

The C R O S S T I E



The August 22, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church



Pictures from the Holy Land Wednesday, Sept. 3

Join us on Wednesday, September 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as Dr. Browning takes us on a journey through the Holy Land when he presents pictures from his recent trip.

“55 A GO-GO” Set to Take Off



We've changed our name from Prime Time We are now known as “55 A Go-Go” and We Can-Can Too! The first meeting of “55 A Go-Go” is September 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Place the date and time on your calendar and join us as we begin an exciting year together. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. followed with pertinent information about our group activities and our entertainment by Kathy Reed and Friends, formerly Kathy Reed and the “Ain't Right” Boys. We have a great time visiting, eating, and watching our entertainment. We also have interesting and fun day trips. So come and be part of this busy group.

Contact Linda Cummings with questions 770-469-5856. We hope to see you this year beginning September 9.

Don't Forget About Katrina

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

- September 4-7
- October 9-12
- November 6-9
- December 4-7

Please check your calendar and see if you can be a part of one or more of these important mission trips. Sign up online. The cost is \$85. Contact Greg Everett at geverett@wilwat.net or Jim Huston at [srbckatrinamission @comcast.net](mailto:srbckatrinamission@comcast.net) for information.

Smoke Rise Needs You!

Do you enjoy planning fun & exciting events? Then we need your help on the “Fun Events Team” to plan activities for our church fellowship. Please contact Linda Cummings at 770-469-5856 or 770-498-0045 or lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org or Doug Cowan at 770-972-2514 or doug.cowan@comcast.net.

We need your help - volunteer today!!

Called Church Conference on Sunday, August 24

in both services to vote on the candidate recommended by the Youth Search Committee to fill the position of Minister to Families with Youth.

To learn more about the candidate, please read the Pastor's column on page 3.

NO 8:30 a.m. Service on Sunday, August 31

due to the holiday weekend. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. and worship will be held at 11:00 a.m.

Life Connections: 2008 Adult Classes

Can We Talk? Soul-stirring conversations with God

Author Priscilla Shirer teaches how to make our time in God's Word a two-way conversation (6 Weeks).

Sundays at 5:00 beginning Sept. 7

Mondays at 9:45 beginning Sept. 8

Beginning Again

A class for people who have experienced divorce. Sessions are based on the book, *Beginning Again*, by Terry Hershey. Hershey's advice on surviving heartbreak will free you from the past and give you hope and encouragement for happy and fulfilling relationships in the future (13 Weeks).

Sundays at 4:30 p.m. beginning September 7



Conversational Spanish

The Hispanic culture is growing in our country as well as in our community. Smoke Rise is committed to missions involvement in two Hispanic cultures: Honduras and Tijuana. Are you going on one of these mission trips in the future or have a circumstance that would be facilitated if you spoke the language? If so, this class is for you. In just minutes a day, you'll pick up the language you need for most everyday situations. You'll learn the basic vocabulary for introductions, finding your way, dining, shopping, plus days of the week, weather, time, basic grammar and more! \$15.00 for the text book, *Learn Spanish The Fast and Fun Way* (6 weeks).

Leader: Elbia Coe

Sundays at 6:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 21; registration deadline is Sept. 7.

The Community: Sunday School at Home

Be part of a new group that is forming to study the Bible on Sunday evenings. Perfect for people who can't get to church on Sunday mornings or for anyone who wants to have more time for Bible study than is possible in a regular Sunday School class. It's also a great way to introduce your neighbors to Smoke Rise.

Leader: Dr. Gary Leazer — Sundays at 6 p.m. beginning Sept. 7
Host home locations will be announced to participants.

For more information or to register, call Kathy Dobbins at kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org.

Sadies Ladies Circle will begin the new year with a salad supper Monday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 at the home of Arlene Kirkland. Please bring a salad to share. Our theme this year is "What Motivates Us to Action". All ladies are invited as we fellowship together.

Ballroom dance classes will begin in October in room 106. You may call Bud Van Orden to sign up, 770-923-3754.

- Beginning/Intermediate Level — 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Mondays – October 6 - October 27
- Intermediate/Advanced Level — 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Tuesdays – October 7 – October 28

Attention Smoke Rise Golfers

We are planning an SRBC Golf Day at Stone Mountain Park on Friday October 17. First tee time is 12 Noon.

Golf and park pass cost is \$56 per player. We have room for 28 players. Call Ed Brantly for details (770-469-1319). More information will follow. Please sign up with Bobbie Wade in the church office.

Indoor Soccer for 4 - 8 Year Olds

Practices will be held on Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning August 26. 4-6 year olds practice from 6-7 p.m. & 6-8 year olds practice from 7-8 p.m. Games will be held on Saturdays at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. with the first game beginning on September 6. The season ends October 11. Cost is \$95. For more information, contact Jill Wade at 770-413-2133 ext 224. Register online at: smokeriseministries.org.

A Conversation About Teaching Sunday, August 24 at 12:00 noon in Room S223

Everyone is welcome to join in the conversation that we will have several times during the year. 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, please join us for lunch and some discussion on August 24th, at 12:00 noon. To RSVP or for more information, contact Kathy Dobbins (adult Sunday School), Kristy Eggert or Lee Prohitt (youth Sunday School), or Kellie Denton (children's Sunday School).

Lilburn & Stone Mountain Co-op Donations

The Lilburn & Stone Mountain Co-ops need the following school supplies: Writing tablets, backpacks, college & wide ruled notebook paper & notebooks, dictionaries, hi-lighters, pencils (#2 & colored), scissors, hand sanitizer, boxes of tissue, erasers, pocket folders with brads, graph paper, composition books, markers, pens, glue sticks (not glue bottles please) & rulers. In addition, the Stone Mountain Co-op also needs mac & cheese, pea nut butter & jelly, canned veggies, tuna, soup, pasta & pasta sauce, toilet paper and soap. Items may be placed in either the food bin near the office or on shelves in the hallway under the gym. Thank you!



From the Pastor's Heart

Meet Carra Hughes Greer

The Youth Minister Search Committee has decided upon the person they would like to recommend to the church for our next Minister to Families with Youth. I know they had many fine candidates from which to choose, which means Carra is very special to receive their unanimous support. I am pleased with their selection and excited about all that Carra brings to this position. I walked away from my initial conversation with her quite impressed!

Carra (pronounced "car-a") is a native of Fitzgerald, Georgia and a 2008 graduate of the McAfee School of Theology where she received a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in Urban Studies. She received a Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. She was a Magna Cum Laude Honor graduate.

While in seminary, Carra served on staff at Peachtree Baptist Church and Second-Ponce De Leon Baptist Church. Both pastors have highly recommended her for this position. As a matter of fact, Robert Walker, pastor at Peachtree Baptist was the one that recommended her to the Youth Search Committee. He says she is one of the finest ministers with whom he has worked. The fact that Peachtree ordained Carra to the ministry reveals their confidence in her.

I talked to Dr. Gannon about Carra as well. He gave her a glowing recommendation and said she was one of their finest students. He heartily endorsed this recommendation from our search committee.

I believe Carra to be a person of integrity, compassion and humility. She is serious about her faith and her own spiritual growth. She loves young people and brings to this position an immeasurable amount of energy, creativity and promise. She is a warm and loving person that makes people of all ages feel comfortable and special. She is highly motivated and passionate about youth work. In addition, she is a meticulous administrator and cooperative team player. I am confident the staff will enjoy working with her.

Carra recently married Brian Greer. Some of you may know Brian because he has played the trumpet in our church for weddings and special events. Brian will be a wonderful addition to our church and music program along with Carra. Together, they will make us a better church. I am grateful for God's gift to us in the form of this beautiful couple.

Births

Congratulations to Jason and Sarah Springston on the birth of a son, "Abbott Lee," born July 11; grandparents are Marvin and Carolyn Springston; and, to Jared and Libby Anderson on the birth of a daughter, "Emmalee Renae," born August 6. Grandfather is David MacFarlane.



Death

We extend our sympathy to Joe Glass whose sister died.



I am also thankful for the good work of the Youth Search Committee. They have sought God's will and been led by Him throughout this entire process. Let them know of your appreciation for their hard work. Members of the search committee are Vic Greene, Chairman, Debra Blake, Rebecca Easom, Sarah Martin, Faith Prescott and Charlie Ray.

Listen prayerfully to the Search Committee's report and take some time to get to know Carra the day she is presented to the congregation for a vote. I believe you will be as impressed as I am.

Kristy Eggert and Lee Prophitt

How can I adequately express my appreciation to Kristy and Lee for their outstanding work with our youth during the interim? I am at a loss for words. These are two of the finest young adults with whom I have ever worked. Their level of commitment, dedication and expertise is unparalleled. I've never seen two people work together better and make such an impact upon our young people in a short amount of time. Express your appreciation to them as well. I will forever be indebted to them!

Kick-Off Sunday

I believe this was the best Kick-Off Sunday I have witnessed. August 10 was the day we celebrated the start of the new church year. The delicious church-wide breakfast, outstanding displays in the narthex and blessing of the students heading back to school were wonderful. Three beautiful babies were dedicated that morning, too, which made the day even more special.

How can I thank the staff for their leadership? The plans they shared with us for the coming year are exciting. Many new programs were introduced and an abundance of opportunities for Bible study, spiritual growth, worship, outreach, fellowship and service were announced. What a day! What a year! What a church! Let's get started!

Until Sunday,
Bob

National Summit on Torture

It is time to make your plans to attend the National Summit on Torture: Religious Faith, Torture, and our National Soul. This conference, organized by David P. Gushee, President of Evangelicals for Human Rights and Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University, will be held on September 11-12, 2008 in Atlanta.

It will be hosted by Mercer University, Evangelicals for Human Rights, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, in cooperation with the Center for Victims of Torture, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Faith and the City, Faith in Public Life, Evangelicals for Social Action, and the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.

This two day conference looks at how we have gotten where we are since September 11, 2001, and how we return to a rejection of torture without exceptions. This event will be infused with moral conviction drawn from religious faith, and conference speakers will reflect a variety of faith perspectives. Open to all. Religious Faith, Torture, and our National Soul aims to model a kind of discourse, Christian, interfaith, and otherwise, that opens doors for dialogue rather than closes them.

Registration deadline is September 1, 2008.

