

| | Year to Date | Budget to Date | 40 th Anniversary Offering |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| Income | | | 263 families have pledged \$440,210 to date. \$87,578 has been given by families that have not signed pledge cards. |
| Total Contributions | \$ 856,482.91 | \$ 1,049,995.00 | |
| Total Other Income | 1,182.12 | 0.00 | |
| Total Income | \$ 857,665.03 | \$ 1,049,995.00 | |
| Expenses | | | Goal: \$ 570,000.00 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$ 731,995.47 | \$ 830,600.00 | Given or Pledged: \$ 527,788.00 |
| Total Ministries – Worship | 12,520.14 | 25,386.00 | Needed: \$ 42,212.00 |
| Total Ministries – Education | 45,074.10 | 75,310.00 | |
| Total Missions | 83,542.86 | 116,159.00 | |
| Total Capital Expenditures | 36,516.88 | 31,875.00 | |
| Total Equipment | 5,593.92 | 18,047.00 | |
| Total Expenses | \$ 915,243.37 | \$ 1,097,377.00 | |

317 families have pledged \$1,595,143 to date for the 2009 Budget.

The Cross Tie Newsletter

June 1, 2009

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 of the Cross Tie (see the schedule below), please e-mail us at crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org or contact Kim Ward in the church office at 678.533.0542.

Vacation Bible School 2009



Sunday, June 14th
Come and see the Manga African Dance group perform high energy dance and drum rhythms from Ghana, Congo and Nigeria AND pet a live zebra at our African Petting Zoo!

Wednesday, June 17th
Join us for dinner and the VBS Children's Program! The children will perform the South African "Pata Pata" dance and Stomp rhythm dance to the Lord's Prayer.

This will be an amazing week! Register your children online by going to smokerisebaptist.org and clicking on the VBS Sign Up button.

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 |

Deaths

Join us in extending our sympathy to our friends and family at Smoke Rise who have lost loved ones:

Jerry Naff, whose father, John Naff, has died.

Angie Callahan, whose father-in-law, Edward Jerome Callahan, has died. Edward Callahan was the director of the Stone Mountain Co-op.

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

The Living Room 2009 Schedule

Introduction to Centering Prayer
Sunday, June 7th

Intercessory Prayer
Sunday, July 5th

The Forgiveness Prayer Process
Sunday, September 6th

Preparation for Communion: World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 4th

Review of the Day: The Daily Examen as Prayer
Sunday, November 1st

The Jesus Prayer
Sunday, December 6th

Stone Mountain Co-op Prayer Garden

The Stone Mountain Cooperative is pleased to announce the completion of a prayer garden adjacent to the Co-op facility. The new prayer garden incorporates inscribed bricks contributed by donors in memory or honor of friends and loved ones.

The Co-op uses the brick sale proceeds for its ministry support and currently has bricks awaiting inscription. Won't you consider joining those who have already participated by adding your brick or bricks? The price of each brick, including two lines of text with a maximum of sixteen characters or spaces in width, is \$35 or \$40 if a third line is desired.

If you would like to add a brick, please contact Reed Bennett at 770.314.1753 or email granmoinga@bellsouth.net.

The Board of Directors thanks all the volunteers from various churches who worked on the installation of the garden.

- ### Looking Ahead...
- Deacons' Meeting and Lunch
June 14, 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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Birth Announcement

Join us in celebrating the birth of "Tyler Scott Covell" born May 21st to Amy and Matt Covell; grandparents are Tom and Jeanie Duvall.

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.

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.

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.

Weekday School Openings

Come see and hear about our exciting Weekday School. There are still openings for children ages 15 months – 4 Years. Please contact Paula Reeves at 678.533

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.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming these new members who have joined the family of Smoke Rise Baptist Church:

Barbara Spence & Angelica Spence; joined Sunday, May 17th

Megan Smith who joined Sunday; joined Sunday, May 24th
(Margie Landers' granddaughter)

Jonah Dodson who joined Sunday; joined Sunday, May 24th
(David and Lynn Dodson's Son)

Stone Mountain Co-op Donations

For the month of June the Stone Mountain Co-op pantry needs donations of peanut butter, jelly, hot and cold cereal, canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, dried beans, spaghetti sauce (no noodles), toilet paper, soap and liquid laundry detergent.

VBS Supplies

Please start saving supplies for VBS! Supplies need to be brought to SRBC by June 10th. We will need the following items for VBS crafts:

Shoe boxes, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, clean and empty food containers with lids that can be used for drums, frozen juice lids, empty baby wipe boxes and empty water bottles.

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 678.533.0557.

Job Board

A job board has been added to the Smoke Rise website to assist those who are currently seeking employment and for employers seeking to hire. By filling out a form online you can have an employment opportunity posted or post you job skills and availability for employment.

Take a look at the job board on the Smoke Rise website by selecting the 'Information' drop-down button and then selecting the 'Employment' link.

From the Pastor's Heart . . .

Connections

With our 40th Anniversary fast approaching, we have been thinking a lot these days about relationships. We talk frequently about the members of this church, past and present, that have made or are making our journey more enjoyable and fulfilling. It was only appropriate that the lectionary text a few weeks ago focused upon John 15:1-8, the passage about the vine and branches.

"I am the vine and you are the branches," Jesus said. "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit" John 15:5a.

"To whom do you need to be connected to be productive and live up to your potential?" I asked in the sermon. I shared my list with you to begin the discussion.

I need to be connected to God. Just as the vine grower in this passage was good to and for the vineyard, so is God good to me and good for me. He provides the wisdom, guidance, confidence and patience I need to bear fruit. He helps me to get rid of those things in my life that hinder growth and even forgives me when growth has not occurred.

How do I connect with God? I do it through faith in Christ and becoming his disciple. When I order my life as he did his, I find myself in the very places where God is at work in the world and have a personal encounter with Him. In the words of the Old Testament prophets, especially Jeremiah, and our gospel writer, John, I have found Jesus to be the "true" vine that keeps me from becoming a "wild" vine.

I need to be connected to teachers, encouragers and good role models. I need people in my life that will help me to think straight and live right. The people around me provide the fertile soil and deep roots I need to bear fruit. They are the ones that help me see dead branches that need to be pruned and the potential for more growth. Where do I find people like this?

One place is the church. I have been in church all my life and have found in this community of faith some of the most loving, encouraging and helpful people along my journey. Where would I be without them? I do not know because I do not know life without them. I am just grateful for each and every one of them.

When you see a turtle on a fence post, you know it did not get there by himself. That's how I feel. I am who I am and where I am by the grace of God and good friends in church.

I need to be connected to colleagues and friends outside the church to bear fruit. I believe that every person along our journey can be a teacher and help us understand life better. I have some of the finest friends in ministry and friends from all walks of life that open my eyes, my heart and my mind. How grateful I am to see life through their eyes. They have taught me so much.

"My own eyes are not enough," said C.S. Lewis, "I must see through the eyes of others." That's how my heart beats, too.

I need to be connected to family. Some of my family provide me roots, others are the vine and then some are the branches. All of them have provided

a soil rich with history and heritage. I feel so complete and intact because they are in my life. Where would I be without them? I really don't know and am grateful that I never will.

Who are the vine and branches in your life? Who brings out the best in you? Who is helping you prune dead branches and see potential for growth? Are you cultivating those relationships? Have you thanked them lately?

Do you need to make some changes? Are you connected to the

wrong people or maybe not connected to enough good people? Do you need to reach out to someone that needs to make some changes?

In his book, The Great Divorce, C.S. Lewis envisioned hell as a realm in which people are forever moving farther away from one another. Is this happening to you? What do you need to do about it? Do you need to connect to this church? Is this a place where you could encounter God, find community, grow and mature in your faith and bear fruit? I want you to know that I believe Smoke Rise is good soil, rich and fertile. Come plant your life in it and make our 40th Anniversary even more special.

Until Sunday, *Bob*

Families in Need

Do you know fellow SRBC members who have lost their job or are 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.

Summer Camp Openings

We have openings for all ages, 6 to 16, with age-appropriate field trips, swimming, crafts, music, recreation, academics, and chapel. An energetic staff and a Christian setting combine for an active and challenging summer.

Our teens, grades 7-10, focus on spiritual and personal growth through team building and SAT preparation with community experiences that expose our teens to the challenges of disabilities and disadvantages. Rock climbing, Six Flags and an active program of recreation, academics, study and service create an experience to challenge and interest any teen.

The all inclusive tuition includes a hot lunch, snacks and all activities. Enroll online at www.smokeriseministries.org, or call the camp office at 678.469.1377.