

The C R O S S T I E



The May 9, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

It's a Musical May



The Festival Singers Present **Psalmfest**

A service of psalms sung and read
Featuring the Music of John Rutter

Wednesday, May 14 • 7:00 PM • Chapel



Yonder

Sweet Gospel Music with a Heavenly Theme
featuring bluegrass instrumentalists

Wednesday, May 21 • 6:30 PM • Chapel



Youth And Parents Of Youth:
Mark Your Calendars Now!

Music/Missions 2008

North Carolina & Washington D.C.
May 28 - June 4

Sadies Ladies Circle will meet for dinner and fellowship on Monday, May 12 at 6:30, at the home of Kay Jowers. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Spouses and or guests are invited to join us.

Ladies, please join us for our **MultiFocus WMU** on Tuesday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 218. Visitors are always welcome.



Want to have your cake and help us, too?



You can support the **NEW YORK MISSION TRIP** while enjoying a delicious cake or breakfast bread. Stop by the gourmet **BAKE SALE** Sunday, May 18, in the breezeway and outside the fellowship hall to pick out something delicious! All proceeds go to help the Smoke Rise New York mission team.

Births

Congratulations to Todd and Cheryl Davis on the birth of a son, "Jack Todd," born April 26; grandparents are Jack and Judy Curry; aunt is Cecilia ; to Ashley and Christine Stovall on the birth of a son, "Myer Christopher," born April 28; grandparents are Graham and Penny Stovall; aunt and uncle are Jay and Laura Smith; to Brad and Kristen Dennis on the birth of a son, "Lucas Morgan," born April 29; brother is Jackson; grandparents are Ken and Terry Morgan; and, to Scott and Jennifer Duvall on the birth of a son, "Walker Scott," born April 29; brother is Jack; grandparents are Tom and Jeanie Duvall.

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to these whose family members have died; Buck Jones whose sister's husband died; Rachel and Thad Smith, whose husband/father died; Gail Hunter, whose friend died; Carole Still whose uncle died; Jim Still whose aunt and sister died; John and Lori Kelly whose niece died.

Family Fun Events Information

- "Narnia, Prince Caspian" — Join us for this movie. Enjoy dinner at El Torero and discussion with Ernie Forrester. Saturday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets for the movie are \$6.00. Stone Mountain Cinema (Stone Mountain Festival Shopping Center, 1825 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain) Tickets go on sale this Sunday.
- 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.

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Members of Smoke Rise Baptist Church,

Thank you for the lovely book, *Good Grief*. I enjoyed reading it. It was very meaningful to me. I will treasure it and re-read it.

Millie, my youngest sister, isn't suffering anymore. It makes it harder not to be able to be with family, but "His grace is sufficient for me." Our church family means so very much.

Lovingly in Christ,
Carol Marcus

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

Senior Adult New England Tour Sign-up Has Been Extended!



The Senior Adult New England Tour deadline to sign up has been extended to May 15th! This will be a wonderful trip throughout the New England states and will include many great restaurants, historical sites and beautiful scenery!

For more information brochures are located in the lower breezeway or contact Linda Cummings in the church office at 770-469-5856.

The Countdown to Summer has Begun — for our Nursery and Preschool Families...

Wednesday Night, May 14: Dinner 5:15, 6-6:30 Children's Choir End of the Year Party, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Organized Mass Chaos for 1st-5th graders and their parents.

Support Group

Are you struggling with poor decisions your teenagers or adult children are making and need to talk about it? Are you feeling anger, despair and frustration and wondering if anyone else feels this way? Are you trying to figure out where God is in this process or if He even cares? You are not alone and the only one that feels this way. Others do, too, and would like to form a support group so that we can share some common concerns and help each other through some difficult days. For more information, contact Bob Carter at (404) 580-2192.

Uganda Mission Opportunity

Wilson Echols is enlisting a Team for Mission Opportunities including Construction, Teaching Children, Sports and Games, Nurturing, Preaching (men only), School Visitation, Evangelism/ Tract Ministry & more. For more information and to see if there is still room on the team, contact Wilson Echols at wechols@bellsouth.net or 404-771-5215.

Mission Manuals are available
in the Missions Office.
May 31 - June 16

Reserve Your Spot In New York July 12 - 19

The New York Mission Team has 8-10 spots open where you can be a blessing to inner city children. Trip cost is \$300 plus airfare. Scholarships are available where needed. Go on line to smokeriseministries.org to register and pay the \$100 deposit. Contact Sarah Martin for more info at 678-344-6237 or wmartin@bellsouth.net. Please hurry and reserve your place.

To learn the menu for the Wednesday evening dinner at Smoke Rise, go to www.smokerisebaptist.org.

From the Pastor's Heart

40th Anniversary Kick-Off

I want to thank everyone that made last Sunday's service so special. I suppose it was the first service of our 40th Anniversary Celebration. On September 20, 2009, we'll celebrate the 40th anniversary of Smoke Rise with a wonderful weekend of fellowship and worship.

Last Sunday, we began the festivities with a church-wide breakfast, a worship service that highlighted the anniversary and took a special offering to help us prepare for it. Wasn't the video wonderful? I heard a lot of "oohs and aahs" as it took us down memory lane. So many members contributed to the day's activities and I am grateful for all their hard work.

Speaking of the offering, I am pleased to announce that, as of this printing, we have about \$440,000 pledged or given toward our goal of \$570,000. This is a great start. Thank you!

This money we are raising will be used to repair and upgrade the organ, replace the flooring in the sanctuary, eliminate the debt, secure funds for the celebration and provide a gift for a partnering church that will enhance their ministries. If you have not pledged or given yet, please do so the next time you are at church. We need every member's help to reach our goal!

Again, thanks for last Sunday's service and all who made it possible. I can hardly wait until September 20, 2009. What a day this will be!

Welcome David MacFarlane

David is our new Director of Administration and Communications. He grew up in Florida and worked there until moving to Atlanta in 1983. During the course of his career with IBM and Southern Bell/Bell South (now AT&T), David gained experience in a wide range of disciplines, including sales, finance, communications, marketing, administration and information technology.

David is the eldest of four children. One sister directs a battered women's shelter while her husband is a minister and teacher in a church/school in Florida. His brother and wife are serving their second term as missionaries in Zambia. David's parents, as well as his other sister and her husband, have retired to Alachua, Florida. David's only child, Heather, is an equestrian and recent grad of UGA, having just accepted a job in North Carolina.

Welcome, David, to Smoke Rise! We are happy to have you on staff and look forward to working with you.

Family Fun Events Calendar

Check out the Family Fun Events calendar on the website. Movies, ballgames and other great events are planned for the summer that will bring families of all ages together for fun and fellowship. They were big hits last year, that's for sure.

How I loved going to "Summer at the Fox" and seeing some classic movies and eating at the Varsity. It doesn't get more Atlanta than that! The Braves' game was a big hit, too (pun intended). Last year's events were fun and the ones planned this year will be, too. So, get on board that beautiful bus we have and

get to know other church members. Bring along friends that don't attend Smoke Rise. This made last year's events even more special!

Seniors

Congratulations, Seniors! We are proud of you and want to mark this special time in your life with a Baccalaureate service on May 18. You have worked hard and we want to recognize you for this grand achievement. We also want to ask God's blessings upon you as you begin the next phase of your life. We'll see you Sunday, May 18, in your caps and gowns.

Spring Specials

Don't miss the end-of-the-year music and mission services that are planned for this month. Check the *Cross Tie* or go to the website for the latest information. Our children and adults have special services planned.

"The Festival Singers" will present "Psalmfest" on May 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. This will be a service of Psalms sung and read which features the music of John Rutter. A Chamber Orchestra and harpist will help lead this service. You will not want to miss it. The church choir will present the third annual service called "Yonder" on May 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. My foot just starts tapping when I think about "Yonder." I still have my fan from the first "Yonder" service with the songs printed on it: "When the Roll is Called Up **Yonder**," "Farther Along," "Mansion Over the Hilltop," "I Will Meet You in the Morning," "Turn Your Radio On," "Dwelling in Beulah Land," "The Unclouded Day," "I'll Fly Away" and "Will the Circle be Unbroken?" I don't know if we'll sing any of these this time, but I'm humming them right now.

Holy Land

I am going to the Holy Land May 27-June 11. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am about this. It has been twenty years since I was there and I have longed to return ever since I made that journey of faith.

Twenty-two of us will be making this spiritual pilgrimage under the direction of the McAfee School of Theology. Dr. Peter Rhea Jones and Dr. Lloyd Allen will lead the trip. Even the orientation session was a spiritual high for me, listening to them talk about the goals for the trip and ways we'll achieve them.

I can hardly wait to tell you what I learn, experience and witness on this trip. I'll take notes and share my journey with you in sermons and Bible studies.

All Land is Holy

I really believe that all land is holy. "The whole earth is full of the goodness of the Lord," the Psalmist wrote. As a matter of fact, it was in common places with ordinary people that God revealed His presence so many times in scripture. So, as you go about your daily tasks or take a break from your routine and go on vacation, be aware that you, too, are on "Holy Ground."

Until Sunday,
Bob

You can listen to or download Dr. Browning's sermons. Go to www.smokerisebaptist.org.

Summer Family Olympics

Vacation Bible School at Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Sunday Night, June 8 to Wednesday Night, June 11

Catch the Olympic Fever this summer! Opening ceremony begins Sunday night, June 8 with the Varsity Wagon at 4:30 p.m.. Closing Ceremony will be Wednesday night, June 11. The games will commence each night at 4:30 p.m. and conclude on the ballfield at 7:30 p.m.

VBS Torch 2008



Ambassadors Needed:

- China, Spain, South Korea, and Greece are our host countries. Please welcome our children to your home.
- Olympic Coaches to guide our athletes each night.
- People to help with special effects at the Opening and Closing ceremonies (Sunday and Wednesday nights). Personal Trainers are needed in Recreation.
- Sunday School classes needed to sponsor and serve the meal on Monday and Tuesday night.

Parents, Empty Nesters, and Senior Adults - Help decorate and/or sponsor a country.

EVERYONE: Save your paper towel rolls for each athlete's Olympic Torch.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of April 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
<u>INCOME</u>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 742,042.48	\$ 853,332.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>10,142.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 752,184.68	\$ 853,332.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 539,500.53	\$ 621,318.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	22,464.87	26,279.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	43,469.72	67,209.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	74,053.44	90,494.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	40,558.50	40,082.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>3,816.85</u>	<u>6,248.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 723,863.91	\$ 851,630.00
 MORTGAGE BALANCE:	 \$ 152,676.45	



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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
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

Lilburn Co-op Food Needs for May
are cereal, jelly, canned meat & canned fruit.

Also, Smoke Rise has been asked to work at the Stone Mountain Co-op food pantry now through June 6. Anyone interested in working on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., please call Becky Seay at 770-381-6865