

# The C R O S S T I E



The February 20, 2009  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

## 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 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

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



### **55 A Go Go Meeting — March 3**

On Tuesday, March 3, we have special entertainment for our 55 A Go Go Meeting! We will welcome back Rev. Jerry Naff along side Mrs. Fredolyn Stitt singing "Show Tunes."

Please make reservations with your Group Leader or call the church office.

Everyone is welcome to come enjoy a wonderful meal followed by beautiful songs sung by Jerry and Fredolyn.

Should you have questions, call Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 x208 or email [lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org).

This should be a delightful evening. Come and enjoy!



### **"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?"**

The Family Fun Events Team hopes it will be YOU!

Sign up has begun for singles, couples, ANYONE who would like to participate in an evening of fellowship with other church family members.

This is a "dinner party" kind of evening only the guest list will be a surprise.

Sign up to host a group in your home (the host will provide the entrée) or you can come as a "guest." (You may be asked to bring a side dish or dessert.)

Either way, the evening is designed to help us all meet new friends and have an evening of delightful fellowship.

**When: Saturday, March 28 — 6:30 pm**

**Where: You will be contacted and given your location after March 1.**

(which is also the deadline for signing up!)

You may call the church office, sign up in the Breezeway or email Linda Cummings to participate.

Menus will be the same at all locations and the recipes will be provided! (AND, they are easy).

**Festival Singers  
with  
Chamber Orchestra  
presents  
"Psalmfest"**

**Sunday, February 22  
5:00 pm — Chapel**

### **40th Anniversary Pictorial Directory**

Sign up for your photo session! Sunday, February 22nd is the last day to sign up. The on-line signup has ended. 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

Coming March 1

## The Living Room:

### A place for prayer in many forms

Room A124, under the Gym;

Open Sundays 8:30 am to 11:00 am

1<sup>st</sup> Sundays – Classes on prayer in many forms

4<sup>th</sup> Sundays - Communion served 9:30 am to 10:00 am

#### **OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009, 9:00 – 10:45 am**

The Living Room is a multi-purpose space devoted to prayer, reflection, and discovery where Jesus is the host. You are invited to visit this place of quiet, to become still enough, quiet enough, long enough to have a conversation with God. Prayer is about building a relationship with God. You don't need anything but a willing heart to begin.

### The Enneagram – Introductory Class

*Understanding Yourself*

*Through The Enneagram System of Personality Types*

The Enneagram delineates nine fundamental personality types and their complex interrelationships. It indicates ways in which each person can grow personally and spiritually. \$10.00 for materials.

*Sundays, March 8 & 15; 4:30-6 pm*

*Leader: Gloria White, M.Div., LCSW,  
Smoke Rise Counseling Center*

### Baptist/Jewish Dialogue

Tuesday, March 3 — 6:00 pm

at Congregation B'nai Torah in Sandy Springs.

Dr. Alan Culpepper will be speaking on Baptist views on the State of Israel and Rabbi Gary Greenebaum, National Inner Religious Director for the American Jewish Committee, will be speaking on the State of Israel and modern Jews. \$15 per person (includes dinner). Pre-registration is requested. Pick up a flyer in the Sanctuary Breezeway.

### Bobbie Wade Retirement

Bobbie Wade retired December 31, 2008, after working over 25 years in our office. On Monday, February 2, she was a guest at a luncheon hosted by the support staff. At the luncheon, Bobbie was given two gift certificates to the Fox Theater by the church and a set of flatware by the staff. Per her request, money that would have been spent on other gifts or a reception was given to the Lilburn Cooperative Ministry.

Once again, we thank Bobbie for her dedication to Smoke Rise and her excellent work. She truly made a difference in our office and church.

### Playdates at the Park are Back!

**Monday, March 2 — 10 am - 12 pm**

Smoke Rise Baptist Church Nursery and Preschool Ministries will again host this fun outside playtime. Meet at the Mountain Park playground area behind the tennis courts for some fun time with other families. For more information, contact Amanda Coe Burton at [aburton@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:aburton@smokerisebaptist.org) or call her at 678.787.0039.

## 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 [wechols@bellsouth.net](mailto:wechols@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.

## 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.

**The Media Center** has copies of the book *Blessing: Giving the Gift of Power* by Myron Madden recommended by Dr. Browning in a recent sermon.



## Stone Mountain Co-op Needs:

hot and cold cereals, peanut butter and jelly, soup, macaroni & cheese, rice, beans, bar soap and toilet paper.

## *From the Pastor's Heart*

### Thoughts on Worship

**R**ecently, the staff proposed altering the early worship service beginning March 1. Currently it meets at 8:30 on Sunday mornings in the chapel and is, for the most part, a duplicate of the service we have at 11:00 in the sanctuary. We have about 75 dedicated and faithful members that attend each week.

The staff would like to change the time of the service to 9:00 a.m. and the style to more casual. Specifically, we want it to be a creative, engaging, casual and intimate worship experience. The music would encompass the beloved and familiar as well as the fresh and new. Scripture readings and relevant messages would be followed by a time of sharing concerns and celebrations. We would like to call it "**An Early Offering**," the suggestion of one of our church members.

**Why does the staff feel led to do this?** We have discussed worship on many occasions because it is central to all we do as a church. As a matter of fact, I don't know any subject that we have talked about more. We analyze the previous services in staff meetings on Tuesdays as well as plan the next week's services.

There is one question that surfaces in many of these discussions. If we are going to have two services each Sunday morning, why should they be duplicates of one another? Could we reach more people with contrasting styles?

This question led us to do some dreaming. If we were going to design contrasting styles of worship at Smoke Rise, what would they be? We came up with these two descriptions.

**Majesty:** This is a more formal and traditional worship service in the sanctuary where time-honored hymns are accompanied by the majestic pipe organ and concert grand piano. The Sanctuary Choir sings a wide repertoire of music from classical to spirituals. Scripture lessons, litanies and sermons are based on the church lectionary. Ministers wear robes and the paraments (stoles and fabrics) reflect the colors of the church year.

**An Early Offering:** This is a creative, casual, engaging and intimate worship experience in the chapel. The music would encompass the beloved and familiar as well as the fresh and new. Scripture readings and relevant messages would be followed by a time of sharing concerns and celebrations.

I must tell you that we got excited about these two services. We felt that together they would help us reach more people.

**Why 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings?** The staff talked to people that have shown an interest in a less formal service. We asked them when they thought this service should be offered. The overwhelming majority said that 9:00 on Sunday would work for several reasons.

Those that have children said it would allow them the time needed to get the kids up and here on time. They could then go to Sunday school, which was very important to them. Since their children are involved in many activities that begin around noon on Sundays, if not sooner, they could come to the early service and leave after Sunday school and get their children to their activities.

Not everyone interested in this service has children, though. A casual service appeals to people of all ages. As a matter of fact, it is appealing to the Boomer Generation, too. The 9:00 o'clock

time would work with them and allow them to go to Sunday school as well.

**The staff recognizes that the people most directly affected by this change would be those that attend the 8:30 service.** As I previously wrote, we have about 75 in that service each week and they are some of our most faithful members. I probably know them better than anyone else in the church because of the intimacy of the chapel and the concerns and celebrations we share at the conclusion of each service. They mean a lot to me because they have been so faithful.

Would they come to this redesigned service at 9:00 o'clock? I hope that many would. It will be less formal than we currently have, but no less meaningful. I would enjoy that continued relationship with them.

As we have done in previous years, there will be several Sundays that we'll worship together in one service at 11:00 o'clock: Missions Sunday in February, Memorial Day weekend, the Celebration of Freedom Sunday before the Fourth of July, the Blessing of our Students and Kick-Off Sunday at the beginning of the school year in August, Labor Day weekend and the Sunday before and after Christmas. In addition, we'll have one service this year on September 20 to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I believe it is good for us to worship together periodically and look forward to these services.

I covet your prayers and input about our worship services. 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

### *Letters of Appreciation*

Dear Smoke Rise Baptist Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers, calls, cards, concerns and support in the loss of my sister Daphne Powlas and my mother Geneva Walton.

Love with appreciation,  
Dee Dee Poss and family

Dear Church Family,

I would like to express my appreciation for all the cards, prayers and food received during my illness.

God bless you,  
Jessie Smith

### *Deaths*

We extend our Christian sympathy to Claire Nash and Karen Bates whose sister and aunt died; Jessie Smith whose sister died; Bob Jernigan whose uncle died; Joan and Andrew Booth whose mother and grandmother died; and Paula Reagan whose father, John Pirdle, died.

We also extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Kitty Steele and Ruffus Weeks who have died.



## Our Newest Family Members

Janice Knell (wife of Bob Knell who is already a member), 5838 Old Stone Mountain Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; telephone 770.921.5530. Deacon: Linda Cantrell.

John Langston (adult son of Todd Langston), 4332 Wrexham Court, Snellville, GA 30039; telephone 770.982.3650. Deacon: Crystal Blackwell.

Wayne, Lori and Clay Dodson, 2646 Regency Drive E., Tucker, GA 30084; telephone: 404.446.4733. Deacon: Elbia Coe.

## Smoke Rise Academy of Arts *Where God-given gifts Blossom*

*Some of these classes have begun so don't wait to sign up!*

• **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 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 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.

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of February 13, 2009

Three hundred sixteen families have pledged \$1,592,143.00 to date for the 2009 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 273,696.11	\$ 419,998.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	( 916.21)	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 272,779.90	\$ 419,998.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 194,308.06	\$ 322,663.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	1,692.77	10,155.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	14,054.51	35,901.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	19,641.70	56,458.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	10,642.00	12,750.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	128.69	11,106.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 240,467.73	\$ 449,033.00

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:** Two hundred sixty-two families have pledged \$443,410.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Seventy-four families who did not sign a pledge card have given \$70,795.00.



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## OUR STAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

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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