

The C R O S S T I E



The October 24, 2008
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Called Church Conference

October 26 — 8:30 and 11:00 services
to vote by ballot on 24 Deacons, terms beginning January 2009.



Annual Fall Festival

Wednesday, October 29, 6:00 p.m. in Gym
Fun for all ages.

Eat popcorn and cotton candy, play games, slide down
the Great Slide. Ride the Hay Ride and bounce in the Giant Jumpy.
Treats for the kids!

Volunteers Needed. See Lois Jernigan or call 770-934-3005.

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.



Smoke Rise Baptist Womanless Wedding

Go Go Fellowship, Dinner and Lots of Laughs
November 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Wedding at 6:45 p.m.

We are inviting all the church above 55 years old.



Don't Forget About Katrina

BILOXI STILL NEEDS YOU!!!

The next mission trip to Biloxi, MS will be November 6 – 9.
Team members are still needed. Please call Greg Everett
at 770-985-1316 or email him at geverett@wilwat.net
for more information.

You can also contact Pat and Glenn in the Missions Office
at 770-469-5856 Ext. 242 or glennpat@smokerisebaptist.org.



Goal: \$570,000

We are almost there! Don't let up now!

We Sew Need Your Sewing Skills!

For Simple Children's Advent Calendar
"The Rooftops of Bethlehem"
Contact Kellie kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org or
770-469-5856 Ext 207

Cut It Out!!

Time again to get ready for Christmas!
Need sharp people with sharp scissors
to help cut felt shapes for Advent calendar AND...
NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM kids costumes
Contact Kellie, Kara or Amanda to help.

Ten Minutes Could Save Your Life!

Preventive ultrasound screenings will be conducted at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Thursday, December 4. On that day **LifeLine Screening** will be performing the following tests:

- A scan of the carotid artery in the neck for plaque build up, which can lead to a stroke. 75% of all strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage.
- A scan of the arteries in the legs for Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), which is linked to heart disease.
- A test for Aneurysms in the Aortic vessel in the abdomen.
- An irregular heartbeat electrocardiogram (EKG), testing for Atrial Fibrillation (AFIB). After age 40, 1 in 4 adults will develop this, and about 75,000 strokes a year are attributed to Atrial Fibrillation.
- In addition, all church members are eligible to receive a complimentary Osteoporosis screening, if you have the other tests done.

The results will be sent directly to you after being reviewed by a Cardiovascular Surgeon. The tests are non-invasive and completely painless. Each test takes about ten minutes. The tests are \$45 each of four are \$139. Screenings are recommended yearly for ages 40+.

Pre-registration is required by calling 800-324-1851.

Letters of Appreciation

Dear Friends at Smoke Rise,

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

After two and a half years of severe pain, Sabrina is pain free and off all medications.

Thank you for the many prayers and phone calls. They were so comforting to us.

To God be the glory.

Love,

"Bibb" Sanders

Dear Smoke Rise Members and Staff,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, visits, and concerns during my recent illness and while I was in the hospital.

I am so blessed to have so many Christian friends.

Sandra Ethridge



Night in Bethlehem Recreated

December 7 — 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. In the Gym and Outside with Live Animals

To watch a short video of last year's Night in Bethlehem copy and paste or type into your browser:
<http://smokerisemedia.org/Bethlehem/Night%20in%20Bethlehem%202007.wmv>

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 Memories: A Holiday Evening for Women Thursday, November 20, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

This annual event for women includes the holiday decorated tables everyone loves to see!

Our guest speaker is Pat Harley, founder of Big Dream Ministries and the Amazing Collection Bible study.

Pat will talk about "The Gift that Satisfies."

Please sign up with MaryLynn Manley if you would like to host and decorate a table.

Tickets are \$15.00 and are on sale now.

Reservations required!

Lights at Lanier

We will begin taking reservations for the trip to see the Lights at Lake Lanier on Sunday, November 2. Cost for the trip is \$7.00 per person. Tickets will be available in the lower breezeway before Sunday School and upper breezeway after Sunday School and during the Wednesday night meal outside the fellowship hall.

We will leave for the Lights at Lanier immediately following the Thanksgiving dinner and program on November 23.

Senior Adult Christmas Outing

Can't believe it's time to think about Christmas, but it is! This year's Christmas Outing is Wednesday, December 3. We will depart Smoke Rise promptly at 9:15 a.m. for the Aurora Theater's Christmas Canteen matinee at 10:00 a.m. After the play we will go to the Waterside Restaurant at Evergreen for a delicious buffet. Cost for this fun day is \$42 per person. There are limited tickets. Don't miss out. Bring your check to Linda Cummings in the church office or contact her for more information.



From the Pastor's Heart

“What Are We Going To Do About It?”

John 6:1-14

Last Sunday I preached from this text as a part of our fall Stewardship campaign. It is John's account of the feeding of the five thousand around the Sea of Galilee. Let me share an excerpt with you.

There are two questions in this story that I want us to consider this morning. Quite frankly, I cannot think of two more appropriate questions to ask in these uncertain economic times.

The first is the one that Jesus posed to Philip, **“Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?”** The second was asked of Jesus by Andrew after offering him the boy's meager lunch of fish and loaves, **“But what are they among so many people?”**

The first is the question of a prophet, and to their credit, the people recognized this. You see, a prophet announces the world's greatest needs and asks his audience what they are going to do about it. This is what Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Ezekiel, Micah and others did and Jesus followed their lead. The people were hungry. Jesus was not content, as his disciples appeared to be to send them home with empty stomachs. Something had to be done and he believed they needed to do it.

This question has haunted me on many occasions and this is certainly true this fall because of the downturn in our economy. I wonder how many in our church and community will struggle to put food on their tables. I already know some that are and suspect this is the tip of the iceberg.

In recent weeks, I've pondered the role of the church during these tough times. **What is our mission?** Is it to solve the economic crisis? No, that is the role of our country's leaders. Is it to cast blame? I believe we do have a responsibility to speak out against unbridled greed and the destruction it causes. Jesus certainly was not timid about confronting those that abused power or speaking out on behalf of the victims, and neither should we be.

However, I believe our most pressing duty as the body of Christ in these times is to feed hungry people. It is to identify those that are hurting and help them. It is to give people hope and let them know they are not alone.

I must tell you that I do not believe our text is merely about how one problem was solved on a distant day and shore. I think it is an example of how all problems are solved, and that is through the miracle of sharing. Old Testament scholar, Walter Brueggemann writes about the “always more of God.” I believe this story reinforces that and talks about the always more of God's people.

I know there are many ways to re-enact what Jesus did that day along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The four gospel writers don't even agree on all the details. Let me share an idea with you for you to consider, though.

Was it possible that Jesus took that little boy's lunch, held it up and taught them one more lesson that day, a lesson on sharing? Could he have used this little boy's willingness to share his meager meal to inspire others to share what they had? James Hudnut-Beumier writes, “The way to encourage generosity is to recognize it publicly and to support those who display its virtues.” Was Jesus doing this? A strong case could certainly be made for this interpretation.

Do you think this boy was the only one who packed a lunch that day? No, everyone did because no one left home without food for the day. There were no restaurants like we are accustomed to seeing or resources to buy food in the marketplace for most commoners.

I don't think, however, that many people thought they would be gone all day. Remember, they followed Jesus around the lake and once finding him listened to him teach until dusk. Few, if any, packed enough food for the entire day.

No doubt some had more food left at the end of the day than others and Jesus knew it. He also knew that if they sat in groups and put everything out they had, everyone would have enough to eat.

I have come to believe this is a story about sharing and in some ways the first church potluck. It was also a way for Jesus to teach a final lesson that day, and what was that? **If we share with our neighbors like we did today, no one will ever go hungry.**

I know this interpretation is not as glamorous as having Jesus mass produce five thousand meals, but for me it is more meaningful and thought-provoking. It certainly helps me to understand how followers of Christ can respond to a national crisis and truly make a difference.

In light of this, I challenge you this week to be sensitive to those around you that are in need. See them as Jesus saw this crowd, with heartfelt compassion. Be prepared respond to spontaneously to someone that needs hope and help. Be a good neighbor.

As a church, I want us to use the resources available to us to help our members who are struggling and to support the Lilburn and Stone Mountain Cooperative Ministries that are struggling to help our entire community. I wrote about this in the last newsletter and shared my proposal in the most recent business conference. Tim Adcox and the Missions Committee are working on the details.

I know responding to this financial crisis in our country will not be easy for any of us because everyone has taken a big hit in recent weeks. We're experiencing fatigue with the heavy load we are carrying and I am asking us to make even more sacrifices. You must understand, though, that this was precisely the setting for the feeding of the five thousand.

The disciples were hungry and tired upon returning from their first mission trip. All they wanted to do was get away from the crowd and spend time alone with Jesus. None of them shared Jesus' desire to feed the people that evening. They were overwhelmed and wanted to send the people away. Even Andrew revealed his pessimism when he brought the little boy's lunch to Jesus. “What are these loaves and fish among so many?”

It was enough, wasn't it? As a matter of fact, it was more than enough. Twelve baskets of food were leftover.

I think we have enough to feed the hungry around us, too. Let's find out in the weeks and months to come as we share our fish and loaves.

Until Sunday,
Bob

P.S. Good-bye and Godspeed to Lee Prophitt. Lee has accepted a position as Minister to Students at Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston Salem, N.C. Lee, who grew up in our church, has been a youth intern with us while a student at McAfee. We'll miss him and appreciate his good work while on our staff!

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Jean Russell and Carolyn Ragan whose sister died; Diane Santiago and Pam Wordes whose mother died; and Tom Duvall whose aunt died.

A New Class Has Begun

Fingerprints of God: Recognizing God's Touch on Your Life

teaches us to recognize six things we can experience because of God's touch. Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Register with Kathy Dobbins at kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org.

Thanks from the Appalachia Mission Team

The Dane Sanderlin Memorial Pavilion is now a reality in McDowell, KY. A team of eleven men from the church finished it this past week and participated in the dedication service on October 15th. So many Smoke Rise members, as well as friends and neighbors of Dane and Karen Sanderlin, gave money to build the picnic pavilion. This is no ordinary picnic shelter. It is 800 square feet, screened, with a metal roof and grill/fireplace. The pavilion is the property of the GAP (God's Appalachian Partnership) and is located in the backyard of the Servants Heart Lodge that houses 30+ mission teams per year.

When mission teams stay at the lodge, work in the distribution center, repair sub-standard housing, hold Vacation Bible Schools at low-income apartment complexes, lead singing and share refreshments at nursing homes, and have revivals for the people in Appalachia, the Dane Sanderlin Picnic Pavilion is a shelter where the teams can relax at the end of the day, grill a meal and sit around sharing the love of the Lord. To see pictures of the pavilion go to www.gapky.org and click on "This week at the GAP". Thank you to everyone who so lovingly gave gifts in Dane's memory so that the ministry of service and Christ's love will continue.

The team took two trailer loads of furniture/appliances/household items and Christmas toys to Appalachia. Many families will be blessed with these gifts. Many children will have toys on December 25. Thank you for sharing.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS As of October 16, 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	\$1,689,482.77	\$2,133,330.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	17,190.54	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,706,673.31	\$2,133,330.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,391,339.55	\$1,651,911.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	38,219.68	49,797.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	96,339.48	143,735.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	162,535.66	192,766.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	95,454.20	100,830.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	10,910.96	15,160.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,794,799.53	\$2,154,199.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 54,214.78	
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 \$57,961.13.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 499,871.13
NEED	\$ 70,128.87



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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

cold cereal, juice, tuna, canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, rice, dried beans, soup, paper towels and toilet paper. Please leave these items on the shelves near the church office.