

The C R O S S T I E



The April 11, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

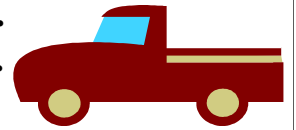
Sadies Ladies Circle will meet Monday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m.
at the home of Lou McGuff. All ladies are invited to join them.

Annual Smoke Rise Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

May 3



Registration 9 a. m. - 12 p. m.
Judging 12 p. m. - 3 p. m.
Viewing 9 a. m. - 3 p. m.
Awards 3 p. m.



No entrant or spectator fees

Smoke Rise Baptist

40th Anniversary Offering

May 4



A Taste of New England

October 3-10, 2008

Deposit of \$300 due April 15

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)

Uganda Mission Opportunity

May 31 - June 16

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.

Going Green

A call to action for all of the family in Christ in everyday stewardship. Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Christians are called to be good stewards of our earth. Joel and Susan Gilbert will give us some practical ways to reduce the "carbon impacts" of our everyday decisions through energy efficiency decisions in our homes, the things we buy and even in the way we go about our daily lives. You will also learn ways Smoke Rise is putting this into practice.

Thanks from Relay for Life Team

The Relay for Life team is deeply grateful for the wonderful support at the Biscuit Breakfast, Country Store, Food Court and Silent Auction on Sunday, April 6th! The 37 team members are dedicated to making this world a better place by fighting cancer through the auspices of the American Cancer Society. The team is happy to report that over \$6000 was raised because of your generosity and caring. Heartfelt thanks from all of us! — Cathy Blanton

Relay for Life Testimony

I have been involved in Relay for Life in the past but it wasn't until last year that I actually signed up with the Smoke Rise team and actively participated at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. It was an inspirational experience with a positive, upbeat focus. I think we all have had a family member or friend who has been affected by cancer and Relay for Life gives me an opportunity to help raise money for a cure. At the same time, I can offer support for those who have been personally fighting this battle and celebrate with those who have conquered this disease. If you are not able to join the church team this year, please help support one of the 36 team members in this endeavor.

The 2008 team members are Bill & Cathy Blanton, Sheila Dean, Daniel Weatherby, Ralph & Joanie Huston, Gail Hunter, Lesli Hunter, Janis Brown, Bob & Lois Jernigan, Margaret Fite, Pat Smith, Carol Ann Fulgham, Bob Hand, Trudy Richards, Danielle Richards, Sherrill Peoples, Victor Greene, Richard & Nancy Davis, Al Furr, Amy Allison, Kay Jowers, Debbie Scott, Linda Still, Ashley Wood, Frank & Shirley Bowden, Laura Rossman, Bess Burkett, Larry Yates, Phyllis Scarborough, Robin Helms, Keith Durso and Paul Durden. — Linda Still

We Welcome our New Interim Youth Minister

Kristy Eggert is a 2006 Magna cum Laude graduate of Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. While attending Belmont she earned a bachelors degree in Commercial Music Vocal Performance and French. She has also studied abroad in Angers, France and participated in the Chadasha touring Gospel choir in which she served as Director and Spiritual Emphasis Coordinator.

While attending Belmont, Kristy was a University Student Employee who worked closely with the University Minister and Associated University Minister in developing, organizing and implementing spiritual development programs and organized both local and national service projects. She also served as the Youth Ministry Intern at Rolling Hills Community Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Letter of Appreciation

Dearest Smoke Rise family,

How do I begin to say thank you to my Smoke Rise family: ministers, staff and deacons for the more than twenty years you have prayed for my sister Charlotte. Your visits, phone calls, cards, but most of all your prayers have sustained me during these days. I shall always be appreciative of your friendship, love and support.

Dr. Bob, thanks for attending the service in Macon.

*Sincerely,
Maxine Gains*

Faith, Family, Fusion

We are beginning our new Wednesday program for young adults. We are looking for older adults to cover for some of these parents who help in the children's programs on April 16 (6:45 to 7:30 p.m.) and April 30 (6:00 to 6:45 p.m.). Please consider giving an hour of your time on one of these dates and let me know if you can volunteer.

A Conversation about Teaching Sunday, April 20, at 12:00 noon in Room S223

Do you enjoy hearing other people's stories and sharing your own? Do you enjoy learning? Do you enjoy watching other people learn? Can you remember helping someone learn something? How did you feel? Teaching does not mean having all the answers, but rather asking and thinking about the important questions.

If you would enjoy being a part of a conversation about learning and how it happens in our family of faith, and if you have ever thought about the possibility of participating in others' learning, join us for lunch and some discussion on April 20, at 12:00 noon.

For more information, contact Kathy Dobbins (adult Sunday School), Lee Prophitt (youth Sunday School), or Kellie Denton (children's Sunday School).

Support Group

Are you struggling with poor decisions your teenagers or adult children are making and need to talk about it? Are you feeling anger, despair and frustration and wondering if anyone else feels this way? Are you trying to figure out where God is in this process or if He even cares? You are not alone and the only one that feels this way. Others do, too, and would like to form a support group. If you are interested, come to a brief informational meeting on Sunday, April 27 at 9:15 am in room A119 (under the gym) to discuss how a support group can be formed so that we can share common concerns and help each other through some difficult days.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Mr. and Mrs. William "Bill" (Rebecca) Chandler and William III "Will," 4801 Arrowhead Trail West, Lilburn, GA 30047-5241; tel. 770-717-0326. Deacon: Gerri Hankla.

Mr. and Mrs. Jason (Stephanie) Collins, 2130 Silver Hill Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-493-4861. Deacon: Bob Burkett.

Jack Smith (son of Jay and Laura Smith), 2103 Mountain Creek Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-934-7595. Deacon: Bob Carter.

Deaths

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Coriene Johnson whose brother-in-law died; Shannon Sowell whose father died; Erin Roberts whose father died; Margaret Morgan whose brother died,; Strat Burns whose mother died; and also to the family of Charles Castleberry who has died. Charles had been a member since 1998.

Births

Congratulations to Keith and Cindy Adams on the birth of "Harrison Lee" who was born March 23; grandparents are Clarence and Polly Adams; and congratulations to Corry Anne McNamara on the birth of "Michael Blaine," who was born April 1; grandmother is Debbie McNamara.

From the Pastor's Heart

40th Anniversary

People are talking to me almost daily about our 40th Anniversary celebration scheduled for September 20, 2009. Many of you have passed along a lot of valuable suggestions for the Anniversary Committee to consider. I appreciate your interest and ideas. I am confident we are going to have a grand celebration that expresses our gratitude to God for the way He has blessed and used us to expand His kingdom.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Truett Gannon has agreed to deliver the Anniversary sermon that day. This will be one of the highlights of the entire weekend. There is no finer wordsmith than Dr. Gannon and I know he will have a message that will stir our hearts and set the stage for the next generation of ministry through this wonderful church.

Other staff members will be invited to participate in the services that weekend and I look forward to hearing from all of them. What a reunion this will be.

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

40th Anniversary Offering

Many of you have also talked to me about the 40th Anniversary Offering, too. You have graciously affirmed our decision to raise money over the next year to get our facilities ready for the celebration. Just as we would get our house in order if we were going to have an anniversary celebration in our home, we need to get our church house ready. We need to repair and upgrade the organ and replace the flooring in the sanctuary, which is twenty years old. This will allow us to refurbish our pews, too. These improvements to our sanctuary will make our celebration even more meaningful. They will also address some of the needs identified in phase two of the *Faith, Family and Future Campaign*. I am excited that we are going to meet these needs in time to celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

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.

The 40th Anniversary Offering goal is \$570,000. This includes money to cover the expenses of our celebration, a gift that we will give to one of our mission churches to enhance their ministries and funds needed to pay off our debt by this fall as we embark on our 40th year of ministry.

We are asking every member to come prepared on **May 4** to turn in a commitment card and give their first gift to the Anniversary Offering. These cards will be mailed to you later this month. We would like for everyone to honor their commitment within a year, by May, 2009.

Again, it is so important that everyone participate. We cannot meet this goal and prepare for our anniversary without your help. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Don't let it pass you by. I truly believe that your participation in this offering will make the celebration even more meaningful for you. I know it does for me.

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. If you have any items we could borrow that day, contact Kathy Goodenow or Arlene Kirkland.

Celebration Blessing

"Thank you, Lord, for the confidence you have placed in us to minister in your name to make the world a better place to live for all people. Help us to be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to our care and passionate about the mission you have given us as we prepare to celebrate our heritage."

Until Sunday,
Bob

We cannot meet this goal and prepare for our anniversary without your help. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Don't let it pass you by. I truly believe that your participation in this offering will make the celebration even more meaningful for you.

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

MUSIC/MISSIONS 2008

NORTH CAROLINA & WASHINGTON D.C.

MAY 28 - JUNE 5

40th Anniversary Offering Breakdown

Ministry Expansion through mortgage retirement:	\$85,000
Anniversary Celebration	30,000
Mission Component	30,000
Pipe Organ Repair and Refurbishment	200,000
Sanctuary Carpet Replacement and Pew Repair	<u>225,000</u>
Total	<u>\$570,000</u>

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.

Smoke Rise Mission Day Projects

May 3

Projects can be completed by 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.

Car Show

Smoke Rise will be hosting the Annual Car Show on May 3. A group is needed to assist Tim with the set-up and host the event. Gift bags for each vendor will be put together and given to each exhibitor.

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 Mission 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

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of March 31

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	\$ 583,204.60	\$ 639,999.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	9,204.34	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 592,408.94	\$ 639,999.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 404,780.84	\$ 455,682.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	21,101.74	23,044.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	35,296.91	46,988.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	59,341.29	68,632.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	30,435.96	29,749.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	1,927.80	4,457.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 552,884.54	\$ 628,552.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 171,417.54	
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	+2,606,419.41	
Expenses	-2,779,552.45	
Paid toward Mortgage	- 20,279.10	
Cash Balance	\$ 560.00	
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00	



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Georgia 30086

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

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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

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.