

The C R O S S T I E



The November 7, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Christmas Memories: A Holiday Evening for Women

Thursday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

This annual event for women includes the holiday decorated tables everyone loves to see!

Our guest speaker is Pat Harley, founder of Big Dream Ministries and the Amazing Collection Bible study.

Pat will talk about "The Gift that Satisfies."

Please sign up with MaryLynn Manley if you would like to host and decorate a table.

Tickets are \$15.00 and are on sale now.

Reservations required!



Senior Adult Christmas Outing

Can't believe it's time to think about Christmas, but it is!

This year's Christmas Outing is Wednesday, December 3.

We will depart Smoke Rise promptly at 9:15 a.m.

for the Aurora Theater's Christmas Canteen matinee at 10:00 a.m.

After the play we will go to the Waterside Restaurant at Evergreen for a delicious buffet. Cost for this fun day is \$42 per person.

There are limited tickets. Don't miss out.

Bring your check to Linda Cummings in the church office or contact her for more information.

Night in Bethlehem Recreated



December 7 — 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. In the Gym
and Outside with Live Animals

To watch a short video of last year's Night in Bethlehem
copy and paste or type into your browser:

<http://smokerisemedia.org/Bethlehem/Night%20in%20Bethlehem%202007.wmv>



Goal: \$570,000

We are almost there! Don't let up now!

Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 23, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

No reservations needed. Bring a Friend with you.

Pay at the Door: \$6 Adults — \$3 Ages 10 and under



Lights at Lake Lanier

Join us for an amazing display of lights at the annual Lights at Lake Lanier on Sunday, November 23. The Smoke Rise bus will leave immediately following the Thanksgiving dinner and program.

Tickets are \$7 each and are available on Wednesday nights outside the Fellowship Hall and on Sundays in the Breezeways.

We Sew Need Your Sewing Skills!

For Simple 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.

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.

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.

Note of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

Thank you so much for your prayer visits, cards and notes of encouragement during my surgery and treatment.

You are a wonderful church family.

Love,
Carol Marcus

Don't Forget About Katrina

BILOXI STILL NEEDS YOU!!!

There is still much work to be done!! The upcoming Katrina/Biloxi trip is:

- December 4-7

Please check your calendar and see if you can be a part of this important mission trip. 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.

Sadies Ladies Circle will meet Monday, November 10, at 6:30 at the home of Elizabeth Wells. Our mission focus this month will be donations to the Lilburn Co-op to help with power bills. All ladies are invited to join us.

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.

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.

Our Newest Members

Nicholas Abner (son of Brian and Martha Abner), 337 West Wind Drive, Lilburn, GA 30047; tel. 770-279-0080. Deacon: David Bishop.

Karyn Hurry, 3117 Flowers Road South, Apt. J, Atlanta, GA 30341; tel. 404-474-7973. Deacon: Judy Batchelor.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob (Susie) Keys, 3108 Springhouse Circle, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 678-684-3308. Deacon: Jim Howard.

From the Pastor's Heart

Habitat for Humanity

I am pleased to inform you that Smoke Rise will be participating in the building of Atlanta's 1,000th Habitat for Humanity House. This house will be built over a three week period beginning on Friday, November 7 and include supporters from the corporate and faith-based communities.

Of particular importance to me is that this will be an interfaith project connecting believers from the Christian, Muslim and Hindu traditions. The participants will not only build a house for a deserving family, but also build a bridge across which good people from different cultures and religions can work together to make the world better. In my opinion, this is the best way to forge healthy relations and promote peace. This is also what it means to be a good neighbor, our church theme for this year.

Wayne Martin is working with Tim Adcox to coordinate our efforts. We have committed money and manpower to this project. It is another way we are "Giving Ourselves Away" at Smoke Rise and fulfilling our new dream. How grateful I am for a church that works with others to improve people's lives. In my opinion, this is the church at its best!

Families in Crisis

For several weeks I have been writing and talking about our efforts to help our members that are struggling during these tough economic times. God has entrusted them to our care. No other church will come to their aid and none needs to do so. If we share what we have as a congregation with those in need, no one will go without the basic necessities of life.

The Missions Committee continues to map out a strategic plan to guide us so we can help those that are struggling. Their intent is to provide not only funds, but also financial, family and spiritual counseling, job placement assistance and legal advice. We want to minister to the whole family in all the ways they will need us. This, too, is what it means to be a good neighbor.

If you would like to contribute to this cause, mark "Families in Crisis" on your check. I assure you that every penny will be used to help our members in the months to come.

In addition, we are committed to helping the Lilburn and Stone Mountain Coops navigate these turbulent waters. They are struggling to keep food on their shelves. We want to do our part to keep them stocked.

This cannot be done unless all of us make some sacrifices in our own lifestyles. We must live with less so that others can merely live. Perhaps this means that you will spend less on your family members at Christmas so that you can give more to others. I hope it does. I know our Lord will be honored and humbled by your generosity in his name and honor. I believe you will experience the true meaning of Christmas by doing so.

The day after I preached the sermon about Jesus feeding the five thousand and emphasized the importance of sharing, I received an email from one of our members. She and a friend had a trip planned to Nashville and the Grand Ole Opry during December. She wrote me and said they cancelled the trip and decided to give the cost of that trip, one thousand dollars, to the "Families in Crisis" fund. I can't tell you how touched I was.

Our Church's Budget

In order for us to give ourselves away, we must have a strong home base from which to operate. Ministry occurs every day on our campus in a variety of ways. Children and adults depend upon us to help them grow spiritually and equip them with the life skills necessary to be a good husband, wife, parent, grandparent, child, student, employee, employer, citizen and disciple. Our staff is committed to leading, guiding, training and modeling what it means to be the presence of Christ here and around the world. This is our calling from God and our passion. Only with your help can we do this and only when every member is a wise and faithful steward will ministry continue on the level it needs to occur.

This year, more than any I can recall, the church needs everyone participating in the end-of-the-year giving and our annual stewardship campaign for next year's budget. No gift or commitment is too small or insignificant. Meeting this year's budget and planning for next year will require everyone's support. Each person must shoulder this load and do his or her part.

If you have not turned in your estimate of giving card for the 2009 Ministry Plan, I encourage you to do so. Cards are available in the narthex or the church office. Please make this a matter of prayer and serious consideration. Your support is vital to helping us be the presence of Christ in a hurting world.

Church Home for the Holidays

Need a church home for the holidays? Welcome! This is our motto for the upcoming holiday season. Many of our friends and neighbors have no spiritual family with whom they can share the holidays. No one should ever travel through Advent alone. Community is most important this time of the year. If you have a family member or friend that is not attending a church, invite them to Smoke Rise. We have programs planned for all ages and will gladly welcome them. Make sure they have a calendar of our activities and services and know they are welcome. Bring them with you or agree to meet them at the door. This, too, will make your Christmas more meaningful.

Thanksgiving and Christmas

I can hardly believe the holidays are upon us. In spite of the downturn in the economy, it is still the most wonderful time of the year. This is because Thanksgiving is about counting our blessings and Christmas is about people, not things. No wonder they make such a difference in our lives. They remind us of what should be a part of our lives every day. I hope they are for you and your family.

Thanks for all you mean to Jackie and me. You are at the top of our Thanksgiving list!

Until Sunday,
Bob

Deaths

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Tom Duvall whose aunt died; Jack Frost (former member) whose mother died; Dot Morris whose son-in-law's father died; and George Headley whose sister died.

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

Wednesday Schedule for Adults - Fall 2008

Our 2008/2009 theme is *With All Your Heart*. Check out the line up of Wednesday night events geared towards fulfilling our theme.

November 12

Fall Bible Study - The Book of Ephesians

Dr. Thomas Slater, Professor of New Testament Language and Literature, McAfee School of Theology

November 19

Devotion by Dr. Browning

Be IN THE KNOW!

Visit www.smokerisebaptist.org for the latest news about the many autumn and winter opportunities at Smoke Rise.

Impact Basketball League

Smoke Rise Baptist Church has long been well known for its great basketball league that offers spiritual and physical development. Our Impact Basketball League has a team for children as young as five to adults. Don't miss out on the chance to play in a nice gym and learn from outstanding coaches who will guarantee you playing time. If you are interested in getting on the court, give us a call TODAY at 770-413-2133, ext 224 or 266, 770-885-7820 or email us at impactbasketballleague@yahoo.com



Lilburn Co-op Needs Are

canned meat, canned fruit, shampoo and toilet paper. Please leave these items on the shelves near the church office.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of October 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	\$1,761,207.18	\$2,133,330.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	17,376.89	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,778,584.07	\$2,133,330.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,469,946.11	\$1,651,911.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	38,896.90	49,797.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	99,425.51	143,735.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	177,074.35	192,766.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	97,243.74	100,830.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	10,910.96	15,160.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,893,497.57	\$2,154,199.00

MORTGAGE BALANCE: \$ 54,214.78

40TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred fifty-eight families have pledged \$442,530.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Forty-four families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$58,431.13.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 503,011.13
NEED	\$ 66,988.87



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Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
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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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