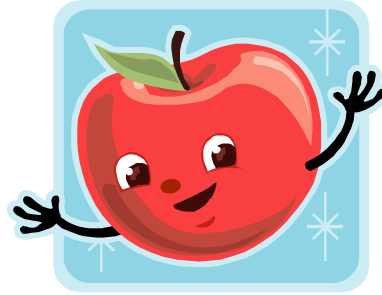


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Lunch & Quarterly Church Conference
and
Deacons' Meeting
October 9



Prime Time Day Trip
October 20



Neighborhood Outreach
Sunday, October 30



The October 7, 2005
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church



Printing the
Bible changed
everything.

*The Message
of the
Bible can
change
your life.*

Quarterly Church Conference

The next quarterly church conference is planned for Sunday, October 9 at noon in fellowship hall, following lunch.

Also, on October 23 the congregation will vote by ballot on 24 deacons and the 2006 church budget. Please mark these dates and plan to be present.

Deacons' Lunch & Meeting

The October deacons' meeting is set for Sunday, October 9, in Room S223-224 following lunch and the quarterly church conference.

Prime Time Day Trip

The Prime Time group will travel to the north Georgia Mountains on Thursday, October 20 to enjoy a scrumptious lunch at the famous Smith House in Dahlonega. Following lunch the group will explore the town square and then embark through the mountains in search of some delicious north Georgia apples. The cost for the trip and lunch is \$27 per person. The church bus will leave Smoke Rise at 9:00 a.m. and return around 4:00 p.m. To make your reservation, please call Linda in the church office. Space is limited so please call today.



Dear Church Family,

My ordination service was a treasured gift. I will always remember your words of support and encouragement. How fortunate I was to have our choir sing such beautiful music!

Thank you for being the kind, affirming, accepting people that you are.

*With blessings,
Kathy Dobbins*

Operation Christmas Child Underway!!

It's that time again! Our deadline for completed shoeboxes is **Sunday, November 13!!**

You may pick up an empty shoebox, label/packing instructions brochure and prayer guide at the welcome desks in the nursery or lower gym level, information desk in the narthex, or the breezeway. Please return filled boxes with requested \$5 check made payable to Samaritan's Purse to help cover cost of shipping to designated containers in the above areas. If you would like to help locally or with our church's collection, please contact Lois Jernigan at 770-934-3005.



High Attendance Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 30

Let's meet our goal of 1,000 at church on this Sunday and enjoy "Pastor's Pancakes" in the fellowship hall from 9:15 to 10:00 am.

Our Newest Members



Mr. and Mrs. Bill (Julie) King, 2851 Thornbriar Road, Atlanta, GA 30340; tel. 770-724-1928. Deacon: Bobby Whitmire.

Help a Child Get A Head Start

"Giving Ourselves Away"

The Faith & Issues Sunday School class invites others to join us in volunteering to help first graders at Smoke Rise Elementary School with reading skills and other needs. The school has four first grade classes. Our aim is to have a team of adult volunteers be a resource to each class. This would involve approximately 30 minutes one day a week. Reading is the foundational skill for learning. If a child can learn to read well in the first year of school, he or she will have a foundation for a successful education to follow. This is especially important for children that speak English as a second language. If you would be interested in volunteering, contact Kathy Dobbins at 770-469-5856.

Faith & Issues

Sundays at 9:45 am; Room A125

Preparing for Death: How Christians Deal With The Issues, Rituals and Questions of Dying. A Four Part Series:

- 10/16 What Do You Think About Death?
- 10/23 How Does Scripture Help us Understand Death? What About Euthanasia?
- 10/30 Caskets & Casseroles: The Rituals We Follow
- 11/6 How Should We Prepare? Wills, Living Wills, Your Funeral, Finances

Neighborhood Outreach

Sunday, October 30 9:45 am to 12:00

Participate in the next neighborhood survey! Teams of 2 will go to an assigned street in the Smoke Rise community to conduct a brief survey of 8 simple questions designed to help us get to know more about the people who live around us.

To sign up contact Kathy Dobbins at (770) 469-5856 or online at www.smokerisebaptist.org – go to "News" on the homepage to see the announcement.

Letters of Appreciation

Dear Church family,

Smoke Rise has always been there for me. You are my family. Your cards and calls have meant a lot to me during this time. The Pairs and Spares Sunday School class has been a wonderful support.

Susan Johnson

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

Thank you for your concern during my recent surgery. Your prayers, cards and phone calls were greatly appreciated. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring and loving church.

Glenda Doty

Dear Smoke Rise Baptist Church,

The generosity of your people and willingness to help our community is a testament to your love for Christ.

The baby items and other goods and monetary gifts helped many people. At our church, Smoke Rise is known as "The Cavalry."

God's riches blessings be upon you all.

Ed Philips

*Hattiesburg (Mississippi) Community Church.
(Victims of Hurricane Katrina)*

Notes from the Pastor

“Do You Need an Eye Checkup?”

Luke 7:36-50

It was one of those sentences that makes you put the book down and give it more attention. That was my response, anyway.

“We assign people to hell that have spent their whole lives trying to climb out,” wrote Philip Gulley and James Mulholland in their latest book, *If God is Love*. This is a staggering thought.

It appears this is what some of the Pharisees were doing in Jesus' time. The Pharisees tried to make the Old Testament Law practical but actually made it impossible. They twisted religion to be transactional rather than relational. When Jesus tried to change the emphasis, they bitterly opposed him.

Nowhere was the contrast between Jesus and the Pharisees' approaches to ministry more vivid than the time Jesus was invited to dine with one of the Pharisees, Simon. While Jesus was reclining and eating, a woman with a soiled reputation quietly entered the room and anointed his feet with oil. Overcome with emotion and crying, she wiped tears from his feet with her hair to the dismay of the host. When Simon saw this, he said, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is, that she is a sinner” Luke 7:39.

This prompted Jesus to ask Simon, the Pharisee, a question. Who would be more grateful, a man whose debt had been cancelled that owed fifty denarii or five hundred denarii? The answer was obvious, though Simon struggled to say it.

This led Jesus to declare that this woman had done for him what a hospitable host should have done. She washed his feet, greeted him with a kiss and anointed him with oil, all the things Simon refused to do.

Turning to the woman, Jesus spoke to her for the first time and said, “Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace” Luke 7:48-50. Even this act of kindness and these words of affirmation

upset the Pharisees that were present. “Who is this who even forgives sins?” they grumbled.

For me, the most intriguing part of the story occurred when Jesus turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman?”

The most obvious answer would have been yes. Unless Simon was blind, he could see her as easily as Jesus.

The more thought-provoking answer was no, however. Even though Simon was looking directly at this woman, he did not see her, at least not the way that Jesus did.

When Simon looked at this woman, what do you think he saw? I think he saw her sordid past and his own inflated pride and both of these clouded his vision.

When Jesus looked at her, what do you think he saw? Clearly he saw much more than Simon, for he saw her needs, emotions, gratitude, hopes, dreams, potential, changes and new relationship with God. He saw someone climbing out of hell that needed encouragement.

How about you? Do you look at people through Simon's or Jesus' eyes? When you look at someone, do you see their faults or their needs? Do you see their mistakes or their struggle to rise above them? Do you see their potential or your pride? Do you see their plight or your need to judge them? Do you see their pain or your indifference?

If Jesus had been on earth in the flesh a month ago, where do you think he would have been? I think he would have been in New Orleans helping people swim out of hell. “Do you see these people?” he would have said on Larry King Live. “I mean really see them. Come and help them rebuild their lives so that they never have to serve more time in hell.”

How would you respond to his challenge? You may need an eye checkup before you make your decision.

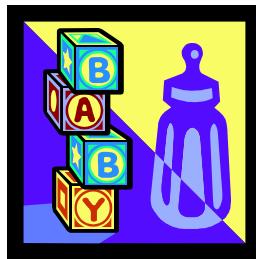
Until Sunday,

Bob

FOR GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD THAT
HE GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHOULD NOT
PERISH BUT HAVE
EVERLASTING LIFE.

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Debbie Greene, whose father died; Katie Smith, whose mother died; Rick Read, whose father died; Beverly Struble, whose mother died; Inez Winstead, whose nephew died; William Rambow, whose mother died; and Elaine Lunsford, whose mother died.



Katherine Claire born to Jeff and Jennifer Deery on September 26. Sister is Erin; brother, Jefferson; grandparents are Charles and Elbia Coe; uncle and aunt, Alan and Amanda Burton; great uncle and aunt, Dan and Nancy Garcia.

You can read *The CrossTie*
on the Web at
www.smokerisebaptist.org
on Thursdays before it is mailed
on Fridays.

YOUTH News

UPS is Sunday, October 16

We are going to **Frightfest** on Sunday, October 16, immediately after UPS. Cost is \$25 plus whatever you want to eat. We will return to SRBC at 9:00 p.m. Register in the Youth Booth. We need to know who is going by Sunday

Upcoming events on Sunday nights:

- Super-sized games?
- Survivor activities?
- Find your way through a maze...

Smoke Rise Baptist Helps Children of Tijuana

There is a spiritual bridge that spans the thousands of miles from the affluence of the Smoke Rise community in DeKalb County, Ga., to the teeming squalor of Tijuana, Mexico. You built it, with your tithes and the frequent trips there by Smoke Risers. The latest was July 23-30, 2005 by 24 persons and led by Wilson Echols.

Alamar is a landfill in Tijuana, no longer active, and home to 9,000, mostly women and children. Vacation Bible School was enjoyed by several hundred children, there and in a place called the Valley.

Another Part of Tijuana is called El Dumpe. "It's what it sounds like, a dump," said Gary Prophitt. The Smoke Rise delegation visited El Dumpe to meet the children who live there. It will be a new site for VBS next trip. The Robles family with its 11 children occupy a single room nearby. Three are girls aged 14, 12 and 8. The Smoke Rise delegation built them a room of their own. It is a stick-and-siding structure with a tin roof. "They had moved the bed in there by the time we left, Gary Prophitt said.

At Christmas 2004, John Holley of Smoke Rise asked that any gifts in his family be in cash for the Robles family of Tijuana. They were. In addition, the Smoke Rise Horizon Seekers Sunday School class donated \$500. The Holley family sponsors Carolina Robles, and the Horizon Seekers sponsors her older sister Claudia.

"It is such a blessing to be able to be in a place where people need so much, and to feel like you have provided a little bit of it," said Ernie Duke. "I have been five times, and this was the second time for my wife Peggy. She wants to bring all the children she meets home with her. She feels that strongly about it." "It was physically hard work, but rewarding a thousand times over," Karen Durrett said. "We worked almost every minute from sunup until we came back in the evenings. The little children are polite. There's no pushing and shoving. They're grateful for every little thing you do for them. They just jump up into your arms."

Missionaries from Smoke Rise were Wilson Echols and his wife Charlene, Bob Browning, John Edgar, Ernie and Peggy Duke, Don and Karen Durrett. Dick and Sara Anne Pepper, Jack L' Amoreaux, Jim Brown, Roy and Jan Vreeland, Denny and Kathy Goodenow, Mary Chamberlain and Gary Prophitt.— By Tom and Lorraine Bennett.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of September 29, 2005

Four hundred forty-two families have pledged \$2,039,544.40 to date for the 2005 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,666,489.40	\$1,800,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	19,173.35	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,685,662.75	\$1,800,000.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,378,855.94	\$1,490,471.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	16,045.50	24,800.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	75,147.27	98,623.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	130,425.03	140,911.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	19,615.76	25,236.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	7,883.56	8,920.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,627,973.06	\$1,788,961.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 712,975.99	

FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:

Four hundred fifty-six families have pledged \$2,695,424.00 to the Faith, Family & Future Campaign.

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,230,434.03
LINE OF CREDIT/SRBC LOAN	+ 445,621.74
EXPENSES	- 2,675,594.15
BALANCE	\$ 461.62



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OUR STAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor
Charles L. Moates, Jr., D. Min.	Minister of Administration
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Adult Education/Outreach
Marcus Beaver, Ed. D.	Interim Minister of Music
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Minister of Youth
Bethann Ayers	Minister to Children
Tim W. Adcox	Minister of Recreation/Missions
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
Elizabeth Walker, Th. D., LMFT

Counselor
Counselor

Uganda Mission Trip



If you are interested in a mission trip to Uganda

May 27 - June 10, 2006

Please contact Wilson Echols at
770-760-7896

The trip will cost approximately
\$2,500.00