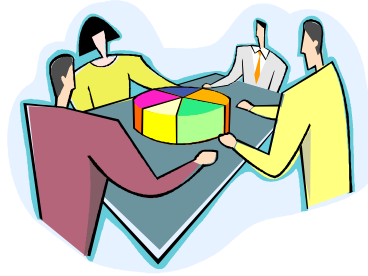


# The C R O S S T I E



## Deacons' Meeting & Quarterly Church Conference August 14



## Pastor's Pancakes August 14, 21 and 28 Fellowship Hall 9:15 - 10:00



The August 12, 2005  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

### Wonderful, Wacky Wednesday Nights in August!

What happened to summer? School seems to start earlier and earlier each year! For the month of August, we are going to help ease you back into the Wednesday evening schedule! Our August Wednesdays will be a time of fun and fellowship for families!

- Wed. Aug. 17—Christmas in August—start saving your shoeboxes as we get a jump start on our Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry!
- Wed. Aug. 24—Smoke Rise Academy of Arts Wizard of Oz Production
- Wed. Aug. 31—Tune Talented—a great night of music and talent!

\*\*More Information to follow!!!

## First Responder Team Being Assembled

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](mailto:aburton@smokerisebaptist.org) for more information.

## 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](mailto:lmjrocker@aol.com).

## Recommended Reading List Available

The 4th edition of the recommended reading list is available in the Sanctuary Breezeway. Read a new book this fall.

The Monday Night Roundtable will be October 3 featuring God's Politics by Jim Wallis. You may sign up and purchase the book in the Sanctuary Breezeway. We invite you to participate in the Roundtable even if you don't finish reading the book.

## Faith & Issues

Sundays at 9:45 am in Room A124

August Topics:

- 8/14 From Dunkin' to Dancing – Our Baptist history, beliefs and distinctives.
- 8/21 Baptist Beliefs – part two
- 8/28 Baptist Beliefs – part three

## Youth News

### Parent/Youth Luncheon

Sunday, August 28

Noon in Fellowship Hall

\$5 per person

Reservations due Sunday, August 21

### Sunday Night Life

Sunday, August 28

"Big Daddy Weave" in concert at Rehoboth

\$5 and we leave at 6:00

### Drama Group

meets Sundays at 4:00. Come be an actor!

For all ages — Room A-236

### Wasn't LIFE awesome?

If you missed it, we do it every Sunday

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

UPS

August 21

## Children's Ministry News

I hope you didn't miss our Promotion Sunday last week! We had a great time of fellowship over breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, meeting our new Sunday School leaders and singing "Raise Some Praise" from our VBS week! Our kids sounded awesome! Avery Ray also did an excellent job reading our Scripture lesson and all our students got to be a part of our annual photo and the Blessing of the Students. Don't forget to pray for your student!



**Our Wednesdays are back!** During the month of August, we will have a different emphasis and activity for children. In September, following Labor Day, we will resume our music and missions classes. Here's a heads up for the rest of our Wednesdays in August.

### Wednesday, August 17—Christmas in August

—Bring your shoe box and get ready to prepare for our Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry through Samaritan's Purse. We will provide you with the labels and packing instructions. Our children will begin to wrap their shoeboxes, learn more about the ministry and have some Christmas fun early!

### Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>—"Wizard of Oz"

at 6:45 in the chapel, presented by Smoke Rise Academy of Arts.

### Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>—Tune Talents

Our children will learn some new songs as well as be able to participate in a talent show—sign-ups for the talent show will begin each Wednesday night in August.

## 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**

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Dan Manfield, whose mother died; Dot Morris, whose sister died; John Crawford, whose brother died; and Eddie Ashurst, whose died mother.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Margaret King who has died; Margaret and Richard were Smoke Rise members for 16 years; and to the family and friends of Karen Blee, who has died. Karen has been a member of Smoke Rise since 1989.



# Notes from the Pastor

## Kick-Off Sunday

What a great day we had last Sunday as we kicked off our new education year and fall programs. Lou's breakfast got the morning started right as the fellowship hall was filled with festive decorations and delicious aromas. Thanks to all that helped!

## Blessing of the Students

What a joy it was to see the platform filled with the bright smiles of our children as we had our annual "Blessing of the Students." At the conclusion of the service, I invited all our school-age children to come to the platform so we could see them as a group and pray for them. What an impact this had upon us again this year. God has entrusted the care of these precious children and young people to us. I appreciate His confidence and help!

## Praying for our Students

"Lift up your hands to the Lord for the lives of your children" Lamentations 2:19. This was my sermon text last week. Our children, like those that lived in Jeremiah's time, are growing up in a world too acquainted with chaos, confusion and danger. Terrorist attacks, sexual predators, drug dealers, drunk drivers, abusive parents and negative peer pressure are contributing to the risks. The pitfalls and challenges facing our children are bigger than they are and even our ability to manage for them. All of us need God's help. We need to "lift up our hands to Him for the lives of our children." Let me share my "Students' Prayer List" with you.

**Pray that our children will understand that they matter to God and all of us.** Their lives are important and we take great delight in watching them grow and mature just as God does. Ask God to reveal this to them as He reminds us to communicate through words and deeds our love and appreciation for all our children.

**Ask God to help our children to see their potential.** I suspect one reason potential is not achieved is because talents are not recognized and cultivated. Pray that God will reveal the gifts He has invested in each of them and encourage them to develop and use them.

**Ask God to give our children wisdom to make good decisions.** Potential is also unfulfilled because bad decisions are made that have devastating consequences. As adults, we know that we can be our best friend or worst enemy. Children fail to realize this sometimes.

Ask God to help our children stay away from those things that would sabotage their future, especially in our permissive society. Ask Him to help them discern between good and bad and see the consequences of both. Only God can give them the desire and courage to resist temptation, saying no to things that are harmful and yes to things that are good. Ask Him to help them make healthy choices that will open doors of opportunity for years to come.

**Ask God to bring positive influences into their lives, good teachers, role models and friends.** Ask Him to help our children recognize whom they can trust and follow.

Several years ago a sociology professor had his class go into the Baltimore slums to get case histories on 200 children. They were asked to write an evaluation of each child's future. In almost every case, the students wrote, "This child doesn't have a chance. I see nothing but problems ahead." Twenty-five years later, another professor sent students out of the classroom to find these individuals to see what happened to them. They located 180 of the 200 and were shocked. One hundred seventy-six had achieved phenomenal success and were outstanding citizens of their communities. Each was asked, "How do you account for your success?" In each case, the reply came with feeling, "I had a teacher that cared about me and made a difference in my life."

**Ask God to help them recognize garbage and trash when they hear and see it, because the world is full of it.** The Internet, radio, television and theaters have no shortage of moral pollution that can mislead and confuse our children. Ask God to help them recognize and turn away from it.

**Ask God to give them discipline to be good students.** Our children face so many distractions that would keep them from seeing the importance of their studies. We need God to help them stay focused.

**Ask God to give them the confidence they need to accept and tackle challenges that will be placed before them.** Many children struggle with inferiority and low self-esteem. It is natural for them to compare themselves to others that excel and feel inadequate. It is normal to be gripped with the paralyzing fear of failure and back away from challenges that would unleash hidden abilities. Ask God to give them the confidence they need to pursue excellence, take risks and go down uncharted paths. Ask Him to go with them even when we cannot.

**Ask God to encourage them when disappointments come.** A small child was having a bad week and said to her teacher, "Some days you need a Saturday on a Wednesday." Don't we all.

Every venture or relationship will not succeed, resulting in great disappointment. It is easy to give up when things don't work out as expected, especially if you did your best. Ask God to help our children cope with and learn from failure and disappointment. Ask Him to be gentle with them and heal their broken hearts.

**Ask God to help our children have fun and enjoy these years.** School days can be some of the best in a person's life as he or she develops lasting relationships and spends time with friends. Children need God to help them choose good friends and engage in healthy activities, though.

**Ask God to help our children be positive role models and Christian witnesses in the classroom and at all school activities.** Positive peer pressure is just as strong as negative. I grinned when I recently heard an interview with a young person that said, "I rebelled against bad behavior!" What a great way to talk about resisting negative peer pressure. Ask God to give our children this kind of courage.

**Ask God to forgive them when they make mistakes and let them know they are still loved.** Children need to be affirmed especially after they have done wrong. They need to know that nothing they do will make God love them less and that His grace is sufficient to rebuild their self-esteem and lives. Ask God to help us be a part of that healing and affirming process as we provide a safe place for them to fall.

**Ask God to give our children peaceful homes that foster growth and learning.** Ask Him to provide every child with parents that make their well being a priority, even if the parents are divorced or have remarried.

**Finally, pray that God will protect our children from evil and harm.** Jesus included this in his model prayer when he said, "Deliver us from evil." We all know that schools are not as safe as they once were and our children need divine protection.

"Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your children." Let's do it again this year.

Until Sunday,

Bob

## Wedding Announcements



Congratulations to Amanda Hankla and Joel Tarpley who were married July 30. Amanda is the daughter of Bill and Gerri Hankla.

Congratulations to Katherine Sutton and Cameron Griffith who were married August 6. Cameron is the son of James and Marcia Griffith.

Congratulations to to Melanie Thomas and Micah Nance who were married August 6; Melanie is the daughter of Mark and Pat Thomas.

# Fall Indoor Soccer

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

September 10 - October 29

Parents' Meeting August 15 at 7:00

First Practice August 30

Practice Tuesdays and Thursdays

Kdg - 2nd Grades: 6:00

3rd - 4th Grades: 7:00

Cost: \$75



## Lilburn/Stone Mtn. Co-ops Need



Spaghetti & sauce, tuna, cereal (hot and cold), juice, rice, TP, soap, canned fruit, soup and vegetables, pens, pencils, pencil boxes, highlighters, crayons, markers, erasers, blunt scissors, calculators, rulers, compasses, protractors, notebook paper, graph paper, 1 & 3-subject notebooks, dictionaries, thesauruses, boxes of tissues, note cards, pocket folders with and without brads, 1" and 3" binders, B&W composition books, Zanerbloser writing tablets, hand sanitizers, and book bags for all ages. Please bring items to the shelves near the office or in hallway under the gym.

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of July 31, 2005

Four hundred forty families have pledged \$2,039,364.40 to date for the 2005 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,298,303.46	\$1,400,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>14,626.18</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,312,929.64	\$1,400,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,090,035.92	\$1,168,472.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	12,571.20	16,450.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	60,019.50	83,445.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	105,811.58	113,744.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	16,207.12	20,060.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>4,252.52</u>	<u>7,836.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,288,897.84	\$1,410,007.00

MORTGAGE BALANCE: \$ 730,138.34

### FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:

Four hundred fifty-six families have pledged \$2,703,714.00 to the Faith, Family & Future Campaign.

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,149,109.93
LINE OF CREDIT/SRBC LOAN/GIFT+	370,000.00
EXPENSES	<u>-2,513,952.05</u>
BALANCE	\$ 5,157.88

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### OUR STAFF

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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

*I am the **door**: by me  
if any man enter in,  
he shall be saved,  
and shall go in and  
out, and find  
pasture."*

— John 10:9

