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## Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday, March 11

Remember to *Spring Forward!*



## MultiFocus WMU Meeting

March 13 at 10.00 A.M.

Room 218

We will be donating to Whirlwind Mission,  
Tim Cummins' ministry as our mission project.

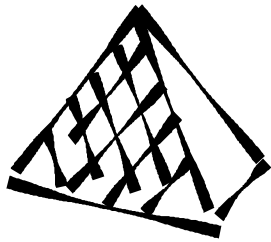


## Join the Fight Against Cancer!

SRBC's third Relay for Life event is May 11-13. Team members pay \$10 to register and agree to raise \$100 for the American Cancer Society. They participate in fundraising opportunities and the community-wide event at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. This event supports research to find a cure for cancer, honors survivors, and the memory of those who have died because of cancer. Join us! Call Bill and Cathy Blanton at 770.921.4115, Sheila Dean at 770.498.1673, or Daniel Weatherby, Youth Captain, at 770.931.1444.



The March 9, 2007  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church



**Prime Time Trip  
to see  
Louvre Exhibit  
at the High Museum**

March 13  
Leave Church at 09.45  
Lunch at Mary Mac's  
Call Linda for more information

**Uth News**

- Register now for summer camps.
- **BIG STUF CAMP** June 6-10 for grades 6-12  
\$300 to Panama City Beach  
Get you name on the waiting list.
- **WORLD CHANGERS** June 30-July 7  
for high school only — a few spots remain  
\$260 to New Orleans

**Next Biloxi Mission Trip is April 2-7.  
There's room for you!**

**Births**

Congratulations to Dana and Jeff VanVlake on the birth of a daughter, "Alexis Caroline," born December 22; grandparents are Pete and Jerri Pike; and, to Mark and Ladon Whitmire on the birth of a son, "Thomas Cyrus Lee," born February 28; grandparents are Bobby and Pat Whitmire.



**Pray for the Honduras Mission Team**



Please keep the 17 members of our church who are on mission in Honduras in your prayers. Four members are leading a music workshop in a church in Tegucigalpa. Thirteen are serving in the village of San Pedro Barrio La Cruz, Gualaco Olancho.

Pray that God's protection will surround them as they share His love with these people. Pray the villagers will understand with their hearts God's love for them. Pray that God's Word will dwell in the hearts of the villagers through the 100 Bibles the team will give the families.

**"A New Visit With An Old Friend."**

6:00 P.M. in Room 225-226

March 11

The New Testament Letters and Revelation, led by Colin Harris.

**Why I Participate in Relay for Life  
Shirley Bowden**

I Relay for Life in honor of all those who are suffering from this awful disease: cancer. I do so to encourage the many people I encounter who are frightened, who have given up and who need a prayer, a smile or a hug along the way. I participate not only to raise money for medical advances but also to promote awareness and support. Maybe the funds we raise will help bring about a breakthrough this very year! That is my daily prayer.

I take part in Relay for Life because my husband and I are each 10 and 9-year cancer survivors. God has blessed us by allowing us to see our youngest daughter married, to experience the joy of loving six more grandchildren in addition to the two we had and to find more ways to thank our Heavenly Father and to serve Him. And oh, the other many added blessings!!

Now that my husband is being treated for another kind of cancer, it is even more important for me to do all I can so that more advances can be made every single day. I sit with him in the infusion room and see those who have lost their hair, who sit in wheelchairs, whose veins have collapsed from so many needles, who are pale, weak and sick, but who still can smile, sympathize and encourage one another not to lose hope.

I Relay for Life to show people that they have a friend who cares about them, who loves them and wants them to know they are being prayed for. Believe me, I know personally what that means.

Lastly, I participate in Relay for Life in memory of friends we have lost for whom I prayed so long and so fervently — Jim, Gail, Shelby, Wes, Debbie and Fran. I Relay for the beautiful indelible impact they left on our Smoke Rise congregation.

**SRBC Cookbook Sale**

\$15 Each

A limited number of Smoke's Risin' in the Kitchen, Vol. III, first published in 1999, are available in the church office.

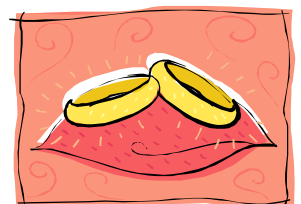
**Goodbye & Best Wishes**

Janet Seay, our Assistant Church Hostess will leave March 10 to become Food Service Director at an area church. We have appreciated her abilities and sweet spirit.

If you would be interested in serving as Assistant Church Hostess, please call me at 770.413.2133 X212. Lou Tankersley.

**Wedding**

Congratulations to Shelby Fowler and Robert Turner who were married March 3. Shelby is the daughter of Bob and Judy Fowler, and the granddaughter of Bob and Janis Clement.



## Notes from the Pastor

### “Who Needs to Hear Your Story?”

Luke 4:1-13

**W**e have started the journey through Lent, one of the holiest seasons of the church year. Lent is the forty-six-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. It represents the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for ministry and the six Sundays prior to Easter. Lent is related to the words “long or lengthen,” and reflects the lengthening of the hours of daylight in spring. The purpose of Lent is to identify with Jesus and imitate him as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Lent is to Easter what Advent is to Christmas, a time of preparation.

Lent is not a common word or concept to many Baptists. I imagine few of us grew up in a church that mentioned or observed it. I did not.

However, I have embraced it as I have grown older because I see its value for my own spiritual pilgrimage. Let me share with you what it means to me as you consider or reconsider its value for your life.

**What is a person supposed to do during Lent?** “Give up something” is the most frequent answer. Many do this as a way of identifying with the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross on our behalf. Lent is more than this, though, as our text today reveals. Personally, Lent is a time for examining my faith and sharing my faith story. How seriously do I take my faith and what impact does it have upon my life? Who needs

to hear the story of my dreams and struggles to achieve them? This text challenges me to ponder these questions, and I hope it does you, too.

**Immediately after his baptism, where did Jesus go?** He went to the desert. Why did he go there? He was led by the Spirit of God. For what purpose did God lead him to the desert?

As he began his public ministry, Jesus needed to grapple with a strategic question. **What kind of messianic leader was he going to be?** Was his ministry going to be about him or the people that needed him? Would his ministry focus upon doing what was easy or what was right, being served or serving others, testing God or trusting Him?

He could not straddle the fence and have it both ways. Others tried and failed, and he would, too.

He had to come to grips with the fact that the world was not going to be changed by another political or religious leader with a big ego, quick solutions to serious problems, a lust for power or the need to impress people. Only one type of leader was going to make the world better, a humbled, principled, disciplined, generous servant that reflected the heart of God.

**Would Jesus be that leader?** Was he willing to pay the price and stay the course in the midst of stiff pressure for him to be a military and economic hero that would make their lives easier? This was what he had to decide in the solitude of the desert. By relying upon his profound understanding of ancient Hebrew scripture and the wisdom of God, he decided he would.

To borrow an idea from Steven Vincent Benet’s short story, *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, Jesus decided he would not sell his soul to the devil in order to make his life easier, amass a fortune, gain power over others, receive wild acclaim or grab a false sense of security. With his power and ability, he could have done this, but he would have made the greatest sacrifice of all. He would have abandoned his mission and purpose, turning his back on God and us. For him, that was too great a sacrifice. As we now know, he would rather give his life than do this.

**What about you and me?** What kind of follower of Jesus are we? This is the question that we need to grapple with during Lent. Do we share his values and dreams? Are we as committed to God’s call as He was? Are we more concerned about doing what is easy or what is right? Would we rather be served than serve others? Are we going to test God or trust Him? Is life about us or those around us?

Lent is a time for asking and answering these questions. It is a time for going back to the basics and discovering who I am and whose I am. It is a time for determining how serious we are about our faith, defining our mission and evaluating our commitment. It is a time for identifying those things that threaten to undermine our faithfulness so we, with God’s help, can deal with them.

This is why I encourage you to create some wilderness time during Lent. **Lent is a time for solitude.** Pull away from responsibilities and distractions each day and focus upon your role in this world as a follower of Christ. Study scripture, read devotional literature, reflect and pray. Refresh your spirit and renew your commitment to God.

Identify the challenges that threaten to undermine your mission and faithfulness to Christ. Ask yourself what it means to be a Christian husband, wife, parent, child, student, business person, church member, neighbor and citizen. Discover what changes you need to make to be more

Christ-like and ask God to help you begin making them today.

Let me encourage you to do one more thing. **Share your journey with those around you.** Be transparent as you share your hopes, dreams, challenges, temptations, struggles, failures and victories. Especially do this with family members or friends who look to you as a role model. Help them to understand that life is filled with tough choices that demand serious consideration.

Isn’t this what Jesus did? How did this story become a part of Luke’s gospel? Jesus had to share it with someone. He might have shared it with Peter in a private moment, the disciples while alone with them or perhaps he mentioned it while talking to a crowd. However it was transmitted, Luke heard or read about it and recognized its significance for his readers. No doubt their faith was being tested and their level of commitment was being threatened. They needed an inspiring role model to give them courage and confidence, and Luke knew just what they needed to read.

Who needs to hear your story? Who needs to know your dreams and the temptations that threaten them? Who would benefit from what you have learned along your journey? I can think of no better time than Lent to talk to them.

Until Sunday,  
Bob

## Smoke Rise Summer Camp May 29 - Aug 3, 2007

Camp is available from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and every enrollment of 2 weeks or more includes a Six Flags and a White Water season pass.

Visit and enroll on-line [www.smokeriseministries.org/camp](http://www.smokeriseministries.org/camp).

Field trips, swimming, music, crafts, academics, and a Christian setting define our 6 - 12 year old "Spirit" group. Teens focus on growth through team building, creative academic challenges, and community service. Rock climbing, Six Flags and a program of recreation, academics, study and service create an active and challenging experience.

GREGORY BURDETT, Director: SmokeRise Summer Camp at 678-469-1377 or e-mail to: [gburdett@bellsouth.net](mailto:gburdett@bellsouth.net).

### Children & Family Upcoming Events

- March 28th - (Wednesday) An Evening with the Easter Bunny will include an egg hunt, treats, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. We will ask parents to provide one dozen stuffed and taped plastic eggs per child for the hunt. We welcome anyone who would like to contribute additional stuffed eggs and act as adult helpers for those children who may come as visitors this evening. We extend a special invitation to the Weekday School children and those children who participate in our recreation (basketball) and Academy of the Art activities. If you know someone willing to help, please send an e-mail to Kellie Denton.
- April 1st - (Palm Sunday) Palm parade in 11:00 am service. Family lunch and Bible Drama will follow in the Fellowship Hall
- April 8th - Easter Sunday (We could really use extra help in the nursery and extended session that day. Please contact Kellie or Amanda.) Children's church provided by Acteens during the month of April (details to follow).
- April 18th - International Night- 5:15 Dinner begins with a Foreign Flair! See the International displays created by our Wednesday Night Children's Mission groups and witness a special presentation by our Acteens. Come experience the food, costumes and customs of our world neighbors!

### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of February 28, 2007

Three hundred sixty-nine families have pledged \$1,883,535.20 to date for the 2007 Budget

	<b>YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)</b>	<b>BUDGET TO DATE</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 340,791.63	\$ 420,834.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	7,355.55	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 348,147.18	\$ 420,834.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 301,796.89	\$ 322,991.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES - WORSHIP	5,302.89	6,050.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES - EDUCATION	17,055.95	29,545.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	31,441.26	42,259.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	10,924.64	11,500.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	225.00	3,041.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 366,746.63	\$ 415,386.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 420,893.98	

### 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
Add'l Funds from Finance Comm	+ 163,972.14
Contributions	+2,566,004.81
Expenses	-2,759,976.95
Cash Balance	\$ 0.00



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### OUR STAFF

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

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor
Linda Cummings	Interim Administrator/Senior Adults
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Adult Education/Outreach
Danny Vancil	Minister of Music
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Minister of Youth
Kellie Denton	Interim 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	Counselor
Rene Ely, M. Div., LMFT	Counselor
Gina Campbell, M. Div., LCSW	Counselor

### March Donations Go to Lilburn Co-op



Needs: Laundry detergent and Juice. Bring items to shelves near the office or shelves in the hallway under the gym.