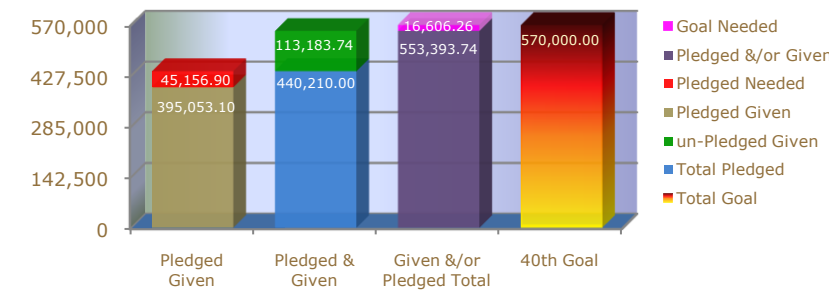
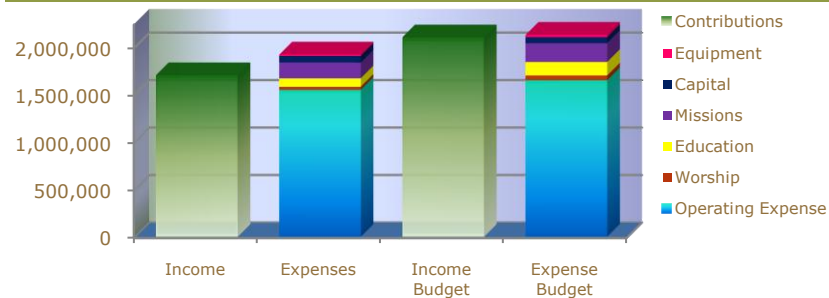


Financial Corner: through October 25, 2009



Lilburn Co-op

November Lilburn Co-op pantry needs: canned meat, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, hot and cold cereal.

Electronic Pictorial Directory

Be sure and check out our new online pictorial directory! First, call the church office to receive your member access code. Then, just follow the link on the SRBC home page.

40th Anniversary Offering Update

Watch as we continue to work towards finishing some of the renovation projects that are still underway; such as completing the pews and the carpeting in the sanctuary (both floors)!

The Cross Tie Newsletter

November 2, 2009

Sign-Up for Missions!

Katrina
November 12-15
Contact Gary Prophitt

Siberia
January 29-February 10
Contact Jim Palmer

Honduras
March 6-13
Contact Deb Leamon

Register for Katrina Online

Interested in the Katrina trip? Go to smokeriseministries.org to register for the last mission trip to Biloxi, November 12 - 15. Contact Gary Prophitt for more information at gprophitt@bellsouth.net or 770.979.8472.



College Care Packages

The Student Ministry will be sending care packages to our college students wishing them well on their finals in December. From now until November 29th, we will be collecting items for the packages. Please individually wrap all items and bring them to the front office or Carra Hughes Greer's office no later than November 29th. Items needed:

Shoe boxes, pens and pencils, encouraging notes, Starbucks gift card, gum, Raman Noodles, crackers, candy bars, potato chips, cookies, iTunes card, play dough or any fun trinket that would make them smile!

Parents - to register your student(s) to receive a care package, email Carra Hughes Greer at carragreer@gmail.com. Include in your email your student's name, email, university and current mailing address.

Ushers Needed

We are again in need of ushers. Many of you have been given the gifts of hospitality and organization. This is a great and much needed way to use them. We need Ushers for each Sunday in the month. You would only need to serve one Sunday a month and only at the 11:00am service. Please contact Linda Cummings at lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org or 770.469.5856 ext. 208 to volunteer!

Wednesday Night for Adults

What Life Has Taught Me About Celebrating Christmas
6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

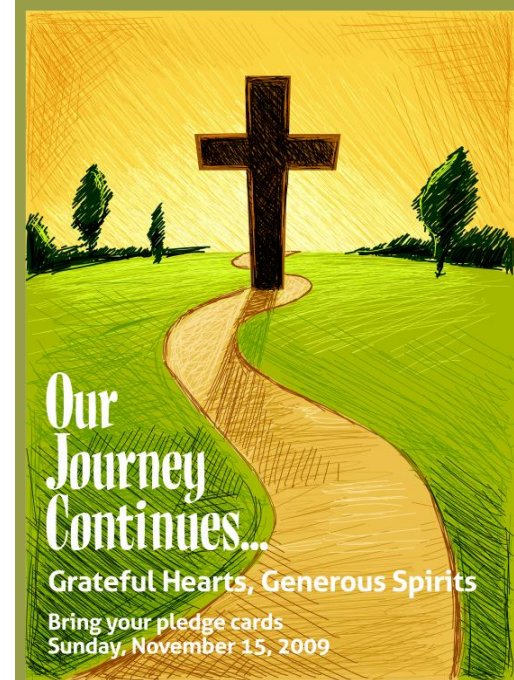
As we are living through the struggle of our nation in financial distress and the holiday season is approaching, we have invited two Smoke Rise members to share their perspectives on celebrating Christmas. You are sure to be blessed by these two men.

November 11th: Gene Sullivan

November 18th: William (Bill) Smith

Note: Bill is the author of a new book about the loss of his son, Wes, titled, *Later: A Journey of Hope for When Everyone Survives*. Books will be available for a donation to the WES foundation (benefitting leukemia research) and signed by Bill.

Gratitude Sunday



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
Linda Cummings	Coordinator of Congregational Life/Senior Adults
David MacFarlane	Director of Administration & Communication
Lou Tankersley	Director of Food Service Ministry
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:

The family and friends of Gene Kelly;
Bo Prosser's grandmother.

Academy Fall Music Lessons

The Academy of Arts is now offering adult art classes, drama classes for children and teens and private music lessons for most band instruments. Conservatory-level instruction is offered for piano, saxophone, violin, trumpet, clarinet, organ, trombone, solo guitar, voice, flute and cello.

Register at smokeriseministries.org. For more information, call 678.533.0557 or email smokeriseartsacademy@yahoo.com.

THE CROSS TIE ISSUE 1109P1 SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH Send feedback, information and updates to: crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org

Looking Ahead...

Smoke Rise Christmas

Choir presents,
Handel's Messiah
December 20th at 7pm

Family Christmas
Eve Service
December 24th at 5pm
Sanctuary

Dave Ramsey Seminar
January 2010

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

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www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org

Birth Announcements

Join us in celebrating these new births in the Smoke Rise family:

"Nadia Janelle Madison," born October 15th to Becca and Andy Jones.

Keyboard Recital

The Music Ministry of SRBC presents

Christmas Keyboards

Carole Mitchell and Susan McEwen
Keyboard Artists

Sunday, December 13th at 7pm in the Sanctuary
Admission is Free

Help SRBC Families in Need

Assistance is still available through Smoke Rise Families In Need (FIN). If you have a need or know a fellow Smoke Rise member who is in need, please contact Bob Browning, Ernie Forrester or Tim Adcox.

Sadies Ladies

Sadies Ladies Circle will meet Monday, November 9th at 6:30pm at the home of Elaine Williams. Please bring boxed cereal and a donation for the Stone Mountain Co-op. All ladies are invited as we fellowship together.

Holiday Activities Preview

November

15th Gratitude Sunday

17th Women's Holiday Dinner, 6:30pm

22nd Thanksgiving Dinner, 6pm

28th Lake Lanier Lights Trip, 5pm

29th Family Advent, 9:45am
No 9am Service (1st Sunday Of Advent)

December

2nd Nativity Pageant, 6:30pm
Peter Mayer Concert, 7pm

6th Night in Bethlehem, 5pm – 7pm

9th Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, 6pm

13th Christmas Party for Jesus (4&5), 9:45am
Christmas Keyboards Concert, 7pm

16th Children and Family Caroling, 6:45pm

20th Holiday Breakfast, 9am
Handel's Messiah, 7pm
No 9:00am Service

24th Christmas Eve Services:
Children/Family, 5pm
Traditional, 7pm

27th No 9am Service

January

3rd No 9am Service

Upcoming Care Class

Dealing with Grief Through the Holidays
Wednesday, November 4th, from 6-7:30pm in the Parlor

After the loss of a loved one, holidays can be a heart-wrenching time. Rev. Julie Cannon will give you tools for coping with your grief during this holiday season that will also help with future special occasions and holiday events. Julie is an experienced counselor currently working with students at Mercer University. She has also been a counselor on our Counseling Center Staff.

To sign-up or for further information contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 ext. 208 or lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org or Marcia Griffith at marciagriffith@comcast.net.

Atlanta Flood Response

In response to the extensive flooding we've seen in Atlanta neighborhoods, Smoke Rise is ready to help! To begin our response, we need the following information: Who is it that needs help - contact information, location and description of basic need(s). Donations will be accepted to help those in need. Make checks payable to Smoke Rise Baptist Church, designated Atlanta Flood.

Are you willing to volunteer? If so, please contact the church office at 770.469.5856 or smokeriseinfo@smokerisebaptist.org and provide your contact information and availability (email preferred).

Look Who's Writing at Smoke Rise

Here are a few opportunities to be blessed by the writings of three of our Smoke Rise members:

William (Bill) Smith has a new book now published entitled, *Later, A Journey of Hope for When Everyone Survives*, about the loss of his son, Wes, to leukemia. Bill will be signing copies on Wednesday, November 18th in Fellowship Hall. Book donations will go to the WES Foundation, a nonprofit charity for leukemia research.

Thy Will Be Done, a biography of George W. Truett, by Keith E. Durso, is now available in the church media center. Truett was an outstanding Baptist preacher in the 20th century known for his advocacy of religious liberty.

Charlie Coe recently prepared an excellent lesson for the Seekers Sunday School class on Religious Freedom, detailing this historic Baptist principle and the importance of its preservation. Pick up a copy to read in the Sanctuary Breezeway and the media center.

Deck the Halls...for the Holidays!

Tuesday, November 17th 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall
Sponsored by Smoke Rise Women's Ministry

Come enjoy a delicious holiday dinner followed by floral designs and holiday decorating ideas from our multi-talented Minister of Music, Danny Vancil. All of Danny's creations will be given as door prizes with a special grand prize for one lucky lady. If you would like to host and decorate a table, please contact MaryLynn Manley at 770.925.7509. Tickets are \$10 per person and are on sale now.

Handel's Messiah

The Smoke Rise Baptist Church Music Ministry presents

G. F. Handel's Messiah Part I

Sunday, December 20th at 7pm in the Sanctuary

From the Pastor's Heart . . .

Love in Action – James 2:4-17

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" James 2:14-17.

One thing is obvious when you read this passage and others in this epistle. James took Jesus seriously. There is little doubt that James was heavily influenced by the earliest accounts of Jesus' teachings and good deeds. I am confident that he was familiar with the way Jesus expressed his values, arranged his priorities and lived his life. He knew what Jesus considered most important, love of God and neighbor. He was aware that Jesus was so passionate about building a just and peaceful world that he gave his life for this noble cause.

It appears that James adopted Jesus' mission. Through his writings, he became an advocate for those who were struggling, especially the poor, the vulnerable, the powerless victims of injustice and the disenfranchised. They are the main characters in his book and like the ancient prophets, he wrote about how they should be treated, with respect, kindness and compassion.

Following Jesus' example, he used his influence to mobilize believers to help those who were struggling. To do any less, in James' opinion, made a mockery of the faith he cherished. Without good deeds, faith was lifeless.

So what did James encourage his readers to do? He told them to treat all people with respect, regardless of their economic or social standing. It appears that James was aware that Jesus treated the woman at the well with the same gracious dignity and respect he did Nicodemus. This was what he wanted his readers to do, too.

What do you think James would tell us today, because I'm not sure our culture is much different from James'? Wouldn't he begin by telling us to see all people as God's children and love them as we do our own children and grandchildren, regardless of their social or economic standing? I think so. It is not up to us to choose which neighbors we'll love as we love ourselves.

I believe James would tell us to do more than be nice to people, as important as this is, but also to treat all people fairly, especially those that are accustomed to being exploited. He would admonish us not to

take advantage of them, but to make sure their voices are heard and their interests are protected. I am certain that James would remind us that the Golden Rule has no exceptions.

I think James would tell us that we need to be more concerned about what we can do for people than what we can get from them. Like Jesus, we need to adopt a servant mentality that never substitutes empty words for practical help.

I have no doubt that James would look at us today with our enormous wealth and influence and demand that we use our voice and clout to create a culture that eliminates the have-nots. He would tell us that it is our responsibility to build communities that ignore no needs and leave no one behind.

Why should we take James seriously and accept his bold challenges, which are, for the most part, counter-culture? I believe he would quickly tell us, "This is what it means to follow Jesus. How could anyone be his disciple and do otherwise?"

When I read James, I am compelled to ask why he was drawn to Jesus. What part of the gospel attracted him? Why did he take Jesus seriously? Why did he adopt his mindset and lifestyle? Why did he become so passionate about creating a just and peaceful world for all people? Why did he care about those that most people ignored or exploited? One day, I hope to ask him these questions.

Perhaps something clicked in James' mind when he considered Jesus' life and ministry. It satisfied a longing deep in his soul. Following Jesus and mobilizing others to do so gave his life meaning and purpose as nothing ever had.

I must tell you that it does mine, too. The call to build a community that leaves no one behind appeals to me. This part of the gospel has always tugged at my heart.

I hope it does you, too. I believe it is the essence of our faith. This is why stewardship is so important. Being faithful and generous stewards of our time, talents and resources creates safe communities for all people. This is why our dream at Smoke Rise is "to give ourselves away."

Living with less so that others might simply live is what Jesus modeled. How can we do any less and be his disciples?

Until Sunday *Bob*

"...we need to adopt a servant mentality that never substitutes empty words for practical help."

Adult Game Days

Our next Game Day will be on November 5th from 10am-2pm. Call the church office to make your reservation. Lunch will be served by Lou and her staff. Cost is \$5 per person. There will be an array of games to choose from (including Bridge). The choice is yours, we'll teach you these games in record time. See you on November 5th!

Financial Peace Seminar

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace Seminar is coming in January - sign up will begin in November. Watch for details!

Multi-Focus WMU

Ladies, you don't want to miss our Multi-Focus WMU meeting on Tuesday, November 10th, at 10am in room 218. This month's mission project is for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Mission Offering

During this Christmas season (through December 31st) we have the opportunity to give to Global Missions (CBF) and The Lottie Moon Offering (SBC). Your generosity will help mission work around the world. Please designate your preference on your check or offering envelope.