culbreth
- Pvt. James DeGarmo, nephew of Kendale Moore
- Lt. Col Brett Hale, son of Jack Hale
- Lance Corp. Jeffrey Najjar, nephew of Omar Najjar
- MSGT Timothy Smith, son of Henry & Rachel Smith, brother of Thad Smith
- Capt. James Traylor, grandson of Baxter and Jean Dollar
- Kristie Cathers, niece of Joel Harrison

## Deacons’ Lunch and Meeting January 7



**Dates to Remember!**

**Prime Time Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 9**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Fellowship Hall**

## Letters of Appreciation



Dear Smoke Rise Church Family,

*Thank you for your cards and kind words at the passing of my mother. She was not a member of this church family, but was a wonderful Christian lady.*

*Thank you,*  
*Heather Huff*

Dear Smoke Rise Friends,

*We want to thank each of you for your support, calls, cards and prayers at the time of mom’s death.*

*The love we received was a great comfort during our time of grief. You are truly a wonderful congregation.*

*Love,*  
*Herb and Dale Terwilliger*

## Uth Praise Service

Join us for UPS (Uth Praise Service) Sunday, January 21 at 11 AM in fellowship hall. Ernie Forrester will speak & our band, *Outhere*, will play.

## Middle School & High School Winter Retreats

Parent/Youth Meeting for all attending winter retreats

Sunday, January 7 at Noon in S225  
Balance due, info given & release forms need to be signed!



## Please be in prayer for our youth on their winter retreats:

**High School and Middle School**  
**Winter Retreat**  
**January 12-15, 2007**

High School to Boone, North Carolina

Middle School to Gatlinburg, Tennessee

## Notes from the Pastor

### “Love Never Fails”

#### Matthew 1:18-25

It was one of my favorite parts of the recently released movie, “The Nativity.” Joseph and Mary were on their way out of the village of Nazareth to make the one hundred mile trek to Bethlehem. Caesar ordered a census and each male had to return to his place of birth with his family to register. In this scene, Mary was riding on a donkey and Joseph was walking along side her.

By this time, the citizens of Nazareth have shunned Mary because they thought she had been promiscuous. She was going to have a baby and was not married. They would not talk to Mary or have anything to do with her any longer. Because Joseph stuck by her side, his good name and reputation tumbled just like Mary’s.

In this departing scene, the people watched as Mary and Joseph slowly made their way out of town. As they passed the people, most of them looked at Mary with contempt and deliberately looked away after catching a glance of her. No one waved, said goodbye or offered words of encouragement for the long journey.

As they passed the last person and headed out of town, Joseph said to Mary with a twinkle in his eye and a bit of sarcasm in his voice, “These people are really going to miss us.” Everyone in the theater laughed.

As I watched this particular scene in the movie it dawned on me that **the best way to reach out to someone that you love that is struggling is to walk along side them.** This is what Joseph did for Mary. What an inspiring role model he is.

**Who has done this for you?** Who has walked with you “through the valley of the shadow of death so you would fear no evil?” You will never forget them, will you?

**Who needs you to do this for them now?** Who do you know that is struggling that needs companionship? Who is it that has been shunned and abandoned that needs a warm embrace and encouraging word? Who needs someone to walk alongside them when others turn their heads? Perhaps this is the gift you could give them for Christmas and the New Year. I cannot think of anything they need more.

**What would it require of you to do this?** What did it require of Joseph to walk alongside Mary? It took a lot of **courage.** He was traveling up stream in uncharted waters and was as frightened as Mary.

There was a scene in the movie when Mary and Joseph were alone around a camp fire while on this long journey to Bethlehem. Mary confesses her fear at having a baby, especially one in whom so many hopes reside. She looked at Joseph and asked, “Joseph, are you scared, too?” He simply replied, “Yes, Mary, I am.” To walk with Mary required a lot of courage on Joseph’s part.

It required **patience** as well. Answers were not going to come quickly. Solutions to their growing needs were not going to magically appear. Joseph, as well as Mary, was going to have to be comfortable with mystery. This would require a lot of patience.

It would also require **faith.** Joseph knew that he did not possess the ability to enter Mary’s world and help her. At best he could do her no harm and put her away privately. This was why he decided not to accuse her unfaithfulness and have her stoned to death.

Entering her messy world and being frightened with her required faith, however. It demanded the kind of wisdom, strength, trust, generosity, patience and courage he did not possess. He knew where to find it, though. This righteous man was a man of strong faith.

**What do you need in order to enter someone’s messy world and walk alongside them?** I am confident you need everything Joseph did and I am also confident that God will give these to you just as He gave them to Joseph. He wants us to be the presence of Christ in a broken world. As Anglican priest Brian McGowan wrote, “Discipleship is all about living out Emmanuel.”

McGowan also said that for some, taking the high moral ground may mean walking away from those in a predicament, especially a sexual predicament. Joseph challenges us to reconsider that decision. So does the Apostle Paul.

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. Love never fails” I Corinthians 13:4-8a.

I wonder if Paul was thinking of Joseph when he penned these words. I wonder if anyone thinks of us when they read them.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

### Deaths



We extend our sympathy to Tim Bailey whose aunt and cousin died; Joyce Lovern and Jarrod Yancey whose brother-in-law and grandfather died; and to Glenn, Jessica and Katherine Paist on the death of their wife and mother. Fran had been a member since 1989.

### Births



Congratulations to Jim and Michelle Wilson on the birth of a daughter “Chloe Makenzie,” born December 18; grandfather is Bobby Goodwin;

and, to Scott and Chris (Spinks) Dailey on the birth of a daughter, “Ruby Grace,” born December 26; grandparents are Jerry and Carol Shumate.

### Wedding



Congratulations to Ashlea Bowen and Nicholas Neal, who were married December 29. Ashlea is the daughter of Paul and Barbara Bowen.

## Katrina Mission to Biloxi

Remember our team on the Katrina mission trip to Biloxi, January 4-7. There are many dates available for you to join this mission project throughout the year: February 8-11, March 1-4, April 2-7, May 3-6, and June 7-10. If you are interested please contact Jim Huston or Greg Everett at [www.srbckatrinamission@comcast.net](mailto:www.srbckatrinamission@comcast.net) or [www.geverett@wilwat.net](mailto:www.geverett@wilwat.net)



## Welcome to our New Members



Carolyn Alfred and Vernon and Cercilyn Glenn, 5028 Vonn Place, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-469-0976. Deacon; Richard Swindle.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry (Lois) Brecht, 5205 Ashford Court, Lilburn, GA 30047; tel. 770-806-1276. Deacon: Ernie Duke.

Mr. and Mrs. Tyler (Allison) Sutton, 1642 Carolyn Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-3128; tel. 770-638-3382. Deacon: Gail Hunter.

Avery Ray (daughter of Charlie and Courtney Ray), 1505 Water Shine Way, Snellville, GA 30078; tel. 770-972-6793. Deacon: Mary Ann Niermann.

## The Meaning of Worship



Find out why we do what we do in worship: the elements that make up our worship service, following the seasons of the church year, and the meaning behind the colors that are displayed in the Sanctuary. Please visit our Website at [www.smokrisebaptist.org](http://www.smokrisebaptist.org) and click on the "Worship" tab.

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of December 28, 2006

Four hundred twenty families have pledged \$2,089,351.00 to date for the 2006 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,373,104.25	\$2,500,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>58,432.52</u>	<u>27,000.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,431,536.77	\$2,527,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,929,839.06	\$2,060,806.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	34,536.00	39,600.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	105,591.68	136,988.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	186,210.10	200,000.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	75,176.84	75,106.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>14,213.96</u>	<u>14,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,345,567.64	\$2,527,000.00

**MORTGAGE BALANCE:** \$ 468,936.64

### 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
Contributions	+2,551,565.31
Expenses	<u>-2,754,552.45</u>
Cash Balance	\$ (172,987.14)
SRBC Loan	\$ 182,420.14



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### OUR STAFF

**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 Administrator/Senior Adults  
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**

Gloria White, M. Div., LCSW

Counselor

**Check out SRBC on the Web**  
**at [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org)**

Find up-to-date info and opportunities to give, grow, worship and serve at Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Read The CrossTie before it is mailed, download sermons and make contributions online, too.