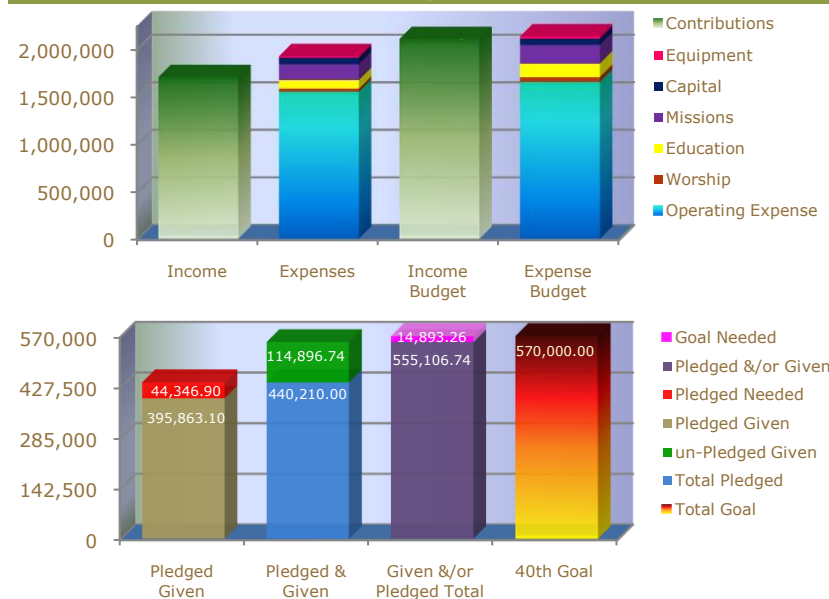


## Financial Corner: through November 12, 2009



**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.

**40<sup>th</sup> 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 16, 2009



## A Night in Bethlehem

An interactive experience for families  
 December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm  
 Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Families will travel back to ancient Bethlehem and "report" to be counted in the census! They will taste, see and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born. Our shopkeepers, craftsmen and food merchants will be planning for their arrival. The marketplace has shops and activities for children of

all ages including the Leatherworking, Perfumery, storytelling, bakery, dye shop, toy making,, instrument making and the Jewish family home where guests can enjoy refreshments (hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies etc).

Be wary of the Roman guards who may ask for identification! Also the Tax Collector, Villagers and Shepherds will be roaming about interacting with guests. This evening also includes a live nativity where families can see (and touch) live animals, hear the nativity story and experience heavenly music from our "Angel Choir!" Admission is free but donations are welcome and appreciated.

## Assignment: Stone Mountain Co-op

SRBC has been assigned to work at the Stone Mountain Co-op Food Pantry from December 2 - 23. The hours are from 10am - 1:30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 10am - 12pm on Fridays. If you would like to help on any of these days, please call Becky Seay at 770.381.6865. NOTE: The Co-op will be closed December 24 - January 4.

## 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

## Deaths

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

Carolyn Springston's husband, Marvin;  
 Neil Wilson's father, Frank Wilson.

## 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](http://smokeriseministries.org). For more information, call 678.533.0557 or email [smokeriseartsacademy@yahoo.com](mailto:smokeriseartsacademy@yahoo.com).

## Sign-Up for Missions!

### Siberia

January 29-February 10  
 Contact Jim Palmer

### Honduras

March 6-13  
 Contact Deb Leamon

## 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 1109P2 SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH Send feedback, information and updates to: [crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org)

## Looking Ahead...

Smoke Rise Christmas  
 Choir presents,  
*Handel's Messiah*  
 December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Family Christmas  
 Eve Service  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm  
 Sanctuary

Dave Ramsey Seminar  
 January 2010

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

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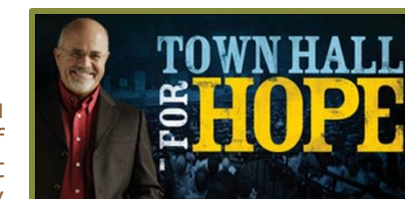
## Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Seminar

Beginning Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in S223.  
*A Life Changing Experience*  
 Coordinator - Kitty Keadle

Financial Peace University is designed to teach you and/or your family how to get out of debt, stay out of debt and build wealth. Come and learn how to blot out financial stress and become a beacon of generosity that shines through these hard times.

You will meet each week with your class to watch the video lesson with Dave Ramsey and participate in discussion and accountability groups that will change your whole attitude about money. Class begins January 12th and ends April 6th. Cost of the seminar is \$100 per family.

Sign up begins in November by contacting Linda Cummings at [lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org) or 770.469.5856. Please do not delay, sign up before the holidays take your attention. Books need to be ordered by the middle of December.



Submission Deadline: Thursday, Noon, week before publication.

Smoke Rise Baptist Church | 5901 Hugh Howell Road | Stone Mountain, GA 30087 | 770.469.5856  
[www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org](http://www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org)

## Lights at Lanier

Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

We will leave Smoke Rise via Motorcoach at 5pm and will stop on the way for dinner at Cracker Barrel (on your own). The cost is \$10 per person.

Sign up on Wednesdays and Sundays or during the week with Linda Cummings in the church office. For more information, contact Linda Cummings at 678.533.0547.

## Keyboard Recital

The Music Ministry of SRBC presents

### **Christmas Keyboards**

Carole Mitchell and Susan McEwen  
Keyboard Artists

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 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 of a fellow Smoke Rise member who is in need, please contact Bob Browning, Ernie Forrester or Tim Adcox.

## Holiday Activities Preview

### **November**

17<sup>th</sup> Women's Holiday Dinner, 6:30pm

22<sup>nd</sup> Thanksgiving Dinner, 6pm

28<sup>th</sup> Lake Lanier Lights Trip, 5pm

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

### **December**

2<sup>nd</sup> Nativity Pageant, 6:30pm  
Peter Mayer Concert, 7pm

6<sup>th</sup> Night in Bethlehem, 5pm – 7pm

9<sup>th</sup> Tacky Christmas Sweater Party, 6pm

13<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Jesus (3-5 yrs), 9:45am  
Christmas Keyboards Concert, 7pm

16<sup>th</sup> Children and Family Caroling, 6:45pm

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

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

27<sup>th</sup> No 9am Service

### **January**

3<sup>rd</sup> No 9am Service

## Save the Date

Valentine Dinner and Dance  
Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

Tickets will be available beginning in January. For more information, contact Linda Cummings at 678.533.0547.

## Care Packages for College Students

The Student Ministry will be sending care packages to our college students wishing them well on their finals in December. Until November 29<sup>th</sup>, 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. Items needed:

Shoe boxes, pens and pencils, encouraging notes, Starbucks gift cards, gum, Raman Noodles, crackers, candy bars, potato chips, cookies, iTunes cards, 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.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Adult Christmas Outing

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
It's a Wonderful Life at the Art Station  
Lunch at Evergreen

The cost is \$31 per person and is all inclusive. We will leave Smoke Rise promptly at 10am and the play will begin at 10:30am. We should return by 2:30pm. Bring or send your check to Linda Cummings in the church office. For further information call Linda at 678.533.0547. Don't delay...tickets are limited!

## Handel's Messiah

The Smoke Rise Baptist Church Music Ministry presents

**G. F. Handel's  
Messiah  
Part I**

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Sanctuary

*From the Pastor's Heart . . .*

*Reckless Generosity - Mark 12:38-44*

Who is the most generous person you know? Has this person always been generous? Have you talked to this individual about his or her generosity? Has anyone had a conversation with you about generosity?

How I would love to talk to the widow in our text about what she did in the temple the day Jesus visited. I don't know that I have talked to anyone who gave away their last penny, like this poor widow did. Our text says that she had two small coins worth a fraction of a penny and put both of them in the temple treasury. Perhaps I could understand giving one of them, but not both. This fascinates me.

Why did she give all she had that day? Maybe she was wired to be generous. Some people are, you know. It is just a part of their DNA.

She could have given all she had because this was what she was taught. Obedience was more important to her than her own well being. Perhaps there was a time when she and her husband gave out of their abundance, but it appears those days were gone. She was going to give now out of her poverty and she did. Her circumstances changed, but not her habits.

I don't know why she gave all she had. What I know is that it caught Jesus' attention. While others were looking at the attention-grabbing scribes, dressed in their long flowing robes waiting for the next compliment, Jesus looked at the widow whose foreclosure may have allowed the scribes to purchase these robes.

Why did Jesus lavish her with praise? I think he was impressed with her behavior. It was such a contrast to the religious leaders whom she was supporting. It lifted his spirit to find one who was truly "pure in heart."

I think it also inspired him to give his all. If she could give everything she had that day, and do it so humbly and quietly, then he could do the same in the days ahead. I think her generosity helped him to be faithful all the way to the cross.

There is a gospel song by the title, "When He Was on the Cross, I Was on His Mind." Perhaps that is true. I would rather believe, however, that when he was on the cross, this poor widow was on his mind. Her simple act of generosity enabled him to give everything he had.

Whose act of generosity caught your attention and inspired you to be more generous? Do you think you have inspired anyone to be more generous? Do you need to make some changes in order to do this?

*"...You'll need people  
who inspire and  
encourage you...this  
church is one place  
you will find people  
like this."*

Let me tell you what I think is unique about our text. I think both of these stories are about us. There is a beautiful angel and an ugly demon inside each of us. At times we are the widow, humbly carrying out our responsibilities. We are genuine, sincere, compassionate, kind, grateful and generous to a fault. We support those institutions that are trying to make the world better and trust the leaders guiding them. We do our part to strengthen God's work even when it requires sacrifices, because we believe in Him and His vision for the world.

There is another side to us, though, and it is not pretty. Just like the scribes, we can be ruthless when it comes to protecting our interests and maintaining a lifestyle to which we have grown accustomed. We abuse power and hurt others without considering the hardships we inflict upon them. We think life is about us, manipulating and exploiting others to satisfy our desires. You would never know it, however, when we come to church. We cover it up well by going through the motions of worship and praise.

This text reminds me that the ugliness of the scribe and the beauty of the widow reside in each of us. Which one usually wins that struggle in your life? Which one do you want to prevail? Which do you think those around you prefer? Which one does our culture call us to be? Which one does our value system reward? Which one honors and pleases God?

I think the last question is easy to answer based upon Jesus' words in our text. God delights in the person that embodies integrity, humility, compassion, generosity, commitment, dedication and sincerity. These are the traits that bring the best out in us and build bridges to others. These are the virtues that build community and make the world a better place to live. These are the people that inspire greatness in others.

I think that you and I can be this kind of person. It will not be easy in our culture and will require help. You'll need people who inspire and encourage you, like this widow did Jesus. This church is one place you will find people like this. Come join us on our journey of faith.

You will also need God's help and He eagerly offers it. Why not talk to Him about it now?

Until Sunday, *Bob*

## Ushers Needed

We are again in need of ushers for each Sunday in the month. This is a great way to use your gifts of hospitality and organization! You would only need to serve one Sunday a month at the 11:00am service. Please contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856 ext. 208 to volunteer!

## Mission Offering

During this Christmas season (through December 31<sup>st</sup>) 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.

## 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 smokeriseinfo@smokerisebaptist.org or 770.469.5856 and provide your contact information and availability (email preferred).