

# The C R O S S T I E

## Ash Wednesday Service

March 1, 6:30 pm in the Chapel  
Includes the imposition of ashes and communion

## Beginning Soon



**T-Ball for Children**  
**Softball for Men**  
**See Inside**

## SUPER WOW EXPRESS

The experience of Super Wow  
in our own area  
March 19 at 6 p.m. at FBC Tucker

**COST IS FREE!!**

Worship Leader: Chris Orr  
Speaker: Ryan Stone



The February 24, 2006  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

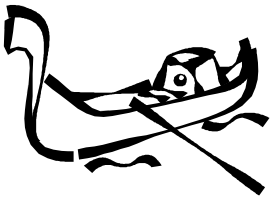
## Let's Connect!

*A Sunday School Membership Blitz*

March is "Let's Connect" month for adult Sunday School. Our goal is to make contact with every Sunday School member by March 31<sup>st</sup>, with special attention to those we haven't seen in a while. Talk to your class president or teacher about how to help.

Thank you in advance for your caring efforts. It is easy for people to slip away from a large church. Let's connect again with all of our church family.

## Life Connections – March Schedule



### 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 a.m. beginning March 6. Six weeks.

### 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

### The Sacred Texts of World Religions



Join Gary Leazer in a fascinating study of the sacred writings that have influenced the major world religions. Dr. Leazer will discuss how these writings portray God or a divine being as compared to the God of The Holy Bible. Sundays at 6 p.m. 4 weeks beginning March 5.

### The Enneagram – Introductory Class

*Understanding Yourself Through The Enneagram System of Personality Types*

Understanding personality types is a skill that can impact your personal development, your relationships, and your professional life. The Enneagram delineates nine fundamental personality types and their complex interrelationships. It indicates ways in which each person can grow personally and spiritually. \$8.00 for materials. Pre-registration required. Sundays, March. 5 & 12; 4-6 p.m. Leader: Gloria White, M.Div., LCSW, Smoke Rise Counseling Center

### The Myth of Diversity

Sundays, March. 19 & 26; 4-6 p.m.

This workshop deals with understanding the diversity that exists within each of us and how it affects the diversity in our external world. The external world in turn affects our inner world. Learn how the Enneagram informs us about our uniqueness and differences. Learn what contributes to differences, prejudices, and separation. Learn the power of self-awareness in diffusing the myth of diversity.

*The Enneagram class is recommended (but not required) as a prerequisite to this workshop.*

Leader: Gloria White, Smoke Rise Counseling Center

### 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 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The class meets from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., in the Church Parlor beginning March 8.

## 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 Ballfield

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

## Spring Softball to Begin

Men's Softball will be starting the week of March 13th. This year Smoke Rise will be partnering with Harmony Grove and offering a competitive league on Friday nights and a recreational league on Tuesday nights. For registration information, check online at [smokeriseministries.org](http://smokeriseministries.org). For any questions call the Recreation office at (770) 413-2133. Ext. 224.

## 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.

## Letter of Appreciation

*To the Smoke Rise family,*

*Words cannot express how overwhelmed we have been by your love and concern for our Johnny! The steady flow of hospital visits by your precious staff, the phone calls, cards from total strangers, and most importantly — **your prayers** — have lifted us up and carried us through our very scary and exhausting ordeal.*

*Johnny is making steady progress, and soon this will be only a memory, but we will never forget the kindness of your fellowship! Continue to pray that God will be glorified through this story of God's miraculous intervention.*

*We love you.*

*Randy, Tammi, Johnny and Katie Verdi*



We extend our sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Tim Adcox whose grandmother died, Lloyd Johnson whose sister died, Crystal Blackwell whose grandmother died, Dee Dee Poss whose aunt died, Paula Reagan whose mother died, Jerry Shumate whose stepson died, Marilyn Barnes whose husband died, and Janice, Martin and Maribeth Lawson, whose mother and grandmother died.

## 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

### Missions Weekend

Our annual Missions Weekend is coming up February 25-26. Children, youth and adults will be involved in mission activities throughout the weekend and the service on Sunday will center on the theme, "Telling Our Story." We want to highlight our local and global mission activities while thanking God for His leadership in all our endeavors.

About three years ago, we drafted a new mission statement along with the dream, vision and theme to achieve it. Our **mission** is to lead people to a transforming relationship with Jesus and to follow him in transforming the world. Our **dream** is to give ourselves away. Our **theme** is every member a minister. Our **vision** is to grow spiritually, give generously and go boldly.

The purpose of Missions Weekend is to remind us of our mission as Smoke Rise members and inspire us to give ourselves away throughout the year. By "Telling Our Story," we hope to motivate all our members to use their talents to make the world better and advance the Kingdom of God.

The Missions Committee has planned an outstanding time of worship for the 26<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate their hard work and careful planning. The nature of this service requires that we combine our morning services and have a joint service at 11:00. Remember this if you are accustomed to coming to the early service.

### Klesis

Speaking of missions, I am engaged in a study on Sunday evenings that teaches members how to identify their gifts and talents so they can be used to make the world better. *Klesis: God's Call and the Journey of Faith* is a workbook that has been written by three of our members to help each believer partner with God and others to transform the world. What a delight it has been to be led in this study by the authors, Kathy Dobbins, Dr. Colin Harris and Doris Nelms. They have brought fresh insights into this concept of calling and practical suggestions for utilizing talents to meet needs, our own and others. If you have not taken this course, I encourage you to do so. I truly believe it can transform your life and walk with Christ.

### Theologians Under Hitler

On Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m., a film will be shown in our fellowship hall titled, "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 their study which reveals that many Christians saw the rise of Hitler in 1933 as a blessing from God. This provocative film explores the relationship between religion and politics and the role of religion in recognizing, exposing and resisting evil. Join us as we watch this film (64 minutes in length) and discuss it afterwards.

### Youth/Senior Adult Valentine Banquet

I cannot adequately express my appreciation to our youth for hosting, serving and entertaining our senior adults at the recent Valentine Banquet. About fifty of our youth participated and had our senior adults eating out of their hands (no pun intended!). What a great evening of fellowship and fun this was. Thanks, young people for a wonderful night filled with good memories. And thanks to Lou and her hard working crew for the delicious meal!

### Ash Wednesday

Last year's Ash Wednesday service was one of the most moving and inspiring services of the year. Make plans to be in the chapel on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. for a similar service this year. Not only will we have communion that evening but also have ashes for those that wish to participate in this meaningful portion of the service.

### New Minister of Music

The Music Search Committee is ready to introduce the candidate for our new Minister of Music. You will receive a brochure about him in the mail and have an opportunity to meet him on March 18 and 19. On Saturday evening, March 18, you are invited to a reception in our fellowship hall and on Sunday, March 19, he will be leading in our worship services. The Search Committee will also share information with us and entertain questions on Wednesday, March 22 at 6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Continue to pray for God's leadership in this decision. If he is called, our candidate will be leaving a church he has served and community he has lived in for fifteen years. This has not been an easy decision for him to make as you can imagine. He is dearly loved and appreciated where he now works and lives. Let's greet him with open arms and give him a warm Georgia welcome. You did this for Jackie and me seven years ago and we have never forgotten it. You made the difference in our difficult decision with your gracious hospitality and friendly welcome. Let's do it again!

### Mercer University

On Sunday, April 30, we have the opportunity to meet Mercer's new President, Dr. William D. Underwood. Dr. Underwood will assume his duties on July 1, but is spending a lot of time in Georgia this spring. He will speak in the fellowship hall during Sunday School and bring greetings in the 11 o'clock service. Mark this on your calendar now and make plans to welcome Dr. Underwood to Smoke Rise.

### Thank You

Thanks, Smoke Rise members, for who you are. What a joy it is to partner with you in ministry.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

**THERE WILL BE NO 8:30 SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 26.**

### Attention Smoke Rise Golfers

Sign up now for the 11th Annual Ryder Cup Golf & Fellowship Retreat May 18-20 (Thursday-Saturday).

Location: Savannah Lakes Resort in McCormick, South Carolina.

Cost: \$290 (includes golf, room, breakfast, dinner, and Smoke Rise Motor Coach transportation).

\$100 deposit to Bobbie Wade reserves your place.

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

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.

## Academy of Arts Classes

is now enrolling for winter-spring drama classes for children and youth. Also being offered is oil painting for adults, and pre-school ballet-tap classes, in addition to private music instruction. Please call Carole or Cathy at 770-413-2133, ext. 226, for more information.

## Hunger Walk/Run

Join this group on Sunday, March 12, in a Hunger Walk-Run Race to benefit the Atlanta Food Bank, which supplies food to our Co-Ops. For more information, or to register online, click on [www.acfb.org](http://www.acfb.org) or, check the bulletin board in the hallway near the church office.

## Hurricane Katrina Rebuilding Trips

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

<b>March 9-12</b>	<b>June 8-11</b>
<b>April 6-9</b>	<b>August 10-13</b>
<b>May 4-7</b>	<b>September 7-10</b>

## Other Mission Trips

**Honduras: March 11-18**  
**Uganda: May 27 - June 10**  
**Tijuana: July 15-22**  
**New York City: July 15-22**  
**Appalachia, Kentucky: August 4-12**

**For more information, contact Jim Huston at 678-300-9303  
or [jlhuston3@comcast.net](mailto:jlhuston3@comcast.net).**

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS As of February 16, 2006

Four hundred sixteen families have pledged \$2,081,031.00 to date for the 2006 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 289,954.56	\$ 416,666.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>7,876.56</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 297,831.12	\$ 421,166.00
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 218,876.51	\$ 326,705.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	2,145.30	4,350.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	11,801.34	31,980.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	18,537.51	38,424.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	10,794.32	12,808.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>1,352.48</u>	<u>2,959.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 263,507.46	\$ 417,226.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 634,352.49	

### **FAITH, FAMILY & FUTURE CAMPAIGN:**

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

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,411,406.30
SRBC LOAN	+ 300,000.00
EXPENSES	<u>- 2,746,725.81</u>
BALANCE	\$ (35,319.51)



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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

## Stone Mountain Co-op Needs

- Soup
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Rice
- Hot cereals
- Pasta
- Canned fruit
- Canned or dried beans

*Please place these items  
on the shelves  
outside the church office.*