

**The
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Prime Time Trip

September 22

Warm Springs and the Little White House



Roosevelt

Kathy Dobbins' Ordination

September 25

6:00 P.M.



AARP Defensive Driving Course

September 26-27



Fall Festival 2005

Wednesday, October 26

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P. M.

**For Children through Elementary Age
Community Welcome!**



We need volunteers to make our Fall Festival a success this year. Please contact Laura Smith at 770-934-7595 if you can donate money for candy, baked cookies, or work at a station.

Inquirer's Class

Has your child begun asking about what a Christian is or how one becomes a Christian? The Inquirer's Class is for both parents and children. In the first class, parents will meet with Bethann to discuss how to talk with your child about becoming a Christian. In the second class, those inquiring children will meet with Bethann to talk about what a Christian is, when can one become a Christian and any other questions they may have! Class dates are: Parents—Sunday, September 18; Children—Sunday, September 25. Classes meet during the Sunday School hour in Room 119, underneath the gym. Please call ext. 207 or email bayers@smokerisebaptist.org to sign up.

New Christian's Class

Has your child recently made a decision to follow Jesus? This class is offered to children in Grades 1-5. The class will meet for 4 weeks during the Sunday School hour in Room 119 underneath the gym. Class dates are: Sunday, October 2, 16, 23, and 30. Please call ext. 207 or email bayers@smokerisebaptist.org to sign up.

Smoke Rise Children Can Help!

Our church is responding to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. We are encouraging our Smoke Rise children to help as well! Last Wednesday, August 31, our children met and set an offering goal of \$250 for Smoke Rise children to give. They are now presently collecting their offering and will bring their offerings next Sunday, September 18 in Sunday School to see if they reached their goal. Our children are praying for clean drinking water, for areas to get electricity and telephones, for safety for the volunteers helping, and that those affected will have safe places to live while their homes are being rebuilt. Please also check our website for links for how to talk to your child about a disaster.

First Grade Bible Presentation



We are so excited about having our First Graders begin to read. Smoke Rise will be presenting our First Graders and any other children in Grades 2-5 who have recently begun coming to our church with their very own Bible. Our presentation will be held during the 11 o'clock Worship Service on Sunday, October 16. Please contact Bethann at ext. 207 or email bayers@smokerisebaptist.org with your child's name and spelling as you wish it to appear on the Bible.

Wednesday Evening Guest Series

6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

- Sept. 21: Dr. Thomas G. Long, Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology will be speaking on "Surprising Words: The Often Overlooked Poetic Power of the Bible."
- Sept. 28 and Oct. 5: Dr. Peter Rhea Jones, Professor of Preaching and New Testament at McAfee School of Theology, will be speaking on The Parables of Jesus

Katrina Hurricane Relief Fund

A fund has been set up at Smoke Rise to receive contributions to be distributed to three basic areas:

- 1. Lilburn Coop is being inundated with requests for food and/or lodging for displaced families.
- 2. Stone Mountain Association has a disaster feeding unit on site delivering meals
- 3. CBF has a disaster relief fund and teams in place.

What can you do to help?

- 1. Donate directly to the Smoke Rise Relief Fund. Please note on your check: Hurricane Relief Fund.
- 2. If you are able to house displaced families, please contact the church office for information.

Sadies Ladies Supper-Planning Meeting

All ladies are welcome to join the Sadies Ladies Circle for our Salad Supper-Planning Meeting at 6:30PM on Monday, September 12 at Arlene Kirkland's home, 51 Parkstone Court, Stone Mountain.

Everyone bring a salad to enjoy and school supplies for our local ministry! (Call Arlene at 770-921-5507 for directions.)

Request for Refugee Family

Needed: winter clothes for two boys ages 7 and 11. Mother wears about size 14.

Also needed: furniture, household items (dishes, pots and pans, lamps, linens, etc.)

Call Elbia Coe at 770-491-6281 to arrange pickup.

Co-op Needs

Mayonnaise, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce and shampoo.

The Lilburn Co-op needs volunteers to help sort donations. If you are willing to volunteer, please call Kay or Pattie at 770-931-8333.

Cancellation Notice

Due to unforeseen circumstances, The Sacred Texts of World Religions class will be cancelled and rescheduled in 2006.

Genesis: From Creation to Chaos

Mondays at 10:00 am beginning Oct. 3 in Room S220

Join Dr. Moates for a four week study on the book of Genesis. Topics covered will include the creation accounts, theories of authorship, interpreting historical narratives, and application for us today.

Attention Parents!

Sunday school classes are encouraged to come to a special class on Sunday, Sept. 25 in the Chapel. Bo Prosser and Rick Bennett from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will be speaking on *The Missional Parent: Nurturing Faith at Home*. The session is designed to give parents some practical steps and guidance for being your child's primary Christian educator. Bo Prosser is Coordinator for Congregational Life and a parent of young adults. Rick Bennett is Associate Coordinator for Faith Formation and a parent of young children. The session begins at 9:45 am. Bo and Rick will also be preaching at both services.

Notes from the Pastor

9-11 and Hurricane Katrina

How ironic that we are dealing with one of the worst natural disasters to hit the United States at the same time the memories of 9-11 are rekindled. It is almost more than our emotions can process. I know mine are overloaded.

Pain and ministry go together. I see it every week and journey with those that must "walk through the valley of the shadow of death." It is different, though, when you see it on such a massive scale.

Will any of us forget the pleas for help that came from the people in and around the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon four years ago or the thousands stranded last week at the Louisiana Super Dome or on the beaches of the Mississippi coast? I won't and doubt you will either.

How should these tragedies change our lives? I am giving this a lot of thought as I prepare this week's sermon. I covet your prayers as I do so.

One thing I know at this point is this. **We need each other.** Life is bigger than we are and God knows this. We need Him and others as we face hardships and challenges along our journey. We must see everyone along our pilgrimage as part of our family even if we have nothing in common but our heritage as God's children.

In the days after a disaster, I find it amusing to read papers or news journals lying around that were published prior to the disaster. Many, if not most of the issues that seemed so important and were used by politicians to polarize constituents quickly become insignificant. In the larger scheme of things, they don't matter.

So what does matter? Getting to know neighbors, identifying the needs of the people around you, making sure the weakest and

most vulnerable among us are protected, living a life of integrity, compassion and generosity, pursuing justice and seeking peace, living by the Golden Rule, ending the cycle of violence through candid dialogue and forgiveness-these are life's most important priorities.

Let me urge you to take some time to read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Everything Jesus said focused upon relationships with God, others and even our possessions. Shouldn't that tell us what is important to God and where our priorities should be?

This weekend, remember what it was like the days after 9-11. No one was a stranger. We talked and wept with people we had never seen before or since. We asked about one another and generously offered our resources to help those affected by this disaster. We were polite and courteous, whether driving on 285 or standing in line at a store. And we went to church on Sunday

because we knew we not only needed other people, we needed God and a tough, resilient faith.

Remember these things along with the scenes of horror that filled our television screens.

Ask for God's help to be this kind

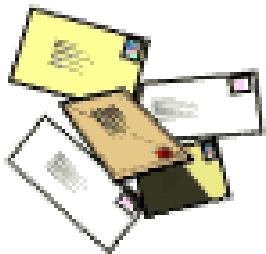
of person long after the cameras have moved on to the next story. I can think of nothing that will prepare us better for the next disaster.

I appreciate the quote Rick Warren shared with Baptists from around the world at the Baptist World Alliance in Birmingham, England in July. He said, "I refuse to waste any more time or energy on shallow living, petty thinking, trivial talking, thoughtless doing, useless regretting, hurtful resenting or faithless worrying." This about says it all, doesn't it?

Until Sunday,
Bob

I refuse to waste any more time or energy on shallow living, petty thinking, trivial talking, thoughtless doing, useless regretting, hurtful resenting or faithless worrying." — Rick Warren.

Letters of Appreciation



Dear Smoke Rise Family,

Your calls, cards and prayers were appreciated during the loss of Dennis' mother. It is gratifying to receive that kind of support in a time of sorrow.

Dennis and Gail Nelson

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

I want to thank all of you, particularly my Sunday School class, for the beautiful cards and nice things given to me. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

Nita and Jerry Adkins



We pray for these whose loved ones have passed away: Gloria White, whose mother died; Dennis Nelson, whose mother died; Bill Riley, whose father died; Susan Johnson, whose father died; and to the family and friends of Isabell Barden, who has passed away. Mrs. Barden was the mother of Jean L'Amoreaux and had been a member of Smoke Rise since 2003.

You may view *The CrossTie* on the Web the day before it is mailed to you at the Post Office. Go to www.smokerisebaptist.org



Sarah Veltman and Jason Springston were married August 20 in Fallbrook, California. Jason is the son of Marvin and Carolyn Springston.

YOUTH NEWS "ZELUS"

in concert with Everett Bracken
Sunday, August 11
it starts here at 6:00 p.m.



UPS is Sunday, September 18

Kathy Dobbins' Ordination

An ordination service is planned for Kathy Dobbins, Minister of Adult Education and Outreach on Sunday, September 25 at 6:00 P.M. at Smoke Rise Baptist Church. This is an important and significant time for both Kathy and the church. For Kathy it is a response to the leadership of God in her life and for the church it is the affirmation that Kathy possesses the gifts for ministry evident within her life and character. In the Free Church tradition, churches ordain both ministers and deacons. Part of the service will include a motion from the Ordination Council that the church responds as an official body in this matter. Therefore, the congregation is invited to share in this ordination service by planning to attend. A reception for Kathy will follow the ordination service.

Finance Committee

The monthly meeting of the finance committee is set for Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 P.M. in room S-223-224. All committee members are urged to attend.

Prime Time Trip



The Prime Time group will be traveling to Warm Springs, Ga. on September 22 to tour the Little White House. The group will also have lunch at the Bullock House in Warm Springs and visit the village of Warm Springs. The church bus will leave at 8:30 A.M. and return around 4:30 P.M. The cost is \$27 per person including lunch and transportation. To reserve your place, please call Linda in the church office.

Defensive Driving Course

A defensive driving course sponsored by AARP is set for September 26 and 28. The class will meet from 9AM to 1PM each day. The cost for the course is \$15 per person. To those who complete both days of instruction a discount in their automobile insurance cost is available (you will need to check with your insurance carrier for details). To register for the course, please call the church office.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of August 30, 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	\$1,485,177.73	\$1,600,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>16,127.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,501,305.62	\$1,600,000.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,230,640.05	\$1,328,226.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	13,968.50	21,550.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	69,667.63	89,387.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	118,609.88	127,461.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	17,911.44	22,148.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>5,490.98</u>	<u>8,378.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,456,288.48	\$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	\$2,215,425.43
LINE OF CREDIT/SRBC LOAN	+ 345,621.74
EXPENSES	<u>- 2,613,088.06</u>
BALANCE	\$ (52,040.89)



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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

Smoke Rise Camera Club

First Meeting: September 15

Contact: Chuck Tankersley at robolino@mindspring.com

Fall Golf Fellowship

November 4

Indian Creek Golf Club

Contact: Ed Brantly at 770-469-1319

