

The C R O S S T I E



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

“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 15.

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 — or you may choose your own).



2009 Spring Tee Ball

4-8 Year Olds

Parents’ Meeting/Training
March 19, 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Practices begin March 23
Mondays & Thursdays 5:30 pm
(No practice Spring Break April 6-10)

Games: Saturdays April 4, 18, 25, May 2, 9
9:00 & 10:30 am
April 27, Monday night under the lights 7:30pm

Cost: \$100
Includes Hat & Jersey
For more information call recreation office
770-469-5856 ext. 224

Online registration will be open beginning Friday, February 20
smokeriseministries.org

Sadies Ladies Circle
will meet Monday, March 9, at 6:30 pm
at the home of Sally Slaton.
We welcome all visitors to join us.



We invite all ladies to meet with our
Multi Focus WMU
on Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 am in Room 218.
Our Mission Project is to donate our offering
to the F.I.N. (Families in Need) at Smoke Rise.

Needed!
Girl Scout Cookie Donations for Military Away

Let’s use the month of March to donate boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to our Military Away Project. Any flavor of cookies will be appreciated. Let’s not let the cookies go to “waist”! We’ll send them to our Military sons and daughters in their Easter boxes. The boxes of cookies may be brought to the reception desk in the main church office during the month of March.

The LIVING Room

A place for prayer in many forms

Room A124, under the Gym;

Open Sundays 8:30 am to 11:00 am; Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:15 pm

1st Sundays – Classes on prayer in many forms

4th Sundays - Communion served 9:25 am to 10:00 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.

It's Coming...

The Annual SRBC Community-Wide Egg Hunt

Wednesday Night, April 1st, 6:30-7:30 pm on the Ballfield
(No Regularly Scheduled Choir or Missions for Children)

Each Smoke Rise child should bring a dozen stuffed and taped eggs by Wednesday, March 25th.

We need Circles and other Volunteers to help stuff eggs.

If you can help, please contact Kellie Denton
or Amanda Burton in the church 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.

Uganda

The Uganda Mission Trip 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 or Wilson Echols at 404-771-5215 or wechols@bellsouth.net for more information.

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. Contact Page Fulgham at 404-316-3544 or rpfulgham@bellsouth.net or Deb Leamon at 770-923-8762 or dalor53@comcast.net or the Missions Office.

Ladies Spring Event:

“Hope and Healing for Every Woman”

Tuesday, April 28, 2009; 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Tickets are \$15.00 beginning March 29

Kimberley Kennedy was twenty-four hours away from being the woman who had it all. She was about to marry her perfect man - until, on the eve of the wedding, her fiance uttered five words that crushed her perfect world: *I just can't do it.* Suddenly her life went from blockbuster love story to a Lifetime movie gone bad. But her story doesn't end there. Through her numbing pain, public humiliation, and extreme anger at God, Kimberley found a hope for her life that she wasn't sure she'd ever have again. Kimberley's words are for all women who have felt the pain of disappointment and rejection - whether you are divorced or have never been married, whether you feel rejected in your marriage or rejected in the dating world. This is not a story of a woman and her man - It's the story of a woman and her God. ... Kimberley Kennedy is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and producer, and is writer and host of the weekly newsmagazine television show *Hot Topics*.

This event is expected to sell out – don't delay!

New Excursions for Smoke Rise Adults

March 26 — Visit the New World of Coke Museum

Leave: 10:15 am

Return: 3:00 pm

Cost: \$15 per person

Lunch: Mary Mac's (on your own)

April 19 — Art Station to see “Tuesdays with Morrie”

Leave: 2:20 pm

Return: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$21 per person

Dinner: Nagano Restaurant (on your own)

Limited spaces! Sign up soon — bring or send your check to Linda Cummings

The Second Hundred Years: Jesus Followers

101st Annual Meeting

of the Atlanta Metro Baptist Association

Sunday, April 26 at 6:00 pm

Chattahoochee FBC, 1950 Bolton Road NW, Atlanta

Dinner on the Grounds catered by the Varsity

(\$5 per person)

Business will include adopting a new mission statement: The Atlanta Metro Baptist Association of Churches' mission is to assist congregations to develop Jesus Followers who are living out the Great Commandment, Great Commission, and Acts 1:8.

Joel Harrison, Lead Missionary

Atlanta Metro Baptist Association

3070 Mercer University Drive, Suite 100

Atlanta GA 30341

770.455.4877 or 404.771.6131

www.atlbaptist.org

Deaths

We extend our Christian sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Token Tankersley whose grandmother died; and Ken Simpson whose mother died.

From the Pastor's Heart

Thoughts on the New Service

Last Sunday at 9:00 a.m., we began the new worship service that we are calling "An Early Offering." I am pleased to report that the chapel was full! Folk of all ages attended, but primarily young families. I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to see all those children and their parents. Thanks for coming!

I am grateful to everyone that has given input or worked on this service for several weeks. We have listened to church members, talked to our colleagues at other churches, read countless books and consulted experts on church and culture. Each resource has provided us with valuable information and insight. We are trying to implement much of what we have learned.

Our goal is to make this a casual, creative, engaging and intimate worship experience. The music will encompass the beloved and familiar as well as the fresh and new. Scripture readings and the message will be followed by a time of sharing concerns and celebrations.

I believe the word that best describes the difference between this service and the one in the sanctuary at 11:00 is **casual**. All the formality will be gone from the early service, including the formal dress, music and preaching style. Children and youth will help lead worship. The sermon will be more interactive, which means at times questions may be asked or comments encouraged. The music will vary from week to week and include the familiar and the fresh. Sometimes the youth choir will sing or there will be a soloist or ensemble. There will be times that the praise band will lead us or someone may play the keyboard or a guitar. The organ and piano will also be used on certain selections. There will be a real mix utilizing a variety of instruments and talents.

At the conclusion of the service, time will be allowed for sharing concerns and celebrations. Building community will be very important and praying for one another will, too.

Now that we have begun the service in the chapel, we'll monitor its progress. The staff discussed having it in the fellowship hall, but kept running into a problem. We have so many events in the fellowship hall on Sundays and Lou needs to have that space to prepare for them. Three weeks ago, we had Sunday school in the fellowship hall for most of our adult classes as they listened to church historian, Dr. Bill Leonard. The following Sunday, we had a church-wide breakfast and Missions Fair in the fellowship hall. Last Sunday, we had lunch for about 300 people involved in our basketball program. This Sunday, the deacon lunch is scheduled immediately after the 11:00 service.

There is something scheduled almost every Sunday in the fellowship hall, which is good. "If you feed them they will come," is my motto. We have the finest Food Services personnel you will find anywhere and we expect a lot from them. We're trying to figure out ways to help them do what we have asked them to do. That's why we are starting this service in the chapel. Of course, we'll evaluate the needs in the weeks and months to come. If it outgrows the chapel, and I hope it does, we'll move to another location.

The staff is excited about this new service and format. We've got lots of ideas and look forward to implementing them. So, be patient with us as we plan and lead this service. Enter the service with prayer and thanksgiving. Focus upon your relationship with God and be open to His leadership in your life. Offer yourself to Him in service and truly make this "An Early Offering."

Until Sunday,
Bob

**Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8
Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead
so you can join us for morning worship services
at Smoke Rise Baptist Church!
Service times are 9:00 am in the Chapel
and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.**

Our Newest Smoke Rise Family Members

Melinda Hughes, 5793 Rollingwood Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-687-1331. Deacon: Melissa Adams.

Mr. Michael (Susan) Shaefer and son Dean (Susan is the daughter of Ron and Lenell Sikes), 4142 Willow Walk, Lilburn, GA 30047; tel. 770-985-1170. Deacon: Brian Abner.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Sikes (parents of Susan Shaefer), 4009 Foxglove Road, Tucker, GA; tel. 770-939-4272. Deacon: Terry Bates.

Ron and Jeanne George, 5911 Millstone Run, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-935-5770. Deacon: Bill Blanton.

Music for An Early Offering in March

March 8: Youth Choir and Kristy Eggert

March 15: Sanctuary Choir and Fredolyn Stitt

March 22: Brian and Carra Hughes Greer

March 29: 'The Following' Praise Band

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall Lent 2009

March 11	Confrontation by Dr. Bill Neal
March 18	Disappointment by Dr. Loyd Allen
March 25	Forgiveness by Dr. David Fite
April 1	Sacrifice/Suffering by Rev. Ernie Forrester
April 9	Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm

Words of Deep Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Baptist Church Family,

Once again I am made aware of what a great church family we are a part of.

Al and I have been overwhelmed by the love, concern, cards, visits and phone calls. Thank you! We love you!

*In Christ's Love,
Shirley Furr*

To Dr. Bob, Ernie, Carra, Brian and Danny with all the ladies who visited at the hospital and rehab. Thank you so much. You brightened my day and made me feel special. Thank you too for your prayers and concern for my well being and recovery.

*Sincerely,
Catherine S.*

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 who 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, click on Arts Programs, or call the Academy office at 770.413.2133, ext. 226.

Be IN THE KNOW!

Visit www.smokerisebaptist.org for the latest news about the many summer opportunities at Smoke Rise.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of February 27, 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
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 335,960.20	\$ 419,998.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	(995.84)	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 334,964.36	\$ 419,998.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 285,739.54	\$ 322,663.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	4,102.27	10,155.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	19,207.95	35,901.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	37,322.46	56,458.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	14,221.08	12,750.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	128.69	11,106.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 360,721.99	\$ 449,033.00

40TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING:

Two hundred sixty-two families have pledged \$443,410.00 towards our goal of \$570,000.00. Seventy-four families that did not sign a pledge card have given \$71,475.00.

GOAL	\$ 570,000.00
AMOUNT GIVEN OR PLEDGED	\$ 515,350.00
NEED	\$ 54,650.00



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OUR STAFF

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E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Associate Pastor
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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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