

# The C R O S S T I E



The January 25, 2008  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

## Special Called Church Conference

**January 27**

A special Called Church Conference will take place at the beginning of the worship services on Sunday, January 27, to allow the congregation to vote on a proposal to extend a formal call to Reverend E. Ernest Forrester to accept the new ministry position of Associate Pastor. Copies of the position description of Associate Pastor are available in the church office and on the Smoke Rise Baptist website for your review prior to the conference.

## Mission Sunday

**February 3**



No 8:30 Service

8:30 To 9:45 – Biscuit Breakfast In Fellowship Hall

8:45 To 9:45 – Presentation Of 14 Mission Opportunities In Fellowship Hall

9:45 – Sunday School Lesson On Mercy

11:00 To 12:00 – Special Missions Presentation With New Video System

12:00 To 12:30 – Visit The 14 Mission Venues In Fellowship Hall

Make Your Mission Appointment To

Go, Give, And Pray

## New Baptist Covenant Meeting



A historic gathering of Baptists from all 50 states and more than a dozen countries at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The event is being called “A Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant” and will take place January 30, 31 and February 1.

To learn more about the speakers and daily sessions go to [www.newbaptistcovenant.org](http://www.newbaptistcovenant.org).

## Lent 2008

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 6 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 20), attend the Lenten series on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, join with others for "A Day Away" on March 15' 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

## 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. See the whole schedule online at [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org) or in the Sanctuary Breezeway.

## 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](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org).



## Our Newest Members

- Mr. and Mrs. Dick (Joan) Powers, 3807 Cheryl Lynn Court, Tucker, GA 30084; tel. 770-934-1759. Deacon: David Low.
- Mr. and Mrs. Allen (Aloyce) Shaw, 2101 McCurdy Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-621-9145. Deacon: Dane Sanderlin.
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Natalie) Summers and their son Davis, 4951 Gladeway Court, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 678-937-9500. Deacon: Joe Shields.

## 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](mailto:tms4him@yahoo.com). Thank you for considering this ministry.

## 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.

## Sr. Adult Day Trip

**Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament**

February 24

Cost: \$43.79 (includes tax and gratuity)

Leave 4:00 p.m. – Return 7:45 p.m.

Reservations by check or cash  
to Linda Cummings no later than Feb 10

First come first served

This should be a fun and exciting event.

Hurry to make your reservation!



## "Souper" Bowl Sunday

February 3

Please bring in cans of soup for the co-op's and place them in the designated bins in the Fellowship Hall.

## Fellowship Circle will Meet

February 6 at 9:30 a.m.

at the home of Jeanie Duvall.

Please bring valentine candy for the co-op's.

## O Sing to the Lord a New Song

Announcing the beginning of a new choral ensemble



*New Song*

Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Choral Suite

Gospel, Contemporary & Spiritual Arrangements

**BEGINS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

## Artist Painting of SRBC

Danish artist Anni Moller has painted Smoke Rise Baptist Church and her beautifully matted prints are available for sale to help the Appalachia Ministry. Two sizes are available: 8X10 (\$17.50) and 14X18 (\$35.); half of the proceeds go to the Appalachia ministry. Please see Jenny Brannan or a member of the Appalachia Mission Team.

## Birth

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

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Nancy Burge, whose mother-in-law died; Debbie Flowers, whose aunt died; Mary Ann Niermann, whose niece died; Will Stucki, whose brother died; and Coriene Johnson, whose sister died.

## Notes from the Pastor

### Associate Pastor

I am pleased that the Associate Pastor Search Committee has recommended Ernie Forrester to be our next associate pastor. I applaud their decision and will look forward to working alongside Ernie as I do all the staff.

Ernie has been the beloved youth minister at Smoke Rise since 1989. He has earned the trust and respect of our entire church because of his character, work ethic and commitment to Smoke Rise. Everyone loves Ernie and appreciates all that he has done for the youth of our church. The impact he has had upon a generation of children and youth is phenomenal. All of us owe Ernie a great debt of gratitude for the difference he has made in the lives of our children. How grateful I am that he will continue to serve our church in a different capacity. We are truly blessed!

### New Youth Minister

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 Adolescents. 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.

### Lenten Speakers

Have you seen the list of Lenten speakers that Kathy has lined up for us on the Wednesday nights during Lent? Their names are printed elsewhere in the Cross Tie and I encourage

you to see who is coming and when. 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!

### Financial Stewardship

I continue to be overwhelmed by your generosity and grateful for your faithfulness. Our budget for 2007 was \$2,525,000 and budget gifts were \$2,428,317.75. Expenses for the year were \$2,396,246.45 which means contributions exceeded expenses. I am most grateful for this because it is our desire to live within our means. Your generosity and the staff's responsible money management and wise stewardship made this possible.

Of course, we received other gifts, designated contributions and fees throughout the year and when you add these to the budget gifts, total income in 2007 was \$3,943,397.29. I am humbled by your generosity and confidence in the staff. We want to be good stewards of all that is entrusted to our care.

Let me encourage you to be faithful in the year that has begun. Our budget has increased and the demands upon our financial resources will be no less than last year. As I have written on other occasions, ministry is expensive. Helping people is costly. It demands that we examine our priorities and simplify our lifestyles so that we may have more to share with those in need. Followers of Jesus can do no less.

### Thank You

How fortunate I feel to be a part of this wonderful church. I sense a movement of God's Spirit upon us that is humbling and exciting. Perhaps it is because we are taking Micah's challenge seriously and trying to make the world a better place to live. God promises to bless any church that will partner with Him to make hope visible. What a joy this partnership is!

Until Sunday,  
Bob

## Lent 2008

### Smoke Rise Baptist Church

#### 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. 6 Ash Wednesday Service — 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- 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, Atlanta
- 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
- March 20 Maundy Thursday Service — 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

## 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](mailto:glennpaist@comcast.net).

## Storage Space Needed for Appliances

Our Appalachian mission team needs storage space for used appliances within a reasonable proximity to the church. The appliances will be collected and carried to McDowell, Kentucky on an ongoing basis. Please call Bill Blanton at 770-921-4115 if you can help secure space for storage.

## We're Going GREEN!!

In January, we would like for you to help us begin saving postage, paper and trees by mailing only to those who wish to receive *The CrossTie* via mail. *The CrossTie* is always available by Thursday noon on our website before it is mailed on Friday. You can read/print it out. It is exactly the same as the copy we mail — except it is in color! To help us save postage, paper and trees, please call 770-469-5856 to remove your name from *The CrossTie* mailing list. Thank you ahead of time to all who participate in our new "going green" program.

Many of you have already responded and thank you! Please continue to let us know if we can remove your name as stated above!

## January Co-op Donations

Go to the Lilburn Co-op. Current needs include canned meats, jelly, sugar and cereal. Items may be placed in either the food bin near the office or on the shelves in the hallway.

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of December 31, 2007

Three hundred seventy families have pledged \$1,875,654.40 to date for the 2007 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,428,317.75	\$2,525,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>54,225.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,482,543.25	\$2,525,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,941,678.70	\$2,045,611.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	43,282.39	43,600.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	118,693.43	143,553.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	210,068.09	209,182.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	65,023.84	66,500.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>17,500.00</u>	<u>17,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,396,246.45	\$2,525,946.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 229,111.83	

### 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	+2,600,317.91
Expenses	-2,779,552.45
Paid toward Mortgage	- 14,737.60
Cash Balance	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00



Periodical Postage  
Paid at Stone Mountain,  
Georgia 30086

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

THE CROSS TIE (USPS 002172)  
is published semimonthly by  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
Address Correction Requested

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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  
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Gloria White, M. Div., LCSW  
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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.