

# The C R O S S T I E

## ***“Priority: Faithfulness”***

Pray for our stewardship emphasis during November



### **Bring a food offering**

to be shared

with the Lilburn and Stone Mountain Cooperatives

November 12



### **Please return your commitment card**

November 19



## **Sharing God’s Love Across the World**

**Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child Project!**

**Shoe Box labels and brochures**

**are at the collection center across from the office.**

**(Limited quantities of unwrapped shoe boxes are also available)**

**Deadline: Nov. 13th**

**Drop Off Area: Across from Main Office**



## **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.**



## **Dealing with Grief during the Holidays**

**Sunday, November 12 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

This one-day workshop deals with establishing new traditions after the loss of a loved one. Led by Peachtree Hospice. Reception following the workshop. For information, contact Elizabeth Byars at 770-813-1041.

## Stewardship Emphasis Begins

November is always a month when we think of thanksgiving. Many of us relate that to food (and it is good). However, we should be thankful for many things. As one means of showing our thankfulness to God, we are encouraged to be faithful stewards of everything we are given. A Christian steward is taught to be obedient. Christian stewards obey God by setting aside a part of all their income for others as it indicates in II Corinthians 9:7. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

During the month of November our stewardship emphasis will be "**Priority: Faithfulness**". Let's celebrate all month the wonderful opportunity we have to share the resources placed within our care. You have received a stewardship commitment packet in the mail. In it you will find your 2007 Commitment Card along with other materials. Please take a minute to look through this information.

On **Sunday, November 12**, we are asking you to bring a food offering to be shared with the Lilburn and Stone Mountain Cooperatives. You may place your food offerings on the pulpit as you come into the sanctuary.

On **Sunday, November 19**, please return your commitment card as an act of commitment and worship. This will take place at an appointed time during both morning worship services. Let's look forward to showing our appreciation to God for resources He has given us.

## Faith & Issues

**Sunday at 9:45 am; Room A125**

### November Schedule

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 5  | People of Faith & Courage: Gandhi   |
| 12 | The Parables of Jesus – Session One |
| 19 | The Parables of Jesus – Session Two |
| 26 | Open Discussion                     |

## Annual Smoke Rise Thanksgiving Dinner



November 19 at 6:00 p.m.  
Special Thanksgiving Performance  
Children 3, 4 and 5-year-olds

Wednesday Mission Possible (children 1st - 5th grades)  
present "Operation Appalachia"  
Nursery provided for infants and babies

## Volunteers Needed for the Kitchen

Help is needed for set-up, events, washing dishes, etc. Join this hardworking fun group and minister to our church family. Contact Lou at 770-413-2133, ext. 212.

## Our Military Away Project

Our Military Away project at Smoke Rise is in need of funds in order to continue sending our Christmas and Easter packages. If you or your Sunday School Class would like to help us continue this project, you may contribute in the following ways:

- Place the money — either Cash or check — made out to Smoke Rise Baptist Church with a note that it is designated to Military Away — in an envelope.
- Label the envelope — MILITARY AWAY FUND.
- Place the envelope on Debbie Lloyd's desk or in her box in the church office, or in the offering plate.

Thank you for your support when we began this ministry, and we appreciate your contributions so that we can continue to remember our Military Away.

Thanks from Susie Middlebrooks and Margaret-Anne Prohitt, Smoke Rise Military Away Committee.

## Twenty-four Newly Elected Deacons Ordination/Installation Service is Planned

On Sunday, October 22, 2006 the following persons were elected by ballot vote to serve a two-year term as deacon: Gwen Bailey, Bill Barnette, Marc Beaver, Nancy Blair, Alan Burton, Bob Carter, Bob Ethridge, Denny Goodenow, Carole Harrison, Bill Hearn, Mike Holcomb, Charlie Hopkins, Jack L'Amoreaux, David Low, Joyce Morrison, Deck Neisler, Mary Ann Niermann, Dane Sanderlin, Joe Shields, Ken Stephenson, Penny Stovall, Bob Tabb, Doug Torbush, and Mary Wilson.

A **Deacon Ordination/Installation Service** is planned for Sunday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All church members are invited to participate in this special service of worship and commitment. Following the service you are invited to a reception in the fellowship hall.

## Church Approves 2007 Ministry Plan

The congregation of Smoke Rise Baptist Church overwhelmingly approved the 2007 ministry plan by ballot vote on Sunday, October 22. The 2007 plan, at 2.525 million dollars is \$25,000 more than the 2006 ministry plan.

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to Lynn Harkleroad and Tom Parkerson whose mother died; Keith Haynie whose father died; Heather Huff whose mother died; and Rachel and Thad Smith, whose mother and grandmother died.



## Births

Congratulations to Marc and Katie Lewis on the birth of a son, "John Patrick," born October 14. Grandparents are Kathy and Mike Patrick; great-grandmother is Kathryn Hancock.



## Letter of Appreciation

Dear Smoke Rise Friends,

*Being a member of Smoke Rise the last thirty years has given me the opportunity to know MANY of you and I appreciate the support you have given me during the years of Jim's illness and then at the time of his death. MOST OF ALL, your prayers have certainly sustained me. The calls, food, cards AND the hugs have been overwhelming. I am thankful THIS has been our church during all these years and for the love that you have shown to me especially at this time. Thanks to ALL of you.*

Love,  
Sylvia Dodson

## Fall Golf Fellowship

The Fall Golf Fellowship will be at the Indian Creek Golf Club in Covington on November 13. Cost: \$45 includes golf and lunch. Format: 2 man better ball, flighted and handicapped. (Play your own ball and take best net score of your partner and you.)

Deadline to sign up is Noon on Sunday, November 12. Contact Bobbie in the church office or Ed Brantly at 770-469-1319 or 404-295-2628.



## *From the Pastor*

### “Blessed Disturbance Jesus Is Mine”

**R**ecently I preached on the story of the rich, young ruler recorded in **Mark 10:17-31**. My focus was upon the way this young man received Jesus’ challenge to sell all he had, give the money to the poor and follow him in response to his question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.”

**Why was he shocked?** What do you think he was expecting to hear from Jesus? It appears that he anticipated a lot of affirmation. Don’t you think he was accustomed to hearing how good he was? Since he was a child he had striven for perfection and in his own eyes, and maybe others, he had come pretty close. He just knew he had the right stuff and Jesus would recognize it. When Jesus did not, the rich ruler dejectedly walked away, which was a stark contrast to the way he approached Jesus.

What is the lesson for us? For me it is this. **There are not many times when Jesus is going to tell us what we want to hear because what we want Jesus to do is to affirm what we believe rather than opening our minds to see things differently.** Like the rich young ruler, we want Jesus to tell us how good, smart, insightful and committed we are. We want him to approve our predispositions and biases. We want him to see the world as we do and endorse our beliefs. Yet, this story clearly tells us that he is not going to do that.

Instead, he is going to tell us what we need to hear. He is going to tell us the truth in order to stretch our minds and broaden our vision. He is going to change the questions and challenge us to think outside the box, go where we have never gone and do what we have never done. For instance, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” will become “What must I do to align myself with the Kingdom of God and partner with Him to bring life to all people? How can I focus more upon the journey than the destination?”

**Why would he do this?** He does this because he loves us. Mark was the only writer of the three that mentioned that Jesus loved this man. “Jesus, looking at him loved him.” As a matter of fact, this is the only time that Mark said that Jesus loved anyone in particular.

**Why do you think Mark included this?** Evidently his readers did not associate constructive criticism with love. The loving thing for Jesus to have done, Mark’s readers might have thought, was to commend this man for years of faithfulness and encourage him to keep on keeping on. Don’t add more pressure to his life. Take some away.

Jesus knew, however, that he would have been doing this man a great disservice and would have missed a golden opportunity to truly make a difference in his life. No one else was going to challenge him to let go of a false sense of security and a religion based upon following rules in order to embark on a journey with others that trusted in God, not their goodness or their possessions. No one was going to urge him to go where he had never gone nor do what he had never done. No one was going to tap his potential for service or fulfillment. Jesus knew he had to do it. Love would not let him miss this opportunity.

My friend Tim Shirley wrote a song based upon this story. He titled it, “Blessed Disturbance Jesus Is Mine.” I’m sure you recognize the connection to a dear hymn we have sung many times, “Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine.”

There are times when Jesus blesses us by disturbing us and challenging us to reconsider our conclusions and decisions. He

blesses us by raising new questions and encouraging us to be curious. He blesses us by leading us down the road less traveled. In her book, Leaving Church, Barbara Brown Taylor writes that the church has not done a good job encouraging people to be curious and take risks. Most free thinkers and risk takers have been branded as heretics. Jesus certainly was by the religious leaders of his day. However, Taylor says that God’s map has both a center and an edge. While the center may be the place where the stories of faith are preserved, the edge is the place where the best of them happened.

There are times when Jesus invites us to travel with him to the edge and be explorers of the faith. In the words of Captain Kirk of Star Trek fame, Jesus challenges us to go “Boldly go where no man has gone before.” This is what he encouraged the rich, young ruler to do, but he didn’t go. He stayed safely in the center.

**What about you? Will you go toward the edge?** Will you suspend your understanding of truth long enough to ask some new questions? Will you consider new ways of arranging your priorities that reflect Jesus’ values? Will you be less concerned about building your own kingdom or fortress and more concerned about advancing the Kingdom of God? Will you, even for a little while, live on the edge?

**You may be wondering how to get to the edge.** As with any journey, you take one step at a time. You sign up for a mission trip, volunteer at the local Co-ops, go to a Sunday school class, read a thought-provoking book, attend a discussion at a “Theology Café,” make a new friend, realign your budget so you can give more, fill out a commitment card or keep a journal of questions that come to mind and lessons learned from your journey.

With each step you will gain confidence and momentum. One day you will even look back and be surprised at how far you have traveled from the safe center.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

### Prime Time

November 7  
with Danny Vancil

## *Uth News*

### *UPS*

*is Sunday, November 19  
Our special guest will be Eydiel!  
Have you met Eydie?*



### **ALL YOUTH ALL NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA**

*December 31*

*It's a GREAT way to bring in the New Year  
Look for details in Sunday School*

## 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 that are learning to read (some may be learning the English language).
- Help with homework assignments
- Become a regular helper with a Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class (pick the age you would enjoy working with). These are the crucial years for a child. Getting them off to a good start in their education is so important. Teachers need help!
- Assist teachers with administrative items such as making copies
- 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.
- Volunteer in the office (this is a great way to see the school environment and decide other ways you may like to be involved).

All of these volunteer activities can be structured to fit your schedule. This works well with people who are available to give an hour or so a week during the school day. This is a great opportunity to fulfill our dream to "Give Ourselves Away." A brief information meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 9:00 am and on Wed., Nov. 15 at 5:30 pm. If you can attend one of these sessions, please contact Kathy Dobbins at (770) 469-5856 or [kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org).

## Multimedia Team Needs Volunteers!

Available jobs include camera operators, slideshow & video editors, production directors and lighting & video control personnel for live performances. Expertise is desirable, but not required. Training will be available.



Contact Team Leader Adrian Clift or the church office or visit the multimedia page on the church website for additional information.

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of October 26, 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
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,852,491.07	\$2,083,330.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	48,955.04	22,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,901,446.11	\$2,105,830.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,565,706.84	\$1,687,633.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	20,408.88	31,325.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	80,877.42	117,023.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	157,084.89	172,926.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	65,462.20	63,824.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	12,485.92	13,420.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,902,026.15	\$2,086,151.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 502,733.45	

### 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	+2,527,167.20
Expenses	-2,754,605.27
Cash Balance	\$ (197,438.07)
SRBC Loan	\$ 204,081.57



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### OUR STAFF

**Church Office: 770-469-5856**

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.  
Linda Cummings  
Kathy Dobbins  
Danny Vancil  
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.  
Kellie Denton  
Tim W. Adcox  
Amanda Burton  
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

Help us welcome our new counselors in our counseling center (affiliated in Care and Counseling Center of Georgia), **Rene Ely and Gina Campbell**. We're glad to have you!



## A Taste of Christmas 2

Featuring Ursula Kraeusel  
November 28

(Tickets go on sale beginning November 5)