

The C R O S S T I E



The May 23, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Summer Family Olympics

Vacation Bible School at Smoke Rise Baptist Church
Sunday Night, June 8 to Wednesday Night, June 11

Catch the Olympic Fever this summer! Opening ceremony begins Sunday night, June 8 with the Varsity Wagon at 4:30 p.m.. Closing Ceremony will be Wednesday night, June 11. The games will commence each night at 4:30 p.m. and conclude on the ballfield at 7:30 p.m.

VBS Torch 2008



Ambassadors Needed:

- China, Spain, South Korea, and Greece are our host countries. Please welcome our children to your home.
- Olympic Coaches to guide our athletes each night.
- People to help with special effects at the Opening and Closing ceremonies (Sunday and Wednesday nights). Personal Trainers are needed in Recreation.
- Sunday School classes needed to sponsor and serve the meal on Monday and Tuesday night.

Parents, Empty Nesters, and Senior Adults - Help decorate and/or sponsor a country.

EVERYONE: Save your paper towel rolls for each athlete's Olympic Torch.

June 8

Communion Service — 8:30 service only
Youth Music & Mission Experience — 11:00 service



Reserve Your Spot In New York July 12 - 19

The New York Mission Team has 8-10 spots open where you can be a blessing to inner city children. Trip cost is \$300 plus airfare. Scholarships are available where needed. Go online to smokeriseministries.org to register and pay the \$100 deposit. Contact Sarah Martin for more info at wmartin@bellsouth.net or 678-344-6237. Please hurry and reserve your place.

Help Needed in Nursery on Father's Day

June 15

during the 11:00 worship service
10:45 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.

Babies, Toddlers or Two-Year Olds
Please Contact Amanda Coe Burton

770-413-2133, ext. 218

or email her at aburton@smokerisebaptist.org



Family Fun Events Information

- **Braves Game** — Tuesday, June 24, Braves vs. Milwaukee. Leave Smoke Rise at 5:00 p.m. Braves tickets are only \$5.00 and this includes a chauffeured ride in either our motor coach or smaller bus. Chick-fil-A boxes — sandwich, chips and brownie — only \$5.00. (Orders for Chick-fil-A must be received by June 18.) Only 100 tickets available. Hurry! This will sell out fast.
- **Smoke Rise Nights at the Fox** — Tuesday, June 17, to see "Casablanca." Bus leaves for dinner at the Varsity at 5:15 p.m. Sunday, July 13, to see "Enchanted." Bus leave immediately after church for lunch at the Varsity.
Tickets for the movies are \$7.00 per person, per movie.

Weddings

Congratulations to Andrea Crawford and Michael Napier who were married May 16. Andrea is the daughter of John Crawford and Martha Williams; and, to Melissa Creel and Benjamin Nelson who were married May 17. Benjamin is the son of Becky Nelson.



Birth

"Olivia Marcella," born to Dave and Rae Howard; sister is Taylor; grandparents are Jim and Marcella Howard.

Deaths

We extend our sincerest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones: Lanny Nelms whose uncle died; Bob King whose brother died; Helen Bledsoe whose husband, Woodrow, died.



Letters of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise family,

We would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to the church staff and members who were so kind and thoughtful during Mom's illness and recent death. It was so comforting to all of our family. Thank you for yours prayers and concerns.

God bless you.

Dick and Sara Ann Pepper

Dear Smoke Rise ministers,

Thank you so very much for the thoughts, prayers, hospital visits and phone calls during my hospital stay for colon surgery. Mere words cannot express the extent of my appreciation.

*Sincerely,
Sybil Embry*

Relay for Life Team Thanks Congregation

The Smoke Rise Relay for Life team thanks the church members who supported our efforts by giving to the American Cancer Society. We are proud that our team raised \$21,607.75. All 40 team members are grateful to be part of this caring congregation. The Survivors Walk that kicked off our celebration was joyous. The Luminary Ceremony, with the bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace," was a solemn occasion with candles flickering in honor and memory of loved ones. Thank you for helping us to fight cancer.

Sincerely,

Bill & Cathy Blanton	Sheila Dean	Daniel Weatherby
Al Furr	Gail Hunter	Bob Hand
Bob & Lois Jernigan	Amy Allison	Leslie Hunter
Trudy Richards	Kay Jowers	Janis Brown
Danielle Richards	Debbie Scott	Margaret Fite
Sherrill Peoples	Linda Still	Pat Smith
Steve & Sandy Huff	Victor Greene	Ashley Wood
Carol Ann Fulgham	Laura Rossman	Bess Burkett
Larry Yates	Robin Helms	Keith Durso
Paul Durden	Frank & Shirley Bowden	
Ralph & Joanie Huston	Phyllis Scarborough	
	Richard & Nancy Davis	

Thanks from Smoke Rise Elementary

During our Smoke Rise Mission Service Day, one project was to show appreciation to the teachers and staff at Smoke Rise Elementary School. A group of 14 members of the Foundation Builders Sunday School Class provided snacks and lunch for the staff on May 2. Another seven people from our church read to classes that morning. We received a card with many signatures from the teachers expressing their thanks. The following letter was received from Aaron Moore, Principal, expressing appreciation for the food and the Starbucks gift cards.

SMOKE RISE ELEMENTARY
1991 Silver Hill Road
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087-1699



Dear Members of the Smoke Rise Baptist Family:

On behalf of our faculty and staff at Smoke Rise Elementary School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and generosity in providing lunch and a gift card to Starbucks for our staff on Friday, May 2, 2008.

As we are deeply appreciative of this expression of kindness which provides the opportunity to share God's inspired words of the Greek scriptures written by Luke which says, "Practice giving and people will give to you. They will pour into your laps a fine measure, pressed down, shaken together and overflowing. For with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you in return."

Please continue to be a supportive neighbor and if we can be of any assistance to your church, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Aaron Moore

Notes from the Pastor

VBS

School is out and summer is here, which means it is time for VBS. Kellie, Kara and Amanda have planned a wonderful program that meets the needs of children and parents. I want to thank them for all their good work. Ask them how you can help this year. There is always room for more helpers.

This year's VBS has an Olympic theme. Opening ceremonies begin Sunday afternoon, June 8 with the Varsity Wagon at 4:30. Families are invited to come and enjoy the festivities. Closing ceremonies will be on Wednesday, June 11.

Kellie tells me that our Summer Family Olympics is open to rising Pre-Kindergartners through completed 5th graders. Children will experience crafts, snacks and cultures from around the world. They will also learn through high energy games how God encourages us to be our best through commitment, focus, balance, strength and endurance.

The games will commence each evening at 4:30 and conclude on the ball field at 7:30 with jumpies, play time and concessions. Parents and grandparents are invited to come for dinner and join our family worship rally each evening from 4:30 – 5:45. After the rally, the adults will be involved in classes and activities, too, and then join their children on the ball field at 7:30.

What a great VBS we are going to have. Begin praying for the children and leaders and check with Kellie to see how you can help make this our best VBS ever.

40th Anniversary Offering

Let me give you an update on the 40th Anniversary Offering. Pledges and contributions now total \$462,187.13 or 81% our goal of \$570,000. To date, 232 families have turned in a pledge card or made a contribution. This is a great start and puts us well on our way to achieving our goal so that we can carry out our plans for the 40th Anniversary celebration.

You recall that this money will be used to retire the debt, refurbish our organ, replace the flooring in the sanctuary, help a church in the inner city with some of their needs and provide funds for our celebration. How I appreciate your support of these projects which, I believe, will make our celebration even more special.

If you have not participated in this special offering yet, let me encourage you to turn your card in or make a gift. We need everyone's participation in order to reach this goal and I sincerely believe that your gift will make the 40th Anniversary celebration much more meaningful for you and your family. The improvements to our beautiful sanctuary will help us fulfill our anniversary theme, **"Celebrating Our Heritage by Preparing for Our Future."**

They will also help us accomplish some of the major tasks assigned to Phase Two of the "Faith, Family and Future" campaign. 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 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. Let's continue to be good stewards of the facilities that help us do ministry here and around the world.

Again, I want to thank everyone who has already done a lot of work preparing for the celebration. Co-chairs, Arlene Kirkland and Kathy Goodenow, have already enlisted many people to help them get ready and your response has been gratifying. In addition, Graham and Penny Stovall have given excellent leadership to this celebration offering, setting aside a lot of time this spring to lead this campaign. I am grateful for the good work they have done and continue to do. Support their efforts by making a gift if you have not already done so.

September 20, 2009 is going to be a wonderful day filled with thanksgiving and praise. I can hardly wait!

Family Fun Events Calendar

Check out the Family Fun Events Calendar on the website. Movies, ballgames and other great events are planned for the summer that will bring families of all ages together for fun and fellowship. They were big hits last year, that's for sure.

How I loved going to "Summer at the Fox" and seeing some classic movies, eating at the Varsity (where kids and adults go for a grease job and oil change) and going to Turner Field to watch Chipper hit home runs. It doesn't get more Atlanta than these! Last year's events were fun and the ones planned this year will be, too. So, get on board that beautiful bus we have and get to know other church members. Bring along friends that don't attend Smoke Rise. This made last year's events even more special!

Baccalaureate

I enjoy our baccalaureate service every year as we commend our seniors for their good work and wish them well as they move into a new phase of their lives. Each service is filled with lots of emotions. This year's was no exception.

This year's baccalaureate revealed a level of spiritual maturity that overwhelmed me. Each speaker and participant touched me with their love for God and one another. I left that service even more grateful for Ernie, Lee, Kristy and the host of volunteers that work with our teenagers every week. Their steady and solid leadership was revealed again last Sunday. Thanks!

Holy Land

I will be preparing to leave for the Holy Land by the time you receive this edition of the *Cross Tie*. I depart on May 27 and return on June 11. Twenty-two of us will be making this spiritual pilgrimage under the direction of the McAfee School of Theology. Dr. Peter Rhea Jones and Dr. Lloyd Allen will lead the trip. I believe I told you that even the orientation session was a spiritual high for me, listening to them talk about the goals for the trip and ways we'll achieve them. Remember all of us in prayer as we travel.

I can hardly wait to tell you what I learn, experience and witness on this trip when I return. I'll take lots of notes and share my journey with you in sermons and Bible studies.

In advance, I want to thank the staff for taking care of the needs of the congregation in my absence. I have never worked with a finer, more dedicated group of ministers, and I appreciate them and their good work among us all year long. Kathy Dobbins,

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our Minister of Spiritual Formations, will preach for me on June 1 and Ernie Forrester, our Associate Pastor, on June 8. I look forward to listening to their messages after I return. Their insight into scripture and life help me many times throughout the year, especially when they teach and preach.

All Land is Holy

Allow me to repeat what I wrote in a previous article about my trip. I really believe that all land is holy. "The whole earth is full of the goodness of the Lord," the Psalmist wrote. As a matter of fact, it was in common places with ordinary people that God revealed His presence so many times in scripture. So, as you go about your daily tasks or take a break from your routine and go on vacation, be aware that you, too, are on "Holy Ground."

Until Sunday,
Bob

New Members

Dee Bradley, P. O. Box 140, Stone Mountain, GA 30086; tel. 770-837-9082.
Deacon: Mark Gaines.
Kimberly Goodyear, 4003 Cumberland Drive, Snellville, GA 30039; tel. 678-799-7533. Deacon: Wylene Ivie.

Mindful Exercise Classes

June 10 through July 24
Tuesdays, 10am in Room 304
Thursdays, 6pm in Room 106

Try a free introductory class Tuesday, June 3 and Thursday, June 5.
Learn how to reduce stress while you improve balance, flexibility & strength.
Classes are for an hour and will run for 6 weeks for a fee of \$54.00.
Bring an exercise mat.
To register: E-Mail Pat Hudson at patmudson@bellsouth.net
or call 770-806-9385.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS As of May 15, 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	\$ 856,353.75	\$1,066,665.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>10,368.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 866,722.05	\$1,066,665.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 626,362.22	\$ 809,698.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	25,307.07	32,922.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	46,028.78	79,030.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	77,200.56	107,836.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	47,641.50	50,165.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>4,266.85</u>	<u>7,747.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 826,806.98	\$1,087,398.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 150,458.90	

40TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred twenty-four families have pledged \$417,480.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Fifteen families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$44,707.13.

PLEDGES PAID	\$ 188,815.23
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE	\$ 228,664.77
UNPLEDGED CASH RECEIVED	<u>44,707.13</u>
CURRENT PROJECTED RECEIPTS	\$ 462,187.13



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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	Coordinator of Congregational Life
Tim W. Adcox	Minister of Missions/Recreation
Danny Vancil	Minister of Worship & Music
Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
Kristy Eggert	Interim Minister of Families with Youth
David MacFarlane	Director of Administration and Communications
Linda Cummings	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

Lilburn Co-op Food Needs for May

are cereal, jelly, canned meat & canned fruit.

Also, Smoke Rise has been asked to work at the Stone Mountain Co-op food pantry now through June 6. Anyone interested in working on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., please call Becky Seay at 770-381-6865