

# The C R O S S T I E



The December 19, 2008  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

## Christmas Mission Offerings

Remember to include our missionaries  
on your Christmas list.

Here are three options for your gift:  
Global Missions (CBF), Lottie Moon (SBC)  
and Smoke Rise Mission Partnerships.

*“From Smoke Rise to the ends of the earth.”*



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.*

*(No 11:00 p.m. Service)*

### Katrina Mission Trip In January



The Faith and Issues Sunday School Class  
is leading this Mission Trip January 22-25 in  
memory of Dane Sanderlin.

You are invited to join them as we continue  
the ministry of rebuilding in Biloxi, MS. Please  
contact Greg Everett at 770-985-1316 or  
[geverett@wilwat.net](mailto:geverett@wilwat.net), or the Missions Office.

## Prayer Retreat

February 27-28, Simpsonwood Retreat Center  
Sponsored by Best Practices for Ministry Network

Enrich your prayer life in a beautiful setting. Smoke Rise will be one of many churches participating in this weekend led by Jeanie Miley, popular author and retreat leader from Houston, TX. \$100.00 per person includes lodging (double-occupancy) and three meals. Scholarships are available. Deadline for reservations is January 14. Pick up a flyer and registration form in the Sanctuary Breezeway or contact Kathy Dobbins.

*Smoke Rise Baptist Cookbooks  
Make Excellent Christmas Gifts  
A bargain at \$15. Pick one up in the church office.*

## 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](mailto:kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org).

## Births

We celebrate with Jason and Laura Backus the birth of their son, "William Foster," who was born December 10; his grandmother is Gerri Hankla.



## Deaths

We extend our Christian sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Pat Herndon whose aunt died; Paula Reeves whose aunt died; Bobby Buckler whose father died; and Ron Atteberry whose father died.



## 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](mailto:rpfulgham@bellsouth.net) or Deb Leamon at [dalor53@comcast.net](mailto:dalor53@comcast.net) to reserve your spot.

There is a great need for warm clothes (coats, sweaters, and jackets) for recently arrived immigrant families. All sizes can be used. Household items (towels, sheets, and blankets) are also welcome.  
Contact Elbia Coe at 770-491-6281

## Ballroom Dance Classes

Beginners' classes begin January 5

Mondays — 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced classes begin January 6

Tuesdays — 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Room 106 — Four week sessions

\$35 per person / \$75 per couple

To register, call Bud Van Orden at 770-923-3754

## Smoke Rise Arts Academy

*Where God-given gifts Blossom*

"Seussical Jr."—January 14 and 16 – 6:45 pm  
*Presented by Smoke Rise Arts Academy*

• **Evening painting class.** For the first time, the Arts Academy is offering *evening* painting classes for teens and adults beginning in January. Paris-trained artist Dennis Assayac teaches the new course. Daytime classes are also available with Linda Pollack.

• **Ballet & Tap for tots.** Now is the time to sign up your little dancer for Pre-Ballet & Pre Tap classes held in the afternoon. Available for girls and boys ages 3-5 in the afternoon.

• **Private lesson discount.** New students that sign up for private music lesson can now receive *\$10 off registration!* The Arts Academy offers private lessons for most orchestral instruments, piano, guitar and voice by conservatory-level instructors. New students that sign up before May 1 are eligible. Simply type in "10 off music" in the coupon portion of the online registration form.

*To register for any Arts Academy program:*

*www.smokeriseministries.org*

*Click on Arts Programs*

***Don't Forget!***

\$10 off registration fee with coupon

Enter coupon code in online registration:

**10 OFF MUSIC**

Offer valid thru May 1

## *From the Pastor's Heart*

### **Advent Programs**

I want to thank everyone that has made our Christmas services and programs so meaningful. Each one has been outstanding and reminded us of the reason for the season. I am grateful for the hard work of our staff and the large host of volunteers that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. I appreciate each one of you!

### **Christmas Eve Services**

One highlight of the church year is our Christmas Eve services. One reason they are so meaningful is because they allow families the opportunity to worship together, including family members that have moved away and returned for the holidays. Make it a priority on your holiday calendar and join us for one of these very special services. I look forward to seeing you.

By the way, invite neighbors and friends to attend with you that may not have a Christmas Eve service. Not every church schedules services on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to ours.

The 5:30 service is designed for young families, especially children. The 7:00 service is our traditional candlelight service featuring our choir and orchestra. I cannot begin to tell you how much these services mean to me. What would Christmas be like without them? We are so fortunate to have such fine worship leaders that usher us into the presence of God on one of the holiest nights of the year.

### **Stewardship**

You have been so generous and faithful in giving your tithes and offerings during one of the most turbulent economic years in memory and the staff is grateful. Your contributions fund our ministries, programs and worship services. They enable us to purchase the supplies we need and take care of our facilities. Most of all, they help us to assist others through local and global mission projects.

Ministry is expensive, but isn't everything of value in this world? All great endeavors require dedicated people that are faithful stewards. I consider it a joy to support the church with my money and am grateful for the difference it makes in our community and world. It is through the church, Smoke Rise in particular, that I am able to fulfill my personal mission statement, "To make the world a better place to live." Each time the church gives me another way to do this, I am eager to respond. I cannot accomplish this mission without the help of the church.

Help us end the year on a strong note. Evaluate your giving this year and catch up if you need to do so. Give an extra gift before the end of the year to strengthen our work. It is important that we meet budget for 2008 and start the year financially strong. The needs of our neighbors here and around the world will be just as great in 2009, if not more so, and we need to be poised and ready to help them.

If you have not turned in your estimate of giving card for 2009, please do so. Every gift is important, especially during a recession. Funding ministry is a collective effort and each member must take his or her responsibility seriously. Difficult economic times demand that we be faithful stewards. Thank you for recognizing this.

### **Families in Need**

I am pleased to announce that our **Families in Need** program is up and running. This is a program designed to help our members through these rough economic times.

As a family of faith, we want to help members of our church that are in financial distress. This includes not only financial assistance, but financial and family counseling, job placement help, legal advice and accounting services.

After the holidays, we are going to offer Dave Ramsey's financial planning course called "Financial Peace University" to our youth and adults. Already, there is a lot of interest in these seminars. Skills will be learned that will have lifelong benefits.

We have committed \$50,000 from our mission funds that can be used through 2009 to meet the needs of our members that need financial assistance. I must tell you that I sleep better knowing that we have done this. I know we are not supposed to worry, but I worry about how some of our members are going to take care of their families in the months ahead. I am hearing some very bleak stories that disturb me. How grateful I am for a church that hears these pleas for help and responds so generously!

In my opinion, missions begin at home. God has entrusted the members of our church to our care. No other church is going to help them at this critical time. It is our responsibility and we must be compassionate and generous. Thank you for being both.

### **Global Mission Offering or Lottie Moon**

Recently I was talking with Rob Nash at the dedication of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's new headquarters on Mercer's Atlanta campus and was encouraged to hear about the good work being done around the world by our missionaries. Support their efforts with a special gift to the Global Mission Offering. Designate this on your check or offering envelope. If you prefer to give to Lottie Moon, specify this on your check or envelope as well. Be sure to include our missionaries on your Christmas gift list.

### **Fortieth Anniversary Offering**

I appreciate the work that Graham and Penny Stovall continue to do leading this campaign. You have so generously pledged or given \$501,486.13 toward our goal of \$570,000. This money will be used to pay off our debt, refurbish the organ, replace the sanctuary floor covering and provide resources for our celebration next fall. A portion of the money will also be given to one of our partnership churches, Park Avenue, so they can make improvements to their facilities, too.

By the way, the celebration planned for September 20, 2009, will not be elaborate or extravagant due to the difficult economic times in which we are living. It will be appropriate and meaningful. Our mission has and always will be to help people and the "Families in Need" program is an example of this. The bulk of our attention and resources will be channeled in this direction, especially in our fortieth year as a church. I am confident this will honor and please the Lord.

### **Merry Christmas**

I want you and your family to have a very Merry Christmas. May your home be filled with love, laughter and plenty of good aromas. Spoil the children and be nice to out-of-town relatives. The memories you make will last a lifetime and beyond.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

## Be IN THE KNOW!

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

### Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Seminar

Beginning February 5 — 7:00pm

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

“A Life Changing Experience”

Coordinated by Kitty Keadle

Kitty has taken the course and is very excited about sharing this information. Questions, contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 ext. 208 or e-mail Kitty at [keadle.ktk@gmail.com](mailto:keadle.ktk@gmail.com).

Financial Peace University is designed to teach you and your family how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and build wealth. You'll meet with your class each week to watch the video lesson and participate in discussion and accountability groups that will change your whole attitude about money.

Cost for the seminar is \$100 per family. For this you will receive a packet of information (including budget planning information and forms, the Financial Peace Revisited book, hardback workbook, CD Library, Envelope System, Bonus CD-Rom, access to interactive software online, the course itself and more). If you know now you want to sign up, contact Linda Cummings at the above number.

Watch for further details soon...

## End-of-the-Year Reminder

In order to receive contribution credit for 2008, contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2008.

Please do not file income taxes until you have received written confirmation from the church regarding your contributions.

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of December 12, 2008

Four hundred fourteen families have pledged \$1,966,177.60 to date for the 2008 Budget.

|                              | YEAR TO DATE<br>(THIS YEAR) | BUDGET TO<br>DATE |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                |                             |                   |
| TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS          | \$2,049,597.12              | \$2,560,000.00    |
| TOTAL OTHER INCOME           | <u>20,525.59</u>            | <u>0.00</u>       |
| TOTAL INCOME                 | \$2,070,122.71              | \$2,560,000.00    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>              |                             |                   |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES     | \$1,687,105.87              | \$1,986,701.00    |
| TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP   | 43,465.25                   | 60,304.00         |
| TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION | 115,097.46                  | 158,895.00        |
| TOTAL MISSIONS               | 190,989.02                  | 217,600.00        |
| TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES   | 113,698.28                  | 119,000.00        |
| TOTAL EQUIPMENT              | <u>13,002.48</u>            | <u>17,500.00</u>  |
| TOTAL EXPENSES               | \$2,163,358.36              | \$2,560,000.00    |
| MORTGAGE BALANCE:            | \$ 0.00                     |                   |

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

Two hundred sixty-one families have pledged \$440,370.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Fifty-one families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$61,116.13.

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| GOAL                    | \$ 570,000.00 |
| AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED | \$ 501,486.13 |
| NEED                    | \$ 68,513.87  |



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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                   |
| Carra Hughes Greer          | Minister of Families with Youth                      |
| David MacFarlane            | Director of Administration<br>and Communications     |
| Linda Cummings              | Coordinator of Congregational Life/<br>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  | Counselor |
| Rene Ely, M. Div., LMFT      | Counselor |
| Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW | Counselor |