

# The C R O S S T I E

## Prime Time Trip

October 19



We'll travel to Unicoi State Park for lunch at the Lodge with a stop on the way at Jaemor Fruit and Vegetable stand for apples, etc. After lunch we will tool through the mountains and view the fall foliage with a short stop in Dablonaga and then home. Please contact Linda in the church office at 770-469-5856 to sign up.



## *“What’s the Good of Prayer?”*

**Bible Study for Senior Adults and Everyone Else**

*Led by Dr. Colin Harris*

Monday mornings — October 16, 23, 30 at 10:00 a.m.  
in Room S220-222.



## Called Church Conference

October 22

To vote on the 2007 Ministry Plan  
and Deacons for 2007-2008



## Attention!!!

## Nursery Parents & Extended Session Volunteers



It is time to sign up for November,  
December and January service dates.

The scheduling poster is outside of the  
Nursery Office.

## Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

The outpouring of praise continues over the Youth Choir's leadership in the worship service on September 24. It was indeed a wonderful day of rejoicing and I feel certain that the Lord must have been pleased. I have received so many compliments that it is a bit overwhelming; however the praise is to be shared among several! A big thank you to:

- √ Parents, because this ministry cannot happen without your continued support and constant guidance.
- √ The adult mentors who lend their voices, support and presence.
- √ Heather Huff, our wonderful accompanist.
- √ Ernie and Preston for your enthusiasm and love. (not your singing!)
- √ Susan Yenny, Youth Choir assistant, organizer, rolltaker, "keep the director straightened out" kind of person.
- √ 'The Following' for your instrumental work.
- √ Rebecca Easom and Donna Weatherby for the shirts.
- √ Last but not least - the Youth - for sharing your talents to the glory of God!

Danny

## Uth News

UPS is Sunday, October 16. You are going to learn how to be **BIG**

**Sunday, October 22**

11:00 — Choir sings in worship  
Noon — Uth leave for **FRIGHT FEST** — \$25  
8:00 P.M. — Pick up your student at SRBC

## Letters of Appreciation

Dear Saints at Smoke Rise Church,

*What a wonderful church family you are! We don't have words to express our gratitude for all your many acts of kindness to Ernie, Debbie, Aubrey and Will.*

*Please know we are so appreciative and will always be grateful for everything you did for Debbie before her homegoing, and for Ernie, Aubrey and Will before and after. Not only that, but for all the love and support you've given them the 17 1/2 years they've been there.*

*We believe God knew they needed special angels in their lives so He sent them to you to be blessed, and truly blessed they've been.*

*We pray God's richest blessings on all of you.*

*Love in Christ,  
Jim and Vert Witherow  
(Ernie's parents)*

Dear Smoke Rise Church Family,

*Your generosity and caring for us through the illness and death of our daughter, Debbie Forrester, have been truly the Christlikeness described by Paul to the church at Philippi.*

*We shall always be grateful.*

*God bless,  
Bill and Billie Hickem  
(Debbie's parents)*

## The Parenting School

*Blessing Your Child.*

**Sunday, November 5**

**9:45 am in the Chapel.**

Rick Bennett of The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will explore the meaning of "blessing" and how parents "bless" at home and at other special times, as well as taking a look at the child dedication covenant/ceremony with regard to blessing.

## Pre-Advent Series:

### "Looking at Life Through the Lens of Advent"

The Advent season invites us to expectation of new realities, where God enters history and liberates, reconciles, and brings wholeness to a broken world. It invites us as well to a new way of seeing; and, if we are willing to look, we can see and encounter the presence of God in the ordinary things and events that are the arena of God's ongoing creative and redemptive work.

**Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Fellowship Hall**

**Led by Dr. Colin Harris**

- Nov. 1: "In Every Birth a Christmas"
- Nov. 8: "In Every Life an Incarnation"

## A Taste of Christmas 2

**Holiday Cooking Featuring Ursula Knaeusel**

**Tuesday, November 28, 6:00 pm**

Ursula will prepare a holiday buffet for us and demonstrate some of her easy to make holiday recipes. Ursula's interest in cooking began at the age of three under the tutelage of her grandmother in Halle/Saale, Germany. This self-made woman escaped from East Germany in 1952 with little more than optimism and a love of cooking. Ursula acquired her cooking expertise through studying, cooking and teaching all over Europe, the United States and Central America. She is the founder and operator of Ursula's Cooking School, Inc. in Atlanta. From a mere five students on opening day in 1971, the school soon grew to become the nation's largest independent cooking school. Since 1973, Ursula has never repeated a recipe and says, "Food is like fashion; fashion changes and so does food."

This event will benefit the Lilburn and Stone Mountain Cooperative Ministries.

**Tickets will go on sale beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## Births

Congratulations to **John and Lisa Angove** on the birth of a daughter, "*Catherine Grace*," born September 12; grandparents are Charles and Carol Rittenhouse; to **Billy and Kimberly Fowler** on the birth of a daughter, "*Addison Elizabeth*," born September 15; sister is Aubrey; grandparents are Bobby and Judy Fowler; great grandparents are Bob and Janis Clement; aunt is Shelby Fowler; to **Ed and Kate Kenney** on the birth of a son, "*William Edward*," born September 28; grandparents are Bob and Lynda Kenney; great grandparents are Ed and Laura Womack.

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Gloria White whose niece's husband died; and, to Sandra, Vann, Todd and Matt Langston, and Jan Price on the death of their husband and father, John. Sandra and John are charter members of Smoke Rise.

## Notes from the Pastor

### Youth Choir

It is the talk of the church right now and rightly so. A couple of weeks ago the Youth Choir sang in worship and did an outstanding job! This is noteworthy because we have not had a youth choir for some time and it was good to see and hear them again. All summer Danny laid the groundwork for the renewal of Youth Choir and he had 48 at the first rehearsal in August. What a great response this was and continues to be. The Sunday they sang there were 56 in the choir loft!

Way to go Danny, young people, choir mentors and parents. We are grateful for your good work!

### Children's Ministry

The church is also buzzing over the number of children coming to the Wednesday evening activities. Two weeks ago we had 120 children involved in their programs! This includes children through the fifth grade. Way to go Kellie, Rebecca, program leaders and parents! We are so proud of you and grateful for your good work, too.

### Sanctuary Remodeling

The Building and Grounds Committee has begun a remodeling of the sanctuary that will take at least two months. The ceiling tiles are being replaced, which is a major undertaking, and then the sanctuary will be repainted. This means that scaffolds will be in the sanctuary during the renovation and each week portions of the sanctuary will be off-limits. I envision worshiping in the fellowship hall some Sundays while the work progresses. It will be worth it, though. The acoustics will be much better when the soft ceiling tiles are replaced with a hard surface and the sanctuary is freshened with a new coat of paint.

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to replace the flooring in the sanctuary after this phase of construction is completed. The timing for this will be dependent upon available funds. The committee had the money in their budget to replace the ceiling tiles and paint the sanctuary but replacing the floor covering is another matter. They are going to use the bulk of their budgeted funds on this part of the project. If you would be interested in helping to fund the second phase of this project, please contact me. It would be nice to have new flooring soon after the other work is completed.

### Hurricane Katrina Clean-up

On Thursday, over 60 people left for Biloxi to help with the clean-up after Hurricane Katrina. This marks the 13<sup>th</sup> month that we have sent volunteers to the Gulf Coast since the devastating winds and water destroyed so much of it. How grateful I am for the hard work of so many Smoke Rise members. What a difference they have made. I assure you that the people of the Gulf Coast know Smoke Rise and rejoice each month when our bus arrives. We have been some of the most faithful people to respond to this crisis. Thanks, Tim and Missions Department for mobilizing our people.

### Golf Outing

It is time to sign up for the next golf extravaganza. This will be a one day event on Monday, November 13 at the Indian Creek Golf Club in Covington. The shotgun start will begin at 10:30. It is going to be a beautiful fall day around 69 degrees with a slight breeze blowing the golden/red leaves on the trees. You will not want to miss this wonderful time for fellowship and golf.

This would be a great time to invite a friend to play with you and introduce them to Smoke Rise members. We have such a great time playing, eating, telling golf stories (all of which are true!) and enjoying God's beautiful world on a crisp fall day. Join us!

Call Bobbie Wade at the church (770-469-5856) or Ed Brantley (404-295-2628) to sign up. Cost is \$45 and this includes green and cart fees along with a box lunch.

### Co-ops Need Food

The Stone Mountain and Lilburn Co-ops need food. Bring food on Sunday morning, take food to the Co-ops or place money each week in the box in the narthex designated for the Co-ops. The need is great. Respond each week. Thanks!

Let me share an excerpt from my last communion devotion about world hunger and our need to respond.

"What do 852 million people around the world have in common? They go to bed hungry each night. In the 125 developing countries throughout the world, six million children die each year from hunger related causes. This means one child dies every five seconds. Do you realize that 720 children will die during our time in worship this morning? That's a sobering thought.

In the United States, 14 million children live in households where they have to skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. At the 2005 Conference of US Mayors, it was reported that requests for emergency food assistance increased 12% and 40% of those requests came from people that were employed!

How do we reconcile these appalling statistics with Jesus' words in John 6:35? 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Some answer by stating that Jesus was talking in spiritual terms not physical. This is not to be taken literally.

I don't doubt there is a strong spiritual dimension to his words. However, I am not willing to stop there. I think he was also talking about physical nourishment as well as spiritual.

All throughout the New Testament's account of Jesus' earthly ministry, it is clear his mission focused upon both the eternal and the present. Not only was he concerned about obvious spiritual needs and our being in a right relationship with God, but he was equally active in meeting the physical needs of those around him.

Nowhere is this better seen than John 6. Jesus fed the multitudes with a young boy's lunch of loaves and fish and used this to focus upon the need for spiritual nourishment. I sense in this chapter as well as many others a mandate for Christians to be involved in ministries that meet basic human needs. People's lives are at risk due to economic hardships, lack of job skills, famine, floods and earthquakes and we need to help them. As Bono, the lead singer for U2 and a spokesperson for the ONE Campaign said, 'Where you live should not determine whether you should live.'

So what did Jesus mean when he said, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty?' How do we reconcile these words with global poverty? Did Jesus really believe that it was possible for everyone to have enough food to eat?

I think he did. Why? **I think he believed that no one would go to bed hungry because his followers would not allow this to happen.** They would hear the cries of the poor and not turn a deaf ear. They would share their resources, not hoard them. They would simplify their lifestyles rather than ignoring the plight of the hungry to feed their insatiable desires. They would become advocates for the oppressed, creating a world built upon economic and social justice.

Why did he think his disciples would do this? They would see the sacrifices he would make in order to help others and follow suit. Is it unreasonable to think that Jesus believed that his death on the cross would inspire his disciples to make sacrifices in order to meet people's basic needs? I don't think so. He had too much confidence in the power of his example and our willingness to be like him. Was he right?"

Until Sunday,

Bob

## Letters of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Words alone cannot express the gratitude and love we feel for you. You have been our loving support in many, many ways over these past sixteen months of Mark's illness. You have rejoiced with us and wept with us, and have stood as Jesus on earth, ministering to us. We are forever grateful that God brought you into our lives. As the choir sang at Mark's homegoing, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again."*

Love,

Pat, Alan, Melanie & Glenn Thomas

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

*Our hearts are so full of gratitude for all the love and compassion you've shown our family during Daddy's decline and passing. Words just cannot begin to express how much we love you all. Thank you for everything.*

Love,

Sandra and Jim Rountree

Dear Smoke Rise Baptist Family,

*Joel and I would like to thank you all for the flowers, stuffed animal, little Bible, and the love and support for our family as we brought our daughter, Sophia Grace, into the world.*

*It is wonderful to have a church home that takes an active role in the growth, both spiritual and physical, of member families.*

*Thank you again.*

Kelly J. McLendon

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

*Thank you so much for all your help with Judy and Jack Curry's 40th Anniversary party. You were just terrific.*

Love,

Cecilia and Cheryl

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of September 29, 2006

Four hundred twenty families have pledged \$2,092,531.00 to date for the 2006 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,666,468.10	\$1,874,997.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	43,606.16	20,250.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,710,074.26	\$1,895,247.00
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,456,781.10	\$1,532,182.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	18,524.62	28,975.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	71,366.30	101,978.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	145,218.47	158,817.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	54,583.88	57,186.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	11,305.45	11,170.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,757,779.82	\$1,890,308.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 519,550.97	

**FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:**

Four hundred forty-nine families have pledged \$2,689,784.00 to the Faith, Family & Future Campaign.

Funds designated by Finance Comm	\$ 30,000.00
Contributions	+2,520,523.70
Expenses	-2,754,605.27
Cash Balance	\$ (204,081.57)
SRBC Loan	\$ 204,081.57



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
Linda Cummings	Interim Administrator
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Adult Education/Outreach
Damy Vancil	Minister of Music
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Minister of Youth
Kellie Denton	Interim Minister to Children
Tim W. Adecox	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

Counselor

### Stone Mountain Coop Needs for October

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Pasta
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Soup
- Tuna Fish
- Rice

