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The February 6, 2009  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church



**MISSION FOCUS SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 22**

**Theme: A HEART TO SERVE**

**No 8:30 AM Service**

- 9:00 – 10:00 Biscuit Breakfast Fellowship Hall**  
**9:00 – 10:00 Visit 16 Mission Displays Fellowship Hall**  
**11:00 Worship Service with Missionary Speakers**

***Enjoy an Evening “With All Your Heart”***

*When: February 14, 2009 – 6:00 pm*

*Where: Smoke Rise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall*

*What: Dining, Dancing and/or Listening to..... Big Band Sounds & Swing Music*

*Music by: “Footnotes”*

*Band Leader: Our very own Ken Simpson*

*Tickets are now available...Cost \$20 per person.*

*(Write your name on the back of your ticket for door prize drawing.)*

*Semi-formal attire!*

*Limited Seating...so don't delay!*

*Ask about childcare.*

*Join us for a special evening on Valentine's Day,*

***February 14, 2009***



## Smoke Rise Families in Need Fund

In the latter part of 2008, a grant was made to our Missions budget, with the request that it be used for our local community. The Mission Support Committee has created a Families In Need Fund, solely to address the financial needs of Smoke Rise members due to today's difficult economic times. These FIN Funds are completely separate from the monies given to our Cooperative Ministries. Some of our members have experienced loss of jobs, illnesses, and other difficulties that put them in jeopardy of financial crisis. These needs may be: prayer support, help with utility bills, financial planning, counseling, resume writing, job placement, auto repairs and others.

Each request is being handled with the utmost of respect and confidentiality. Any family wishing to initiate a request or gain additional information, please contact one of the following ministers — Bob Browning, Ernie Forrester or Tim Adcox.

In addition, if members would like to make a contribution to this fund, checks should be made to Smoke Rise Baptist Church and designated for Families In Need Fund.

Please keep this important ministry in your prayers.

## 40th Anniversary Pictorial Directory

Sign up for your photo session will continue for the remaining **Wednesday nights and Sundays until February 22nd**. Please select a time best for you. The on-line sign up will be stopped on February 13th. The photography dates are March 4,5,6 and 7 and March 11,12,13 and 14 and in April 1,2,3 and 4.

It is very important that everyone is included. Each household photographed will be given the pictorial directory and a 8x10 photo free. You don't want to miss this excellent directory to help you put faces and names together. The directories will be given out in September during our 40th anniversary celebration.

Lois Jernigan and Terry Morgan

## Excursion for Smoke rise Adults

On February 26 all Smoke Rise adults are invited on an excursion to The High Museum of Art to see "The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army." We will leave at 11:15am and eat at the Varsity before touring the Warriors (lunch is on your own).

The museum tour begins at 1pm and we will return to Smoke Rise by 3pm. Tickets will be held for us until February 8. Please sign up by that time.

The cost is \$21 per person. You may mail your check or bring it to Linda Cummings in the church office. For questions, contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 ext. 208 or e-mail [lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org).

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Nita Adkins whose sister died; John Kelly whose uncle died; Tiffany (Smith) Armour whose father-in-law died; Gary Leazer whose sister died; to the family and friends of Dot Royal who has died; to former members Erick and Sandra Gaither whose son has died; and to Jim Bailey and the many friends of Margaret Bailey who has died. Margaret has been a member of Smoke Rise since 1976.

## ACM Banquet

Please join supporters of African Children's Mission (ACM) for a Banquet scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27, 2009 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30 (all money goes to ACM and is tax deductible). There will be special African music, a delicious meal, and a solo by Jane Holloway, wife of former SR Youth Minister, John Holloway. See Janet Palmer (770-922-9502), Wilson Echols (404-771-5215), Dick Pepper ([repilot@bellsouth.net](mailto:repilot@bellsouth.net)), or Gene Sullivan (770-491-0943) for tickets and more information.

## Uganda

It isn't too early to make your commitment to go on the Uganda Mission Trip. It will be June 27 – July 10. The team will work through the African Children's Mission, which provides medical, educational, and spiritual help to children, plus meals for school children. Please contact Janet Palmer at 770-922-9502 or [jpalmer2006@comcast.net](mailto:jpalmer2006@comcast.net) or Wilson Echols at 404-771-5215 or [wchols@bellsouth.net](mailto:wchols@bellsouth.net).

## A Call to Help a Village in Honduras

One more space is available on the Honduras Mission Trip. The dates are March 21 – 28. Please PRAY about GOING or GIVING a scholarship so that others can go. We still need scholarships for the translators. You can contact Page Fulgham at 404-316-3544 or [rfulgham@bellsouth.net](mailto:rfulgham@bellsouth.net) or Deb Leamon at 770-923-8762 or [dalor53@comcast.net](mailto:dalor53@comcast.net) or the Missions Office.

## 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.

## Georgia Connection

13-time Area 6 Chorus Champion  
Chapter of Harmony, Inc.

Proudly Presents:

**"Rock 'n Roll is Here to Stay"**

Saturday, February 28, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

For information and tickets, contact Jill Wade,  
[jwade@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:jwade@smokerisebaptist.org)

**Sadies Ladies Circle** will meet Monday, February 9, at 7:00 pm at the home of Crystal Blackwell. Please bring food items to be donated to the Stone Mountain Co-op.

## Birth

"William Keller" was born January 26 to Justin and Kristin Flowers; grandparents Bill & Debbie Flowers.

## *From the Pastor's Heart*

### **Baptists Beginnings**

This year, we celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baptist beginnings. We do so even as we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. How appropriate it is that we focus upon both of these significant events this year.

On Sunday, February 15, **Dr. Bill Leonard** will be our guest. He is Dean of the School of Divinity and Professor of Church History at Wake Forest University. He has authored or edited fifteen books about Baptists, his latest titled, *Baptists in America*, published in 2005.

He is going to preach for us on February 15 and teach Sunday school in the Fellowship Hall for any class that wishes to attend. During the Sunday School hour, he will talk about Baptist history and distinctives. Kathy Dobbins has asked him to share with us what makes Baptists unique. What are the pillars of our faith and how are we different from other denominations? There will be a question and answer time during Sunday school. This session will begin at 9:45 a.m.

During the 8:30 and 11:00 o'clock services, Dr. Leonard will talk to us about our role as people of faith and Baptists in the world today. We have asked him to share with us the stories of Baptist women and men who have made a difference down through the years and challenge us to follow in their footsteps.

I am convinced that the world needs Baptists! When you hear about the difference many of our ancestors have made, I believe you will be inspired to make your voice heard, too.

Mark your calendar now and bring a friend with you. This is a rare opportunity for us to have in our midst the leading Baptist historian of our time. I assure you that you will leave Sunday school and the worship service with a deeper level of commitment to our Lord and a greater appreciation for our heritage.

Go by the table in the breezeway and pick up four booklets published by the Baptist History and Heritage Society: "An Introduction to Baptist Principles," "Women's

Place in Baptist Life," "Who Interprets the Bible for Baptists" and "Religious Liberty and Church-State Separation." These will give you a clearer understanding of who Baptists are and help you prepare for our own Baptist Heritage Day at Smoke Rise on February 15. There is no cost for these booklets. Kathy has provided them to us through her budget.

### **Pictorial Directory**

Have you made an appointment for your picture to be made for our pictorial directory? Please do so as soon as possible. Olan Mills will be here the first two weeks of March and the first week of April. You can sign-up when you are at church on Sunday or Wednesday or go to our web site at [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org).

We want everyone to participate. The directories will be given out in September during our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. You will want your picture in this historic directory as a keepsake.

### **Youth Super Bowl Party**

I want to thank Carra and Brian Greer for hosting the youth Super Bowl party at their home. I had a great time fellowshiping with them and watching the game. I want you to know what a delight it is to watch Carra, our new Minister of Youth, and her husband, Brian, relate to our young people. They speak their language and make them feel so welcome and comfortable. There was a lot of laughing in their home that night along with a lot of cheering for both teams. By the way, it was a great game to watch with that dramatic photo finish. You can't ask for more than that!

### **Worship**

The staff is currently in conversation with our leadership and members about worship. There is not a topic that we discuss more than worship when we have staff meetings. This is because worship is central to all that we do as a church. We evaluate previous services and plan future ones because we are passionate about being a healthy worshipping congregation.

Recently, we have been seeking God's heart and will for our church concerning worship and looking at our needs and options. This conversation will go on for a long time as we share our ideas and plans. Be patient with us and join in the conversation. Help us hear the heartbeat of our members and discern their needs. Give us your feedback as we chart new courses and try new things. This will be important to us.

Our sole purpose is to help people have an encounter with God each week that will prepare them for the challenges they will face when they leave the sanctuary or chapel. These are difficult days in our country and world. We need each other and we need God to navigate these uncharted waters. Smoke Rise offers both. How grateful I am!

Until Sunday,  
Bob

### **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 Kellie Denton at [kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org).

## Smoke Rise Academy of Arts

### *Where God-given gifts Blossom*

• **Introductory Offer for new evening painting class.** Paris-trained artist Dennis Assayac teaches this new course on painting. The introductory 4-week course starts next week on February 12, 6:30-8:30 pm. The class costs \$120 and we are waiving registration fees.

• **Drama classes for children and youth now forming.** Drama Workshop— Learn the acting craft with drama games, improv, individual scene work, production numbers from popular musicals and lots of fun!  
Mondays 6 pm. -7:15 pm. for children ages 5-9

7:15 pm.-8:30 pm. for youth ages 10- high school

Six weeks from February 16-March 23 with a special sharing time for family and friends on March 23. Cost is \$110 per student, plus a \$15 registration fee.

• **Sign up early for SUMMER DRAMA PRODUCTION CLASS**

Perform a full musical production with songs, dance, acting on Smoke Rise's main stage! We may perform Disney's Beauty and the Beast, The Music Man or another popular show. Mondays 6 pm. -7:15 pm. for children ages 5-9

7:15 pm.-8:30 pm. for youth ages 10- high school

Classes start on April 20.

• **Private lesson discount.** New students that sign up for private music lesson can now receive \$10 off registration! The Arts Academy offers private lessons for most orchestral instruments, piano, guitar and voice by conservatory-level instructors. New students that sign up before May 1, 2009 are eligible. Simply type in "10 off music" in the coupon portion of the online registration form.

• To register online for any Arts Academy program: [www.smokeriseministries.org](http://www.smokeriseministries.org), click on Arts Programs, or call the Academy office at 770.413.2133, ext. 226.

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

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of January 30, 2009

Three hundred fourteen families have pledged \$1,582,343.00 to date for the 2009 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 180,481.26	\$ 209,999.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	(1,840.68)	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 178,640.58	\$ 209,999.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 132,366.76	\$ 166,207.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	1,170.55	5,078.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	5,475.16	18,558.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	18,598.17	31,271.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	7,100.00	6,375.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	(1,232.70)	6,603.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 163,477.94	\$ 234,092.00

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

Two hundred sixty-two families have pledged \$443,410.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Seventy-two families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$69,075.00.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 512,485.00
NEED	\$ 57,515.00



### OUR STAFF

**Church Office: 770-469-5856**

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Associate Pastor
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Spiritual Formation
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
Rene Ely, M. Div., LMFT	Counselor
Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW	Counselor