

# The C R O S S T I E



The January 9, 2009  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

## Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Seminar

Beginning February 5 — 7:00pm

Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
"A Life Changing Experience"  
Coordinated by Kitty Keadle

Kitty has taken the course and is very excited about sharing this information. Questions, contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 ext. 208 or e-mail Kitty at [keadle.ktk@gmail.com](mailto:keadle.ktk@gmail.com).

Financial Peace University is designed to teach you and your family how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and build wealth. You'll meet with your class each week to watch the video lesson and participate in discussion and accountability groups that will change your whole attitude about money.

Cost for the seminar is \$100 per family. For this you will receive a packet of information (including budget planning information and forms, the Financial Peace Revisited book, hardback workbook, CD Library, Envelope System, Bonus CD-Rom, access to interactive software online, the course itself and more). If you know now you want to sign up, contact Linda Cummings at the above number.

Class begins Thursday, February 5, for 13 weeks  
in Room S223

Preview of seminar will be January 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall



### Children's Wednesday Night Music

Starts back January 14 at 6:00 pm (Choir Kick-Off)  
6:45 pm Special Presentation by Academy of the Arts

#### "Suessical the Musical"

in the Fellowship Hall

(Parents must pick up children in room 307 by 6:30 pm  
Children 5 and under must be accompanied by adult  
if they are going to the play)

(Normal music and missions schedule starts back January 21.)

### Sadies Ladies

will meet Monday, January 12, at  
7:00 at the home of Kim Sekulow.  
All ladies are welcome to join us.



## Katrina Mission Trip In January

The Faith and Issues Sunday School Class is leading this Mission Trip January 22-25 in memory of Dane Sanderlin.

You are invited to join them as we continue the ministry of rebuilding in Biloxi, MS. Please contact Greg Everett at 770-985-1316 or [geverett@wilwat.net](mailto:geverett@wilwat.net), or the Missions Office.

If you are not going, please remember our missionaries in your prayers.

## Prayer Retreat

### February 27-28, Simpsonwood Retreat Center Sponsored by Best Practices for Ministry Network

Enrich your prayer life in a beautiful setting. Smoke Rise will be one of many churches participating in this weekend led by Jeanie Miley, popular author and retreat leader from Houston, TX. \$100.00 per person includes lodging (double-occupancy) and three meals. Scholarships are available. Deadline for reservations is January 14. Pick up a flyer and registration form in the Sanctuary Breezeway or contact Kathy Dobbins.

## Life Connections: Classes for Adults

### Klesis: God's Call and the Journey of Faith

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.

Mondays at 9:45 a. m., January 12, 19 & 26

Sundays at 4:30 p. m., February 1, 8 & 15

### Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman

This new study by Beth Moore explores God's providence and the hope and encouragement he offers women facing challenges in our society. 10 weeks - \$15.00 for workbook

Sundays at 5 pm beginning January 11

Mondays at 9:45 am beginning February 2

Sign up for classes in the Sanctuary Breezeway or email Kathy Dobbins at [kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org).

## Letter of Appreciation

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Prayer truly works and I am the living example of it. I am extremely thankful for all of the individual and group prayers, calls, visits, food and a little blanket that cam my way during my recent illness and surgery. When the unfortunate glitch occurred during surgery, I was not a happy camper when I woke up and realized that recovery would take longer than expected.

However, your prayers, a loving wife (who is a pretty good nurse, too) brought me around in a hurry. Today I feel as good and sometimes better than before the operation. I am back to teaching all my dance classes and my students are as good as those on "dancing with the stars."

I am also in a learning curve. Camille retired the week before Thanksgiving and I have learned to say, "Yes Ma'am; I'll do it right away, Ma'am."

No one believes in prayer more than me; thanks to you!

Bud

## Deaths

We extend our Christian sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Dick Metz whose brother died, Peggy Sims whose father died, Herb Schutte whose mother died, Kellie Denton whose grandmother died, Connie Wilbanks whose mother died and Marc Beaver whose step-mother died.

We also extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Harold Campbell who has died.

## Page & Deb Need You On Their Team!

The Mission Trip to Honduras will be March 21 – 28

It will be a great adventure in "Life Style Evangelism," working to improve the living conditions in a village home. You'll have a great team experience.

Please pray about your chance to be a part of the team.

Email Page Fulgham at [rfulgham@bellsouth.net](mailto:rfulgham@bellsouth.net) or Deb Leamon at [dalor53@comcast.net](mailto:dalor53@comcast.net) to reserve your spot.

## A Thank You from the Lilburn Coop

A donation has been given to the Lilburn Cooperative Ministries by Linda & Ray Cummings in honor of the Smoke Rise Staff, Deacons and Congregation for all the support given them as they have and continue to go through Linda's illness.

This gift has blessed local families during the Christmas Season.

Sincerely,

Kay Whithear

Lilburn Cooperative Ministries, Inc.

## Happily Ever Laughter Marriage Retreat

February 20 – 21 The Lodge at Simpsonwood

What makes love last a lifetime? Affection? Yep. Respect? Sure.

But a great relationship is not just about what you have. It's about what you do to make a relationship stronger, safer, more caring and committed.

Every couple needs to take certain steps that turn the two of you into not just you and me but we. Learn how to create a relationship that will be your shelter as long as you both shall live. Here's how to make your "forever" fun and fantastic.

Led by Bo Prosser co-author of "The Marriage Ministry."

For more info or to reserve your spot e-mail

[kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org)

## Coming Soon!! Vote Now!!

- What: Flicks, Food & Fun
- When: January 24 at 6:00 p.m.
- Where: Fellowship Hall Lawn (Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and something to sit on while eating.)
- Cost: \$8 per person for food and movie (family max: \$25)  
\$2 per person movie only (movie should begin around 6:30)
- Concessions provided by *The WOW! factor of Atlanta*: Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, dessert and popcorn (There will be a few veggie burgers or chicken sandwiches for those with dietary requirements.)
- Ticket are available now on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- Go to the church Website and vote on the movie you'd like to see.

Wall-E

Kung Fu Panda

Space Chimps

Evan Almighty

or \_\_\_\_\_

## Births

Congratulations to Stephanie and Nicholas Kallis on the birth of twin daughters, "Anna Melanie" and "Eva Jeanine," born December 23. Grandparents are Stacy and Jeannie Burton.

Congratulations to Michael and Amy Garcia on the birth of a son, "Grand Martin," born January 1. Siblings are Joseph and Caroline; grandparents are Dan and Nancy Garcia.

## *From the Pastor's Heart*

### **“Babies and Gifts Go Together”**

#### **Matthew 2:1-12**

Did you read in Saturday's paper about the first baby of the New Year born in Atlanta and perhaps the state of Georgia? It was Grant Garcia, son of Michael and Amy Garcia and grandson of our own Dan and Nancy Garcia. Michael grew up in our church and Nancy was our Nursery Coordinator for several years. By the way, Grant was born two seconds after midnight, which is why the media showed up the next day to take his picture with his parents and print their story. Congratulations Garcia family!

When babies are born, the press doesn't always show up, but family and friends travel from near and far to see them, bearing gifts and goodwill. Most hospital rooms are filled with balloons, flowers, toys and clothes for the newborn. In many ways, it is a time of quiet celebration.

This is not new to our generation. Matthew mentions that visitors from the East, whom he refers to as Wise Men, came to see Jesus, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. You recall that after being warned in a dream not to return to Herod in Jerusalem, they traveled home by another route. Let's look at this part of the birth narratives today for a word from the Lord on the first weekend of the New Year.

**Who were these Wise Men that visited Jesus?** They were mystics, astrologers, royal advisors, scientists and teachers skilled in philosophy, medicine and natural science. No doubt you understand why they were considered Wise Men. We don't know exactly where they called home, but it was probably Persia (Iran) or Babylon (Iraq). For sure, they were not Jews, but Gentiles.

**Why did they travel so far to visit Jesus?** It appears that they wanted to see where God was at work in the world and take part in it. Their mission was a holy one.

**Why did Matthew include this story in the birth narratives?** It is a part of the overture to his gospel. In his first two chapters, Matthew highlights themes that are important to him in the entire book: the inclusiveness of the gospel, the struggle between good and evil that every generation faces, the need to speak truth to power and be an advocate for the voiceless and understanding faith as a journey.

It is this last theme that I wish to address this morning. This passage certainly depicts faith as journey, which leads to more questions I would like to explore.

**If faith is a journey, where is it leading us?** It is leading us to a deeper understanding of the meaning and purpose of life. It is also leading us to those places where God is working in the world so that we may join Him.

This means that faith is a journey of hope and fear in search of wisdom, understanding, meaning, purpose and service. As Episcopal priest and author Tom Ehrich writes, "It is a journey that calls us to leave the certainties and comforts of home to discover a fresh word and new light."

**Should we travel alone on this journey?** The Wise Men did not. We surmise there were three of them due to the fact that three gifts were presented to Jesus. The exact number is unknown, but we know there was more than one.

Do you like to travel alone? I don't and am not sure I have ever talked to anyone who does. Trips are much more enjoyable with family and friends. Faith journeys are, too.

Whom do you need to invite to join you on your faith journey? Whose invitation do you need to accept?

Let me encourage you to link up with people who are both similar to you and different from you. Include family members and friends but also invite people to join you on your faith journey who look at life from different perspectives and enter into dialogue with them. I believe Matthew, the one who told us about the gentile Wise Men from the East, would encourage you to do this.

**What do you need to take with you along this journey?** Every major trip I take, such as my trip to Israel last summer, includes an orientation session. Each time I attend one, I hear the same message. "Pack light!"

We are instructed to lay out everything we think we need for the trip and then put half of it back in the closet or drawers. We are told to take a hard look at what remains and put half of it back. "Pack one-fourth of what you originally thought you would take," tour guides usually say.

This is good advice for a faith journey as well. You need a lot more in your heart than your suitcase. As a matter of fact, the less "stuff" you have the better off you will be for this journey.

You will need guidance, discernment, courage, confidence, stamina, patience, passion, faith, hope and love. As I mentioned earlier, you will need good traveling companions who will enlighten you when you are confused, encourage you when you are discouraged, forgive you when you stumble, comfort you when you hurt and even carry you when you are weak.

**Where can I find this kind of support group for my faith journey?** I recommend this warm and affirming church. Here you will find fellow pilgrims that are in search of this deeper level of understanding and passionate about joining God where He is at work in the world. On their behalf, I invite you to join us on this journey toward Christlikeness. I can think of no better way to begin a New Year.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

## **Bobbie Wade Retires**

After working at Smoke Rise for twenty-five years and five months, Bobbie Wade retired on December 31, 2008. I speak for our entire congregation in expressing appreciation to Bobbie for her good work among us.

When I became the pastor of Smoke Rise ten years ago, I quickly realized what an asset Bobbie would be to my ministry. This was due to her superb skills as a secretary and her concern for the members of our church.

I recall a conversation we had about five years ago. At that time, Bobbie's eyesight was getting worse and she told me she was going to retire. Immediately, I said, "Bobbie, do you think you would be able to work three days instead of five each week? I would rather have you three days than someone else five!" She thought for a moment and replied, "Yes." How I have appreciated her willingness to continue working even as her eyesight worsened.

Bobbie, thanks for being so organized, efficient, reliable, conscientious and good hearted. You have certainly left your mark on Smoke Rise and made us a better church!

Thank you and blessings on you in the years to come.

Bob

## Smoke Rise Academy of Arts

*Where God-given Gifts Blossom*

- **Evening painting class.** For the first time, the Academy of Arts is offering *evening* painting classes for teens and adults beginning in January. Paris-trained artist Dennis Assayac teaches the new course. Daytime classes are also available with Linda Pollack.
- **Ballet & Tap for tots.** Now is the time to sign up your little dancer for Pre-Ballet & Pre Tap classes held in the afternoon. Available for girls and boys ages 3-5 in the afternoon.
- **Private lesson discount.** New students who sign up for private music lessons can now receive *\$10 off registration!* The Academy offers private lessons for most orchestral instruments, piano, guitar and voice by conservatory-level instructors. New students who sign up before May 1 are eligible. Simply type in "10 off music" in the coupon portion of the online registration form.

*To register for any Academy program:*

[www.smokeriseministries.org](http://www.smokeriseministries.org)

*Click on Arts Programs*

***Don't Forget!***

\$10 off registration fee with coupon

Enter coupon code in online registration:

**10 OFF MUSIC**

Offer valid thru May 1

### Wedding

Congratulations and best wishes to Emily Johnson and Russell Lambros who were married January 3. Emily is the daughter of Allan and Susan Johnson.

#### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of December 30, 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	\$2,275,555.54	\$2,560,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	21,880.49	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,297,436.03</b>	<b>\$2,560,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,783,458.25	\$1,986,701.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	54,424.71	60,304.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	125,539.00	158,895.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	190,989.02	217,600.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	115,487.82	119,000.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	15,907.30	17,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,285,806.10</b>	<b>\$2,560,000.00</b>
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	

#### 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred sixty-one families have pledged \$442,370.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Sixty-two families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$67,615.00.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 509,985.00
NEED	\$ 60,015.00



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Tim W. Adcox	Minister of Missions/Recreation
Danny Vancil	Minister of Worship & Music
Kellie Denton	Minister to Families with Children
Carra Hughes Greer	Minister of Families with Youth
David MacFarlane	Director of Administration and Communications
Linda Cummings	Coordinator of Congregational Life/ Senior Adults
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
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