

The C R O S S T I E



The February 8, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

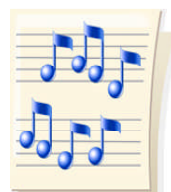
O Sing to the Lord a New Song

Announcing the beginning of a new choral ensemble

New Song

Gospel, Contemporary & Spiritual Arrangements

Rehearsals: Sunday Evenings at 6:00 P.M. in the Choral Suite



Deacons' Lunch and Meeting & Church Conference

Sunday February 10.

Please make reservations (by Friday, February 8, at noon)
for lunch by calling the church office at 770-469-5856.



On Sunday, January 27, the congregation
of Smoke Rise Baptist Church unanimously approved calling
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr. as Associate Pastor.

Rev. Forrester is currently serving as Minister to Youth.
We enthusiastically rejoice in this decision.



Wingate University Choir

In Concert at 7:00 P.M.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Sanctuary
Monday, February 18

Senior Adults to Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament – Feb. 24

Leave 4:00 p.m. return around 7:45 p.m.

Deadline for making reservations
is February 10. Cost is \$43.79.

Contact Linda Cummings
in the church office.

There are only a few spots remaining.
So hurry!!!

Youth Valentine Banquet



Food, Fun and DJ
in the Gym

Saturday, February 9
Arrive at 6:30 p.m. — or you will be late!

Lent 2008

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 6th and spans 40 days (excluding Sundays). It is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. There will be many ways you can enter this season of personal reflection: Special services of worship on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday (March 20th), attend the Lenten series on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, join with others for "A Day Away" on March 15th, and read the devotions written by Smoke Rise members posted on our website, our weekly email, with copies in the upper breezeway. There will be one for each of the six weeks of Lent. Let this 40 day journey make space within you for others and for Christ.

Kathy Dobbins

Maundy Thursday Service

March 20 Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
"Behold the Darkness" a Tenebrae service with communion featuring the Sanctuary Choir

A Day Away

**The Lodge at Simpsonwood, Norcross, GA
Saturday, March 15, 2008**

What's different about "A Day Away?"

- Enter into a Sabbath rest – away from your daily routine.
- 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: March 2, 2008; pick up a form from the Sanctuary Breezeway or online – www.smokerisebaptist.org.

Lenten Lecture Series:

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Micah's Challenge and the Journey to the Cross: Justice, Mercy, and Walking Humbly with God

During the season of Lent we will be examining how Jesus demonstrated justice, kindness and humility on his way to the cross and how that becomes a model for our lives.

- Feb. 13 — Dr. David P. Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics, McAfee School of Theology
- Feb. 20 — Dr. Emmanuel McCall, Adjunct Professor at McAfee School of Theology and Pastor, Fellowship Group Baptist Church, East Point.
- Feb. 27 — Rev. Becky Matheny, Director, Baptist Heritage Council of Georgia; Educational Consultant, Lake Oconee Community Church at Reynolds Plantation and formerly Minister of Education at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church
- March 5 — Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Professor Emeritus of Preaching and New Testament, Candler School of Theology and Director of the Craddock Center in Cherry Log.
- March 12 — Dr. Quentin Madden, Pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Simons Island.
- March 19 — Dr. Colin Harris, Professor of Religious Studies, Mercer University.

Stone Mountain Co-op needs are peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, cold cereal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese.

CBF Offering for Global Missions

The national goal is \$6,150,000. Our church goal is \$10,000. To contribute please designate CBF Global Missions on your check. The offering will be received through Easter Sunday, March 23.

Sadies Ladies Circle will meet Monday, February 11 at 7:00 at the home of Crystal Blackwell. We support local missions and welcome visitors. Join us as we are led in a discussion on "Goodness."

Letter of Appreciation



Smoke Rise Family:

We thank you for your generosity, support, encouragement and prayers during this difficult time. You are living examples of Christ's teachings in your words, actions and deeds. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving, kind and supportive church family. Please keep us in your prayers and we continue on our journey!

With much love,

Jeff, Carol, Logan, Connor and Lauren Bell

We invite all ladies to meet with our **Multi Focus WMU** on Tuesday, February 12, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 218. Our mission project for this month will be the Andrew P. Stewart Center.

Births

Congratulations to these new parents:

Lisa and Mike Martin on the birth of a daughter, "Avery Elizabeth," January 10; grandparents are Bob & Mary Nell Burns; aunt is Laura Burns Cobb.

Laura and Brad Martin on the birth of a son, "Chandler David," February 1; grandparents are Neal and Bobbie Jo Barton;

Laura and Steven Powell on the birth of a daughter, "Audrey Rosa." February 1.



Deaths

Nancy Burge whose mother-in-law died; Debbie Flowers whose aunt died; Mary Ann Niermann whose niece died; Will Stucki whose brother died; Coriene Johnson whose sister died; Bill Flowers whose father died; and William Chandler whose uncle died.



The CrossTie is always posted on the Smoke Rise website by noon on Thursday before it is mailed on Friday. Click on www.smokerisebaptist.org to be *in the know*.

Smoke Rise Needs You

Would you consider being a Shepherd for the coming year? Each family who joins our church is assigned a Shepherd for three months to welcome them to SRBC. If you would enjoy being part of this group, please call Terry or Joe Shields at 770-381-8890 or email tms4him@yahoo.com. Thank you for considering this ministry.

Notes from the Pastor

Children's Conference

Kellie, Amanda and Kara attended a conference in Orlando last week that features ministry to families with children. This was their second year to attend and they came home again this year with glowing reports of what they learned and experienced. This is one of the finest children's ministry conferences in the nation and I am pleased that they have been able to participate in it.

I want to share with you the titles of the sessions they attended so that you can see how beneficial it was to them and will be to our church as they implement many of the ideas they heard.

1. *Developing a Ministry to Newborns & Their Families - Faith Legacy Series*
2. *Faith and Family Legacy - Creating a Blessing for your child, Teaching Servitude and Faith Legacy Steps*
3. *Spiritual Development Classes: Ages and Stages of Spiritual Development Birth – 11 years*
4. *Preschool Spiritual Development*
5. *Elementary Spiritual Development*
6. *Preteens Spiritual Development*
7. *Creating Peace in Your Classroom*
8. *Spiritual Development for Children: Teaching Them to Pray*
9. *Raising Spiritual Parents - Five Roadblocks to Family Spirituality*
10. *People + Relationships=Effective Ministry*
11. *Large Group Ministry Antidotes - Explosive Fun Ideas*
12. *Is Your Ministry Fun? 50+Ideas*
13. *Group Building Games*
14. *Adding "Family" to Your Children's Ministry Title*

I appreciate Kellie, Amanda and Kara taking time out of their busy schedules to go to this conference and look forward to hearing more about what they learned. How fortunate we are to have these three leaders in charge of our children's ministry! Pray for them as they continue their good work among us and offer to help them with their programs.

By the way, the folk from Willow Creek in Chicago asked Kellie to come to their church and speak to them on ministry to families with children. Do you think she impressed them? Sure she did, just as she has impressed all of us with her creativity and hard work.

Youth Ministry

Your overwhelming support of Ernie as our next Associate Pastor is gratifying. He was certainly touched by your unanimous vote and standing ovation when the result was announced at the end of the worship service last Sunday. Ernie will continue to serve and lead us well for years to come.

Many have asked when Ernie will assume his new duties. It will be a process. The first thing that must be done is to hire an interim youth minister. When this is done, Ernie will begin transitioning to his new position. How fortunate we are that Ernie will be here and be able to help the interim get started in his or her new job. This truly is a win/win situation for everyone. At no time will the youth be without staff leadership.

Of course, the Personnel Committee will immediately appoint a search committee to find a new Minister to Families with Teenagers. I am eager for them to get started and begin this important search.

Let me encourage you to pray for Ernie and those that will search for his replacement. This is an exciting and strategic time in our church and we need God's guidance. Ask Him to lead us.

Lent Speakers

I trust you have seen the list of Lenten speakers that Kathy has scheduled on the Wednesday nights during Lent. Their names are printed elsewhere in the Cross Tie and on our website. I can't begin to tell you how excited I am about hearing these speakers and consider us fortunate to have them coming our way. This is truly an All Star lineup. Make plans now to join us every Wednesday evening for the meal and program. Bring a friend with you, too. What a great time this is to introduce your friends to the Smoke Rise family!

Speaking of our Wednesday evening meal, I want to express my deepest appreciation to Lou and her fine crew for their good work week after week. They prepare the finest meals I have ever eaten in a church. Visitors rave about the meal, the friendly staff, the decorations and atmosphere that many of us take for granted. I try to thank them every week and hope you do, too. They really are the best! Join us on Wednesday evenings for the meal which is served between 5:15 and 6:30. You will be glad you did!

The Journey of Faith

Thanks for joining me on the common journey to which God has called us. As Episcopal priest and author Tom Ehrich writes, "May we be humble enough to learn, brave enough to fail, foolish enough to imagine a better world and faithful enough to join hands with the flawed and broken."

Until Sunday,
Bob

Disciple Now Weekend

For all Youth
February 29- March 2
Registration Happening Now !!!



Time Out for Tea

For all ladies and girls age 6 and up
Sunday, March 30; 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall
Watch for details!

Klesis: God's Call and the Journey of Faith

Sundays, February 17, 24, March 2; 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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.

Media Team Volunteers

Now that our new Sanctuary video system is ready we are searching for those who have experience in various types of media production to join the Smoke Rise Media Team. The team will work on a part-time volunteer basis to create various media presentations for several services throughout the year involving digital photography, PowerPoint, soundtrack development and video production. Adults and youth are welcome to join the team.

For more information please contact Glenn Paist at 770-979-1668 or glennpaist@comcast.net.



Good Used Appliances Needed

Refrigerators, freezers, washers, electric dryers, electric stoves, and dishwashers, in good condition, are needed by the Appalachian Mission Team. They will be taken to God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP) in May to be given to those in need. Please contact Bill Blanton at 770-921-4115 to arrange for them to be picked up.

Uganda Mission Opportunity

Wilson Echols is enlisting a Uganda Mission Team for May 31 – June 16. Mission Opportunities will be Construction, Teaching Children, Sports and Games, Nurturing, Preaching (men only), School Visitation, Evangelism/Tract Ministry, and more.

For more information and to see if there is still room on the team, please contact Wilson Echols at wchols@bellsouth.net or 404-771-5215. Mission Manuals are available in the Missions Office.

Sr. Youth and Parents of Youth: Mark Your Calendars Now!

Music/Missions 2008

North Carolina & Washington D.C.

May 28 - June 5

Next **Katrina Mission Trip** is March 6-9. Contact Greg Everett at 770-985-1316 or geverett@wilwat.net or Jim Huston at 678-300-9303.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of January 30, 2008

Four hundred twelve families have pledged \$1,962,877.60 to date for the 2008 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 183,289.63	\$ 213,333.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>2,497.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 185,787.48	\$ 213,333.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 130,747.71	\$ 161,427.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	4,770.04	8,174.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	10,598.08	22,806.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	15,887.24	28,590.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	10,686.32	11,583.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>180.00</u>	<u>1,791.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 172,869.39	\$ 234,371.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 224,113.00	

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	+2,602,853.41
Expenses	-2,779,552.45
Paid toward Mortgage	<u>-16,788.10</u>
Cash Balance	\$ 485.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00



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Stone Mountain, GA 30087

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Associate Pastor
Interim Church Administrator/Senior Adults
Minister of Spiritual Formation
Minister of Worship & Music
Minister to Families with Youth
Minister to Families with Children
Minister of Missions/Recreation
Nursery Director
Pastor Emeritus

Smoke Rise Counseling Center
Affiliate of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia
770-469-6547

Gloria White, M. Div., LCSW
Rene Ely, M. Div., LMFT
Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW

Counselor
Counselor
Counselor

ATTN: NURSERY PARENTS & EXTENDED SESSION VOLUNTEERS

It is time to sign up for February, March and April service dates. The scheduling poster is outside the Nursery Office.