

The C R O S S T I E



The November 21, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Upcoming Events at Smoke Rise Baptist

Church-Wide Thanksgiving Banquet — November 23 — 6:00 p. m.
Thanksgiving Program, featuring Children Choristers

“Lights at Lake Lanier” — November 23
Motor Coach leaves immediately after Thanksgiving Banquet

Family Advent Activity — November 30 — 9:45 - 10:45 a. m.

“Christmas Canteen” — December 3 — 9:00 a. m.

Senior Adults & 55 A Go-Go
Show at the Aurora Theatre and Lunch at Evergreen
Bus leaves Smoke Rise promptly at 9:15 a. m.
Contact Linda Cummings for more Information

4 & 5 Year-Old Choir Nativity Pageant — December 3 — 6:30 p. m.

Night in Bethlehem — December 7 — 4:00 - 7:00 p. m.
with Live Animals

Family Christmas Caroling — December 10 — 6:00 p. m.

“Birthday Party for Jesus” — December 14 — 9:45 - 10:45 a. m.
Presented by 3 Year-Old Choir for all preschoolers and families

Peter Mayer Concert — December 17 — 7:00 p. m.

Holiday Breakfast — December 21 — 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

“The Many Moods of Christmas” — December 21 — 7:00 p. m.
Presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

Children’s Candlelight Service

5:30 p. m.

Candlelight Service

7:00 p. m.

Advent Devotionals

Followingthestar.org is an online Advent devotional experience created by Passport (youth and children’s camping options) in partnership with CBF, PC USA, and the Episcopal Church. Although created for students, it is a good resource for adults, providing a thoughtful way to go through this special season in only a few minutes each day. Type Followingthestar.org in your browser bar and that should take you to the website. If you would like to sign up to receive a daily reminder to visit the site, click on guestbook and fill out the form. If you don’t have a computer and would like a printed copy of an Advent guide, you can pick one up in the Sanctuary Breezeway.

Life Connections: Classes for Adults Winter 2009

Klesis: God's Call and the Journey of Faith

Klesis is a process designed to assist in the examination of your "calling." It assumes a concept of ministry that is inclusive of all who follow Christ and one that is as unique as each follower. It provides help in finding out who you are and learning how to give yourself away. 3 sessions - \$25.00 for materials.

Mondays at 9:45 a. m., January 12, 19 & 26
Sundays at 4:30 p. m., February 1, 8 & 15

Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman

This new study by Beth Moore explores God's providence and the hope and encouragement he offers women facing challenges in our society.

10 weeks - \$15.00 for workbook
Sundays at 5 pm beginning January 11
Mondays at 9:45 am beginning February 2

Sign up for classes in the Sanctuary Breezeway or email Kathy Dobbins at kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org.

Smoke Rise Starts After-School Program

Smoke Rise has started an exciting new program that will serve our own church members and reach out to the families in our community as well. Our program extends after-school care for children until 7:00 pm and includes all the needs of children after a long day at school.

The After-School cost is \$250 per month per child with discounts for the December and April holidays. We are closed whenever school is closed but will be available for pick-up on early release days. There is a \$50 discount for any added children in the same family.

If you would like to enroll your child in this program or would like more information, contact Greg Burdett at gburdett@smokerisebaptist.org or call 678-469-1377, ext. 101.

Wedding

Congratulations to Georgia Louise Keadle and Heath Edgar Hardison who were married November 8. Georgia is the daughter of Tim and Kitty Keadle.

Deaths

We extend our Christian sympathy to Baxter Dollar whose sister died; and Joan Powers whose brother died.

We also extend our Christian sympathy to Gray and Joan Booth and Andrew Booth on the death of their son and brother Allen.

Page & Deb Need You On Their Team!

The Mission Trip to Honduras will be March 21 – 28. It will be a great adventure in "Life Style Evangelism," working to improve the living conditions in a village home. You'll have a great team experience.

Please pray about your chance to be a part of the team. Email Page Fulgham at rpfulgham@bellsouth.net or Deb Leamon at dalor53@comcast.net to reserve your spot.

The Last Mission Trip Of The Year!

The last trip of the year to Biloxi, MS will be Dec. 4 – 7. You can make a special gift to the people there. There's still so much work to be done.

They need your help. Call Jim Huston at 678-300-9303 or Greg Everett at 770-985-1316.

Remember our Co-ops During the Holidays

Co-op Christmas cards will be on sale on Wednesdays during dinner outside the Fellowship Hall and on Sunday mornings in the upper breezeway before and after the worship services through December 14. Please contact Becky Seay at 770-381-6865 if you would like to volunteer selling the cards during these times.

Smoke Rise has been asked to work at the Stone Mountain Co-op on Mondays-Wednesday and Fridays from December 8 through December 22. The hours on Mondays and Wednesdays are 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Please call Becky if you would like to volunteer on any of these days.

You may also help our co-ops this holiday season by donating food, money, Kroger gift cards and teenage gifts (Lilburn Co-op, or by sponsoring a family for Christmas. You can be a blessing to the many families we will help during these difficult financial times.

Sr. Adult Christmas Outing on December 3

We are going to the Aurora Theatre to see "Christmas Canteen" at 10:00 a.m. Leaving the church at 9:00 a.m.

Afterwards we will head to Evergreen for lunch. Cost is \$42.00 per person. See Linda Cummings to sign up.

ONLY 3 SEATS LEFT

Smoke Rise Academy of Arts

is now enrolling students for the 2008-2009 school year. Private music instruction is offered by highly qualified and experienced teachers in the areas of piano, organ, voice, brass, flute, solo guitar, violin and saxophone.

Births

Kyler Davis and Colton Grant (twin boys) were born November 11 to Ryan and Andrea Hendrix. Grandparents are Nick and Delores Hendrix;

Mikinna was born November 11 to Jim & Michelle Wilson; grandparents are Bobby and Beverly Goodwin.

From the Pastor's Heart

One of the best articles I've read about the difficult economic waters we are treading comes from **Tom Ehrich**, Episcopal priest and author. I have been reading his weekly essays for about two years and find him to be one of the most insightful interpreters of church and culture. I want to share a portion of his most recent article titled, "**Recession Benefits.**"

"Our worsening recession probably will be long and deep. Many lives will be scarred through homes lost, jobs lost, careers derailed, college delayed, small businesses shuttered, large employers driven to bankruptcy and dreams abandoned.

This will be a human drama unlike anything most of us have known. Instead of poring over catalogs to decide what to buy next, many will spend their night balancing bills and cutting back even on necessities. We will fashion new images of Christmas giving and vacations. Many consumers will make do with what they have — a pullback that economists say will be self-defeating in the long run, but who has anything but a short run to consider?

Some stark new behavior will be required, and much of it will be healthy.

Parents will need to say No to their children — and thus reinstate the proper order of authority in the family and maybe douse the demon of entitlement.

Families will need to spend more time at home and less time in restaurants, malls and cinemas — and thus reclaim the main reason people got married and had children in the first place.

People will need to live within their means — and thus reconnect with the true abundance of God-given harvest, as opposed to the delusional largess of an ever-expanding credit line.

People will need to do without — painful after so many years of having everything, but in the end a refreshing walk with the basics, as opposed to a frenzied dance of more, more, more.

People will want to care for their neighbors — because it is always the pained who sense other people's pain and the marginalized who join hands on the margins. As Jesus said, the 'poor in spirit' are the blessed, and the just-getting-by tend to be generous.

People will need to stop competing by way of extravagance, superficials and their children's soccer prowess — and start collaborating by way of dreams, capabilities and shared ventures. We won't dig our way out of this mess by finding one more unused credit card or

waging war on some imagined enemy, but by joining hands in fresh and imaginative enterprises grounded in noble purpose.

The heroes of this moment — and the long-term beneficiaries — will be those who can promote goodness. Yes, an easing of gasoline prices will evoke a fresh blast of hype for huge cars and trucks, but lasting benefit will go to those who rethink energy and transportation. Yes, appeals to our Gatsby-esque dreams will lure us into perusing Rolex ads, but lasting benefit will go to those who win the victory over appetite and self-indulgence.

I hope — but don't truly expect — that the greed and irresponsibility of those financial and corporate leaders who led us into this mess will give way to wisdom and perspective.

More likely, they will find clever ways to resume their self-serving quests. Our best hope is that they find fewer takers for their schemes, fewer pension fund

managers and school officials who buy into smoke-and-mirrors, fewer home-buyers and consumers who are so determined to live beyond their means that they reward foolish risks.

More likely, a new generation of bright and ambitious students will look beyond the narrow dream of making it on Wall Street and will turn instead to the engineering, organizational development, technology, infrastructure management and teaching that truly create value in society."

Tom Ehrich is on my Thanksgiving list of people for whom I am grateful. I emailed him and told him that I appreciate his words of wisdom and hope. He seemed genuinely pleased in his gracious reply.

You are also on my Thanksgiving list. I cannot think of a people I would rather journey with through these troubled times. You give me hope.

Until Sunday,
Bob

You are also on my Thanksgiving list. I cannot think of a people I would rather journey with through these troubled times. You give me hope.

We Sew Need Your Sewing Skills!

For Children's Advent Calendar
"The Rooftops of Bethlehem"
Contact Kellie kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org or
770-469-5856 Ext 207

Cut It Out!!

Time again to get ready for Christmas!
Need sharp people with sharp scissors to help cut felt
shapes for Advent calendar AND
NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM kids costumes
Contact Kellie, Kara or Amanda to help.

Be IN THE KNOW!

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

Ten Minutes Could Save Your Life!

Preventive ultrasound screenings will be conducted at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Thursday, December 4. On that day **LifeLine Screening** will be performing the following tests:

- A scan of the carotid artery in the neck for plaque build up, which can lead to a stroke. 75% of all strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage.
- A scan of the arteries in the legs for Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), which is linked to heart disease
- A test for Aneurysms in the Aortic vessel in the abdomen
- An irregular heartbeat electrocardiogram (EKG), testing for Atrial Fibrillation (AFIB); after age 40, 1 in 4 adults will develop this, and about 75,000 strokes a year are attributed to Atrial Fibrillation.
- In addition, all church members are eligible to receive a complimentary Osteoporosis screening, if you have the other tests done.

The results will be sent directly to you after being reviewed by a Cardiovascular Surgeon. The tests are non-invasive and completely painless. Each test takes about ten minutes. The tests are \$45 each or four for \$139. Screenings are recommended yearly for ages 40+.

Pre-registration is required by calling 800-324-1851.

You may learn more by visiting www.lifelinescreening.com.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of November 13, 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	\$1,869,587.75	\$2,346,663.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>18,849.13</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,888,436.88	\$2,346,663.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,524,307.69	\$1,809,506.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	39,384.82	52,540.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	106,177.07	153,016.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	177,701.50	205,153.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	104,821.74	109,913.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>12,504.71</u>	<u>16,326.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,964,897.53	\$2,346,454.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 38,367.13	

40TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred sixty families have pledged \$444,630.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Forty-four families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$59,711.13.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 504,891.13
NEED	\$ 65,108.87



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Danny Vancil	Minister of Worship & Music
Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
Carra Hughes Greer	Minister of Families with Youth
David MacFarland	Director of Administration and Communications
Linda Cummings	Coordinator of Congregational Life/ Senior Adults
Amanda Burton	Nursery Director
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Smoke Rise Counseling Center
Affiliate of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia
770-469-6547

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