

	Year to Date	Budget to Date	40 th Anniversary Offering
Income			263 families have pledged \$440,210 to date. \$78,107 has been given by families that have not signed pledge cards.
Total Contributions	\$ 694,637.28	\$ 839,996.00	
Total Other Income	436.88	0.00	
Total Income	\$ 695,074.16	\$ 839,996.00	
Expenses			Goal: \$ 570,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 629,175.78	\$ 677,146.00	Given or Pledged: \$ 518,317.00
Total Ministries – Worship	12,082.15	20,309.00	Needed: \$ 51,683.00
Total Ministries – Education	42,249.61	63,023.00	
Total Missions	74,207.83	93,086.00	
Total Capital Expenditures	29,515.34	25,500.00	
Total Equipment	1,451.05	16,126.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 788,681.76	\$ 895,190.00	

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

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 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

Smoke Rise Counseling Center	770.469.6547
Affiliate of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia	
Gloria White, M. Div., LCSW	Counselor and Center Director
Rene Ely, M. Div., LMFT	Counselor
Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW	Counselor

THE CROSS TIE ISSUE 5.01A SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH Send feedback, information and updates to: crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org

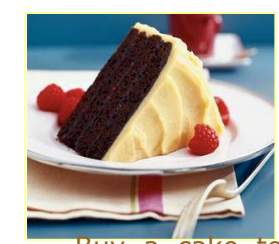
- Looking Ahead...**
- Baccalaureate Service
May 17, 2009
 - Pentecost Sunday
May 31, 2009
 - Pipe Organ Recital and Rededication
August 16, 2009
 - 40th Anniversary Celebration
September 20, 2009

<p>SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH 5901 Hugh Howell Road Stone Mountain, GA 30087</p> <p>THE CROSS TIE (USPS 002172) is published semimonthly by Smoke Rise Baptist Church Address Correction Requested</p>	<p>Periodical Postage Paid at Stone Mountain Georgia 30086</p>
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The Cross Tie Newsletter

May 1, 2009

Annual Mission Gourmet Bake Sale – May 17th



Homemade bake sale! Support the work that Smoke Rise does for two New York City churches, Metro Baptist and Greater Restoration Baptist. A Gourmet Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, May 17th to help support this worthy cause. Homemade cakes will be available for purchase outside the Fellowship Hall, at the side entrance under the gym and in the breezeway near the sanctuary before Sunday School and the 11:00 worship service.

Buy a cake to celebrate Baccalaureate Sunday! Come with a sweet tooth to support these New York City churches. For questions or more information please contact Joanie Blanton.

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.

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, or
Bill Blanton

Uganda
Oct. 17–31
Wilson Echols, or
Janet Palmer

A Letter from Developmental Disabilities Ministries

The "Opening New Worlds" conference was designed to help churches start special needs ministries and to give support to parents of children with special needs.

The conference held at Smoke Rise on April 17th and 18th was a great success! It was well attended and many lives were touched. It is our prayer that more churches will start reaching out to people with disabilities as a result of this event.

The following comments about Smoke Rise from our conference evaluation forms will "make you proud" of your church:

Excellent, superb, comfortable, wonderful facilities, accessible, impressive and inspiring.

Smoke Rise was named "DDM Church of the Year" at our Opening New Worlds banquet, and you are so very deserving!

Thank you for helping to make our conference such a success. You have been wonderful supporters, and your gift and thoughtfulness made all the difference!

– Cathy Humphrey

High School Braves Game

May 15th at Turner Field – For All High School Youth
We will leave from Smoke Rise at 5:30pm. The cost is \$20 per person. See Carra to sign up!

Children's Choir Spring Music Program

Featuring songs from
The 3 Year-old Joy Makers Choir and
The 4 & 5 Year-old Music Friends Choir

Plus

The Music Makers &
Young Musicians Choir
Present the musical

A Technicolor Promise

Wednesday, May 6th at 6:30pm

Smoke Rise Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

Saturday, May 2nd → **New Date: May 16th**
9th Annual Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show
& Motorcycle Show
hosted by Smoke Rise Baptist Church.



Registration: 9am-12
Judging: 12-3pm
Awards: 3pm
Viewing: 9am-3pm
More details and registration information at
srbccarshow.com

Multi Focus WMU

All ladies are invited to meet with our Multi Focus WMU on Tuesday, May 12th, in Room 218 at 10am. Our mission project will be F.I.N. (Families in Need) at Smoke Rise Baptist Church.

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, 5:00PM, week of publication.

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 3rd deadline. The second payment of \$125 is due on June 14th.

For all young people who have completed 6th thru 12th grade.

55 A Go Go Meeting

Tuesday, May 5th, at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

It's Luau season! Wear those wonderful springtime flower and bright colored outfits and grass skirts and join us for a fun evening.

Great magician, Joe Turner, will be our program. And, as always, delicious food prepared by Head Chef Lou Tankersley and her famous staff of chefs.

Relay for Life

Everyone is invited to join the SRBC Relay for Life Team to represent Smoke Rise well, for the 5th year in a row. We ask for your donations to American Cancer Society and invite you to be a part of the community spirit on May 8th at the Gwinnett Fair Grounds in Lawrenceville. See Cathy Blanton, Shelia Dean or Lois Jernigan to learn how to sign up.

Relay for Life wants your old cell phone and will credit the SRBC Relay for Life Team with donations. Three boxes are available to collect donations: at the entrance under the gym, in the Youth Department and in the Fellowship Hall.

Smoke Rise Braves Game

Tuesday, June 30th

Braves tickets: \$8 per person
Braves tickets & Chick-fil-A box dinner:
\$13 per person

We will leave the church at 5pm.

For more information contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 ext. 208 or lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org.

Vacation Bible School



African Safari

June 14th through June 17th

3:00 - 6:00pm

Grief Support Group

Many of the families in our congregation have experienced a loss over the last year. This new Grief Support Group will be a helpful tool for working through the grieving process and provides a confidential caring Christian environment.

Group sessions will be led by Rev. Julie Cannon. Julie has led Grief Support Groups at Smoke Rise over the past several years and has been on staff at our Counseling Center in the past. She is currently serving as counselor for students at Mercer University.

The Grief Support Group will meet each Thursday at 7pm in the Conference Room from May 7th to July 2nd. Each session is 1.5 hours. The cost of the workbook is \$15.

New York Mission Trip Kick-Off

Interested in making a difference this summer? Want to have fun doing it? Join us in New York City for a week of unforgettable memories and generous service.

The Mission Team will run an exciting week of day camp for children living the urban experience. Trip dates are July 11 - 18. Hurry and reserve your spot - only 7 openings left.

There will be a Kick-Off Meeting on Sunday, May 17th. For more information contact Whitney Calhoun @ freedomunseen@yahoo.com.

Birth Announcements

"Allyson Lillie," born April 23rd to Amanda and Justin Meyer; grandparents are David & Dianne Champa.

"Addieson Lane," born April 26th to Greg and Wendy Morris; grandmother is Dot Morris.

"Chase Matthew," born April 29th to Jimmy and Susan Dexter; grandparents are Joe & Terry Shields.

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome the newest member of SRBC: Kennedy Gonzales; who joined Sunday, April 26th.

Thank You for the 150 Boxes of Cookies

Thank you, Smoke Rise Family, for your generous response to our need for Girl Scout Cookies to send to our Military Away Troops. We had 125 boxes of cookies brought to the church office during the month of March, and one Sunday School class took up a collection and donated \$80 which bought the remaining 25 boxes that were needed. The boxes were packed and mailed out on April 1st in order for them to get to their destination by Easter. We appreciate your support.

Friends and family of SRBC currently serving in the Middle East:

Lts. Nathan & Kristen Christensen Smoke Rise Members U.S. Navy	Jacob Hicks Friend of Dennis & Gail Nelson U. S. Navy	1st Lt. Daniel Hwang Friend of Margaret Anne Prohitt U.S. Army
Lt. Cpl. Roberts, S. Grandson of Bob & Carol Hand U. S. Marines	Lloyd Johnson, Lt. USN Grandson of Ann Johnson U.S. Navy	Capt. James Traylor Grandson of Baxter & Jean Dollar U.S. Marines
Sr. Airman Brian Hucks Grandson of Baxter & Jean Dollar U.S. Air Force	Sgt. Christopher Naff Son of Jerry Naff U.S. Marines	Sgt. Bryan M. Whitehead Step-son of Wendell Tudor's brother U.S. Army

Help Our Local Missions

Stone Mountain Co-op needs Volunteers from Smoke Rise to work through May 22. Hours are 10am - 2pm on Mondays and Wednesdays or 10am - 12 Noon on Fridays. Please call Becky Seay at 770.381.6865 to volunteer.

For the month of May the Lilburn Co-op pantry needs are canned meats, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly and sugar.

From the Pastor's Heart . . .

Children's Sunday I want to thank Kellie, Amanda and Kara for the outstanding leadership they provided last Sunday as we celebrated the good year that our children have had at church. The children that led in worship, the testimonies and Kellie's sermon were wonderful. Once again, we saw the value of our new video equipment in the sanctuary prior to Clay's baptism when he shared his faith journey and during the offertory when pictures of our children taken throughout the year were displayed. If pictures are worth a thousand words, we saw a lot of good words last Sunday!

I appreciate all our dedicated children's workers who give so much of themselves to the least among us. Their hard work on Sundays and Wednesdays is important to our young families and our entire church.

How can you help them? What could you do to strengthen our children's ministry? Talk to Kellie, Amanda and Kara about this and make it a matter of prayer.

Heaven on Earth That's how I would describe the choir's Spring Concert last Sunday night. There is no way that words can capture the beauty of the music that filled the sanctuary when that seventy-seven voice choir sang accompanied by the orchestra. Each piece ushered us into the presence of God and lifted our spirits until they soared with angels. Thanks, Danny, and all who led and participated. Your hard work is deeply appreciated!

Church of the Year Smoke Rise was honored as the Church of the Year by the Developmental Disabilities Ministries at their banquet on April 17. We are humbled by this prestigious award and grateful that we can be a partner in their fine work. Our own Richard Davis was the founding President of this strategic ministry and our friend, Bill Neal, is now at the helm. It brings us great joy to support their ministry and meet the needs of adults all over the state.

By the way, the conference they sponsored at our church, which concluded with a concert by Patrick Henry Hughes, was wonderful. The workshops were highly informative and the concert by Patrick was inspirational, to say the least. Few times have I been as moved and touched as I was at that concert. Patrick was born without eyes or the ability to walk and yet he plays in

the University of Louisville Marching Band, with the aid of his remarkable father. Patrick also plays the piano and sings, something he has been doing since he was one year old! What a story he has. This concert was a bit of heaven on earth, too.

Economy I grieve when I hear stories of our members and citizens in our community that are struggling because of the recession. My heart goes out to them because they are good, talented, hard-working people. How grateful I am that we are able to help our members through the "Families in Need" project and our neighbors through the Stone Mountain and Lilburn Cooperative Ministries. I feel that we are being wise stewards of our resources and are pleasing the Lord with our generosity.

Next week, I'll share at a local conference about our "Families in Need" project. I have sent information about this crucial ministry to over fifty ministers that have requested it. Word about what we are doing is spreading. People want to know how we are helping families pay bills and put food on the table in these difficult days. I feel so fortunate to be a part of a church that wants to be the presence of Christ in a broken world. For me, this is ministry at its best.

We cannot do this without your strong support of our budget and on-going ministries. Gifts to our church are used to strengthen families and meet the needs of those hurting the most. I do not know of a church that is doing a better job sharing its resources. Give generously and sacrificially at this time. Your contributions are needed now more than ever.

I might add that one reason we are able to be so outwardly focused is because we are completely out of debt. We made our last debt payment in December.

At the turn of the century, I challenged the church to pay off the debt by 2008. Our note was scheduled to be paid off in 2016 and I felt we could cut that time in half. I really believed it was realistic and necessary to pay it off much earlier.

Because of your generosity, we did it! We did this at the same time we spent almost three million dollars remodeling our facilities in 2005. This makes paying off the debt early even more important.

Little did I know that being out of debt at the beginning of 2009 would be so important. Who knew that this year we would face the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and need to tighten our belts, while at the same time expanding our ministries? Because of God's grace, we are poised and prepared to confront the economic realities of our time and meet them head on. I have many friends who pastor churches that are heavily in debt and their foundation is not as strong. I pray for them. It is hard to concentrate on ministry when you are distracted by money woes.

I assure you that the staff is doing everything possible to be wise stewards of our resources. Ernie, David MacFarlane and I meet every Monday morning to discuss our financial situation. We're trying to stay on top of it and make adjustments as necessary. Help us to stay financially strong by being faithful stewards. We can't do it without you.

Seniors Congratulations, Seniors! We are proud of you and want to mark this special time in your life with a Baccalaureate service on May 17. You have worked hard and we want to recognize you for this grand achievement. We also want to ask God's blessings upon you as you begin the next phase of your life. We'll see you Sunday, May 17, in your caps and gowns.

Early Offering Our new casual service continues to go extremely well. The chapel is full almost every Sunday and last week we had about 12 to 15 visitors. Word is spreading and people are coming. Danny and the staff are designing services that are relevant and meaningful. What a great job they are doing. Thanks for your good work!

Thanks for your faithfulness to Smoke Rise, too. This means a lot to me as we do our best to meet people's needs in these uncertain times.

We certainly need God and each other. We need a loving church family. We need a place where our faith can grow and mature. We need a church that provides opportunities to put that faith into action and serve others. We need a church whose most important task is being the presence of Christ and giving people hope.

We need Smoke Rise and this community does, too. Ask God to show you what you can do to help our church fulfill its divine mission.

Until Sunday,

Bob

Appalachian Construction Trip

As part of Smoke Rise's ministry to GAP (God's Appalachian Partnership), 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 GAP clients. Call Bob Jernigan at 770.934.3005 to arrange for pick up.

*There is a critical need for washers, electric dryers, freestanding electric stoves and refrigerators.

5th Grade Graduation

May 13th 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Parents, grandparents and relatives are invited to come. We will take the kids to Laser Tag following the ceremony!

Parents, we need photos of your children at church events (from birth to present) including weekday school, summer camps, VBS etc. Please turn in all pictures by May 6th. See Kellie or Kara for more information.