

	Year to Date	Budget to Date
Income		
Total Contributions	\$ 1,017,776.71	\$ 1,259,994.00
Total Other Income	1,777.40	0.00
Total Income	\$ 1,019,554.11	\$ 1,259,994.00
Expenses		
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 896,731.07	\$ 988,969.00
Total Ministries – Worship	18,553.35	30,463.00
Total Ministries – Education	55,970.77	85,193.00
Total Missions	97,215.93	137,414.00
Total Capital Expenditures	44,155.50	38,250.00
Total Equipment	5,806.87	19,535.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,117,433.49	\$ 1,299,824.00

40th Anniversary Offering

263 families have pledged \$440,210 to date. \$90,958 has been given by families that have not signed pledge cards.

Goal: \$ 570,000.00
 Given or Pledged: \$ 533,998.00
 Needed: \$ 36,002.00

Prevost Drivers Needed

We need more people to drive the Prevost! Requirements include either the ability or desire to learn to drive the bus, a commercial license (SRBC will sponsor you for this) and availability to drive for short, long and impromptu trips. We will train you on the care and use of the Prevost.

If you are interested, contact Rick Lehner at rick@thelehners.com or David MacFarlane at 678.533.0567

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

The Cross Tie Newsletter

June 29, 2009

Vacation Bible School Thank You

Jambo Everyone!

Wow! What a wonderful week! This year's Vacation Bible School was amazing! With nearly 200 children participating, our SRBC African Safari Adventure got off to a wonderful start. The children were excited to make African crafts, learn dances and songs and go on a safari prayer journey. They loved seeing the baby zebra and the energetic Manga dance team. Then they did a fantastic job on the closing night program, ending it with a bang by dancing to the Pata Pata!

During this week we found that the selfish "Ben Bakari" could learn about forgiveness and the Father's love through others such as Dr. Doolots, and Terry and Jerry. I would like to thank our ministry staff, Dr Browning (Terry), Ernie Forrester (Jerry), Carra Hughes Greer (Dr. Doolots) and Tim Adcox (Ben Bakari), for their hilarious skits, support and participation in this program.

Our VBS team would also like to thank Lou Tankersley and the all kitchen staff for their amazing hospitality. On the last night gathering "Hole" nearly 350 parents and children got together in the fellowship hall to eat.



I would personally thank our 85 leadership team who into this program for these young ones transforming our church into the Serengeti. I know there are many children who would never have had the opportunity to learn the Lord's Prayer...and now they know it, and can teach others. This may have been the first time some heard about forgiveness rather than vengeance, or getting back. My own children are still "stomping the beat to the Lord's Prayer" at home. What a wonderful thing for a parent to hear!

This wonderful "Harambe" (get together) of children, parents and volunteers would not have been possible without the planning and leadership of my amazing Children's Ministry team and so I want to extend a special Thank You to Amanda Burton and Kara Blankenship for their hard work, organization and leadership on this event. You are finest team I've had the pleasure to work with and Smoke Rise is truly blessed to have your energy, talents and your love for children's ministry. Finally, I want to say that I thank God for such a wonderful church family who prays nonstop for us, who continues to support the spiritual formation of all God's children and who generously give so that our children and families can experience God's love and grace through these kinds of programs. It takes many hands and many hearts to minister to these little ones and I am so grateful for you all.

Blessings,
 Kellie Denton
 Minister to Families with Children

Smoke Rise Golf Day

Friday, July 24th, at the Country Club of Gwinnett. Our first tee time is 9:30am. Eight additional tee times have been reserved with an option of adding more. \$35 per person.

To register, contact Ed Brantly at golfed@comcast.net or 770.469.1319.

On Sunday, July 5th, there will be an 11:00am service only due to the 4th of July holiday. The church office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd.

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	

Deaths

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

- Bob Hand whose brother and sister-in-law died;
- Sam Watkins whose father died;
- Judy Ward whose husband, James, died;
- Doug Torbush whose mother died.
- Carmen Peters whose husband, Oliver, died.

A Place for You in Missions?

Maybe one of these ministry places below is calling you. The contact person is listed for more information.

New York
 July 11-18
 Whitney Calhoun

Tijuana
 July 25-Aug. 1
 Gary Prophitt

Appalachia
 July 25-Aug. 1
 Jenny Brannan, or Bill Blanton

Park Avenue Baptist
 Sept. 26
 Mickey O'Kelley

Appalachia Construction
 Oct. 11-16
 Bill Blanton

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

Siberia
 Jan. 29-Feb. 10, 2010
 Jim Palmer

Honduras
 March 6-13, 2010
 Deb Leamon

Smoke Rise Counseling Center

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

Weekday School Openings

Come see and hear about our exciting Weekday School. There are still openings in the fall for children ages 15 mo. - 4 yrs. Please contact Paula Reeves at 678.533.0554.

Looking Ahead...

- Youth Mission Trip – Boone, NC
July 5-10, 2009
- Baptism & Communion
July 12, 2009
- Shocco Springs Student Life for Kids
July 21-24
- Pipe Organ Recital & Rededication
August 16, 2009
- Unhindered Concert
September 19, 2009
- 40th Anniversary Celebration
September 20, 2009
- Tim Hawkins Family Comedy Night
October 11, 2009

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

Periodical Postage
 Paid at Stone Mountain
 Georgia 30086

THE CROSS TIE (USPS 002172)
 is published semimonthly by
 Smoke Rise Baptist Church
 Address Correction Requested

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New Members

Join us in welcoming these new members who have joined the Smoke Rise family:

Carolyn Voke joined Sunday, June 14th;

Madison Crews, daughter of Jill & Ken Crews, joined Sunday, June 21st;

Carter Martin, son of Sarah & Walter Martin, joined Sunday, June 21st.

Wedding Announcement

Bates Rambow and Lindsey Gates were married in South Carolina June 6th, 2009. Bates is the son of William and Mary Rambow.

Uganda

It's not too early to join us on the Uganda Mission Trip 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.

All-Inclusive Mission Experience

From July 25 – August 1 in McDowell, KY, you can minister to children, nursing home residents, help with GAP distribution to the needy, do construction work and more! Reserve your spot soon with a \$100 deposit online at smokeriseministries.org. For more information contact Jenny Brannan at 770.466.2001 or dickjenny@comcast.net.

40th Anniversary Trivia

Get your round 1 trivia questions Sunday, July 5th, in the foyer area at the 9:00am service, as an 11:00am service bulletin insert, or online. Return your answers, with your name and e-mail address, to the church office by Friday, July 31st.

Questions for round 2 will be available by the same means Sunday, August 2nd, and must be returned by Wednesday, September 2nd. The winner will be announced at our 40th Anniversary Celebration on September 20th. For more information, contact Linda Cummings.

Birth Announcement

"Hadley Alexandra" born June 10th to Amy and Rob Harris; siblings are Avery and Ainsley; grandparents are Terry and Linda Cantrell.

Lilburn Co-op

For the month of July the Lilburn Co-op pantry needs are macaroni & cheese, cereal, fruit, peanut butter and jelly. The Lilburn Co-op's thrift store, Lily's Cloak, needs ladies clothing for clients to wear to work and on job interviews. Bring your clothing donations to the store at Five Forks Trickum Road in Mountain Park.

40th Anniversary History Books

The Smoke Rise 40th anniversary history book is a wonderful remembrance of our last 40 years in the Smoke Rise Community. Pre-order your copy of the beautifully bound (as they were for our 25th anniversary) history books in the lower breezeway before Sunday School, the upper breezeway after services or in the church office during the week. Cost: \$12.

SRBC Job Board

A job board has been added to the SRBC website to assist those who are currently seeking employment and for employers seeking to hire. 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.

The LIVING Room: Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, July 5th, from 9:00-9:40am

Intercessory prayer is prayer on behalf of others. The role of mediator in prayer is prevalent in the Old Testament as in Abraham, Moses, Samuel and Jeremiah. In the New Testament, Christ is pictured as the ultimate intercessor. We follow him in praying for loved ones, as well as for church and political leaders, local and global situations. In this session, participants will have opportunity to participate in a candle lighting session and to pray for the people in their lives (praying out loud is not required). Register in The LIVING room or with Kathy Dobbins.

Elementary After School Program

If you are interested in the After School Program beginning in August at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, please contact Greg Burdett at gburdett@bellsouth.net.

Appliances, Furniture & Household Items Needed

We are collecting appliances, furniture, and household items to take to God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP) in McDowell, KY. We are most grateful for the overwhelming response from the church in the past and look forward to this continuing. Please call Bob Jernigan at 770.934.3005 to arrange for your items to be picked up.

Job Searchers Workshop

Smoke Rise member, Crystal Blackwell will conduct a six week workshop based on her new book, *Don't Interview...Audition! Job Search Secrets That Have Helped "Thousands" Land Their Dream Job*.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a professional how to navigate your way to employment in the midst of an economic downturn. Mondays, 6-8:00pm beginning July 27th in Room S223. \$25 per person. Contact Linda Cummings by July 19th to reserve your spot.

Smoke Rise Academy: Summer Music Lessons

Smoke Rise Academy of Arts is offering affordable and flexible music lessons that accommodate summer vacation plans and tight budgets. The program runs through July 31st. Students have the option to enroll in 4, 6, 8 or 10 lessons.

For beginners through advanced of all ages, the Academy offers conservatory-level instruction in piano, saxophone, violin, trumpet, clarinet, organ, trombone, solo guitar, voice, flute and cello. 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.

From the Pastor's Heart . . .

Bible School Someone asked me how VBS was this year and I said, "On a scale of 1-10, it was an 11." It really was that good. Kellie, Kara and Amanda worked hard to plan a good Bible School and all our volunteers pitched in to make it a wonderful experience for the kids. We had a safari theme and everyone loved the scenery and music. I'm still humming many of the songs and tapping my feet to the rhythm.

We had 202 children enrolled representing 138 families. On Wednesday evening, Lou fed over 300 people who came for the final program. It was so good to see parents and grandparents taking such an interest in their children's lives. Bible School is still important as our attendance showed this year!

The "Not Ready for Prime Time Players" seemed to be a hit this year. This was what the cast was called that performed each day before the entire student body. Tim, Ernie, Carra and I were the actors and we had so much fun performing for the kids. We had a story line that built to a climax on Wednesday that taught the kids the value of relationships, honesty and forgiveness. Of course, it was laced with a lot of humor and funny antics.

We are still trying to figure out Carra's accent. It sounded like a combination of dialects from Southern Georgia, Australia and Kenya. Whatever it was, it worked. The kids laughed a lot. (...and so did the adults!)

Thanks again, everybody, for a great VBS!

Yonder The third edition of "Yonder: Gospel Music with a Heavenly Theme," may have been the best. The chapel was packed and everybody had a grand time. Once again, we sang songs that I have not heard for some time: *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, Swingin' with the Saints, I Dreamed of a City Called Heaven, Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal, Church in the Wildwood, Beyond the Sunset, Just a Closer Walk with Thee, Where Could I Go, I Feel Like Traveling On, The Longer I Serve Him, In the Sweet By and By, Down by the Riverside*.

What a toe-tapping celebration it was. Thanks, Danny, choir and instrumentalists! As a matter of fact, thanks for the great job you do every Sunday. You usher us into the presence of God with your music and we appreciate your dedication and faithfulness.

Early Offering Speaking of worship, the 9:00 service on Sunday mornings will be in the fellowship hall on some Sundays this summer. The staff wants to take advantage of the video equipment we have there along with the ability to arrange the room in different configurations some weeks.

One of our most popular services each year is the Maundy Thursday service we have in the fellowship hall. The symbols, lighting and music turn that room into a worship center that makes it possible for all of us to encounter God in very meaningful ways.

On Mother's Day this year, we had the early service in the fellowship hall because we knew the chapel would not be large enough. In spite of some technical difficulties, we had a wonderful worship experience. Our young adults especially liked it because it was even more child-friendly and casual.

The fellowship hall is not used a lot in July and early August, which allows us to utilize it for the early worship service. If the services go as well as we think, we'll try to schedule more services there when the church calendar permits.

The first service in the fellowship hall for Early Offering will be July 12. That day we'll serve communion. If you were at the most recent Maundy Thursday service, you

know how meaningful it will be. The service on July 12 will be similar. I can hardly wait.

Sanctuary Renovations Have you seen the new carpet? Have you gone up front to look at the new hardwood flooring on the platform? Have you noticed the new paint job in the narthex and breezeway? What do you think about the "new aisle" that runs across the sanctuary allowing people to move from side to side without going to the back or front? Did you enjoy the Youth Choir processing in and singing from the newly formed "aisle" last Sunday? I sure did.

I am fortunate because I can walk through the sanctuary every day and admire the improvements. I love the changes that have been made and am pleased with the acoustics. The congregational singing and choral selections reverberate off the walls when they are completed. The sanctuary is "alive with the sound of music," to borrow a line from a movie and song. I like that. Let it ring, let it ring!

"...The sanctuary is 'alive with the sound of music' ...Let it ring, let it ring!"

Window Coverings Did you also notice that the last four windows in the sanctuary now have shades that can be lowered? This completes this project, too, and I am grateful. Not only does this help us when we use video in worship, but protects our new carpet and keeps the sanctuary cooler during the week. The shades stay down throughout the week and are an energy and carpet saver! And you thought only people could be saved...I couldn't resist!

40th Anniversary It is getting closer, isn't it? I appreciate all the work being done by the staff and volunteers to prepare for the celebration. What a day this is going to be. Actually, the entire weekend is going to be wonderful. Watch the publications for details as they are posted. You don't want to miss anything!

Families in Need The *Families in Need* ministry is helping those in our church who are struggling because of the downturn in the economy. I continue to tell you how grateful I am to be a part of a church that takes care of its members. Some families have survived these tough times because of the church's generosity. No one knows who they are and never will. Confidentiality is a priority, as it should be. The people in charge of this vital ministry have exceeded all expectations. They are real pros! Thanks!!

This program is designed to help our members. In addition, we are generously helping our local Co-ops, who are also doing a splendid job assisting community members in need. All our bases are covered this way and I could not be happier. Our dream at Smoke Rise is to "give ourselves away." These are just two of many ways we are doing it.

Stewardship Continue to be wise and faithful stewards during the summer months. Church expenses don't take a vacation. We need your faithful support in order to continue "giving ourselves away." We cannot do this without a strong home base.

The economy has hit us hard, just like every family, business, school and charitable organization. We are analyzing every expenditure and squeezing the most out of each penny. Our goal is to be good stewards so that our vital ministries will not be curtailed. People in and out of the church need us now more than ever during these stressful times. Enable us to help them by being faithful and generous stewards this summer. When you are away, remember to send in your tithes and offerings. The staff and all our church leaders thank you!

Until Sunday, *Bob*