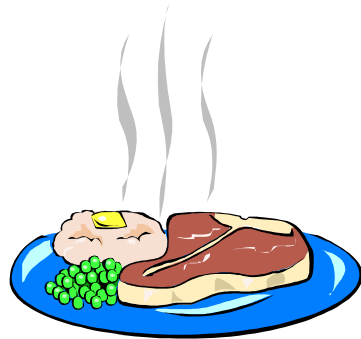


**The
C
R
O
S
S
T
I
E**

**“Big Daddy Weave”
August 28
in concert at Rehoboth**



**Prime Time
Tuesday, September 6
6:00 P.M. in fellowship hall.**



**Deacons’ Lunch & Meeting
September 11**



The August 26, 2005
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Fall Indoor Soccer

Grades Kdg - 4th Grade
Saturday Games
9:00 and 10:30
September 10 - October 29



First Practice August 30
Practice Tuesdays and Thursdays
Kdg - 2nd Grades: 6:00
3rd - 4th Grades: 7:00
Cost: \$75

Prime Time Meeting

The first Prime Time meeting for the new church year is set for Tuesday, September 6 at 6:00 P.M. in fellowship hall. The program will feature the Sunshine Express with Bill Taylor singing country, gospel tunes with a lot of laughs thrown in. Mark the date and plan to join us. Cost is \$6 per person for the meal.

Attention Prime Time and New Retirees

The senior adult group will be traveling to Warm Springs, GA on Thursday, September 22 to visit the Little White House and the village of Warm Springs. We will have lunch at the Bullock House, where the home cooked vittles are delicious. The church bus will leave Smoke Rise at 8:30 A.M. and return around 4:30 P.M. The cost for the trip including lunch is \$27 per person. Please call the church office to make your reservation. Space is limited, so please hurry.

Deacons' Lunch & Meeting

The September deacons' lunch and meeting is set for Sunday, September 11. Deacons are reminded to confirm any changes to your lunch reservations on or before Thursday, September 8.

Defensive Driving Course

A defensive driving course sponsored by AARP will be conducted at Smoke Rise on September 26 and 28. The cost for taking the course is \$15 per person. For those who complete both days of study, a reduction in the cost of your automobile insurance is available. The class will begin at 9 AM and conclude at 1 PM. each day. Please call the church office to register.



Smoke Rise Camera Club

The Smoke Rise Camera Club will hold its first meeting on Thursday, September 15 in Room 223, time to be announced.

There are just a few requirements for joining:

- an interest in photography
- access to a camera- film or digital
- time available on meeting nights



As you can see, there is no requirement that you be an expert; just that you are interested.

Please email me your contact information: name, address, phone & email. Chuck Tankersley at robolino@mindspring.com or Dick Brannan at dickjennyb@comcast.net.

Look forward to seeing you on Sept. 15.

Attention: Smoke Rise Golfers!

Friday November 4
Indian Creek Golf Club in Covington

Find a partner and sign up now for the Fall Golf Fellowship. We will play a two man best ball, flighted, handicapped, 18 hole format. Join us for fellowship and brunch starting at 10:00 a.m.

Shotgun start at Noon. Pick a partner with a similar handicap.

More details and cost later. Call Ed Brantly at 770-469-1319 with questions.



Survey Results

The Adult Education Advisory Team would like to thank everyone that participated in our recent education survey. We received 301 survey forms. The overwhelming majority said that they have a class that they go to almost every week and feel satisfied with their current class. Most people prefer that the teaching alternate between lecture and discussion and include a healthy combination of in-depth study of the bible and discussion of real life issues and struggles. We received many comments and suggestions that will be passed along to the various classes. Three new adult classes had a great beginning on August 14. Feel free to visit any of our classes to find the right one for you. Go to www.smokerisebaptist.org and click on adult ministries

What we missed is hearing from those who don't participate in a Sunday School class. We will continue to work on improving this communication link. It is never easy to acknowledge that people can "fall through the cracks" of a church and especially in this church that is known for how its members care for each other. We grieve whenever this happens and feel one way it can be prevented is to make sure members are connected to and involved in a Sunday School class. Let us all be diligent about inviting and welcoming new members to our Sunday School classes. If you would like to make any other suggestions or comments, please contact Kathy Dobbins at (770) 469-5856 or kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org.

Life Connections

Connecting Faith With Real Life

September Class Schedule:

The Sacred Texts of the World Religions led by Dr. Gary Leazer — Sundays at 6 pm beginning September 11

The Patriarchs — This new Beth Moore study begins on September 11 (Sundays at 6 pm) and Sept. 12 (Mondays at 9:45 am)

Register online or in the Sanctuary Breezeway

Yellow Daisy Festival Needs Volunteers

The Stone Mountain Ministries will provide two ministries at the Yellow Daisy Festival at Stone Mountain Park, September 8-11.

Volunteers are needed to assist children making crafts and receiving a New Testament in the Children's Craft Area. Three shifts are available: 9:30 a.m. - Noon; Noon - 3:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to assist artisans at their booths. Volunteers serve one shift from 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Parking passes will be provided for the volunteers.

Contact Pat or Glenn Herndon in the Smoke Rise Missions Office or Linda Johnson at lmjrocker@aol.com.

Note of Appreciation

Dear Christian Friends,

Your visits, calls, cards, and especially your prayers were so uplifting to us during the passing of Dan's mother. Thank you to each Smoke Rise minister and member for your loving fellowship.

Dan and Sarah Mansfield

Notes from the Pastor

Mission Trips

I want to thank everyone that went on a mission trip this summer and those that are involved in mission work weekly in our own community. This balance between local and global missions is important and we strive to maintain it. I certainly enjoyed my time in Tijuana with several of our members meeting critical needs of beautiful people.

The Sunday after I returned, I used Mark 10:46-52 as my text. This is the account of Jesus passing through Jericho on his way to observe his last Passover. Along his journey, Jesus heard blind Bartimaeus cry out for help. Many tried to silence Bartimaeus so he would not disturb Jesus. To everyone's surprise, though, Jesus stopped and healed Bartimaeus. Let me share an excerpt from the sermon that I titled after the Supreme's song forty years ago, "Stop, In the Name of Love."

Sermon Excerpt

Why do you think Jesus did this? Why did he interrupt his schedule to respond to Bartimaeus' cry for help? Was this a photo-op to be used to garner support for his ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Of course not. This was far more than that. I believe he was still teaching when he healed Bartimaeus. For you see, as he walked along his way, he did what rabbi's usually did. He taught those that were traveling with him. **What did he want his disciples to learn? Nothing is more important than responding to people when they are hurting.** Hearing pleas for help that others try to silence is the essence of faith.

"Jesus stopped," Mark wrote, and said, "Call him." Can you imagine the surprise of those in that mobile classroom? Had this ever been done? Would they forget it? Surely not.

I think what Jesus taught them that day was that study, worship and prayer were no substitute for meeting people's needs. As a matter of fact, if these spiritual disciplines did not make their ears more sensitive and compel them to respond to their neighbor's cry for help, they were useless. The man that told the story of the Good Samaritan could not miss the chance to be one. Neither can we.

I think he also wanted them to understand that people are helped one person at a time. Notice how specific Jesus was after he heard this man cry out for help. Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." When the man arrived, Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

I am convinced that the way we are going to make the world better is one person at a time. I wish it could be done on a larger scale more quickly, but it won't be. Don't ever think that what you do to help one person is unimportant. It is God's design for changing the world.

I know you have heard the story about the man that was throwing starfish that had been swept on the shore back into the ocean. When he told someone what he was doing, they asked him what difference it was going to

make since there were so many starfish on the beach. The wise man lifted the starfish in his hand and said, "It will make a big difference to this one!"

Tijuana is filled with thousands of people that live in abject poverty. Did our mission team help all of them? No. Has poverty been eliminated since we were there? Of course not. Then why did we go? Was it worth the time, money and effort?

Ask the Robles family. This is a family of thirteen living in a one-room shack on the side of a mountain. Because of the financial backing of John and Suzanne Holley, our men built a room on to this little shack so that the family can have more space and the three girls can have a safe place to sleep at night. Ask the Robles if our trip was worth it.

Ask Maria if our trip was worth it. Some of our team members were taking fresh, clean water to the people that lived in the most impoverished area of the city. I'm proud to say they delivered over 100 gallons to that many homes. However, they did far more than distribute water, as important as that was. They also passed out hope, love and encouragement. When they approached Maria, she gladly received the water and told them that her house had just burned. All her possessions were gone with no way to replace them. Upon hearing this, the entire team contributed to a fund that will help Maria start over. The local missionary, Fernando Martinez, will see that she gets the help and supplies she needs. Ask Maria if our trip was worth it.

Ask Rosa if our trip was worth it. As team members gave her water and asked if they could pray with her, she began to cry. She told them that she had been separated from her son and his family for a month and was living in these deplorable conditions because she could not afford better housing. She was lonely, missed them so much and needed someone to pray with her. Ask Rosa if our trip was worth it.

Don't ever think that what you do for one person is unimportant. No deed is insignificant in God's eyes. He knows it is how lives are changed.

I have always appreciated Leonard Griffith's definition of a servant in his book, We Have This Ministry. According to Griffith, a servant is one who meets another's need at their convenience and expects no gratitude. I know this is not easy, but it is what Jesus has called us to do. We are to respond when others need us, not merely when it is convenient for us.

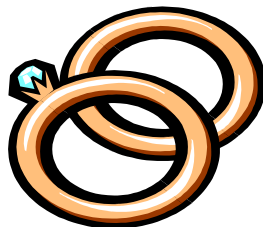
I wonder this morning who needs you to stop in the name of love and give them some attention? Who is crying out for help that others have tried to silence or you have ignored? Could it be a family member, coworker, schoolmate, neighbor or friend? Will it be a stranger that God places in your path this week?

How will you respond? Will you stop in the name of love? As the song by that title says, "Think it over," and while you are at it, talk to Jesus and ask for his guidance and help.

Until Sunday,
Bob



We extend our sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Doug Torbush, whose father died; and Julia Mitchell-Ivey, whose sister died.



Katheryn Kalember and Ed Kenney were married July 9. Ed is the son of Bob and Lynda Kenney and the grandson of Ed and Laura Womack.

Erin Landers and Paul Reeves were married Saturday, August 20. Erin is the daughter of John and Phyllis Landers, and Paul is the son of Don and Paula Reeves.

YOUTH

Sunday Night Life
August 28
"Big Daddy Weave"
in concert at Rehoboth
Cost is \$5 — We leave at 6:00

No SNL, September 4

"Source of Truth"
Featuring ZELUS with Everett Bracken
Sunday, September 11

Children's Ministry News

Wonderful, Wacky Wednesday Nights in August

August 31 — Tune Talented

A great night of music and talent!

Security and Safety at Smoke Rise

The issue of building security and personal safety has been a major concern of the building committee. In order to provide a more secure facility for all, a new locking system is being installed. The new system will feature an electronic door locking system that will automatically open and lock major entrances to the building, e.g., nursery entrance, gym entrance, breezeway entrance. The doors at these entrances will require a card with an implanted computer chip to open them. Staff members will be provided these cards for their use.

The breezeway entrances will have outside video cameras to identify those seeking entry into the building. A monitor will be placed on the receptionist's desk in the office and the receptionist will unlock the door for those entering. During the week, the congregation is asked to begin using the breezeway door on the gym side for entry into the building as all other doors will be locked. On Sundays and Wednesday nights, all outside entrances will be open for use.

Our plan is to begin using the new locking system following Labor Day. This new procedure will require some adjustment in the way most of us access the church during the week but the security and safety it provides is worth the small inconvenience we might experience.

Primarily we are asking our church members to begin using the breezeway entrance on the gym side for access during the week. This entrance provides ample parking and easy access with no steps from the parking lot to the breezeway door. Additionally, this new locking system provides a greater measure of security for the children and staff in our weekday school program.

Please know that your patience and cooperation are needed during this time of change and we thank you for your help and understanding.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of August 19, 2005

Four hundred forty-one families have pledged \$2,039,414.40 to date for the 2005 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,425,551.21	\$1,600,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>15,372.16</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,440,923.37	\$1,600,000.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,153,855.15	\$1,328,226.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	12,571.20	21,550.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	63,197.74	89,387.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	105,856.58	127,461.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	16,207.12	22,148.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>5,130.02</u>	<u>8,378.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,356,817.81	\$1,597,150.00

MORTGAGE BALANCE: \$ 728,198.00

FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:

Four hundred fifty-four families have pledged \$2,692,774.00 to the Faith, Family & Future Campaign.

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,207,910.93
LINE OF CREDIT/SRBC LOAN	+ 315,621.74
EXPENSES	<u>- 2,550,653.45</u>
BALANCE	\$ (27,120.78)

Periodical Postage
Paid at Stone Mountain,
Georgia 30086

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

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

OUR STAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor
Charles L. Moates, Jr., D. Min.	Minister of Administration
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Adult Education/Outreach
Marcus Beaver, Ed. D.	Interim Minister of Music
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Minister of Youth
Bethann Ayers	Minister to Children
Tim W. Adcox	Minister of Recreation/Missions
Amanda Burton	Nursery Director
Truett Gannon, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus

Smoke Rise Counseling Center

Affiliate of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia

770-469-6547

Gloria White, M. Div., LCSW
Elizabeth Walker, Th. D., LMFT

Counselor
Counselor

First Responder Team

If you are a certified First Responder or are certified in CPR for Healthcare Providers we would like for you to volunteer to join our Smoke Rise Baptist Church First Responder Team. Please contact Amanda Coe Burton at 770-413-2133, ext. 218 or aburton@smokerisebaptist.org for more information.