

## Financial Corner: through March 27, 2009

Three hundred sixteen families have pledged \$1,592,143 to date for the 2009 Budget.

	Year to Date	Budget to Date
<b>Income</b>		
Total Contributions	\$ 498,788.07	\$ 629,997.00
Total Other Income	(239.92)	0.00
Total Income	\$ 498,548.15	\$ 629,997.00
<b>Expenses</b>		
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 424,045.60	\$ 471,532.00
Total Ministries—Worship	5,656.00	15,232.00
Total Ministries—Education	27,648.21	47,413.00
Total Missions	40,553.99	72,890.00
Total Capital Expenditures	19,552.62	19,125.00
Total Equipment	1,844.97	14,333.00
Total Expenses	\$ 519,301.39	\$ 640,525.00

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

Two hundred sixty two families have pledged \$443,410 to date. \$72,970 has been given by families that have not signed pledge cards.

Goal:	\$ 570,000.00
Given or Pledged:	\$ 516,402.00
Needed:	\$ 53,598.00

**Mission Offering** During this season (through April 12<sup>th</sup>) we have the opportunity to give to Global Missions (CBF) and The Annie Armstrong Offering (SBC). Your generosity will help mission work around the world. Please designate your preference on your check or offering envelope.

# The Cross Tie Newsletter

## 2009 Disabilities Ministries Conference

Smoke Rise Baptist Church will be hosting the 2009 Disabilities Ministries Conference on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. This year's conference will feature ABC's Extreme Makeover Home Edition's greatest star: Patrick Henry Hughes. Patrick Hughes will be in concert Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at noon. Tickets for the concert are required and can be purchased in the Smoke Rise office. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for Smoke Rise Baptist Church members.

To register for the 2009 Conference, or for more information, visit [www.DDMga.org](http://www.DDMga.org).

APRIL 3, 2009

## Have You Ever Been on a Mission Trip?

Maybe you could go to one of these ministry places. The contacts are listed for more info.

**Katrina**  
April 6–10  
Greg Everett

**Appalachia Construction**  
May 10–17 & Oct. 11-16  
Bill Blanton

**Siberia**  
June 13–26  
Jim Palmer

**Youth Missions**  
July 5–11  
Carra Hughes Greer

**New York**  
July 11–18  
Whitney Calhoun

**Tijuana**  
July 25–Aug. 1  
Gary Prophitt

**Appalachia**  
July 25–Aug. 1  
Jenny Brannan  
Bill Blanton

**Uganda**  
Oct. 17–31  
Wilson Echols

## Our Staff

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 to Families with Youth
David MacFarlane	Director of Administration & Communication
Linda Cummings	Coordinator of Congregational Life/Senior Adults
Amanda Burton	Nursery Director
Truett Gannon, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus

Church Office: 770.469.5856

## Families in Need

Do you know a fellow SRBC member who has lost their job or is having financial difficulties? Encourage them to seek assistance through Families In Need. Please have them contact Bob Browning, Ernie Forrester, or Tim Adcox. Each situation is treated with respect and confidentiality.

## Birth Announcements

"Logan Paul," born March 24<sup>th</sup> to Paul and Erin Reeves; grandparents are Don and Paula Reeves and John and Phyllis Landers; "Michael James Humphries," born March 25<sup>th</sup> to Denise Burris; grandmother is Geraldine Fullerton; "Kelsey Isabelle Crews," born March 25<sup>th</sup> to Kenny and Jill Crews; grandfather is Steve Ragan; great grandparents are Sonny and Carolyn Ragan.

**Multi Focus WMU** All ladies are invited to meet with the Multi Focus WMU on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10am, room 218. Offerings for April will go to the Annie Armstrong Missions.

THE CROSS TIE ISSUE 4.09A SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH Send feedback, information and updates to: [crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org)

## Looking Ahead...

Smoke Rise Garden  
Club Plant Sale  
April 18, 2009

Baccalaureate Service  
May 17, 2009

Pentecost Sunday  
May 31, 2009

Pipe Organ Recital  
and Rededication  
August 16, 2009

40th Anniversary  
Celebration  
September 20, 2009

SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH  
5901 Hugh Howell Road  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

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## Community Mission Service Day

The following is a list of service opportunities that you can participate in for the Smoke Rise Community Service Day on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Teacher/Staff Appreciation at Smoke Rise Elementary School
- Appreciation to Public Servants in our community (Police and Firefighters)
- Lunch for Stone Mountain Park Campground Employees
- Clarkston Refugees families at Willow Branch Apartments: 2 lb bag of rice and 35 hygiene bags containing shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Food Drive and/or Grocery Gift Cards for the Lilburn and Stone Mountain Cooperatives
- New Children's books to be given to the Clarkston children and area schools
- Clean, possibly light painting and yard work in the Developmentally Disabled Home in the Tucker area

These are great projects for families, Sunday School classes or small groups. To sign up for a project, please contact Linda Johnson at 770.335.0229 or [lmjrocker@aol.com](mailto:lmjrocker@aol.com) or Glenn and Pat Herndon in the Smoke Rise Mission Office at 678.533.0561.

## Quarterly Church Conference

Quarterly Church Conference will be on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Church members who plan to attend need to make a reservation by calling the church office by Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Deacons wishing to change a reservation should also call.

## Maundy Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>

Reflection Stations Open 6:30 -7:30pm  
Tenebrae Service at 7:30pm

This year we have added an optional new feature to this evening. Reflection stations will be open at 6:30pm. You are invited to come any time during this hour prior to the Tenebrae service. The stations are designed to help you connect with God on a personal level. Each will have an activity that will call for prayer and reflection. The Tenebrae Service is the service of "shadows" in which the light of Christ slowly fades from the world as we await the resurrection.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual SRBC Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show will be held here at Smoke Rise on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Car Show Schedule

- Registration: 9am - 12pm
- Judging: 12pm - 3pm
- Awards: 3pm
- Viewing: 9am - 3pm

Visit the SRBC Car Show website, [www.srbccarshow.com](http://www.srbccarshow.com), for more details and registration information.

## Holy Week Meditations

### Preparing for the Journey to the Cross

Beginning today, you can download a daily meditation that will walk you through Holy Week in preparation for Easter Sunday. Copies are available in the Sanctuary Narthex for those who do not use computers.

## youth Kingdom Builders July 5-11

This is an experience your teenager will never forget!

Kingdom Builders is very similar to World Changers. This will be an intense week of construction and rehabilitation of homes. In the evening, the youth gather together for creative and meaningful worship.

July 5-11, 2009 in Boone, North Carolina. \$275 per student and \$200 per chaperone. Cost includes: travel expenses, leadership on-site, lodging (school, church or other facility), meals while at the project, t-shirt, program materials, special giveaways, etc.

To register, fill out and return all of the Kingdom Builders Registration and Medical Forms and turn in a \$150 deposit by the May 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline. The second payment of \$125 is due on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

For all young people who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Appalachian Construction Trip

As part of our ministry to God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP), there will be a construction trip to McDowell, KY May 10-15. The cost is \$125 per person. Some scholarships are available. Please contact Bill Blanton at 770.921.4115.

Appliances, furniture and household items are needed for the GAP clients. Please call Bob Jernigan at 770.934.3005 to arrange for pick up.

## New Bible Study

Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed

A study of David by Priscilla Shirer, Beth Moore, and Kay Arthur. Six weeks beginning Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am and Sundays at 5pm beginning April 19<sup>th</sup>. Register in the office: 770.469.5856.

## Relay for Life

We invite everyone to join the SRBC Relay for Life Team. Our church will have a team to represent us for the fifth year. We ask for your donations to American Cancer Society. We also invite you to be a part of the fun and community spirit on May 8 at the Gwinnett Fair Grounds in Lawrenceville. Talk to Cathy Blanton, Shelia Dean or Lois Jernigan to learn how to sign up.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a wonderful breakfast and creative baskets for the Silent Auction, prepared by our team members. Plants and other items are ready for your purchase. Make your check to American Cancer Society for a tax deductible contribution.

## Welcome New Members!

Please make welcome the newest Smoke Rise Baptist members: Edmund and Marguerite Marlow, who joined on March 15<sup>th</sup>; McKenzie Ray (daughter of Carson and Katie Ray) who joined March 22<sup>nd</sup>; and Bud and Ann Williamson, who also joined on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## The Academy of Arts

Painting Classes: Linda Pollack is now offering an afternoon art class from 2:30-4:30pm in addition to her regular morning classes. Dennis Assayac will also be offering another evening class.

Summer Drama Production Class: Perform a full musical production with songs, dance and acting on SRBC's main stage! Classes will be held on Mondays, beginning April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7:15pm for children ages 5-9 and 7:15-8:30pm for youth ages 10-high school. Additional rehearsals will be added to the schedule.

Private Lesson Discount: New students who sign up for private music lessons before May 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible to receive \$10 off registration! Simply type in "10 off music" in the coupon portion of the online registration form. We offer private lessons for most orchestral instruments, piano, guitar and voice by conservatory-level instructors.

To register online for any Arts Academy program, go to [www.smokeriseministries.org](http://www.smokeriseministries.org) and click on "Arts Programs," or call the Academy office at 678.533.0557.

## The LIVING Room

In room A124, under the Gym; open Sundays 8:30-11am. First Sundays of the month offer classes on prayer in many forms and fourth Sundays of the month Communion is served from 9:30-10am.

The LIVING Room is a multi-purpose space devoted to prayer, reflection and discovery, where Jesus is the host. Prayer is about building a relationship with God. You don't need anything but a willing heart to begin.

## Uganda, Anyone?

Anyone interested in sharing the salvation story with the children of Uganda through home visits, Bible School activities, community outings and more, join us on our Uganda Mission Trip, October 17-31. We must purchase air fare by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Janet Palmer at 770.922.9502 or email [jpalmer2006@comcast.net](mailto:jpalmer2006@comcast.net).

## 3 Ways to Volunteer for Local Missions

1. Volunteer at the Stone Mountain Co-op on April 27-May 22 from 10am to 2pm on Mondays and Wednesdays or 10am to Noon on Fridays. Call Becky Seay at 770.381.6865
2. For April, Stone Mountain Co-op needs: peanut butter, jelly, rice, grits, dried beans and cooking oil.
3. Give a monetary donation to the Stone Mountain Co-op during April and the Alan Feinstein Foundation will also make a percentage donation, based on individuals' gifts.

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Trudy Richards, whose grandmother died; and to Ginger, Jeffrey and Angela Zachman, whose husband and father, Frank Zachman, has died. Frank has been a member of Smoke Rise since 1979.

## Town Hall Meeting for Hope

Smoke Rise Baptist Church is hosting a "Town Hall Meeting for Hope" (free event) with Dave Ramsey on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm. We will connect via the internet with Dave Ramsey and other families across the nation in a town hall meeting for a message of hope! Dave will also answer questions live throughout the event.

Please call the church office to make reservations by Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Linda Cummings for additional information, at [lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org) or 770.469.5856 ext. 208.

## From the Pastor's Heart . . .

*Early Offering* This is the name of our new 9:00am casual worship service on Sunday mornings. We began this new service on March 1<sup>st</sup> and I could not be more pleased with the way the first five services have gone. The attendance has been steady each week, with about two hundred in the chapel. What is interesting is that this service is appealing to all ages. Our young families have certainly responded to it along with those much older.

I hear lots of comments about the way children are used in the service. Each week, the children serve as ushers and families take the offering. On most Sundays, parents and children have read the scripture. Children are very visible and take leadership roles.

There has been a wide variety of music, which is good. There is so much talent in our church and this service allows us to utilize more of it. Danny, with input from the rest of the staff, is doing a superb job designing and leading this service. I think the variety in music styles has been healthy and beneficial.

One of the biggest concerns we had at the beginning of the month was whether we could stay within the forty-five minute time limit. The service begins at 9:00 and Sunday school begins at 9:45. To this point, we have not exceeded the time limit. We are leaving the chapel each Sunday on time. I feel this is very important and I am glad we have done so well. We did not want to begin before 9:00 if at all possible so that our young families would not have to get to church too early.

Some have asked if this new service is interfering with me teaching Sunday school. I teach the youngest adult class and enjoy it very much. So far, I've been able to manage the new time and get to my class by 10:00. This allows the class to take care of other matters until I arrive. It seems to be working all right.

I must say that there is a lot of excitement about our new service and we are getting a lot of feedback. I think we have designed a meaningful service that meets the needs of many of our members and community residents. After five Sundays, I am pleased and encouraged. I am also grateful for those that plan, lead and participate in this service. It takes a lot of advance planning and coordination. Thanks for making it possible.

*Majesty* The eleven o'clock service is called Majesty and during Lent it has lived up to its name. I have never been a part of finer traditional Lenten services. Each week, I am touched and moved by the choir, congregational singing, instrumental music, prayers and litanies. Last Sunday's service may have been the finest Lenten service of which I have ever been a part. I stood amazed in the presence of the One whose life and death we remembered with heartfelt gratitude.

I think it is obvious that I feel that we are doing worship right at Smoke Rise, at least right for us. We offer contrasting styles, yet both are healthy and relevant. There truly is something here for everyone and whichever service a person attends, they will be blessed and ready to face the challenges of another week.

So, invite your friends and family members to visit us. Your warm invitation could make all the difference in the world in their spiritual growth. I am confident that if they come, they will be ushered into the presence of God and have an unforgettable encounter with the Holy.

*The "Living Water" Painting* Thank you, Carl and Janie Hart, for the beautiful painting that was unveiled last Sunday in our traditional worship service. The Harts have given the church a 1924 painting by Frank H. Zeither titled, "Living Water." It will hang in the narthex and will be a reminder to all that pass it that Jesus is the Living Water who can quench the deepest thirst. Thanks, Carl and Janie, for this generous gift commemorating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Have you heard about The LIVING Room? (Don't you love the name? I do. Thanks, Kathy, for coming up with the idea and name.) This is a multi-purpose space in our church devoted to prayer, reflection and discovery where Jesus is the host. You are invited to visit this quiet place and pray. You will find The LIVING Room under the gym in room A124. It is open on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 11:00 and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:15.

On the first Sunday of each month, classes on prayer will be taught in The LIVING Room during Sunday school. On the fourth Sunday of each month, communion will be served from 9:25-10:00 a.m. All other times, you may slip in to meditate and pray and even leave your prayer requests if you wish.

Come to this beautifully decorated room filled with peaceful images to pray, receive communion or attend a class on prayer. I believe it will strengthen you for the journey.

*Maundy Thursday* Don't miss this service on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the fellowship hall. It is one of the most meaningful services that we have each year. This year, Kathy has added an optional feature to this service. Reflection stations will open at 6:30 and each station will have a personal activity that will call for prayer and reflection. The service will follow at 7:30. The visuals in this service are outstanding. I especially appreciate them and how they help me to worship. Bring your friends with you that night.

*Easter* Come and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with us on April 12 at 9:00 or 11:00. Both services that day will be in the sanctuary. I can hardly wait!

Until Sunday, *Bob*

## Spring Concert

Sanctuary Choir Spring Concert  
Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 7pm

## The Second Hundred Years: Jesus Followers

The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Atlanta Metro Baptist Association is Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at 5:45pm at Chattahoochee First Baptist Church (1950 Bolton Road NW, Atlanta GA). There will be dinner on the grounds catered by the Varsity—\$5 per person.

New 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, Ste. 100  
Atlanta GA 30341  
770.455.4877 or 404.771.6131

## New Excursion for Smoke Rise Adults

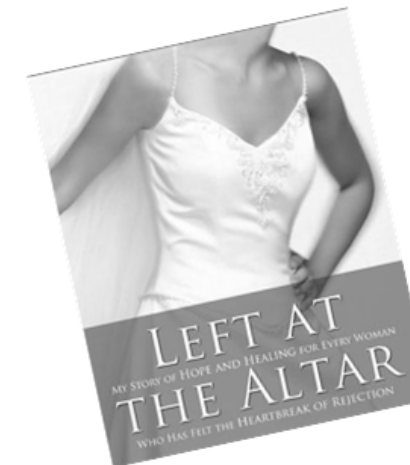
*"Tuesdays with Morrie"*

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Art Station  
Leave at 2:20pm and return at 7pm  
Cost: \$21 per person  
Dinner at Nagano Restaurant  
(on your own)

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

## Ladies Spring Event

Hope & Healing for Every Woman  
Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
In the Fellowship Hall  
Tickets are on sale for \$15.00



Our speaker, Kimberley Kennedy, is the author of the best seller, *Left at the Altar*, and is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and producer, as well as writer and host of the weekly newsmagazine television show "Hot Topics".

*A sellout is expected, so don't delay!*