

The

C R O S S

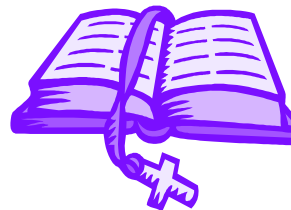
T I E



The September 26, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Wednesday Schedule for Adults - Fall 2008

- October 1
Devotion by Dr. Browning
- October 8
Devotion by Dr. Browning
- October 15
Loving God Through Creation Series
Creation, Faith & Crisis: Dr. William P. Brown, Columbia Seminary
Don't miss the slide show of nature photography!
- October 22
Loving God Through Creation Series
Creation According to Genesis 1:1-2; 3: Dr. Brown, Columbia Seminary
- October 29
Fall Festival
- November 5
Fall Bible Study – The Book of Ephesians
Dr. Thomas Slater, Professor of New Testament Language and Literature,
McAfee School of Theology
- November 12
Fall Bible Study – Session Two
- November 19
Devotion by Dr. Browning



For more information about the Wednesday evening series, contact Rev. Kathy Dobbins, kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org

Don't Forget About Katrina

There is still much work to be done!! The schedule for upcoming Katrina/Biloxi trips is:

- November 6-9
- December 4-7

Please check your calendar and see if you can be a part of one or both of these important mission trips. 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.



Goal: \$570,000
Our Goal is within sight.
With your help we can reach it!

A Day Away

The Lodge at Simpsonwood,
Norcross, GA

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008

What's different about "A Day Away?"

- Step out of your daily routine and de-stress for the day
- Learn about and experience some restful ways to read scripture, pray, and feel closer to God
- Enjoy food and fellowship at a slower pace
- Relax and take a walk in a beautiful wooded setting

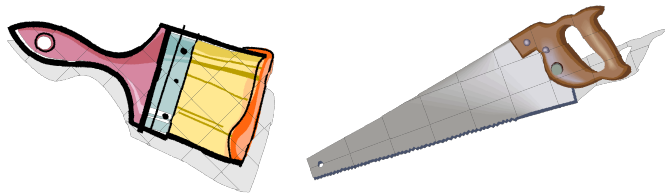
Leaders: Rick Bennett and Kathy Dobbins;

Cost: \$15/person (includes lunch)

Registration Deadline is October 12; pick up a form from the Sanctuary Breezeway or go online – www.smokerisebaptist.org.

Sadies Ladies Circle will meet Monday ,October 13, at 7:00 at the home of Elaine Williams. Visitors are always welcome to join us.

Appalachian Construction Trip



at God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP) in McDowell, KY has been scheduled for **October 12-18**. We will be finishing a large covered picnic pavilion behind the GAP's Servant's House Lodge. Depending on the size of the team there will be other construction projects. The pavilion will be dedicated to the memory of Dane Sanderlin at the end of our week there. The team will be staying in the lodge and the cost is \$125 per person. To learn more about the GAP's work, go to www.gapky.org. Call Bill Blanton at 770.921.4115 with any questions.

Needs for the Appalachian Mission Trip



Good, used appliances and furniture are needed for the Appalachian mission trip in October. A construction team will be returning to Appalachia and we need to take refrigerators, microwaves, washers, dryers, electric stoves, mattresses, furniture, etc. Your wonderful response allowed us to take two full trailer loads on our July trip. Contact Bob Jernigan at 770-934-3005 for pick-up.

The 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. Group classes are available for Adult/Older Youth Oil Painting, Children's Art, Drama for Children and Youth, and Pre-School Ballet and Tap. Enrollment is on-going for all private music lessons and group classes.

Information may be found at www.smokeriseministries.org. Click on the "Art Programs" link for information and registration. You may also call Carole Mitchell or Erica Bass at 770-413-2133, ext. 226.

Christmas in September

Toys are needed for the children in Appalachia

Members of SRBC can celebrate Christmas in September by donating new toys so the children in Appalachia will have a Merry Christmas. Look for the Christmas Donation Boxes outside the Fellowship Hall, in the Breezeway, upstairs near the children's rooms and in the Welcome Center under the gym.

The toys will be taken to the Santa Shop in McDowell, Kentucky in October.

Thanks so much for your help.

For more information, please contact Jenny Brannan or Bill Blanton.

Impact Basketball



- Multi-church recreational league
- Spiritual & physical development
- Open to children (ages 5 and up), youth and adults
- Nice gyms and outstanding coaches
- Guaranteed playing time
- Begins November 1
- For information, call 770-413-2133, ext 224 or 266, or 770-885-7820.

Email: impactbasketballleague@yahoo.com.

Lost Bibles

Bibles have been found with the following names. If you're on the list you can pick up your Bible under the white information desk in the lower Breezeway:

- John C. Cook
- Matt Bailey
- James M. Mallard
- Hayden Dodson
- Cameron Swearingen
- Jolee Wood
- Kaitlyn Bennett
- Brittani Romine
- Steven Temple
- Ukeme Eligwe
- Grace Conway
- Courtney Harp
- Jessica Crews

From the Pastor's Heart

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place”

Exodus 14:19-31

We've all been there. We know what it is like to be sandwiched between two choices, neither of which we find very attractive. This is often referred to as being between a rock and a hard place. Not comfortable, is it?

Our text says this is where Israelites were. Life in Egypt had grown unbearable. Pilgrims that were once welcomed had been turned into slaves. With God's help and under Moses' leadership, they left Egypt in pursuit of a better life.

Something happened along their freedom march that I want to share with you because you, too, may have left your Egypt in pursuit of a better life.

When you leave a place of bondage in pursuit of a better life, more than likely two things will happen. People from your old life will come and try to drag you back and demons inside you will do their best to convince you that you do not have what it takes to pull this off. Both of these happened to the Israelites. Pharaoh's soldiers came to retrieve them and fear of the future threatened to paralyze them.

Why would people from your old life try to get you to return? Perhaps they are dependent upon you or want to control you. They could be jealous of the fact that you are doing something constructive with your life and want to undermine your efforts. I suppose there is no shortage of reasons for why they want to tell you how to live your life.

Is this happening to you now? Are people from a previous life trying to pull you back? How well are you handling their pressure?

On the other hand, demons inside you will do their best to convince you that you do not have what it takes to pursue a better life. The demons of fear, uncertainty, doubt, insecurity, inferiority, despair, cynicism, hopelessness and even complacency will attack you, and as all of us know, they are powerful and persuasive.

What do you do? You must make the decision to go forward and not look back or go back and not look forward. You cannot ride the fence; you must decide.

If you choose to move forward and pursue a better life, it will require an all out commitment on your part. You must say no to those that want to pull you back and, to borrow an image from our text, you must drown the demons that attack you from within.

When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea that day, they did more than move from one shore to another. They moved to a new level of commitment to the God that led them on this freedom march. They decided to trust Him more than Pharaoh and listen to His voice rather than their fears. This was a life-changing decision for them. It can be for us, too.

There are times when we'll stand on a similar shore and face a comparable choice. **Are you there now?** Have you started on your freedom march and come to a point where you are between a rock and a hard place? Are you trying to decide between returning to Egypt and crossing that river to a new and better life? Which will you choose?

Do you want to move forward and continue your journey? How do you do it when you are facing so many intimidating

challenges? I believe you must have help from family, friends and faith.

There are many images of God throughout scripture. The image that is portrayed in our text is that of a warrior. He stands ready to help us say no to those that want to harm us and undermine our transformation to a new and better life. He is not elusive or timid in this story. He is engaged and assertive because much is at stake.

Are you relying upon Him to help you on your freedom march? Is He helping you fight this battle? Are you looking to Him daily for wisdom, discernment, confidence, courage and strength? I certainly hope so. I do not believe you can make this journey without Him.

You also need help from family and friends. They are God's gifts to you along your journey and I don't believe you can make it without them, either.

The Israelites' journey was a communal one. They did not travel alone. They needed support and encouragement from one another and knew it. No doubt this was one reason for their success.

Have you let other people join you on your journey toward liberation? Are you allowing others to support and encourage you? Again, I hope so.

If you need a support group that will listen to your story and love you unconditionally, I invite you to travel with us at Smoke Rise. All of us are on a journey toward health and wholeness and we would be glad to have you join us.

On what shore do you stand today? What dreams beckon you? Who or what is trying to pull you back from your journey toward wholeness? What are the biggest challenges you face? Whose help do you need? On behalf of this church, I offer you what you need for this journey: faith, family and friends. Come and travel with us.

Until Sunday,
Bob

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for honoring us on our 50th wedding anniversary with the beautiful roses. Thirty-four of those years you have been our wonderful church family. We love you all dearly.

John and Jayne Owens

New Members

Ally Blake (daughter of Allen and Debra Blake), 110 Amsterdam Drive, Lilburn, GA 30047; tel. 770-638-8183. Deacon: Deck Neisler.

Anne Tomlinson, 3213 Springhouse Circle, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 678-684-3328. Deacon: Pat Thomas.

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of these who have died, Louise Wilson (former member) and Bill Riley whose mother died.

Birth

“Mac David” Wade was born September 16 to Chip and Pauli Wade; grandparents are David and Jill Wade.

Dear Katrina SRBC Partnership Volunteers,

Houses 11 and 12 (Lillian and Pete Gray) passed the final inspection this morning. They are both moving in today. This will complete our work on Brittany Street but the Rebuild Council has voted to begin work on 3 new houses.

The first house is located only a few blocks west of the church. The home owner is 80 years old and is care giver for her 47-year-old severely handicapped daughter. She has raised four grandchildren, with two of them still in the home. She currently lives in a single-wide house trailer which has little more value than scrap. She has lived on the property for over 50 years. Her former house was bulldozed away after Katrina.

House number two is located just a few blocks east of the Grays' houses. The homeowner is a single working mom with four children. Two of them will live with her once the house is completed. The property is lower than any we have built on and will require us to go up at least ten feet. We plan to contract out the foundation. She has lived at this location since she was three years old.

The third house will be located north of I-10 and only a few blocks from where pastor Bill lives. We will be able to construct on a slab foundation for the first time in over a year.

We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers (over 5200) that made it possible for hundreds of families to again live in their homes. In addition, 12 families have moved into new homes. At a time when many eyes are looking west towards Louisiana and Texas, please do not forget that there are still many here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that are not back in a house after more than three years. Volunteers, as well as funds, will be required here for many months to come. If your group wishes to send volunteers or to help financially, please contact me.

Thanks for your prayers and continued support.

Jim Huston

Be IN THE KNOW!

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

**FINANCIAL STATISTICS
As of September 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	\$1,534,439.76	\$1,919,997.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>16,077.24</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,550,517.00	1,919,997.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,251,610.15	\$1,455,838.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	36,190.46	45,888.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	88,415.99	125,889.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	146,869.81	177,820.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	86,581.66	90,747.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>9,976.06</u>	<u>13,036.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,619,644.13	\$1,909,218.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 74,955.69	

40TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred fifty-six families have pledged \$441,910.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Forty-three families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$55,681.13.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 497,591.13
NEED	\$ 71,408.87

Periodical Postage
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Georgia 30086

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

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Carra Hughes Greer	Minister of Families with Youth
David MacFarlane	Director of Administration and Communications
Linda Cummings	Coordinator of Congregational Life/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



**Be a part of Sunday
school this Sunday, let
us study God's Word
together and enjoy
Christian fellowship
with our Brothers and
Sisters in Christ.**