

The C R O S S T I E



The June 06, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Help Needed in Nursery on Father's Day

June 15

during the 11:00 worship service

10:45 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.

Babies, Toddlers or Two-Year Olds

Please Contact Amanda Coe Burton

770-413-2133, ext. 218

or email her at aburton@smokerisebaptist.org



New York Mission Trip

July 12-19

8-10 Spots Open

Trip cost: \$300 plus airfare

Go online to smokeriseministries.org to register
and pay the \$100 deposit.

Contact Sarah Martin for more information
at 678-344-6237 or wmartin@bellsouth.net.



Tijuana Mission Trip

July 19-26

Cost is \$550 plus airfare.

To sign up, register online at smokeriseministries.org,
click on "Missions," then "Tijuana."

You can make your \$100 deposit with credit card or e-check.

Please Pray for the Children and Leaders of VBS

June 8-11

Don't Forget About Katrina

There is still much work to be done!! The schedule for upcoming Katrina/Biloxi trips is:

- July 24-August 2
- October 9-12
- December 4-7
- September 4-7
- November 6-9

Please check your calendar and see if you can be a part of one or more of these important mission trips. Remember to sign up online. The cost is \$85. Please contact Greg Everett at geverett@wilwat.net or Jim Huston at srbckatrinamission@comcast.net for more information.



Goal: \$570,000

Given or Pledged: \$466,027.13

Needed: \$103, 972.87

Family Fun Events Information

- Braves Game — Tuesday, June 24, Braves vs. Milwaukee. Leave Smoke Rise at 5:00 p.m. Braves tickets are only \$5.00 and this includes a chauffeured ride in either our motor coach or smaller bus. Chick-fil-A boxes — sandwich, chips and brownie — only \$5.00. (Orders for Chick-fil-A must be received by June 18.) Only 100 tickets available. Hurry! This will sell out fast.
 - Smoke Rise Nights at the Fox — Tuesday, June 17, to see “Casablanca.” Bus leaves for dinner at the Varsity at 5:15 p.m.
 - Sunday, July 13, to see “Enchanted.” Bus leave immediately after church for lunch at the Varsity.
- Tickets for the movies are \$7.00 per person, per movie.

Needed for Appalachian Mission Trip:

- Good, used appliances: Refrigerators, microwaves, washers, dryers, electric stoves.
- Mattresses, furniture, etc.
- Children's books: Gently used children's books for babies through 8th grade. Everything from board books, easy to read books, chapter books, coloring books, science, etc.
- VBS materials: Small margarine-type containers with lids, cans with lids (Pringles, Crystal Light, peanuts), dowel sticks, greeting cards (any occasion, fronts or entire card), yarn, narrow ribbon, aluminum pie tins, jingle bells.
- Contact Bob Jernigan at 770-934-3005 for appliance pick-up. Boxes will be near the Fellowship Hall doors for the books and VBS materials.
- Thank you for helping to minister to the impoverished people of Appalachia.

The Appalachian Mission Team,
Jenny Brannon, team leader

YOUTH News

Atlanta Fest

If we can get 15, we will go to the Atlanta Fest concert on Thursday, June 19. The bands playing include Downhere, Shane & Shane, Toby Mac and others! Talk to Lee or Kristy if you are interested.

World Changers

Sign-ups have passed but you can still let us know. The cost is \$275 per person. We are going to Knoxville, Tenn. from June 28 to July 5. See Kristy or Lee!

Births

Congratulations to Ceasar and Kimberly Brown on the birth of twins, “Felton Lovett” and “Tristen Rose,” born May 23; grandparents are Graham and Lynne Felton; aunt is Ashley Felton.

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Baptist Church Family,

Words cannot express my gratitude for the outpouring of love from the members of Smoke Rise Baptist. The beautiful cards, prayers, calls and personal expressions of concern and sympathy during my father's illness and death made a very difficult time for us easier to handle. With my family so far away, it was such a comfort to know we have a wonderful, caring church family.

Love,

Erin Roberts and Race Roberts

Wedding

Congratulations to Travis Wilson and Sara Follett who were married May 24; Sara is the daughter of Charles and Ann Follett.

Smoke Rise Mission Service Day

Volunteers and People Reached

Smoke Rise Mission Service Day was on May 3. The following projects were presented to the church to be completed by Volunteers in the month of May:

1. Meeting Needs of 4 Co-op Families from Stone Mountain /Lilburn Cooperatives
2. Hospitality Bags to Car Show Participants
3. Goodies Delivered with Notes of Thanks to Local Fire and Police Stations & to Gwinnett Sheriff's Office
4. Painting Inside Stone Mountain/Lilburn Co-ops
5. Note of Thanks with Snacks for Staff at Smoke Rise Elementary
6. Reading to Classes at Smoke Rise Elementary
7. Books for Gresham Park Elementary
8. Painting a DDM Cottage
9. Block Party for International Children at Willow Branch Apartments in Clarkston
10. Gift Cards for Families in Need

We are grateful to Linda Johnson, Coordinator for Mission Service Day, and the hands of many people who made it happen.

There were at least 173 Smoke Rise Baptist Church volunteers involved in all of these projects. They painted, baked cookies, donated and moved furniture, contributed gift cards and money, prepared food, stuffed gift bags, prepared and directed crafts for children, read to children, and delivered items to recipients.

Through these projects, Smoke Rise Baptist Church ministered to approximately 393 people in our community.

Thank you Smoke Rise members for your generosity and your diligence to carry these projects to completion. The recipients were so grateful and appreciative. You definitely made a difference in the lives of many people in the community.

Missions Office

From the Pastor's Heart

“What Do You Need the Courage to Do?”

Matthew 26:36-46

Communion Devotion

This is one of the most dramatic scenes in all of scripture. It is the kind of script that a film director loves and that was certainly true for Mel Gibson. He directed the 2004 film, “The Passion of the Christ,” and opened the movie with the gripping events that occurred in the garden of Gethsemane.

You recall that Jesus took his disciples to this garden on the edge of the Kidron Valley on the Mount of Olives immediately after the Last Supper in the Upper Room. It was a place they frequented often for solitude and prayer.

This night was different, though. They were not going to the garden to gaze at stars, rest or reminisce. Jesus’ heart was heavier than usual and his whole demeanor showed it. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Matthew 26:38.

It was on this dreadful night and in this solemn place that Jesus was arrested by the authorities that were threatened by his message of justice, hope, peace and love. While others slept, Jesus was beaten and tortured and the next day he died a painful death on a cross not far from this garden. No wonder his heart was so heavy that night. He knew what was coming.

The part of this tragic story that captures my attention this morning is found in the last verse of our text. “Rise, let us go!” Jesus said to his disciples. “Here comes my betrayer!”

Can you imagine the courage that took? Instead of escaping in the dark or hiding behind rocks and trees, Jesus took the initiative and confronted his accusers.

Who is in control in this scene? You know, and it is not the ones with evil hearts and clinched fists.

This leads me to ask you a question. **What do you need the courage to do?** What intimidating challenges are you facing that require more courage than you have ever summoned?

Do you need to redefine a relationship, deal with an addiction, become a better student, go back to school, begin a new career or invest more money or energy into an existing business? Do you need to change your attitude, confront your biggest fear, get out of your comfort zone, get on with your life after losing someone you depended heavily upon, reach out to a struggling friend or share your faith with someone that has none?

Do you need to walk into a new Sunday school class or down this aisle to place your membership in this church? Do you need to go on a mission trip or become a team leader on one of our trips?

For what are you waiting? Do you lack the courage to begin?

From where does courage come? How do you think Jesus would answer that? Don’t you wish the disciples had asked him and his answer had been recorded by one of the gospel writers. In some ways it has been revealed to us through his life and ministry. Let me tell you how his example speaks to me.

Courage comes from deep convictions. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” Luke 4:18-19.

These were the words that Jesus read upon his visit to the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth after his baptism. “This day this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing,” he told his audience. This was his mission in life and he embraced it and was passionate about it.

Courage comes from faith. What did he go to the garden of Gethsemane to do that night? He went to pray as he often did there and elsewhere. Jesus was a man of prayer. The relationship with his Father, whom he addressed as “Abba,” according to Mark, was intimate, meaningful and indispensable. It was from his Father that he found the strength he needed to do the difficult.

Courage comes from friends. Did he go to the garden that night alone? No, he took his disciples, with the exception of Judas. Even though they underperformed that night and did not watch and pray with him as he hoped, their very presence strengthened him to do what was right.

Let me recycle the opening question. **What do you need the courage to do?** Will you take the first step? While the bread and cup are passed, talk to God about clarifying your convictions, strengthening your faith and developing a support group. If you do, you will walk out of here a different person.

Until Sunday,
Bob

P.S. I look forward to seeing you when I return from my Holy Land trip. You have been in my thoughts and prayers on many occasions as we have walked where Jesus walked, including the journey he and the disciples made from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane. I am anxious to see you, though, and continue our common pilgrimage.

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Louise Howard whose brother died; Terry Cantrell whose mother died; Ronnie Smith whose mother died; Larry Free whose mother died; and to the family and friends of Woodrow Bledsoe who has died.

Home Bible Study

Would you be willing to offer your home for a Bible study this fall? We are looking for several people to host. The study will be on Sundays at 6 pm and will provide an alternative for people who cannot make Sunday School every week. Dr. Gary Leazer will be teaching. Contact Kathy Dobbins at kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org or 770-469-5856.

Call Margaret-Anne Prohitt at 770-979-8472 to add persons to the Military Family List and to the List of Family Members serving in the Mideast.

Be IN THE KNOW!

Visit www.smokerisebaptist.org for the latest news about the many summer opportunities at Smoke Rise.

Summer Aerobics Classes Beginning

The summer session of our aerobics program will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00-10:00 a.m. through August 1 in the Smoke Rise gym. To sign up, call LZ Aerobics at 678-380-3861.

Mindful Exercise Classes

June 10 through July 24

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. in Room 304

Thursdays, 6 p.m. in Room 106

Learn how to reduce stress while you improve balance, flexibility & strength.

Classes are for an hour and will run for 6 weeks for a fee of \$54.00.

Bring an exercise mat.

To register: E-Mail Pat Hudson at patmudson@bellsouth.net or call 770-806-9385.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of May 28, 2008

Four hundred fourteen families have pledged \$1,966,177.60 to date for the 2008 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 910,552.64	\$1,066,665.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	10,368.30	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 920,920.94	\$1,066,665.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 710,173.79	\$ 809,698.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	25,048.33	32,922.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	49,891.05	79,030.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	90,930.45	107,836.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	50,058.04	50,165.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	4,293.34	7,747.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 930,395.00	\$1,087,398.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 150,458.90	

40TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred thirty-three families have pledged \$420,320.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Sixteen families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$45,707.13.

PLEDGES PAID	\$ 195,490.23
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE	\$ 224,829.77
UNPLEDGED CASH RECEIVED	\$ 45,707.13
CURRENT PROJECTED RECEIPTS	\$ 466,027.13



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OUR STAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Associate Pastor
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Spiritual Formation
Tim W. Adcox	Minister of Missions/Recreation
Danny Vancil	Minister of Worship & Music
Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
Kristy Eggert	Interim Minister of Families with Youth
David MacFarlane	Director of Administration and Communications
Linda Cummings	Coordinator of Congregational Life/Senior Adults
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

Urgent Note From Stone Mountain Co-op

School is out and all the kids that have had school lunches during the year will be home. Our shelves need SOUP, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, apple sauce, SOUP and jelly. And did I mention we need SOUP and canned fruit? Please don't forget the SOUP!