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The March 14, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

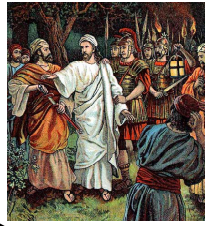
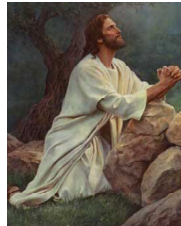
"Behold the Darkness"

Maundy-Thursday Communion and Tenebrae

Thursday, March 20

7:00 P.M.

(Fellowship Hall)



Songs of the Savior

Presented by

The Sanctuary Choir and Instrumentalists

Featuring

Laurel Davis Hanna, Soprano & Nella Rigell, Harp

Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008 ✕ 7:00 P.M.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Time Out for Tea



For all ladies and girls age 6 and up
(childcare under 6 by reservation)



Sunday, March 30; 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall

\$10.00 includes lunch and dessert tea service

**Sarah Martin will talk about how tea relates
to service and hospitality.**

**Photographer will be available for pictures:
mother/daughter, sisters, friends**

Tickets will be on sale beginning March 2

CBF Offering for Global Missions

**The national goal is \$6,150,000. Our church goal is \$10,000.
To contribute, please designate CBF Global Missions on your check.
The offering will be received through Easter Sunday, March 23.**

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Turns 40! . . . AND We Have a BIG Celebration to plan!!



Sunday School Teachers, Deacons, and Members

You are invited to an "Anniversary Celebration Information Dinner"

Monday, March 17 — 6:30 p. m. in the fellowship hall

The Anniversary Offering and Celebration Committees will share plans, projects
and ideas related to the upcoming 40th Anniversary. We have an exciting 18 month ahead.

Come and join the excitement, share your thoughts and ask questions.

Help us get the ball rolling.

Contact the church office at 770-469-5856 of Lynne Felton at 770-934-8552 to make your dinner reservations
(by noon Monday)

There is no charge for dinner. Look forward to seeing you Monday evening.



Calling for Teachers!

If you have ever thought you might want to teach Sunday School, either part-time or on a regular basis, with adults or youth, we invite you to a special session for potential teachers on your choice of two dates: Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The session will be offered again on April 20, 12:00-2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy Dobbins (Adult Sunday School) or Lee Prophitt (Youth Sunday School).

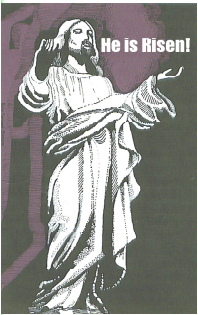
Understanding Yourself Through The Enneagram System of Personality Types

April 6 & 13; 4-6 p.m. — Room S225

Understanding personality types is a skill that can impact your personal development, your relationships, and your professional life. It is also useful when viewed in conjunction with spiritual gifts. The Enneagram delineates nine fundamental personality types and their complex interrelationships. It indicates ways in which each person can grow personally and spiritually. Pre-registration required.

Leader: Gloria White, M.Div., LCSW, Smoke Rise Counseling Center.

Celebrate Easter Very Early!!!



You are invited to attend an Easter Sunrise Service in Stone Mountain Park on March 23. Smoke Rise is one of several local churches that participate in the Stone Mountain Easter Sunrise Services. You can worship on the top of Stone Mountain or on the lawn at the base of the mountain. Both services begin at 6:30 a.m. and last about 30 minutes. You can walk up the mountain or take the sky lift to the top.

Deaths

We extend our deepest sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Bill Flowers whose father died; Dot Morris whose mother-in-law died; Inez Bryan whose daughter and Arlene Kirkland whose sister died; Nancy Underwood whose brother died; Carol Marcus whose sister died; Kefe Brandon whose father died; and Susan McCullar whose mother died.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and loved ones of Leon "Dee" Miller who has died. He had been a member of Smoke Rise since 1980.

Relay for Life Testimony

Last year I participated in Relay for Life because I wanted to do two things I enjoy greatly: helping people and baking. I baked over 20 dozen cookies and sold them at the Smoke Rise Relay for Life campsite at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. It was a great opportunity to be a part of a team who made a difference in thousands of people's lives.

Cancer increasingly impacts our lives and the thousands of people we care about. Medical science can make a difference in the quality of life for cancer victims, and that difference can be made greater with our help. Please support our team and be a part of finding the cure. I am on the team again this year and will be baking more 'cookies for the cure.'

—Alan Burton

Exciting New Sr. Adult Trips!

Tour of the new

Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Monday, March 24.

Cost: \$5 per person (includes gas, parking & driver's lunch).

Lunch is on your own at the Cheese Cake Factory.

Leave at 9a.m. & return around 2:30 p.m.

*(NEW) Taste of New England

October 3-10

Highlights include: Boston City Tour, Tour of Providence, Rhode Island & First Baptist Church, Mystic Village & Olde Mystic Seaport Museum, Berkshire Tour & Norman Rockwell Museum, Vermont Touring, Visit to the Calvin Coolidge Home-
stead, Cold Hollow Cider Mill & Cabot Creamery, White Mountain Touring, Tour of the Mount Washington Hotel, Portland touring with a visit to the Portland Headlight, North Shore Touring & House of Seven Gables, and much more!

For questions concerning trips please contact Linda Cummings in the church office (770-469-5856)

Births

"Milena Elizabeth" was born February 18 to David & Audrey Plumlee; brother is Landon; grandparents are David & Jill Wade;

"Allison Margaret" was born February 19 to Eric & Meredith (Beard) Simpson; grandparents are Barry & Pam Beard;

"Amelia Evelyn" was born to Roy and Carla Carter; grandmother is Evelyn Carter.

Thank You

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

I heard a song on a country station recently that tells exactly how I feel about our church. It is by Tracy Lawrence; the song is "You find out who your friends are." The chorus says, "Somebody's gonna run out and crank up their car. Hit the gas; get there fast. Never stop to think, 'what's in it for me, or 'it's way too far'. You find out who your friends are." I have definitely found out that I can always depend on my Smoke Rise Family to be there, send cards, food, e-mails, and lend every kind of support I need. Thanks for everything you have done during the time of my Mom's illness and death. As Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

Cindy Raines and family

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Saralyn Jaleel for straightening the office workroom. You have made our life much better because we can actually work in the workroom again.

Again, thank you Saralyn.

The Church Staff

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

We thank you for your generosity, support, encouragement and prayers during this difficult time. You are living examples of Christ's teachings in your words, actions and deeds. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving, kind and supportive church family. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue on our journey!

With much love,

Jeff, Carol, Logan, Connor and Lauren Bell

Notes from the Pastor

40th Anniversary

It is time for us to make preparations to celebrate the **40th Anniversary** of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Our church was constituted in September, 1969, and in September, 2009, we want to have a day of celebration and thanksgiving. I want to share some ideas I mentioned in the February Deacons' meeting.

“Celebrating Our Heritage by Preparing for our Future” will be our theme. As you can see, our focus will be on the past and the future. Let's use this celebration as a foundation upon which to build the next generation of ministry at this great church.

I have asked **Kathy Goodenow** and **Arlene Kirkland** to co-chair the **Celebration Committee**. With the help of a lot of church members, they will make the plans and preparations for the celebration, including setting the date and working out all the details of the event. I appreciate their willingness to serve and lead us. The plans for our celebration are in good hands!

I have also asked **Graham Stovall** to chair a committee that will help us raise money for the celebration. He has graciously agreed and set aside time from his busy schedule to lead this committee. I am most grateful for his leadership and the gift of his time. Let me share my ideas about the money we need to raise.

I believe we need to turn our attention to the **sanctuary** and make some improvements to it in anticipation of the 40th Anniversary Celebration. During the first phase of the “Faith, Family and Future” campaign five years ago, we directed our attention primarily to the needs of our children and youth. Improvements were made to the parts of the facilities that they use, along with the renovation of the kitchen. We also put in new heating/cooling systems throughout the buildings that have produced great energy savings. How grateful I am for these improvements. We did the right thing at the right time and were good stewards of the facilities entrusted to our care.

Now it is time to address the needs of our sanctuary that were mentioned in phase two of the “Faith, Family and Future” campaign. I believe the time is right to tackle these in light of our 40th Anniversary.

In 2006, we replaced the ceiling in the sanctuary for two reasons. Some of the tiles were stained due to water damage. We felt this was a good time to replace the ceiling with a hard surface to improve the acoustics. As a result, the walls and ceiling were replaced with sheet rock and the acoustics have improved greatly.

It is now time to finish that task. The **carpet** needs to be replaced with a more acoustically friendly surface. In addition, the carpet is twenty years old, faded and worn. The time has come to replace it.

This will require removing and repairing broken pews, replacing pew cushions and carpet. The estimated cost is \$225,000.

It would be nice to complete these tasks by the 40th Anniversary Celebration. Just as you would spruce up your home for a special event, we need to make these improvements to our sanctuary and be good stewards of this part of our facility as we have other areas.

We also need money to fund our celebration. No money is budgeted for this. We estimate that our celebration will cost about \$30,000, which includes updating our history, serving a meal, commissioning a hymn for the celebration, producing a celebration

video, providing anniversary souvenirs, bringing in guest speakers, taking pictures and publicizing this historic event. Kathy and Arlene will need money to plan a celebration fitting the occasion.

The Celebration Offering also has a missions component. We would like to match the amount we'll spend on our celebration, \$30,000, and give this to a partnering church to help them further their ministry and celebrate their heritage. Tim Adcox has begun researching this for us and will share details as they become available.

There is one more item we need to raise money for and that is mortgage retirement. At the beginning of 2008, the church owed approximately \$230,000 on our facilities. The money to pay off the debt was escrowed from available funds at the end of 2007 so that more could be budgeted this year for ministry. Due to the generosity of church members and the wise stewardship of these funds by the staff and lay leaders, the church was in a position to do this.

We need to repay the church for a portion of the money that was escrowed in order to have an adequate amount of available funds for 2008. Like any business, we need to have enough available funds to remain on a firm foundation. The finance committee is recommending that we repay \$85,000 out of the \$230,000 escrowed. We want to honor their request.

When you add all these items together, they total \$570,000. This includes \$85,000 for mortgage retirement, \$30,000 for celebration expenses, \$30,000 for a partnering church, \$200,000 to repair the organ and \$225,000 to replace the flooring in the sanctuary and repair broken pews.

It is our goal to raise this money in one year, beginning on May 4, 2008. On that day, we will ask members to turn in their 40th Anniversary Commitment cards and receive an offering to kick off the beginning of our celebration.

The Anniversary Offering will be in addition to our tithe that supports the annual budget. It is imperative that we understand this and support the 40th Anniversary Offering with gifts above and beyond our tithe. Meeting budget for 2008 and 2009 is an important part of laying a firm foundation for the next generation of ministry, too.

I am excited about our 40th Anniversary plans and this special offering. I think they will help us accomplish both of our goals for the Anniversary Celebration: **“Celebrating our Heritage by Preparing for our Future.”** Retiring our debt and making these improvements to our sanctuary will not only make us wise stewards of what has been entrusted to our care, but also pave the way for us to take advantage of expanding ministry and mission opportunities.

I am also excited about the future of this great church. On many occasions, I have talked about my love and appreciation for Smoke Rise Baptist Church. I believe strongly that our community and world need a church like Smoke Rise. I know I do!

Pray for those that will lead our anniversary preparations and for the celebration. Share your thoughts and ideas with them. Volunteer to help them. Pray about your gift to the Anniversary Offering. Help us “Celebrate our Heritage by Preparing for our Future.”

Until Sunday,

Bob

The **SRBC Family Fun Events Team** is working.... We've already had Trivia Night. Watch for details coming soon on the next event.

Relay for Life Testimony

On May 9, 2007, hundreds of people gathered at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds to fund and support the cure of one deadly disease--cancer. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States and in 2007 there were 1.4 million new cases reported. I had always had the desire to participate in a worthy cause and thought it a great opportunity when I saw the invitation to join the SRBC Relay for Life team in the announcements. I quickly joined and with the help of family and friends, began raising money. My teammates' willingness to give and their readiness to embrace new members amazed me, as did the resilience of the many survivors who walked that night. This was an incredible experience that I will never forget and I can only hope that you, too, will take advantage of the opportunity to be part of this awesome team as well. I am proud to say that my contribution, though small, helped advance the search for the cure for cancer.

—Danielle Richards, Smoke Rise Youth Department

Uganda Mission Opportunity

Wilson Echols is enlisting a Uganda Mission Team for May 31 – June 16. Mission Opportunities will be Construction, Teaching Children, Sports and Games, Nurturing, Preaching (men only), School Visitation, Evangelism/Tract Ministry, and more.

For more information and to see if there is still room on the team, please contact Wilson Echols at wchols@bellsouth.net or 404-771-5215. Mission Manuals are available in the Missions Office.

Sr. Youth and Parents of Youth: Mark Your Calendars Now!

Music/Missions 2008

North Carolina & Washington D.C.

May 28 - June 5

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of February 29, 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	\$ 346,545.40	\$ 426,666.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>4,660.45</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 351,205.85	\$ 426,666.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 271,243.17	\$ 301,743.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	9,387.81	13,109.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	17,472.70	34,962.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	36,467.10	51,564.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	19,698.64	20,666.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>540.00</u>	<u>2,957.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 354,809.42	\$ 425,001.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 190,497.00	

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
Add'l Funds from Finance Comm	+ 163,972.14
Contributions	+2,604,779.41
Expenses	-2,779,552.45
Paid toward Mortgage	- 18,368.10
Cash Balance	\$ 831.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00



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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
Linda Cummings	Interim Church Administrator/Senior Adults
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Spiritual Formation
Danny Vancil	Minister of Worship & Music
	Minister of Families with Youth
Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
Tim W. Adeox	Minister of Missions/Recreation
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

Date Night

Come enjoy *A Little Night Magic* on Friday, March 28.

Bo Prosser will lead our time together (Bo knows!)
Childcare and dinner provided

What could be better?

Details to follow.

Contact Kellie, Amanda, Kara or Kathy
to reserve your spot.