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Welcome, Danny Vancil

May 7



Finance Committee

Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 P.M.

Room S-223-224



**Ordination Service
for Andy & Becca Jones**

Sunday, May 21 at 6:00 P.M. in the chapel



BACCALAURETTE

**Breakfast and Service
Sunday, May 21**

**We need ALL Reservations
by May 7!**

Welcome, Danny Vancil

We warmly welcome Mr. Danny Vancil as our new Minister of Music. Danny's first Sunday leading in worship is May 7. Please make every effort to be at church on the 7th to extend your welcome to him.

Deacons' Lunch/Meeting

The monthly meeting of the deacons is set for Sunday, May 7. Lunch will be served in fellowship hall at noon. The deacons' meeting will be conducted in room S-223-224.

Finance Committee

The monthly meeting of the finance committee is set for Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 P.M. in room S-223-224. All committee members are urged to be present.

Ordination Service for Andy & Becca Jones

A service of ordination for Andy and Becca Jones is set for Sunday, May 21 at 6:00 P.M. in the chapel. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 29 for the Memorial Day holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, May 30.

Summer Wednesdays @ Smoke Rise

Summer Wednesdays at Smoke Rise begin on May 31. Serving for supper will begin at 5:30 P.M. in fellowship hall. The menu will include hamburgers, grilled chicken, hot dogs with all the goodies. Following supper a time of prayer and a brief devotional will be led by one of the ministers. Mark the date and plan to join us.

Births

Congratulations to Nick and Mary Beth Carmichael on the birth of a daughter, "Holland (Holly) Elizabeth" Carmichael born April 23; brothers are Austin and Jack; aunt is Christine; grandparents are Nick and Janet Carmichael and Bill and Judy Neal. And, to Johnny and Kellie Pulliam on the adoption of their daughter, "Mary Isabel," born October 13 in Guatemala; brother is Tucker; uncle and aunt are Fred and Alison Papuga; cousin is Dustin Papuga.



We extend our sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Mike Holcomb, whose step-mother died, and Dee Dee Poss, whose sister died.

Basement Bible Study – for Men

Meets on Tuesday, May 9th at 6 a.m.
at the home of Tony Porcelli.
For information call (678) 344-7588.

An Egg-ceptional Easter Egg Hunt!

We had perfect weather for our community Easter egg hunt on Saturday afternoon April 15th, in case you missed it! 125 families registered for door prizes, not counting lots of children! Besides hiding 5,000 eggs for 5 different age level hunts, we had several new features this year! We were honored to host an "Alex's Lemonade Stand" which raises money for childhood cancer research. Although we can never adequately express our love and support to Bruce and Faith Prescott in the loss of their daughter Shelby and sister to big brother Steven, raising over \$350 helps to fight against this horrible disease. We plan to continue remembering Shelby by having an Alex's Lemonade Stand at all our children's events. If you wish to give or would like to learn more, visit www.alexslimonade.org.

Amy Jobe brought her rabbit Midnight for the children to enjoy! We had a special guest, The Easter Bunny, as well and a very special thanks to Race Roberts and Harrison Aiken who helped to make the Easter Bunny's appearance possible! The Acteens again helped paint many little one's faces and Tim Adcox's recreation staff helped to get us set up and organized following a busy morning with T-ball!

A big thank you goes to each of our volunteers for our Easter egg hunt for the many hours put in to have children find the eggs in 30 seconds! Thank you for showing Jesus' love in a very real "hands on" way to the children of our community! Amanda Coe Burton and Bethann Ayers

All church members who graciously bought and donated supplies, candy and eggs!

Area 56 Girls members
Girls in Action members
Recreation Staff
Weekday School
Tim Adcox
Janis Brown
Lucas & Kim Catoggio
Bryn Davis
Jennifer Hearn
Lois Jernigan
Brittney Johnson
Garrett Litton
John Orton
John and Kathy Parker
Erin Roberts
Kay Rossman
Karen Smith
Marsha Winston
Sue Woodall
Ginger Zachman
Bruce, Faith and Steven Prescott

Circle of Grace members
Griffin Services
Roaring Lambs Sunday School Class
Melissa Adams
Harrison Aiken
Alan Burton
Charles & Elbia Coe
June Deans
Glenn & Pat Herndon
Amy Jobe
Rebecca Kearney
Sarah Martin
Abby Paul
Christine Peredney
Race Roberts
Laura Rossman
June Anne Wheeler
Scott Wood
Jacquelyn Yancey
Angela Zachman

Centri-Kid Camp Sign-Up

There is now a Waiting List! For more information, contact Bethann Ayers at 770-469-5856, ext. 207, or you may email her at bayers@smokerisebaptist.org.

Notes from the Pastor

Last Sunday in my sermon I shared some suggestions for dealing with doubts and questions based upon Thomas' post-resurrection experience with Jesus. You recall that Thomas was not with the disciples Easter evening when Jesus appeared in their midst. No doubt they hurried to tell Thomas what he missed only to hear him say, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it" John 20:25.

Faith was not easy for Thomas and he was too honest and candid to affirm what he did not believe. I appreciate his candor and what he taught us about dealing with our own faith struggles. Let me share with you what I learned from him.

Admit that you are struggling with your faith. Verbalize what it is that you do not believe. Thomas did. "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." Give voice to your doubts. Identify them. By all means don't deny them.

Accept the fact that others may not struggle as you do. Don't envy someone whose faith comes easier than yours nor compare yourself with them. You don't share the same experiences nor do you have the same understanding of life. Your journey is different from theirs and the particulars of your faith will be also. Isn't this why Paul told his readers to "work out their own salvation with fear and trembling?" The construction of a vital faith is work and no one can do it for you. It is a do-it-yourself project that will take time and effort. Just as your doubts are different from others, so your faith will be different. This is as it should be. For your faith to be genuine, it must be born out of your relationship with God, not someone else's.

Be patient. Spiritual seeds take time to grow. Actually, it will take a lifetime to construct your faith. Every experience will teach you more about God, life and yourself. Be a good student.

Stay connected to others on their spiritual journey. You don't have to believe everything others do to study, worship and pray with them. Don't live under the illusion that you are the only one in your Sunday School class, Bible study or this worship service that is struggling with doubts. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Doubts have a way of isolating us. Evidently they separated Thomas from his support group. This is understandable. Sometimes it is hard to be around people whose faith seems to be neatly packaged. We may feel hypocritical if we don't believe what others in the group do. However, there is great value in maintaining relationships when you are struggling. Whatever you believe or don't believe, you need good friends that love you unconditionally. Don't forget, also, that our faith was forged in community as the early Christians shared what they were learning in an environment of trust and grace. Find friends like this and stay connected to them.

Be open to the presence of Christ in your life. He knows where you are and what you need. In his own time, he will help you. He did Thomas. The week after Jesus first appeared to his disciples in the upper room, he visited them again. Why? Thomas was with them. Jesus returned for one reason and that was to speak to Thomas. He knows where you are, too. Be open to his presence in your life.

Affirm what you believe even with doubts and questions in your mind. Don't wait until all your questions are answered before you believe anything and proclaim it. Jesus died with an unanswered question on his mind, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken

me?" What makes you think you will not? We'll all die with questions and take them into eternity where our faith will continue to develop.

Doubt your doubts. I first heard that phrase from my friend Dr. Jim Taylor, President of the University of the Cumberlands. He used that phrase while talking to the trustees after his only son, a high school senior, died in a tragic car wreck. "I have learned to doubt my doubts, not my faith," he said. "Why should we believe our doubts and let them control us?" Good advice.

Faith was not easy for Thomas and it won't be for us. Things will happen we don't understand. Confusion and grief will cloud our vision. We'll face intimidating questions and doubts along our spiritual journey.

John's readers near the end of the first century already were and they needed reassurance. In the face of persecution, the early Christians needed to know if Jesus was the risen Lord in whom they should place their confidence and faith. Who better to reassure them than Thomas, whose doubts gave way to the strongest affirmation of faith in the Gospels when he saw the risen Christ and proclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" What better role model did they need? This was John's gift to them and I have to believe they appreciated it.

Who better to reassure us than Thomas, the no-nonsense disciple who was candid about his own struggles? What better role model could we have? This was John's gift to us, too, and I for one am eternally grateful.

Until Sunday,
Bob

Letter of Appreciation



Dear Smoke Rise Family,

Thank you for your loving support during the loss of my mother.

I appreciate the calls, cards and prayers.

Sincerely,
Jan Atherton

Attention Smoke Rise Golfers



The absolute deadline to sign up for the 11th Annual Ryder Cup Golf & Fellowship Retreat is Sunday, May 14.

Dates for the retreat are May 18 - 20 (Thursday - Sunday).

Location: Savannah Lakes Resort in McCormick, S. C.

Cost: \$290 (includes golf, room, breakfast, dinner)

\$100 deposit to Bobbie Wade reserves your place.

Call Ed Brantly for more details at 770-469-1319.

This is a great opportunity for fellowship and building relationships that last a lifetime.

Invite non-members to join you.

As always, we need golfers of all abilities.

Gourmet Bake Sale Coming!



The New York City Mission Team will have their annual Bake Sale on Baccalaureate Sunday, May 21, to raise funds for their Mission Trip to NYC. Gourmet cakes and breads will be available outside the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. They're great for Sunday dinner. Please contact Carol Garner (770-925-4860) if you would like to donate a cake or bread for this important fundraising event.

SIGN ON FOR A MISSION TRIP!

There are still places available for the following Mission Trips:

New York City July 15 – 22 Ron & Susan Kent 770-491-7240 or
srj kent@mindspring.com — Cost is approximately \$450

Katrina (Biloxi, MS) Monthly Jim Huston 678-300-9303 or
srbckatrinamission@comcast.net

CBF National Meeting — Volunteers Needed!

June 21-23 at the World Congress Center in Atlanta

Area churches are sharing responsibilities for this event. Shifts are two to three hours for one day only. Information and training will be available. Parking fees will be provided for volunteers. The conference includes over 100 breakout sessions on a variety of topics. To volunteer, contact Kathy Dobbins at 770-469-5856 or kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org.

Our Goal for Spring Missions Offering

\$15,000

You may designate your gift for Annie Armstrong (SBC)
 or Global Missions (CBF)

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of April 28, 2006

Four hundred nineteen families have pledged \$2,088,531.00 to date for the 2006 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 735,667.99	\$ 833,332.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	18,716.26	9,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 754,384.25	\$ 842,332.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 611,679.45	\$ 671,799.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	5,451.96	11,075.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	32,628.51	52,017.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	48,543.46	68,086.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	24,852.28	24,084.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	3,230.37	5,752.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 726,386.03	\$ 832,813.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 602,070.85	

FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:

Four hundred fifty-one families have pledged \$2,691,604.00 to the Faith, Family & Future Campaign.

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,460,320.60
SRBC LOAN	+ 300,000.00
EXPENSES	- 2,754,605.27
BALANCE	\$ 5,715.33



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Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Adult Education/Outreach
Danny Vancil	Minister of Music
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Minister of Youth
Bethann Ayers	Minister to Children
Tim W. Adeox	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



We hope to see you at church on Sunday!