

The C R O S S T I E



The April 25, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Smoke Rise Baptist 40th Anniversary Offering

May 4

It's a Musical May

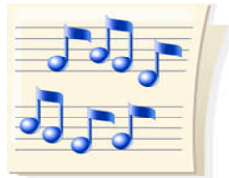
Graded Choirs Year-End Program

Featuring the Musical

Elijah!

God's Faithful Prophet

Wednesday, May 7 • 6:30 PM • Fellowship Hall



The Festival Singers Present

Psalmfest

A service of psalms sung and read

Featuring the Music of John Rutter

Wednesday, May 14 • 7:00 PM • Chapel



Yonder

Sweet Gospel Music with a Heavenly Theme
featuring bluegrass instrumentalists

Wednesday, May 21 • 6:30 PM • Sanctuary

8th Annual Open Car, Truck, Motorcycle Show

May 3

Free to both participants and spectators, our Annual Open provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy America's love affair with wheeled transportation.

This is also a great family event.

Numerous Trophies and Door-prizes

Of course, Best of Show and Pastor's Choice will most certainly be the most sought-after awards.

Senior Youth And Parents Of Youth:

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Music/Missions 2008

North Carolina & Washington D.C.

May 28 - June 5

MISSION SERVICE DAY – MAY 3

Many MSD projects have been taken by Smoke Rise volunteers. Volunteers (individuals, families, S. S. classes) are still needed for the following projects:

- 3 Families from the Co-ops have some urgent needs
- 1 DDM cottage for cleaning, yard work
- Provide snacks & goodies for the staff at Smoke Rise Elementary School
- Books for Gresham Park Elementary School, grades K-5
- Paint 2 rooms at Lilburn Co-op
- Grocery/Gift Cards for families in our church
- Volunteers to help with Car Show

Many of these projects can be completed at a time other than May 3. Please contact Linda Johnson to sign up or for more info at lmjrocker@aol.com or Glenn & Pat Herndon at glennpat@smokerisebaptist.org.

Uganda Mission Opportunity

Wilson Echols is enlisting a Team for Mission Opportunities including Construction, Teaching Children, Sports and Games, Nurturing, Preaching (men only), School Visitation, Evangelism/Tract Ministry, & more. For more information and to see if there is still room on the team, contact Wilson Echols at wechols@bellsouth.net or 404-771-5215.

Mission Manuals are available
in the Missions Office.
May 31 - June 16

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 on line to smokeriseministries.org to register and pay the \$100 deposit. Contact Sarah Martin for more info at 678-344-6237 or wmartin@bellsouth.net. Please hurry and reserve your place.

Letters of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

We want to thank everyone at Smoke Rise for the Christian love shown to my father and our family during his recent illness and death. You made this difficult time more bearable by your kindness and prayers.

We will always be appreciative to each of you.

*In Christ,
Roy Vreeland and family*

Dear Smoke Rise Ministers and Friends,

I want to express all my thanks for the ministers and members of this wonderful caring congregation. Your visits, cards, flowers and food were truly appreciated.

I felt all your prayers as I tried to walk again.

God is in charge. It's good to be back.

Wylene Ivie

Relay for Life Testimony

Like many of you, I have known many people with cancer during my lifetime. In my 20's, I learned firsthand about the dangers of overexposure to the sun when I was diagnosed with skin cancer. Thankfully, I had treatment and continue to be careful when enjoying weekends at the lake or working in the yard.

But cancer became all too real for me when Greg's aunt, Carol Satterfield, was diagnosed with lung cancer. Aunt Carol was our "other mom." She was the embodiment of June Cleaver to everyone who ever knew her. If you went to see her, you were guaranteed a sweet spirit and a 5-6 course meal that would rival anything from the Blue Willow Inn. She made the best sweet tea that anyone has ever had the opportunity to enjoy.

Aunt Carol was given the cancer diagnosis on the day of her 50th wedding anniversary. We had a large family celebration that weekend. She waited until the day after the anniversary party to share the news with us. The first year, we watched her go through chemotherapy that caused the tumors to shrink. With help from the American Cancer Society, Aunt Carol participated in 2 different clinical trials. This added 3 quality years to her life and gave her the opportunity to see her granddaughter and grandson get married and have children.

Then the cancer spread to Aunt Carol's brain stem and the dramatic effects of cancer were evident to all. We had to say goodbye to a very special lady. On the day of her death, October 23, 2003, I vowed to do something so that other families would not suffer the same heartbreak. That is why I Relay. I am a member of a civic team, not the church team, but on Friday night, May 9th, I will walk the track at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds with thousands of cancer survivors and their caregivers who, like me, have vowed to fight to eradicate cancer. Join with me and others with your presence and/or your contributions. — Crystal Blackwell

Stone Mountain Coop Needs

peanut butter, jelly, macaroni & cheese, hot cereal,
canned fruit & jello

Also, Smoke Rise has been asked to work at the Stone Mountain Co-op food pantry from May 5 thru June 6. Anyone interested in working on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., please call Becky Seay at 770-381-6865.

Our Newly Weds

Congratulations to Merrie Williams Davis and David Soltis who were married April 5;

to Lindsey Ewing and Brian Fox who were married April 12; Lindsey is the daughter of Pamela and Ashley Ewing. and

to Virginia Clair Sudduth and Matthew Vaughn Cavender who were married Saturday, April 19. Matthew is the son of Mike and Beverly Cavender.

Deaths

We extend our deepest sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Karen Smith whose cousin died; Marilyn Fitzgerald whose nephew died; Dick Pepper whose mother died; Gary Guntor whose mother died; Percy Marchman whose sister-in-law died; and Jan Steele whose aunt died.



From the Pastor's Heart

40th Anniversary

The excitement about our 40th Anniversary is growing each week. Even though it is eighteen months away, preparations are being made daily. At this time, our focus is upon the 40th Anniversary Offering that we shall take on **May 4**. On this day, we are asking every member to give a gift or make a pledge to this special offering. I know you have received a letter from me explaining the details of the offering, but let me recap them for you.

Our goal is to raise \$570,000 to repair and upgrade the organ, replace the flooring in the sanctuary, eliminate the debt, secure funds for the celebration and provide a gift for a partnering church that will enhance their ministries.

We need everyone to participate in this special offering. Every member needs to have a part in preparing the sanctuary for the 40th Celebration. The care of

our church has been entrusted to all of us. We must leave it better than we found it and hand it off to the next generation in mint condition. I feel strongly about this, evidenced by the

previous renovations completed a couple of years ago. Those renovations cost almost \$3,000,000 and upgraded our pre-school, children and youth areas as well as our kitchen. In addition, we replaced some of our heating and cooling systems to become more energy efficient.

Now it is time to turn our attention to the sanctuary in time for the 40th Anniversary celebration. Help us make this happen with your gift. I believe your participation will make the celebration even more special.

By the way, we are having a **breakfast on Sunday, May 4** as a part of this important day's activities. Go by the fellowship hall on the way to Sunday school and enjoy the memorabilia that will be in the fellowship hall that day to help us begin our trip down memory lane. This will set the atmosphere for this special day.

In addition, inform family members and friends that have moved away about our 40th Anniversary. Ask them to save the date, September 20, 2009, and make plans to be with us. No one will want to miss this historic weekend.

Sermon Excerpt

Last Sunday, I preached on John 3:1-15, the account of Nicodemus going to Jesus at night to talk about religion. Jesus introduced some fresh ideas to Nicodemus about what it means to be a person of faith. Some of you asked me to print one particular portion of the sermon in *The CrossTie*.

I am indebted to Dr. Alan Culpepper for planting this seed when he spoke in Prayer Meeting during one of our Advent Bible Studies. He made a passing reference to Nicodemus and introduced this idea to us. I've mulled it over for several months and shared my thoughts with you in last Sunday's sermon. This is what I said.

Is this a lesson that you need to learn, too? Does it encourage and inspire you to know that you can be as close to God as you want to be? No one can hold you back unless you let them.

“In telling Nicodemus that he must be born again, or from above, Jesus was trying to help Nicodemus understand that physical birth does not determine how close you can get to God. In that culture, birth decided how close you could get to God. The temple was even designed to keep people away from God, or at least at a proper distance. If you were a Jew, you could get closer to the Holy of Holies than a Gentile. If you were a male you could get closer than a female. If you were a Pharisee or priest, you could get closer than someone that was not. Nicodemus bought into this hierarchical mindset and probably never questioned it, until Jesus came along.

Jesus cut down their system and in essence said, ‘You don’t have to stay in your place. You can be born again and remove all those barriers.’

This idea was radical and revolutionary. It threatened everyone that benefited from this position of power and control. No wonder Nicodemus was confused and asked questions. His mind was being stretched beyond his wildest imagination. To

think that a commoner, a gentile or a woman could be as close to God as a Torah-observing Pharisee or a member of the Sanhedrin was inconceivable. It was true, nevertheless, and Nicodemus was the first of his peers to wrestle with the

magnitude and results of God’s immeasurable grace.

Is this a lesson that you need to learn, too? Does it encourage and inspire you to know that you can be as close to God as you want to be? No one can hold you back unless you let them.

Perhaps you have lived under the impression that others are more worthy of God’s mercy. You have needed a close relationship with God but felt He was not accessible or this level of faith was for others. The words of Jesus to Nicodemus should dispel that myth. Through humble faith, you can enter into a new and fulfilling relationship with our Lord.

I hope you will do this today by opening your heart and asking Him to accompany you on your journey. Humbly let Him know you need Him and want a vital and living faith. Seek His heart and will through prayer, Bible study and worship. I know He will respond with grace and mercy. Just ask Nicodemus.”

Until Sunday,

Bob

A Taste of New England

October 3-10, 2008

Deposit of \$300 due NOW!

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 Homestead, 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)

Smoke Rise Mission Day Projects

May 3

Projects for families, Sunday School classes, small groups, or individuals.

Lilburn Cooperative / Stone Mountain Cooperative

We will focus on four families with specific needs. Volunteers will receive a list of possible needs, then work at meeting the needs, then visit with the family. We need four families or groups to take one family each.

Developmental Disability Homes

We will work with two homes for developmentally disabled. Bill Neal is now the Executive Director of this ministry. Volunteers will work with each home and meet needs. The needs will be something like yard work, planting flowers, spring cleaning the home, and having lunch with the residents.

Willow Branch Apartments in Clarkston

This will be a small block party in an apartment complex that houses refugee families. We will be working with a missionary, Bennett Ekadem. This project will run from 10a.m. – 3 p.m. The morning will be spent in activities with the children, a cookout of hot dogs for lunch and sports activities in the afternoon.

Random Acts of Kindness

Volunteers will fix or buy “goodies” to be delivered to the local police precinct and the local firehouse.

Smoke Rise Elementary School

We will be providing snacks to the staff of Smoke Rise Elementary School on Friday, May 2. Specific information is available for this project.

Book Drive for Gresham Park Elementary School

Gresham Park Elementary is a DeKalb County School inside the Perimeter off I-20. The Atlanta Metro Baptist Association is working with this school. As a part of the association we would like to provide 350 new books, one book for each child at the school, for summer reading.

Gift Cards

In order to meet more physical needs of those in our community, we are asking for grocery or Wal-Mart gift cards to be donated. The cards can be turned in to the Missions Office.

To sign up for a specific project or to receive additional information the contacts are: Linda Johnson lmjrocker@aol.com or Glenn and Pat Herndon glennpat@smokerisebaptist.org

Periodical Postage
Paid at Stone Mountain,
Georgia 30086

SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH
5901 Hugh Howell Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

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FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of April 18, 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	\$ 680,802.92	\$ 853,332.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	9,326.54	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 690,129.46	\$ 853,332.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 493,513.44	\$ 621,318.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	21,485.40	26,279.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	38,815.00	67,209.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	61,161.27	90,494.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	37,518.96	40,082.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	3,816.85	6,248.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 656,310.92	\$ 851,630.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 168,221.30	

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	+2,607,709.41
Expenses	-2,779,552.45
Paid toward Mortgage	- 22,129.10
Cash Balance	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00

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
Kristy Eggert	Interim Minister of Families with Youth
Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
Tim W. Adcox	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

Nursery Parents & Extended Session Volunteers



**It is time to sign up for May,
June and July service dates.
The scheduling poster
is outside the Nursery office.**