

	Year to Date	Budget to Date	40 th Anniversary Offering
Income			
Total Contributions	\$ 793,819.47	\$ 1,049,995.00	263 families have pledged \$440,210 to date. \$84,533 has been given by families that have not signed pledge cards.
Total Other Income	1,304.21	0.00	
Total Income	\$ 795,123.68	\$ 1,049,995.00	
Expenses			
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 688,332.69	\$ 830,600.00	Goal: \$ 570,000.00
Total Ministries – Worship	12,357.15	25,386.00	Given or Pledged: \$ 524,743.00
Total Ministries – Education	42,444.53	75,310.00	Needed: \$ 45,257.00
Total Missions	76,388.18	116,159.00	
Total Capital Expenditures	34,927.34	31,875.00	
Total Equipment	5,579.88	18,047.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 860,029.77	\$ 1,097,377.00	

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

Our Staff

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor	Church Office: 770.469.5856
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 5.01B SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH Send feedback, information and updates to: crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org

Looking Ahead...

- Pentecost Sunday
May 31, 2009
- Pipe Organ Recital
and Rededication
August 16, 2009
- 40th Anniversary
Celebration
September 20, 2009
- Family Comedy Night
with Tim Hawkins
October 11, 2009

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

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1st & 3rd Monday: paper Cross Tie mailed
2nd & 4th Monday: electronic Cross Tie sent
Article submission deadline: Thursday at Noon of the week prior to publication

Send all submissions to
crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org

Help us go GREEN! If you would like to remove your name from the mailing list for the paper Cross Tie and begin receiving only the electronic version, please send us an e-mail (address above) or contact Kim Ward in the church office at 678.533.0542.

The Cross Tie Newsletter

May 18, 2009

Congratulations to SRBC's Class of 2009



We are proud of you!

Hunter Aiken	Billy Everett	Nathan Kelly
Logan Bell	Will Forrester	Garrett Litton
Allison Bridgers	Jeffrey Gardner	Katherine Paist
Warren Burriss	Harrison Gibbs	Angelica Spence
Bryn Davis	Rebekah Goforth	Zuria Swearingen
Corine Deforest	Melissa Kelly	Daniel Weatherby

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.

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

Appalachia Construction
Oct. 11–16
Bill Blanton

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

Thank You From Relay for Life

The Relay for Life Team thanks you for your wonderful support! We happily report that, with your help, we raised \$16,624.00 to help the American Cancer Society continue to fight cancer. Many of you attended our silent auction and biscuit breakfast or bought baked goods from our youth. Some wrote significant checks to support us. We are grateful for your generous spirit of love and goodwill. Please ask us about our Relay for Life experiences at the Gwinnett fairgrounds. We want to tell you about the inspiring Survivors Walk and the emotional Luminary Ceremony. We appreciate our community of faith!

From the SRBC Relay for Life Team: Bill & Cathy Blanton, Bob & Lois Jernigan, Richard & Nancy Davis, Ralph & Joanie Huston, the Chris Allison family, Sheila Dean, Gail Hunter, Lesli Hunter, Sherrill Peoples, Janis Brown, Ashley Wood, Carol Ann Fulgham, Bob Hand, Linda Still, Sandy Huff, Al Furr, Helen Castleberry, Todd Castleberry, Larry Yates, Danny Vancil, Phyllis Scarborough, Karen Stitt, Alan Burton & Wendell Tudor.

Pictorial Directory Update

The new pictorial directory will include all personal e-mail addresses currently available in the church database. If you would like your e-mail address to be included and are not currently in the church e-mail network or have an address change, please contact Kim Ward in the church office at 678.533.0542 or kward@smokerisebaptist.org with your information.

Attention Smoke Rise Golfers

Join Smoke Rise for a weekend of golf at Hickory Knob State Park located in McCormick, SC. We will spend Friday and Saturday, June 12th and 13th, at



Hickory Knob, which is a 2.5 hour drive from SRBC. The cost is \$120 and includes lodging, golf, dinner, breakfast and prizes.

There are only 24 spots available, so sign up quickly! The deadline is Friday, May 29th. To register, contact Ed Brantly at 770.469.1319 or golfed@comcast.net.

Weekday School Openings

Come see and hear about our exciting Weekday School. There are still openings for children aged 15 months – 4 years olds. Please contact Paula Reeves at 678.533.0554.

No 9am Service on May 24th

There will be no 9am service the Sunday of May 24th, Memorial Day weekend. Sunday School and 11:00 AM service, as usual

Vacation Bible School



African Safari

June 14th through June 17th

3:00 - 6:00pm

Centro Shalom Tijuana

Is God calling you to help needy children and their families in Tijuana, Mexico? The Mission Trip to Tijuana is planned for July 25 - August 1. The cost of the trip is \$300 plus airfare (approx. Delta \$335; Air Tran \$310). Please register on line and pay the \$100 deposit by credit card or e-check. For more information, please contact Gary Prophitt at gprophitt@bellsouth.net.

Pastor Fernando Martinez in Tijuana says we will be safe working with the children at Centro Shalom. They have had no safety issues in this area.

Smoke Rise Braves Game

Tuesday, June 30th

Braves tickets: \$8 per person
Add Chick-fil-A box dinner: \$13 per person
Tickets can be purchased from the church office on weekdays, the upper breezeway on Sunday mornings and by the Fellowship Hall door on Wednesday nights.

We will leave the church at 5pm.

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

Lilburn Co-op

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

Uganda

It isn't too early to make your commitment to join us on the Uganda Mission Trip. The trip dates are set for October 17-31.

While in Uganda the team will work through the African Children's Mission, which provides medical, educational and spiritual help to children, plus meals for school children.

For more info, contact Janet Palmer at 770.922.9502 or jpalmer2006@comcast.net.

Employment Opportunity

A part time position is open at Smoke Rise. This job requires exceptional PC and Mac skills as well as solid experience in multimedia, particularly digital video production.

If you or anyone you know has these skills and would be interested in applying for this position, we are now accepting résumés at employment@smokerisebaptist.org.

Mission Service Day Thank You

I am at a loss for words to adequately "Thank You" for responding to the suggestions for our Community Mission Service Day projects. Smoke Rise Baptist Church members not only talk about what needs to be done, they are willing to act. This is a wonderful example of putting feet to our faith! Thank you for showing God's love through your actions. Lives were touched and hearts were warmed by your kindness. These projects were accomplished:

- Monetary donations for the Stone Mountain and Lilburn Cooperatives
- Food/activities for the refugee children in Clarkston
- Hygiene items given for the refugee ministry in Clarkston
- Breakfast and lunch for Smoke Rise Elementary School staff
- Homemade goodies delivered to area police and fire stations
- Dinner gift cards delivered to Cooperative Directors
- Donations to community events in the City of Stone Mountain
- Ground/building projects on the Lithonia Developmentally Disabled Ministry home

Many Sunday School classes and small groups participated in a project. Other projects to benefit our community are carried out throughout the year by Sunday School classes, mission groups, families and individuals. We are making a difference in our community. Smoke Rise is viewed as a church that cares about others. Your investment of time and money makes life better for those in our area. Thank you for showing Christ in many practical ways.

-Linda Johnson,
Mission Service Day Coordinator

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome the newest members of Smoke Rise Baptist Church:

Carl and Nellie Brenner who joined May 10th

Phyllis Johnson who joined May 10th

Smoke Rise Academy: Summer Music Lessons

Smoke Academy of Arts is offering affordable and flexible music lessons to that accommodate summer vacation plans and tight budgets.

The program runs from May 26th through July 31st. Students have the option to enroll in 4, 6, 8 or 10 lessons.

For beginners through advanced of all ages, the program is ideal for school band members ready to take music to the next level. The Academy offers conservatory-level instruction in piano, saxophone, violin, trumpet, clarinet, organ, trombone, solo guitar, voice, flute and cello.

"I have several students studying at Smoke Rise and they are showing excellent progress. I definitely recommend the program to band members," said Laura Moates Stanley, Band Director at Brookwood High School and Georgia Music Educator's Association District 13 Chair.

"Our family is so lucky to have found Smoke Rise Academy. My children have taken piano, trumpet and voice lessons over the years and the teachers at Smoke Rise have had an overwhelmingly positive influence on them," said Laura DelGaudio, an Academy parent.

To register, log on to www.smokeriseministries.org and click on "Arts Programs" then go to link for "Private Music Lessons." For more information, email smokeriseartsacademy@yahoo.com or call 770.413.2133, Ext. 226.

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Marsha Winston, whose step-father has died.

From the Pastor's Heart . . .

Sprucing Up All week, the painters have been here working in the narthex and surrounding areas. They have been painting and applying new wallpaper to the narthex, the stairs up to the balcony and down to the first floor, as well as the commons area outside the office. It looks beautiful!

Soon, the workers will begin removing the pews and replacing the sanctuary floor cover, repairing the pipe organ, remodeling the restrooms and putting some handrails in strategic places. These are some of the projects that we want to complete for our 40th Anniversary celebration in September. I am grateful for your generosity that makes it possible and the committee members overseeing the work. It takes a village to get a church ready for a celebration, and this village is working hard! Thanks!!

The stewardship of facilities is so important to me. I am grateful for all the work that has been done the last ten years maintaining our facilities so that they look good and operate efficiently.

In 2004-05, we spent almost \$3,000,000 renovating the preschool area, kitchen, youth rooms, adding a canopy on the north side of the sanctuary and rooms under the gym and updating our heat and air conditioning system. Most of our facilities are now on computerized air handling units, which is saving us a lot of money in utilities.

In 2006, we replaced the ceiling in the sanctuary with a hard surface to improve the acoustics and painted the sanctuary.

The Building and Grounds committee periodically walks around the building, inside and out, with paper in hand, making notes on what needs attention. They and our custodial staff do an excellent job keeping a very busy building looking good. I cannot thank them enough.

Churches are not museums and they must endure a lot of wear and tear. This is why it takes money and good management to keep the facilities in shape. We do our best at Smoke Rise to be good stewards. Thanks for helping us by taking care of the space you use when you are here.

Pictorial Directory Speaking of the 40th Anniversary, I want to thank, once again, all those that helped our families get their pictures made for our new pictorial directory. Lois Jernigan and Terry Morgan tell me that 475 families had their pictures made. I can hardly wait to see all of them along with other pictures of our church family in various settings. Thanks for a job well done!

Note Burning Last Sunday we burned the note on our mortgage. We are officially debt free! In this tough economy, I cannot tell you how pleased and proud I am of you for being so generous.

At the turn of the century, I challenged us to pay off the debt in half the time it was scheduled to be done. At that time, we owed \$2,020,457.66 and it was scheduled to be paid off in 2016. I felt we could do better than that even though we would spend over three million dollars in the first decade of this century upgrading the facilities and keeping them fresh. Well, you did it and I am grateful! We made the last payment in December, 2008, exactly one-half the scheduled time.

None of us knew how strategic this would be with the market crashing last fall and unemployment soaring. In my

opinion, we are poised to ride out the recession and in much better shape to deal with this tough economy. How grateful I am.

Families in Need Peggy Harris gave the staff an update on the *Families in Need Project*. This is a program that enables us to help our members that are struggling to make ends meet in these difficult economic days.

We began the program with a \$50,000 grant from the Watkins Foundation and asked members to supplement this. Our own members have added over \$20,000 to that initial amount. Four months into the year, about \$25,000 have been disbursed under the strictest code of confidentiality.

I cannot adequately tell you how good this makes me feel. It is our responsibility to take care of our members and make sure their basic needs are met. Thanks for making it possible!

Bible Cathy Dobbins has downloaded on our website an article by Dr. Alan Culpepper titled, "On Interpreting the Bible." In this article, Culpepper offers suggestions about how to enrich your Bible study and how to work through the interpretation of difficult passages, hard texts and divisive issues. I highly encourage you to read this and share it with others.

"Early Offering" I continue to be amazed, pleased, excited, grateful and even relieved at how well our new

worship service is going. I really think we have hit on something that is good for us and am grateful for all the hard work that goes into planning it each week.

The staff felt that we would have a larger attendance at that service for Mother's Day, so we moved it to the fellowship hall. We were right. We set up chairs for 230 people and had to scramble to set up some more. Granted, no one sat on the "front" row, so we

probably had 225-250 there. What a great service we had, even though we had some technical difficulties. Those things happen from time to time. We had no problem, however, with smiles, handshakes and warm embraces.

The staff's creative juices are flowing each week as they talk about ways to make this service meaningful and relevant. I have encouraged them to keep up their good work and appreciate their making this new service so special.

At the same time, I am equally touched in the traditional eleven o'clock service we refer to as "Majesty." The quality of this service is exceptional. If traditional worship appeals to you, you will not find it done better than at Smoke Rise. I truly believe that.

Whichever style of worship you prefer, come and worship with us each Sunday and invite your friends to join you. I assure you that your spirit will be fed and you will be better prepared to handle the responsibilities and challenges that await you each week. I know I am.

I'll see you Sunday. I can hardly wait. Being with you in Sunday school and worship means more to me than you know. Your presence feeds my spirit. As I said in last Sunday's sermon on the vine and branches passage in John 15, "I want you to know that I believe Smoke Rise is good soil, rich and fertile. Come and plant your life in it."

Until Sunday, *Bob*

"...I believe Smoke Rise is good soil, rich and fertile...come and plant your life in it."