

# The C R O S S T I E



The March 28, 2008  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

## You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

[Revised]

Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts"®

by

Charles M. Schulz

Presented by the Smoke Rise Academy of Arts

A Play for All Ages

March 30 & 31 at 6:45 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

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

Music/Missions 2008

North Carolina & Washington D.C.

May 28 - June 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)

### MultiFocus WMU

Ladies, you are invited to meet with our MultiFocus WMU on Tues-  
day, April 8, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 218. Our mission project for April is  
the African Children's Mission.

### 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 [wchols@bellsouth.net](mailto:wchols@bellsouth.net) or 404-771-5215.

Mission Manuals are available  
in the Missions Office.

### Rainbows for Children

Rainbows, a grief support group for children  
experiencing family changes due to death, divorce or  
other loss, will be offered again this spring. The  
program is designed for children ages 6-12.  
Registration forms and additional information can be  
found in the breezeway. Support groups will begin  
April 2 and continue on Wednesday evenings  
through May 7. Registration forms can be turned  
into the church office. Please contact Kellie Denton  
or Mitzi Ethridge with additional questions.

## 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.

## Understanding Yourself Through The Enneagram System of Personality Types

**April 6 & 13; 4:00-6:00 p.m. Room S225**

Understanding personality types is a skill that can impact your personal development, your relationships, and your professional life. It is also useful when viewed in conjunction with spiritual gifts. The Enneagram delineates nine fundamental personality types and their complex interrelationships. It indicates ways in which each person can grow personally and spiritually. Pre-registration required. Leader: Gloria White, M.Div., LCSW, Smoke Rise Counseling Center

## Relay for Life Testimony

I first became involved with Relay for Life many years ago when two children at my school were diagnosed and lived with cancer. I watched those two young girls cope with lots of determination and courage in the face of painful treatments. I decided to be involved in some way so a cure could be found. As the years go by, many more family members and friends are diagnosed with the dreaded "C" word. I am grateful to learn of improved treatment, better medication and more options for those involved. It is extremely gratifying and encouraging to watch the 'Survivors Walk' at the Relay event. Every year there are more survivors so we are making progress but we need to continue working together so a cure can be found in our lifetime. — Sherrill Peoples

## Relay for Life

### Breakfast, Silent Auction & Country Store

**April 6 — 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

Breakfast \$3.00

Bid on baskets at Silent Auction!

Visit the Country Store for gifts for loved ones!

Make check to the American Cancer Society

## Deaths

We extend our sincere sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Kara Blankenship whose grandmother died; Roy Vreeland, Jr. whose father died; Gayle Almand whose mother died; Henry Brecht whose brother-in-law died; and Maxine Goins whose sister died.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Charles Fitzgerald who has died; Charlie had been a member since 1997; and also to the family of Linda Franks who has died. Linda had been a member since 2006.

## A Conversation about Teaching

**Sunday, April 20; 12:00 noon in 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, please join us for lunch and some discussion on April 20, at 12:00 noon. For more information, contact Kathy Dobbins (adult Sunday School), Lee Prohitt (youth Sunday School), or Kellie Denton (children's Sunday School)

## Join the Smoke Rise Elementary Science Alliance

The purpose of this project is to enhance science education at our neighborhood school and establish positive relationships that may lead to more projects and partnerships in the future. Volunteers are needed to tutor and mentor students at Smoke Rise Elementary School for Science Classes, Projects, and Presentations. If you have experience in any science discipline or have a science education and would like to help, please contact Kathy Dobbins at (770) 469-5856 or [kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org). This is another opportunity to find your personal ministry and join us in our mission to give ourselves away.

## Letters of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

*We have been so touched by your many acts of kindness shown to us during Polly's illness and our time of bereavement. She was so precious to us. You have helped us through a very sad time. We do not know of any other church family as caring as you all are.*

*Our ministers are so attentive and sensitive. They always came at just the right time. We are so fortunate to have each and everyone of them in the Lord's service at Smoke Rise Baptist Church.*

*Blessings to you all,*

*Inez and James Bryan  
Arlene and Johnny Kirkland*

Dear Church Family,

*There are no words to adequately express how much we appreciate every act of love and kindness shown at Dee L. Miller's death. For all these acts of love and kindness, may God bless all of you.*

*Love,*

*Jessie Smith  
Dee Miller family*

To the Staff, Ministers and Members of Smoke Rise,

We want to tell you how much we have appreciated the prayers, cards, calls, good thoughts and food during David's surgeries, hospital stay and recovery at home. It is so wonderful to be back in a church that is so loving and caring of its members.

May God richly bless you for all that you did for us during this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Judy and David Kirkland

## *Notes from the Pastor*

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has hit the ground running and working hard to plan our celebration. The date has been set for September 20, 2009, so mark it on your calendar. I appreciate all that Kathy Goodenow and Arlene Kirkland are doing to help us have a wonderful event.

I also appreciate the good work of Graham and Penny Stovall on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Offering. Our goal is to raise \$570,000 to repair and upgrade the organ, replace the flooring in the sanctuary, eliminate the debt, secure funds for the celebration and provide a gift for a partnering church that will enhance their ministries.

Three dinners were scheduled to discuss our plans and over 200 members attended. I am grateful for their interest and the gift of their time.

Soon, each member will receive a letter from me explaining the need for the Anniversary Offering and our goals. Enclosed in the letter will be a commitment card that we are asking members to fill out and return to the church on **May 4**.

We want every member to participate and be a part of preparing our sanctuary for the celebration. Every gift will be necessary for us to reach our goal so we will be ready for the anniversary celebration. We hope that parents and grandparents will include their children in this decision and allow them to contribute their pennies, dimes and quarters, too. Each gift will be a blessing and each giver will be blessed by God for making sacrifices. Make this a matter of prayer and ask God to lead you and your family. This will make our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration even more special!

### **Faith Family Fusion**

You are going to hear a lot about this in the weeks to come. All the staff, under the leadership of Kellie Denton, is designing a program that meets the needs of young families. Kellie is bringing to Smoke Rise some of the ideas she gleaned from the **Families with Children Conference** she and other staff members recently attended in Orlando.

“Faith Family Fusion” will focus upon helping parents provide spiritual leadership for their children. Parents will be taught how to help their children grow spiritually as well as how to strengthen their own walk with the Lord and marriage. Young couples will be paired with older adults that can serve as mentors. In worship, we’ll design times to recognize parents and children for the progress they are making and pray for them along their journey. I am excited about the impact this new program will have upon our young families. I believe it will meet a real need in their lives. Thanks Kellie, Kathy, Kara, Amanda and all the staff for working together to make this dream a reality.

### **Trivia Night**

Trivia Night was so much fun! Thanks Doug and Suzanne Cowan for taking the lead on this event.

Thanks, also, to the Fun and Fellowship Committee for planning this and so many other great events. Linda Cummings leads this group of “active” planners and they do a great job. Last year, they planned events like “Summer Movies at the Fox Theater,”

a Braves’ ballgame, a visit to the Carlos Museum to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, Trunk and Treat at the Fall Festival, a trip to Lake Lanier to see the Magical Lights Show at Christmas, a Casting Crowns concert and the first annual Smoke Rise Tour of Homes at Christmas.

Watch the calendar for more events that will be coming. You do not want to miss them! What a great time it is to bring guests with you and introduce them to our friendly Smoke Rise family.

### **Lent and Easter**

Even though Easter came early this year, the season known as Lent was one of our finest. The staff did an outstanding job providing opportunities for us to draw close to the Lord during this holy time.

I appreciate Kathy lining up the finest list of Lenten speakers I have ever heard. It was truly an All-Star lineup that drew some of our largest Wednesday night crowds in years. Her leadership was evident at the Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services, too. She and Danny work well together in planning these services.

Kellie, Amanda and Kara are to be complimented for the many ways they introduced Lent to our children. I believe our children have a greater appreciation for the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross and their lives will reflect it at home and school.

By the way, Kellie and Amanda told me that they had 82 children in the nursery and extended session on Easter during the eleven o’clock worship service. This was in addition to many children that age I saw in worship, including my own twin grandchildren. We had a lot of tired but happy children’s workers that walked out of church after the Easter service. Thanks from a grateful church!

What can I say about the music that Danny, our instrumentalists and choir provided throughout Lent? Words are inadequate. The concert on Palm Sunday and the music on Easter were beyond description. All I can say is thank you from a grateful church.

Now we focus on the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus until Pentecost, which comes fifty days after Easter. I look forward to examining these stories to discover what it means to be an Easter people or the presence of Christ in a broken world.

### **Interim Youth Minister**

We welcome Kristy Eggert to our church as our interim youth minister. Kristy is a student at McAfee and comes to us with the experience in youth work that we need while we are searching for a full-time youth minister. I anticipate our youth ministry growing under her leadership just as our children’s ministry did when Kellie was the interim. Kristy has the qualities needed to make that happen and this excites me.

Kristy graduated Magna cum Laude from Belmont University with a double major in music and French. While in Nashville, she worked at the Rolling Hills Community Church as a Youth Intern.

Thanks to Donna Weatherby, Coley Batchelor, Barbara Barnhart, Chris Allison, Anne McClearn, Bethany Easom, Emily Childs, Jayce Chrisman and Rayce Roberts for interviewing several candidates and recommending Kristy for this position. You did a fine job and were a big help to me.

*(More from the Pastor on back page)*

(More from the Pastor)

### Sunday School

I must tell you how much I enjoy teaching the newest young adult class every Sunday. This is a class designed for singles and married couples in their twenties. We have been averaging fifteen to twenty and on Easter we had thirty! Several of our college students were home and could be with us.

What a bond of fellowship is being formed and what great discussions we are having on the biblical texts. I leave class every week with a smile on my face and gratitude in my heart for these wonderful young people. It is a treat for Jackie and me and Bo and Gail Prosser to be with them. I'm actually feeling younger!

If you have children or grandchildren that need a Sunday school class and support group, invite them to my class. Give me their email address or phone number and I will personally contact them. We want them to be a part of this class!

### Play Ball

Baseball season has begun! The Braves are back at Turner Field and looking good. I can't wait to go see them and take in the sights and sounds of a baseball game. Why do I love it so much? Because there is a kid inside every man, I suppose.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

**Stone Mountain Co-op** needs: peanut butter, jelly, macaroni & cheese, hot cereal, canned fruit & jello.

Also.....

Smoke Rise has been asked to work at the Stone Mountain Co-ops food pantry from May 9 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.

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of March 20, 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
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 489,777.57	\$ 639,999.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	5,310.99	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 495,088.56	\$ 639,999.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 380,284.46	\$ 455,682.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	17,297.39	23,044.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	25,057.01	46,988.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	43,765.78	68,632.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	28,485.96	29,749.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	1,800.00	4,457.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 496,690.60	\$ 628,552.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 190,497.00	

### 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	+2,605,714.41
Expenses	-2,779,552.45
Paid toward Mortgage	- 18,368.10
Cash Balance	\$ 1,766.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00



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Minister of Spiritual Formation  
Minister of Worship & Music  
Interim Minister of 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

Are you reading *The CrossTie* on  
Thursday afternoon before it is mailed on  
Friday?

You can at [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org)  
— or you can receive *The CrossTie* deliv-  
ered to your email box. Contact Linda  
Cummings in the church office.