

# The C R O S S T I E



The September 12, 2008  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

## Wednesday Schedule for Adults - Fall 2008

- **September 17**  
Who Is My Neighbor? – Session Two with Rev. Kathy Dobbins  
Combined dinner and service with our next door neighbors, Eastminster Presbyterian
- **September 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 Emmanuel in Birmingham, Alabama  
Interview with Rev. Wayne Martin:  
Why should Baptists build relationships with Jews?
- **October 8**  
Devotion by Dr. Browning
- **October 15**  
Loving God Through Creation Series  
Creation, Faith & Crisis: Dr. William P. Brown, Columbia Seminary  
Don't miss the slide show of nature photography!
- **October 22**  
Loving God Through Creation Series  
Creation According to Genesis 1:1-2:3: Dr. Brown, Columbia Seminary
- **October 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
- **November 12**  
Fall Bible Study – Session Two
- **November 19**  
Devotion by Dr. Browning



For more information about the Wednesday evening series, contact Rev. Kathy Dobbins, [kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org)

## Don't Forget About Katrina

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

- **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](mailto:geverett@wilwat.net) or Jim Huston at [srbckatrinamission@comcast.net](mailto:srbckatrinamission@comcast.net) for more information.

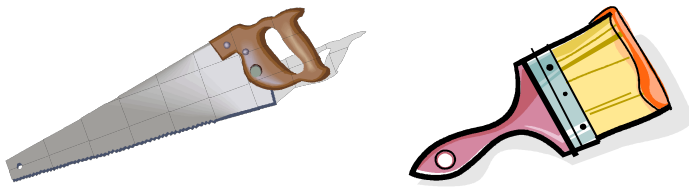


**Goal: \$570,000**  
**Our Goal is within sight.**  
**With your help we can reach it!**

## Mission Work Day At Park Ave Baptist

You can do a Mission Work close to home! Please sign up now! Mickey O'Kelley is leading a team to do some painting and cleaning at Park Ave Baptist Church, Saturday, **September 27**, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please call Mickey at 770-314-7573.

## Appalachian Construction Trip



at God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP) in McDowell, KY has been scheduled for **October 12-18**. We will be finishing a large covered picnic pavilion behind the GAP's Servant's House Lodge. Depending on the size of the team there will be other construction projects. The pavilion will be dedicated to the memory of Dane Sanderlin at the end of our week there. The team will be staying in the lodge and the cost is \$125 per person. To learn more about the GAP's work, go to [www.gapky.org](http://www.gapky.org). Call Bill Blanton at 770.921.4115 with any questions.

## Needs for the Appalachian Mission Trip



Good, used appliances and furniture are needed for the Appalachian mission trip in October. A construction team will be returning to Appalachia and we need to take refrigerators, microwaves, washers, dryers, electric stoves, mattresses, furniture, etc. Your wonderful response allowed us to take two full trailer loads on our July trip. Contact Bob Jernigan at 770-934-3005 for pick-up.

## Faith & Family Fusion

### • **September 23** — What's Keeping You Awake At Night?

Today's stresses in our current economy can leave you worried, overwhelmed, and fearful. Learn how to create a sanctaury of peace — Kathy Dobbins and Ernie Forrester.

### • **October 1** — Proactive Parenting

Let's face it: children don't come with a manual! We will work on sharpening our parenting skills, navigating through troubled waters, developing a parenting plan, managing the "balancing act" and keeping your family strong. Learn how to defend your child from getting pulled off course by today's popular culture — Kellie Denton and Ernie Forrester.

## Adults Going "Wicked"

is sold out! If you are interested in going, we can add you to a waiting list. Please call Linda Cummings at 770-469-5856.

## Apple Trip for Senior Adults (and anyone else interested)



October 6

To Jeamaur Farm

Leaving church at 9:30 a.m.  
and returning at 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

with a stop at Longstreet Cafe in Gainesville  
for lunch on your own.

Contact Linda at 770-469-5856

## Smoke Rise Needs You!

Do you enjoy planning fun and exciting events? Then we need your help on the "Fun Events Team" to plan activities for our church fellowship. Please contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 or 770.498.0045 or [lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org) or Doug Cowan at 770.972.2514 or [doug.cowan@comcast.net](mailto:doug.cowan@comcast.net). Volunteer today!!

## Impact Basketball

- Multi-church recreational league
- Spiritual & physical development
- Open to children (ages 5 and up), youth and adults
- Nice gyms and outstanding coaches
- Guaranteed playing time
- Begins November 1
- For information, call 770-413-2133, ext 224 or 266, or 770-885-7820.

Email: [impactbasketballleague@yahoo.com](mailto:impactbasketballleague@yahoo.com).



## Deaths

We extend our Christian sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Jimmy Abner & Brian Abner whose father and grandfather died; Carol Marcus whose sister died; and Phyllis Scarborough whose aunts died.



## Birth

We celebrate the birth of "Brady Cooper" on August 22 to Melissa & David Keel; grandparents are Vic & Debbie Greene.



## From the Pastor's Heart

### “How Do You Leave a Bad Place?”

Exodus 12:1-14

How do you leave a bad place or situation? Where do you find the confidence and courage you need? How do you handle the emotions that overwhelm you? These were the questions I raised in my sermon last week based upon this text. Due to the harsh conditions under which the descendants of Jacob were living, it was time for them to leave Egypt.

This text outlined Moses' words to his people as they prepared to leave. These were practical, yet urgent words filled with faith and hope. No doubt they provided guidance and inspiration for the difficult journey ahead.

I am intrigued by this concept of liberation and am led to ask. **Are you in a bad place today?** Are you in an abusive relationship or struggling with a crippling addiction to drugs, alcohol, food, pornography, ego or possessions? Are you running with the wrong crowd and headed into some dangerous places? Are you in bondage to a faulty way of thinking that is contributing to low self-esteem, inferiority or depression? Are you in an unhealthy religious environment that does not lift you up but tears you down? Are you experiencing burnout on your job or you are trapped in the prison of poverty?

**Must you stay where you are forever?** Is change possible, and if so, how can you head in a new direction? I believe our text speaks to this and emphatically tells us that we do not have to stay in a bad place. Change, even radical change, is possible. How do you do it?

**The first step you must take is to acknowledge that you have a problem.** Quit living in denial. Don't talk yourself out of needing to make changes. Perhaps there was a time when the Israelites did, but no longer.

I have a counselor friend that has coined the phrase, “Camera Check.” Whenever he is talking to a client that is in denial, he asks them to take a picture of his or her situation to see what they are overlooking. “What is before a camera when you snap a picture is what will be captured on film or on the disc. Many times when you look at a picture, you see things you did not realize were there. It is the same in life. A ‘Camera Check’ forces people to deal with reality and confront brutal facts.” He finds this to be an effective way to help clients move beyond denial.

Are you living in denial? If you took a picture of your situation today, what would it reveal that you refuse to acknowledge? Are you ready to be honest?

Gloria White is my friend and one of the counselors that has an office at our church. In her book, *The Path of Grace*, she writes about the cycles of life identified by the Exodus motif of bondage, wilderness and Promise Land.

“Everyone is in one of three places in his or her life. They are either in bondage, transition or the Promise Land. Wise are the people that recognize where they are and are on a journey toward health and wholeness.”

Where are you this morning? Are you in bondage and will you admit it? Are you in the wilderness learning how to think and live differently? Are you in the Promise land where you have discovered how to live one day at a time relying upon God and others to help you live responsibly?

The first step you must take to head in a new direction is to identify where you are. The Israelites had to confront the fact that they were in an unhealthy and dangerous place. Do you need to do that this morning?

**To leave a place of bondage, you will need help.** If you could have done it by yourself, you already would have.

Leaving your Egypt will not be easy. It wasn't for the Israelites and it will not be for you. They needed God, each other and their leaders. They never could have left Egypt without divine and human help.

Like the Israelites, you will need traveling companions along your journey to liberation. You will battle despair, cynicism, fear, uncertainty and hopelessness. You will need others to provide encouragement and support. This is one journey that you cannot make alone. You need family, friends and faith. If the Israelites did, what makes you think you will not?

**You will also need a plan in order to leave your Egypt.** Isn't this what Moses provided them? He was quite specific, wasn't he? He gave them the first steps they needed to take in order to leave. Why did he do this? I think he was not only giving them directions, but instilling confidence in them.

This challenge was daunting. Mobilizing over one million people to leave Egypt was an enormous task. Was it really possible? I'm sure there were many skeptics, but perhaps they were won over when Moses gave them their instructions. They could do what he was asking outlined in our text, and when they did, it had to be a huge confidence builder. If they could take the first step, they could take the next one.

“How do you eat an elephant?” the old joke asks, “one bite at a time.”

When leaving a bad situation, focus upon first steps. Take them and others will follow. Don't become paralyzed by the magnitude of the challenge. Start where you are and keep progressing.

**I believe our text reveals that you need one other thing in order to leave bondage, and that is a good memory.** You may find this a bit surprising, but let me explain.

Listen to Moses' final instructions to his people. “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord. Throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance” Exodus 12:14.

Why was Moses adamant about them remembering this journey of faith? He knew they would be tempted to return to Egypt when they faced intimidating challenges and hurdles on their journey to pursue a new life. They would forget how hard life was and how miserable they were. A poor memory would doom them to repeat history. It will us, too.

Let me return to Gloria's book, *The Path of Grace*. In it, Gloria states that once a person reaches the Promise Land, there is no guarantee that he or she will stay there. Many people go back into bondage and begin the cycle over because they don't stay alert to the where they are in relation to God and others. They grow overconfident and quit relying upon God. They grow complacent and quit listening to others. They grow rebellious and make irresponsible decisions.

This alarmed me. How sad it is to see someone move from liberation back to bondage. I think I understand the reason for Moses' advice to his people in the last part of our text.

Perhaps there was another reason, though, Moses instructed his fellow pilgrims to remember this night forever. It was his way of inviting succeeding generations to join God as a partner in liberation. Just as they needed help to be released from bondage, so would others along their journey and they would need to offer that help out of humility and gratitude.

**Do you need help today?** Are you in an unhealthy and dangerous place? Are you in an abusive relationship, struggling with an addiction, running with the wrong crowd, harboring destructive thoughts or settling for less than your best? Do you need to make some dramatic changes? What is the biggest challenge you face when you think about starting a new life? Who can help you overcome these obstacles?

Do you need faith, family and friends to accompany you on this journey? I know where you can find them. As a friend recently wrote, “We worship a God that liberates from bondage, anytime, any kind, any place, and then he invites us to a partnership in that liberating work.” Join us this morning in that partnership with Him and one another.

Until Sunday,

Bob

## Lilburn & Stone Mountain Co-ops Needs

writing tablets, backpacks, college & wide ruled notebook paper & notebooks, dictionaries, hi-lighters, pencils (#2 & colored), scissors, hand sanitizer, boxes of tissue, erasers, pocket folders with brads, graph paper, composition books, markers, pens, glue sticks (not glue bottles please) & rulers. In addition, the Stone Mountain Co-op also needs mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, canned veggies, tuna, soup, pasta & pasta sauce, toilet paper and soap. Items may be placed in either the food bin near the office or on shelves in the hallway under the gym. Thank you!

### Be IN THE KNOW!

Visit [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org) for the latest news about the many autumn opportunities at Smoke Rise.

## Attention Smoke Rise Golfers

We are planning a SRBC Golf Day at Stone Mountain Park on Friday October 17. First tee time is 12:00pm.

Golf and park pass cost is \$56 per player. We have room for 28 players. Call Ed Brantly for details (770.469.1319). More information will follow. Please sign up with Bobbie Wade in the church office.

## Ball Room Dance Classes

Classes will begin in October in room 106. You may call Bud Van Orden to sign up at (770.923.3754). Beginning/Intermediate level classes will be held on Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m., October 6 - 27. Intermediate/Advanced level classes will be held on Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., October 7 - 28.

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of August 31, 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
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,443,354.95	\$1,706,664.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	15,922.69	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,459,277.64	\$1,706,664.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,147,089.79	\$1,277,300.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	35,903.65	43,279.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	86,117.97	115,783.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	145,949.24	163,741.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	79,498.66	80,664.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	8,180.14	11,870.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,502,739.45	\$1,692,637.00

**MORTGAGE BALANCE:** \$ 80,692.97

### 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred fifty-four families have pledged \$436,610.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Forty-one families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$54,591.13.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 496,581.13
NEEDED	\$ 73,418.87



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### OUR STAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

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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
Carra Hughes Greer	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  
Rene Ely, M. Div., LMFT  
Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW

Counselor  
Counselor  
Counselor

Please remember to pray  
for our Church staff as they  
lead us in worship and  
Bible study as we serve  
alongside them in ministry  
for our Lord and Savior.

