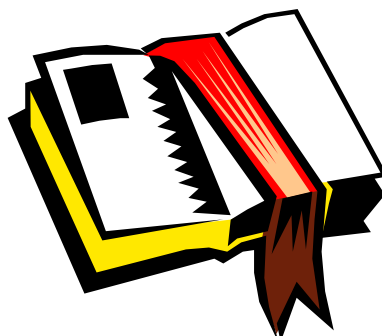


The
C
R
O
S
S
T
I
E

Ash Wednesday Service

March 1

6:30 p.m. in the Chapel



Disciple Now '06

Love, Camera, Action

March 3-5

Registration is right NOW!



**Stone Mountain Church Athletic Association
Spring 2006 T-Ball**

Parents' Meeting

March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Hurricane Katrina Rebuilding Trips

Partnering with the Atlanta Baptist Association
and LeMoyne Blvd. Baptist Church of Biloxi

March 9-12

April 6-9

May 4-7

June 8-11

August 10-13

For more information, contact Jim Huston at 678-300-9303
or jlhuston3@comcast.net.



The February 10, 2006
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Marriage Enrichment Series: Are You Hitting on All 8 Cylinders?

Dr. Browning will talk about the 8 levels of intimacy. \$15.00 per couple - Includes dinner. Childcare by reservation. February 24 at 6:30p.m.

Life Connections – February/March Schedule

“Theologians Under Hitler”

This film, based upon ground-breaking research, introduces the viewer to three of the greatest Christian scholars of the twentieth century and shows how the greater part of the German church saw Hitler’s rise in 1933 as an act of God’s blessing. This provocative film asks:

- How could something like this happen in the heart of Christian Europe?
- Could it happen again?
- How does the scholarship of this period affect the church today?
- Does the church of today retain the ability to recognize profound evil?

Film time is 64 minutes followed by a group discussion.

Sunday, Feb. 26; 6 pm; Fellowship Hall

Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit

A detailed look at the nine character traits that make up the fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians. This interactive study will lead women to better understand the person and fullness of the Holy Spirit. Sundays at 6:00 p.m, beginning Feb. 12. 10 weeks.

Our Coming King

A six week study of the end times. Bring a Bible and paper. Participants are encouraged to meet for dinner prior to the study. Serving begins at 5:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The class meets from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, in the Church Parlor beginning March 8th.

If You Want to Walk on Water...

You have to get out of the boat



Relating the story in Matthew 14 to life today, teacher and author John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zones. Mondays at 9:45 am beginning March 6. Six weeks.

Ash Wednesday Service

March 1st, 6:30 pm in the Chapel

Includes the imposition of ashes and communion

Lenten Series:

Questions on the Journey of Faith: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

March 8 & 15	What have we done with Jesus? Jesus in Contemporary Research - Dr. Alan Culpepper
March 22	Did Jesus have to die? Dr. Colin Harris
March 29	Why did Judas do it? Dr. Rob Nash
April 5	No Wednesday activities
April 12	What if Jesus never lived? Dr. William Neal

New Members



Evan Creasman (son of Barbara Barnhart), 2646 Gleneagles Drive, Tucker, GA 30084; tel. 770-938-3097. Deacon: Doug Cowan.

Laurene Cuvillier, 2068 Silversmith Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 678-937-0203. Deacon: Carol Garner.

Nita Mitchell, 1306 Springhouse Circle, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 678-684-3123. Deacon: Baxter Dollar.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenn (Joann) Nash, and Trevor and Spencer Nash, 1858 Chedworth Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-270-2277. Deacon: Charlie Coe.

Trudy Richards, 5785 Silver Ridge Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30087; tel. 770-469-2201; Deacon: Laura Smith.

Ash Wednesday Service

You are invited to a special Ash Wednesday service on March 1 in the chapel beginning at 6:30 p.m. The service marks the beginning of the season of Lent when for forty days we reflect upon the sacrifice of our Lord for our salvation as we prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Please join us for this special time of spiritual emphasis.

Prime Time

The March meeting of the Prime Time group is set for Tuesday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The program will feature Mrs. Blackie Scott a popular humorist and author.

Wedding



Tommy Parkerson and Heather Beale were married January 28 at the First Baptist Church of Evans (Augusta, Georgia). Tommy is the son of Darlene and Tom Parkerson.

Deaths



We extend our sympathy to: Sam Reagan whose mother died and Paula Reagan whose mother died; Cleo Plant, whose husband, M. H. died, they have been members since 1986; and to the family of Louis Rathke. He and Frances are former members.

Stone Mountain Co-op Needs

Donations will go to Stone Mountain Co-op in February. Items needed are soup, peanut butter, jelly, rice, hot cereals, pasta, canned fruit, and canned or dried beans.

Notes from the Pastor

“Parenting by Grace”

I have been asked to share in my article an excerpt from Sundays' message. In that sermon, I asked why good people have children that make unwise decisions. This topic emerged from I Samuel 2:12-25, the story of Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. From all indications, Eli appeared to be a good man and devoted priest, serious about his faith. His sons, on the other hand, were scoundrels, with a reputation for being selfish, immoral and corrupt.

Why do children of good people head down the wrong road? I think this question deserves attention as this story unfolds. The ancient text does not tell us why Hophni and Phinehas were rebellious. Evidently they felt immune to the normal demands of moral behavior and rejected Eli's efforts to discipline them. One thing is for sure. Eli's sons had their own personalities, interests, desires and demons that influenced their decisions, as we all do.

When I counsel with parents whose children have made unwise decisions, I remind them of several things. Your children have a mind of their own. They come with their own neurological and DNA makeup. You do not control them and neither should you. They are free to make decisions and will exercise that freedom at an early age. When they make responsible decisions, all is well. When they don't, conflict surfaces and tension mounts.

Some of their bad decisions may be due to immaturity and inexperience. That's understandable. Chronic misbehavior is another matter. Why do children rebel? Perhaps they are free spirits that rebel against all forms of authority. They may be traumatized by events beyond their control, the death of a parent, divorce of their parents or child abuse and are reacting to what happened at an earlier age. They could be suffering from depression which, in children, is manifested through unreasonable behavior. They may feel favoritism is being shown to other siblings and are struggling with low self-esteem. They may feel pressure to live out their parents' dreams rather than their own. They could be prone to addictions that control their decisions. There is any number of reasons for rebellion and, if left unresolved, will influence them all their lives.

I also remind parents they are not the only influence in their children's lives. Peer influence is especially strong, which is why unhealthy friends can lead impressionable people down the wrong path. Children want to fit in and be accepted by their peers. They will do almost anything to make sure this happens.

Quite candidly, I tell some parents that good people are not automatically good parents. A unique set of skills is needed to be responsible parents, and these skills need to be learned and practiced. Good citizens and even faithful church members can be guilty of neglect, naiveté or poor parenting skills.

What do you do if your child is making bad decisions that affect the whole family? Pray and ask God for several things.

Ask God for wisdom. No one knows enough to be the perfect parent. This is why every responsible parent must seek God's wisdom, understanding, insight and guidance.

Ask God to help you grow and mature even as you guide your children. I have told many couples that our children will teach us more about life than our parents. This will occur if we see our children as mirrors that help us see ourselves, so that, with God's help we can make changes in our own lives.

Allow the grace of God to repair, heal and liberate you so you can be a better parent and role model for your children. Don't pass

on unhealthy attitudes and tendencies to them.

Ask God to help you deal with your pride. Parents feel judged or validated by their children. If children are misbehaving, parents believe others won't think they are good Christians. So, energy that should be directed toward helping a child is used to conceal the problem. Instead of seeking a support group that can help, many parents suffer in isolation and ignorance.

Ask God to bring healthy influences into your child's life. When they tune out your voice, ask Him to speak through other voices, even His own.

Ask the Lord to watch over and protect your child. Ask Him to walk where you cannot.

Ask God for the grace to hold on to your child when others let go. Ask Him to give you a vision of what your child can become with His help. Ask Him to help you believe in your child when all others have abandoned him or her.

Ask God to forgive you for mistakes you have made as a parent. Receive His grace, which will remind you that you did the best you could under the circumstances. Quit beating yourselves over the head for not knowing better.

Ask God to help you find counseling and support. Turn to those that can give you insight and understanding as well as emotional and spiritual support. Don't grieve or struggle alone.

Ask for the power to set a good example of healthy behavior before your children. I assure you that your children are watching you. Be a good role model even when you are heartbroken and confused.

Ask God to help you be a responsible, limit-setting parent. Don't enable a child to continue making bad decisions. Rescuing children from bad decisions only encourages more bad behavior. Natural consequences are wonderful teachers. Provide a soft place for your children to fall, but let them fall.

Ask God for the strength to cope with whatever may come. Brace yourself. The road you are traveling is treacherous, filled with all kinds of dangers and risks. Prepare for the worst but pray it never happens. Perhaps you need this kind of faith and support. Smoke Rise is a place where both can be found. Let us be a part of your journey, offering hope and help. God has given us enough to share.

Until Sunday,
Bob

Youth

UPS
February 19

UNHINDERED

Saturday, February 18, 7:00 p.m.
Good Shephard Presbyterian on Killian Hill
Guest appearance by **THE FISH** at 6:00 p.m.
Shawn Regan is the opening act

MISSION SUNDAY

February 26
High School to Gateway Center
Middle School to Clarkston

Disciple Now '06

Love, Camera, Action
March 3-5
Registration is right NOW!

Letters of Appreciation



Dear Members of Smoke Rise Baptist church,

On behalf of the children and families who participated in our annual Christmas Party, I want to thank you for the generous gifts. I hope you had as much fun shopping for the toys as we had giving them away.

I pray that 2006 will hold new blessings for you and look forward to seeing you in the summer, if not before.

On the journey with Him,
David Waugh

Dear one and all,

I continue to be grateful for your openness and giving spirit shown in my ordination service. Each of you is a blessing to me.

I thank Lou and the kitchen crew for the lovely reception and the Smoke Rise staff and members for my lovely Bible. It will always remind me of this special occasion.

Love and gratitude to each of you.

Gloria White

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

Thank you so much for your cards, visits and phone calls after the passing of our mother and grandmother, Esther Foster. She was like so many of our caring and loving friends at Smoke Rise. We celebrate her life as her memory remains so sweetly with us.

Sincerely,
Inez Bryan and Arlene Kirkland

Dear Smoke Rise Family,

Thanks to all of you for your love shown in so many ways following the death of my son Isaac.

Your care and concern have been a great comfort in this sorrowful time.

Sharon Walker-Dorsey and family

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of January 30, 2006

Four hundred twelve families have pledged \$2,072,651.00 to date for the 2006 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<u>INCOME</u>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 182,317.57	\$ 208,333.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>4,332.80</u>	<u>2,250.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 186,650.37	\$ 210,583.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 155,307.87	\$ 167,921.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	1,986.25	2,925.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	14,965.60	18,269.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	16,821.86	23,585.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	7,114.32	7,170.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>485.98</u>	<u>1,917.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 196,681.88	\$ 221,787.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 650,344.75	

FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:

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

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,402,840.80
SRBC LOAN	+ 300,000.00
EXPENSES	<u>-2,746,725.81</u>
BALANCE	\$ (43,885.01)



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 semi-monthly 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

Stone Mountain Church Athletic Association Spring 2006 T-Ball



Parents' Meeting
March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Boys & Girls Ages 4-8
Practice Begins March 17
Smoke Rise Ball Field



For more information, call the Church Office
at 770-413-2133, ext. 224