

The C R O S S T I E



The August 08, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9:45 AM

Effective immediately, start time for Sunday School
is 9:45 a.m.

A Conversation About Teaching

Sunday, August 24; 12:00 noon in Room S223

Everyone is welcomed to join in the conversation we will have several times during the year. Teaching does not mean having all the answers, but rather asking and thinking about the important questions. If you would enjoy being a part of a conversation about learning and how it happens in our family of faith, and if you have ever thought about the possibility of participating in others' learning, please join us for lunch and some discussion on August 24, at 12:00 noon.

To R.S.V.P. or for more information, contact Kathy Dobbins (adult Sunday School), Kristy Eggert or Lee Prophitt (youth Sunday School) or Kellie Denton (children's Sunday School)



Christmas in August

Toys are needed for the children in Appalachia – Members of SRBC can celebrate Christmas in August by donating New toys so the children in Appalachia will have a Merry Christmas. Look for the Christmas Donation Boxes outside the Fellowship Hall, in the Breezeway, upstairs near the children's rooms, and in the Welcome Center under the gym.

The toys will be taken to the Santa Shop in McDowell, Kentucky in October.

Thanks so much for your help.

For more information, please contact Jenny Brannan or Bill Blanton.



Attention High School And College Students:

If you need some date money then join our basketball team for the upcoming 2008-2009 season.

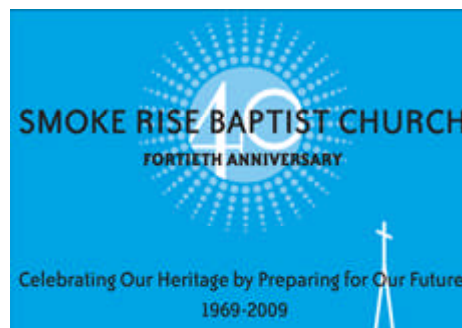
The Smoke Rise Baptist Recreation Department needs reliable students to be scorekeepers, timers and gym managers for the Impact Basketball League. Must have an interest in basketball and be well organized. For more information, contact Grant Gibbons or Jill Wade at 770-469-5856 ext. 266/224.

Don't Forget About Katrina

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

- September 4-7
- October 9-12
- November 6-9
- December 4-7

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: \$487,821.13
Needed: \$82,178.87

New Study in Faith Works Class

You are invited to join the Faith Works class in an exploration of the Gospel of Mark. The discussion-based study will focus on the spiritual formation of Jesus and will seek life application from the biblical text. The study begins August 10 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 209, and lasts through the month of December. All are welcome! For more information, call Rick Bennett at 404-935-3266.

Ladies, our **Multi-Focus WMU** meets on Tuesday, August 12 and 10:00 a. m. in Room 218. Our mission project will be the Lilburn Co-op Ministry. Plan to stay for our luncheon.

The Community: Sunday School At Home

Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Leader: **Dr. Gary Leazer**

Contact Info: Kathy Dobbins: kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org

Be part of a new group that is forming to study the Bible on Sunday evenings. Perfect for people who can't get to church on Sunday mornings or for anyone who wants to have more time for Bible study than is possible in a regular Sunday School class.

Locations: We have four to five host homes that will rotate the Bible study. Participants will get a listing of where the group will meet every month with directions to the home. All the homes are within close range of Smoke Rise.

At the first meeting, we will explain how The Community will function and the group will make some decisions about time frame, snacks, communication, etc. We will study the Gospel of Matthew. Notebooks with helps and questions will be given out to facilitate discussion.

Life Connections:

Connecting Faith With Real Life

Can We Talk? Soul-stirring Conversations With God

Author Priscilla Shirer teaches how to make our time in God's Word a two-way conversation. 6 weeks.

Sundays at 5:00 p. m. beginning September 7

Mondays at 9:45 a. m. beginning September 8

Beginning Again

A class for people who have experienced divorce. Sessions are based on the book, *Beginning Again*, by Terry Hershey.

Hershey's advice on surviving heartbreak will free you from the past and give you hope and encouragement for happy and fulfilling relationships in the future. 13 Weeks

Sundays at 4:30 pm beginning Sept. 7

Conversational Spanish

The Hispanic culture is growing in our country as well as in our community. Smoke Rise is committed to missions involvement in two Hispanic cultures: Honduras and Tijuana. Are you going on one of these mission trips in the future or have a circumstance that would be facilitated if you spoke the language? If so, this class is for you. In just minutes a day, you'll pick up the language you need for most everyday situations. You'll learn the basic vocabulary for introductions, finding your way, dining, shopping, plus days of the week, weather, time, basic grammar and more! \$15.00 for the text book,

Learn Spanish The Fast and Fun Way.

Sundays at 6:00 pm beginning Sept. 21. 6 weeks. **Registration deadline is September 7.** Leader: Elbia Coe

Another Country Heard From

Kellie Denton

This Summer in 2008 Smoke Rise Baptist went for the Gold!!! We had over 250 children and adults participate in this year's Family Vacation Bible School "*Catch the Olympic Fever.*" Thanks to all those who helped decorate, prepare crafts, act as Country Ambassadors, lead the games, assist with snacks, music, worship and all other children and adult activities. Special thanks to Andrew Booth who helped with our videotaping and online registration efforts, Ed Phillips and The Hattiesburg Community Church Youth and College Ensemble in leading our family worship time, Lee and Kristy and our terrific youth helpers, Laura Smith for the amazing decorations (wasn't the big torch awesome?!?!?) and Amanda Coe Burton and Kara Blankenship for their leadership and organization of this year's VBS. Gold and silver medals to all the folks who made snacks and treats for our workers. Bronze medals to the parents who participated in the "Parent Olympics" (you guys still need to work on your peanut butter and jelly making skills...better luck next time). All the children had winning smiles, attitudes and participation!



Thanks to all! We couldn't do this ministry without you!!!!

Laurie Wood	Rudy & Mary Wilson	Assisted with
Faith Prescott	Erin Roberts	Teacher/Staff
Kathy Parker	Carol Bell	Snacks for VBS:
Courtney Ray	Christine Peredney	Joan Clark
Sarah Martin	Danny Vancil	Nancy Davis
Faye Harris	Lee Prophitt	Peggy Harris
Gail Hunter	Kristy Eggert	Shirley Tuck
Kim Catoggio	David Prophitt	Agape Class
Dot Morris	Gaye Bruce	Fite Circle
Mitch Owen	Jim Still	Sadies Ladies Circle
John Parker	Susan Samples	Youth Helpers:
Ashley Owen	Carole Still	Becca Weatherby
Andrea Smith	Joyce Lovern	Kaila Bius
Dena Fleming	Allison Sutton	Allyson Huff
Marsha Winston	Martha Braswell	Gillian Huff
Pam Durso	Garrett Litton	Bethany Easom
Katie Whittle	Lauren Bell	Evan Keys
Jessica Reynolds	Michelle Gutknecht	Kyle Bishop
Sheila Dean	Marilyn Fitzgerald	Coye Bishop
Andrew Booth	Stephanie Collins	Jeffery Dice
Melissa Adams	Bob Bius	Race Roberts
Brenda Gulley	Ernie Forrester	Jayce Chrisman
Amanda Coe Burton	Laura Smith	Carter Hewitt
Bob & Lois Jernigan	Edna Free	Brooke Lewis
Julie Wangness	Elbia Coe	Bonnie Bell
Kay & Laura Rossman	Christia Swearingen	Kristin Bailey
Ginger & Angela	Lori Mullee	Matt Bailey
Zackman	Bill & Dixie Tyson	Michael Durso
Rick & Rebecca	& granddaughter	Warren Burris
Bennett	Lindsey	Aaron Allison
Margaret-Anne Prophitt		Garrett Litton
Lou Tankersley		Rebekah Prince
& her staff		Zachary Creasman

From the Pastor's Heart

“Good Grief”

Matthew 14:13-21 Communion Devotion

“Today I wept for a man I never met,” wrote one blogger upon hearing of the death of Dr. Randy Pausch. Dr. Pausch, the forty seven year old professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and co-author of the book, *The Last Lecture*, has been in the news a lot lately. Two years ago he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and last fall he began preparing to die. He knew that he had just a few months to live, so he resigned from his teaching position and moved with his wife and three children to Chesapeake, Virginia to be close to Jai's family.

His final duty as a professor was to deliver “The Last Lecture” at Carnegie Mellon. Annually, a professor would be selected to address the question, “What wisdom would you impart to the world if you knew this was your last lecture?” Since Pausch had only months to live and was leaving the school, he was asked to deliver this lecture on September 18, 2007. Over ten million people have watched the lecture on You Tube and it was expanded into a book by the same title. I am confident that a movie will follow now that Dr. Pausch has died.

In the lecture, Pausch talked about living each day to the fullest, overcoming challenges and helping others achieve their dreams. If you listened to his lecture, do you recall how he ended it? He said that he did not write the lecture last fall for the students of Carnegie Mellon University. He wrote it for his three children, Dylan (6), Logan (4) and Chloe (2). This was one of the safety nets he sewed for his children to help them deal with their grief in years to come. In many ways, it helped Pausch process his own grief.

How do you process grief? What do you do to cope with it and heal? This text gives us some insight into the way Jesus dealt with his grief. The man who baptized him and prepared the way for his ministry died a cruel death at the hands of King Herod. Without a doubt, Jesus was stunned and deeply hurt over John the Baptist's death and the manner in which he died. So what did he do? He withdrew to a deserted place for some time to be alone. When he saw the crowd that came looking for him, though, he turned his attention toward them and met their needs. He healed the sick and fed the hungry.

I'm sure you recognize the contrast in Jesus' response to hearing about John's death. Why did he interrupt his solitude to help people? What message was he sending to his disciples? What message is there in this story for us?

All of us have or will suffer great loss. At times we see it coming or it may catch us by surprise. Both have occurred in our church this summer and perhaps your family as well. I know that many of our members are still reeling over Dane Sanderlin's death. No one saw this coming, that's for sure.

I don't know if Jesus knew that John the Baptist was going to die so quickly after he began his own ministry, but losing him hurt Jesus badly. You know how you feel about the person that baptized you and helped with your spiritual formation. No doubt Jesus felt the same way. His grief was real and deep.

Healing from a great loss will require some things of us, as our text reveals. What are they? What did Jesus do after hearing

of John the Baptist's death? First of all, he spent some time alone, away from the disciples and the clamoring crowd.

What did he do during this private time? The text doesn't say, however, I can speculate as I'm sure you can. I believe he cried, prayed and considered his own future. He had to decide if he would continue with his ministry knowing what the risks were.

Obviously he did, for he immediately reached out to those that were struggling with their own issues of life and death. When he saw the crowd searching for him, he did not complain or go the other way to avoid them. Instead, he had compassion upon them and met their needs one by one. Even when the disciples wanted to send the crowd away as evening and meal time approached, Jesus would not let them do it. He figured out a way to feed them rather than send them home hungry.

Deep down I wonder if Jesus was preparing his disciples for his death. He knew they would be in shock. Their wounds would be deep and painful. Healing would seem so remote if at all possible.

Perhaps he was being a role model that would lead the way for them. They would look back upon the time he lost John and recall how he handled his grief. They, too, would spend time alone, but then respond to the needs of the hungry masses with deeds of compassion and goodwill.

Was he preparing us for our inevitable journeys through the valley of the shadow of death? I believe so. We, too, will need to spend time alone crying, praying and considering our future. Then we will need to open our eyes and see the people all around that need our help. I think he wanted us to understand that it is in helping them carry their load that ours will get lighter.

As we gather around this sacred table, I encourage you to pray. You may be experiencing a deep level of pain from a recent or not so recent loss. Talk to the Lord about it. He understands your pain and has promised to help you cope with it. Ask him to show you what you need to do in order to heal and move in new directions. Is this your time for solitude or is it time for you to respond to the needs of those around you? He will lead you.

Ask him what you need to do to prepare your loved ones for the time that you are no longer with them. Surely Randy Pausch has inspired you not only to live your life to the fullest each day, but help those that will miss you most to recover and heal from your absence. Talk to the Lord about this, too. I believe this would honor the Lord as we gather around this table and thank him for thinking of us in life and in death.

Until Sunday,
Bob

Deaths

We extend our Christian sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: John and Lori Kelly whose niece died; Oliver Peters whose mother died; Ron Comeau whose mother died; and to Phyllis Scarborough whose father died.

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise family,

Thank you for the loving support of prayers, cards, food, visits and phone calls during my recent surgery.

There is nothing like the support from so many people.

God bless the congregation of Smoke Rise.

*Love,
Mary Ruth Parham*

Wednesdays for Adults – Fall 2008

6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

2008/2009 Theme: “With All Your Heart”

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength,*

. . . and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Mark 12:30-31a

August

- 13 Fall Wednesday schedule begins (no children’s activities) – Devotion by Dr. Browning
- 20 Academy Drama – “Willy Wonka”
- 27 Introduction of the Fall Series and devotion by Rev. Ernie Forrester

September

- 3 Pilgrimage to Israel – Dr. Browning
- 10 “Who Is My Neighbor?” – Session One.
Finding Faith in the Movies: Rev. Kathy Dobbins
Movie clips that highlight the many ways we can define neighbor.
- 17 Who Is My Neighbor? – Session Two
Combined dinner and service with our next door neighbors, Eastminster Presbyterian
- 24 “Who Is My Neighbor?” – Session Three
“Good Will for the Common Good” (video segment)
Building Baptist/Jewish relationships. Includes the story of Southside Baptist Church and Temple Emmanu-El in Birmingham
Interview with Rev. Wayne Martin: Why should Baptists build relationships with Jews?

October

- 8 Devotion by Dr. Browning
- 15 Loving God Through Creation Series:
Creation, Faith & Crisis: Dr. William P. Brown, Columbia Seminary
Don’t miss the slide show of nature photography!
- 22 Loving God Through Creation Series:
Creation According to Genesis 1:1-2:3: Dr. Brown
- 29 Fall Festival

November

- 5 Fall Bible Study – The Book of Ephesians
Dr. Thomas Slater, Professor of New Testament Language and Literature, McAfee School of Theology
- 12 Fall Bible Study – Session Two
- 19 Devotion by Dr. Browning
For more information about the Wednesday Evening series contact Rev. Kathy Dobbins, kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org

OFFERING ENVELOPE UPDATE

If you are making your contributions on-line and wish to discontinue receiving offering envelopes, please notify our Financial Secretary, Debbie Lloyd at dlloyd@smokerisebaptist.org as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of July 30, 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	\$1,262,392.63	\$1,493,331.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	13,891.31	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,276,283.94	\$1,493,331.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,005,537.33	\$1,125,956.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	33,740.57	37,540.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	71,305.78	107,137.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	129,080.25	149,249.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	68,568.12	71,581.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	6,787.10	10,704.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,315,019.15	\$1,502,167.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 114,435.20	

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Georgia 30086

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5901 Hugh Howell Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

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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 Recreation and Missions
Danny Vancil	Minister of Worship & Music
Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
Kristy Eggert	Interim Youth Minister
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

Indoor Soccer for 4-8 Year Olds

There will be a parents' meeting on August 18 at 7:00 p.m. Practices will be on Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning August 26. 4-6 year olds practice from 6-7 p.m. & 6-8 year olds practice from 7-8 p.m. Games will be held on Saturdays at 9 & 10:30 a.m. with **the first game beginning September 6**. The season ends October 11. The cost is \$95. For more information, contact Jill Wade at 770.413.2133 ext 224. Register online at: smokeriseministries.org.