



The C R O S S T I E

The November 16, 2006
Newsletter of the
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Children's Christmas Program

Don't miss this Delightful Musical Program!
December 3rd at 6:00pm

Church Thanksgiving Dinner



Sunday, November 19

6:00 p.m.

**Join us for a delicious dinner
and a special musical performance.**

“Operation Appalachia” by Preschool and Children

Red Cross Blood Drive

at Smoke Rise

Monday, November 20

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All donors will receive a Red Cross Apron.



The Power of a Simple Gift

**Smoke Rise children are collecting unwrapped toys
for God's Appalachia Project (GAP).**

**Collection Centers at the Nursery entrance
and in the upstairs breezeway**

Deadline for these toys: Sunday, November 26th.



Prime Time Christmas Outing

Sunday, December 3

“Home for the Holidays”

at the Stage Door Theater in Dunwoody

Dinner at The Evergreen

Leave Smoke Rise at 1:15 p.m.

Return around 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$43 reservation with check only

Give check to Linda Cummings





A Taste of Christmas 2

Featuring Ursula Kraeusel

November 28

(Tickets on sale now)

Family Thanksgiving November 19th

6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Special Skit and Music by the Children

to benefit "Operation Appalachia"

Please donate a new unwrapped toy.



A Special Sunday School Event for Preschoolers

"Breakfast with the Angels"

December 3

9:30-10:30 am

in the Fellowship Hall

For children birth through Kindergarten and their parents



Get Ready for Christmas Around the World

1st - 5th Grades On December 10th and 17th

9:30 - 10:30 am Sunday School Hour

Promiseland Productions (Room 301)

Feliz Navidad!



A Caroling We Go!

Sign up for a Special Family Caroling Event on Dec 13th

6:15 - 7:30 pm in Sanctuary Breezeway

(This will be in place of children's music and missions time)

Smoke Rise POLAR PNO (Parents Night Out)

Children will get on board the Express while you shop!

Coming Soon! Look for Flyers!

Attn: Nursery Parents and Volunteers

It's time to sign up for November, December and January service dates. The scheduling poster is outside the Nursery Office.

Smoke Rise Elementary School Needs You!

Our church believes in being a good neighbor. Make a difference in a child's life right here in our own community.

- Read to a student or a group of students
- Help with homework assignments
- Become a regular helper with a Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade class Teachers need help!
- Become a buddy to a child that needs more adult influence
- Men are needed to buddy with a boy or group of boys that are missing the male parent.

All of these volunteer activities and more can be structured to fit your schedule whether for an hour or several. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Kathy Dobbins at (770) 469-5856 or kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org.

Way To Go Acteens & Youth Volunteers!

A Special Thanks to all those young ladies who have been helping with the children activities on Wednesdays evenings. God's spirit shines through you!

Kaila Bius
Collin Brantly
Haley Burns
Katie Conway
Bethany Easom
Rachel Greene
Becky Greene
Allison Huff
Gillian Huff
Evan Keys
Garrett Litton
McCall Mullee
Abby Paul
Daniel Richards
Rebecca Weatherby
Katie Whittle



Youth today is in search of selflessness, and when it finds it, is prepared to embrace it. — Mother Teresa

Peter Meyer Concert

"Stars & Promises"

December 6th

No Wednesday Night Children Activities

Letters of Appreciation



Dear Smoke Rise Family,

Polly and I are so grateful and appreciative for all your visits, telephone calls, cards, e-mails, but most of all for your thoughts and prayers during my three weeks' stay at the hospital due to a ladder accident.

Thank you again for your love and support.

Clarence and Polly Adams

Dear Smoke Rise Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, flowers and food. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful church family to help us share in this exciting time during the birth of our son.

With love,

Marc, Katie and John Lewis

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful life God has blessed me with — including two church families. Thank you for all your prayers, cards, visits and support through my father's illness and passing.

What a Mighty God we serve!

Love,

Jan Langston Price and family

Notes from the Pastor

Deacon Ordination Service

I want to thank Lou McGuff, chairperson of our deacons, for leading our most recent Deacon Ordination Service. Her poise and grace have made all our meetings so pleasurable this year and this was never more evident than Sunday evening when she led us through the ordination service. It takes a lot of work coordinating this service, especially lining up the testimonies. Thanks, Lou, for making this service so special for all of us.

I also want to thank the new deacons that were installed and ordained last Sunday evening. Your willingness to serve in this capacity means a lot to me.

I cannot say enough good things about our deacons. Each one works hard to minister to his or her flock and keep church members connected. They take their responsibilities seriously and are faithful to their tasks. They make our church stronger and better and for this I am grateful. The church staff appreciates the help you provide us. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal

I hope you can be with us for our annual Thanksgiving fellowship meal on Sunday, November 19, at 6:00 p.m. Lou and her fine crew will have a delicious meal waiting for us when we arrive. This is another group in our church for which I am very grateful. The “kitchen crew” works hard all year long to provide the best meals in the finest atmosphere week after week. I don’t know a finer kitchen staff anywhere. They are exceptional.

This particular fellowship meal is one of my favorites. Just as you want to sit around a table at home with family during Thanksgiving, you want to spend time with your church family expressing love and appreciation for dear friends. This meal makes this possible. Come and be with us on this special night as our children lead our program and we sing traditional Thanksgiving hymns. I look forward to seeing you.

Christmas Programs

Can you believe we are talking about Christmas? Danny has been working hard to prepare musical programs that will help us celebrate the birth of our Lord. Go on line to get all the information for dates and times. I can hardly wait for the music to begin!

Stewardship

On Sunday, November 19, the stewardship committee is asking members to bring their commitment cards to the altar during the worship services. Make this a matter of prayer as you prepare to bring your card. Take an inventory of your blessings and ask the Lord to help you use your time, talents and resources in ways that will make the world better through Smoke Rise Baptist Church.

Recently I preached a sermon titled, “**Risky Generosity**,” based upon I Kings 17:7-16. It is the story of the widow that shared with Elijah what she thought would be her last meal. It was in giving that she not only met Elijah’s need for nourishment but also discovered new life. Her supply of food did not run out as she thought it would. She was blessed as she was a blessing to others. Let me share an excerpt from the sermon.

“What is the purpose of this story? What is the message we need to take with us today? For me it is this. **Giving is the basis of**

our faith. Sharing with others is both a duty and a privilege, regardless of how much or little we have.

If there ever was a person that should have been discouraged from sharing or had a valid reason for not doing so, it was the widow from Zarephath. Her next meal was literally going to be her last. She was going to prepare it, eat it and await death with her son.

Surely no one would expect her to take food from her child and give it to a stranger. Is there anyone that would refuse to place limits on her generosity and tell her to ignore Elijah’s request? Wouldn’t we feel compelled to talk to Elijah and convince him to look elsewhere for food? Wouldn’t we appeal to God and urge Him to continue miraculously feeding Elijah? Sure we would, so this is all the more reason we need to figure out why this story is here and what it means for us.

Could it have to do with building community? **Giving is the basis of our faith because sharing builds community.** We really are our brother’s keeper.

Think about it. ‘Here is a woman about to die with her child, a mother unable to feed her little boy, who still manages to love her neighbor as herself,’ writes Heidi Neumark. This is risky generosity. It is bold by any standard.

Have you ever been this bold and generous? Do you have a story to share that even comes close to matching this widow’s generosity?

Why would someone want to be this generous? In addition to making the world better, giving gives us new life. This widow and her son lived and survived the drought because they shared. If they had refused to divide what they thought was their last meal, I wonder what would have happened? Do you think they would have perished? It appears they would have.

Doesn’t this strike you as odd? This widow lived and spared her family because she was willing to give her life away. Seems I recall a holy man named Jesus that endorsed this radical idea.

‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it’ Matthew 16:24-25. You recognize these words as the basis of our dream at Smoke Rise, “To give ourselves away.”

I know too many people that are slowly dying because they are not generous with their time, talents or resources. Life is about them and they are blessing themselves to death. There is something stifling about selfishness, isn’t there. On the other hand, nothing is more liberating and fulfilling than generosity.

The happiest people I know are generous. They are filled with life and love as they look for ways to share their time, talents and resources with those in need. They make life enjoyable for those around them. At times, they make life possible like the widow at Zarephath did.

Does this describe you? Are you the kind of person that would give the shirt off your back or share the last food in your pantry? Do you respond to other’s needs with risky generosity or are you much more calculated and cautious? Think about it this week and ask God to reveal changes you need to make along with the confidence you need to make them.”

Until Sunday,

Bob

Welcome to our Newest Members



Hanna Brown (daughter of Michael and Shanna Brown), 900 Common Oak Place, Lawrenceville, GA 30045. Tel: 770-972-1083. Deacon: Wade Higgins.

Debra Dice, 1767 Overview Creek, Lawrenceville, GA 30044. Tel. 770-978-3577. Deacon: Karen Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl (Janie) Hart, 5325 Leather Stocking Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Tel. 770-939-0698. Deacon: Richard Swindle.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas (Janice) Hawks, 2301 Double Springs Church Road, Monroe, GA 30656. Tel. 770-207-9418. Deacon: Baxter Dollar.

Keith Haynie, 798 Post Road Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30088. Tel. 770-469-0948. Deacon: Rick Lehner.

Amber Piatt (fiancee of Robert Braswell), 2754 Varlet Court, Snellville, GA 30039. Tel. 770-736-0344. Deacon: Ginger Zachman.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford (Bill and Beverly) Pinyan, 1448 Parkview Blvd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087 (Park Springs Retirement Center). Tel. 678-684-3713. Deacon: Mark Manley.

Uth News

We will share Christmas with the Palmetto Children's Home at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, before the concert. Be here and share your Christmas cheer with them.

All Youth All Night Extravaganza

December 31

It's a GREAT way to bring in the New Year

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of November 10, 2006

Four hundred twenty families have pledged \$2,089,351.00 to date for the 2006 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
INCOME		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,943,500.72	\$2,291,663.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>52,566.32</u>	<u>24,750.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,996,067.04	\$2,316,413.00
EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,661,769.90	\$1,882,940.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	21,907.50	34,000.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	85,077.08	131,410.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	70,834.17	186,932.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	69,012.20	69,462.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>13,470.96</u>	<u>13,962.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,022,071.81	\$2,318,706.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 489,436.15	

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	+2,532,209.70
Expenses	<u>-2,754,605.27</u>
Cash Balance	\$ (192,395.57)
SRBC Loan	\$ 195,408.07



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OUR STAFF

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Truett Gannon, D. Min.

Pastor
Interim Administrator/Senior Adults
Minister of Adult Education/Outreach
Minister of Music
Minister of Youth
Interim Minister to Children
Minister of Recreation/Missions
Nursery Director
Pastor Emeritus

Smoke Rise Counseling Center

Affiliate of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia
770-469-6547

Gloria White, M. Div., LCSW

Counselor

SRBC Thanksgiving Schedule

No **EVENING** activities

Wednesday, November 22 and Sunday, November 26

The Church Office will be closed
Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24,
in honor of Thanksgiving.