

# The C R O S S T I E

## Katrina Mission Group

March 1-4

Please remember to pray for our members on this mission trip



### Disciple Now

March 2-4  
Details Inside!

### Prime Time Meeting

March 6 — 6:00 P.M.

Entertainment: Four Handed Piano Concert  
by Carole Mitchell and Susan Sigmon



**Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship of Georgia  
2007 General Assembly**

*March 9-10*

Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
5901 Hugh Howell Rd.  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087



*Preaching  
as testimony*

The true expression of the Word as Love

Speaker: Anna Carter Florence, Associate professor of  
Preaching and Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary



The February 23, 2007  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

### *Lent 2007*

*Looking at Life Through the Lens of the Cross*  
Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall

- † Feb. 28 Justice - Rev. Charles F. Johnson
- † March 7 Power - Rev. Wayne Martin
- † March 14 Success - Rev. Jimmy R. Allen
- † March 21 Freedom - Dr. Karen Massey
- † March 28 Peace - Rev. Dock Hollingsworth



### Please Take Time to Send Mail to Cheer an Ill Toddler

SRBC members, Jerry & Marlo Cooksey's 2 year old daughter, Marlayna, was diagnosed with a brain tumor at Christmas while visiting grandparents in Jackson, MS. Marlayna had surgery and is undergoing chemotherapy now. Her father, Jerry has requested mail for his daughter. Please send to: Marlayna Cooksey, 206 Woodhaven Dr., Union, MS 39365. The family hopes to transfer her treatment back home to Atlanta in March.

### Uth News

- **Disciple Now** March 2-4 Friday night thru Sunday Noon  
Return a completed form & \$60 by Sunday, Feb. 25  
For all students grades 6-12
  - Register now for summer camps.We have space for the first 25 students only on each of these trips!
- **BIG STUF CAMP** June 6-10 for grades 6-12  
\$300 to Panama City Beach
- **WORLD CHANGERS** June 30-July 7  
for high school only  
\$260 to New Orleans

### MISSION FOCUS SUNDAY

Mission Sunday was great! The front of the sanctuary was packed with people responding to the call to missions. The response was overwhelming. Over 200 members of Smoke Rise showed their willingness to be part of a mission team this year or some time in the near future.

David George of the WMU Foundation set the tone for the service with his testimony. It was very inspiring to hear the story of Lynn and Angie Wagoner. They told how God brought them from a comfortable life style in Orlando to serve as full time missionaries in one of the poorest counties in America in McDowell, KY. They are an example for each of us. We appreciate Ken Bogan sharing with us some of his dreams for his church in Brooklyn, NY. All of our mission partners brought us a taste of how we can more effectively give ourselves away by partnering with them in their ministry. Partnership is what it is all about.

It is very exciting to see the momentum for missions at Smoke Rise and even more exciting to see the willingness of Smoke Rise members to give of themselves through mission projects and trips. During these times of focusing on missions we have a chance to deepen our relationship with our missionary partners. As these missionaries come and share their needs, we have a chance to see how we can more effectively apply the resources of Smoke Rise to meet their needs.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to Glenn and Pat Herndon for their excellent work in helping organize this day. Also, thank you to the partnership coordinators and trip leaders for making this day a great success. Thank you to Danny for just the right touch each Sunday with the music.

Smoke Rise has come a long way in the last few years in its mission endeavors. But there is much more we can and should do. I look forward to how God will change each of us and our church through our mission experiences.

Thank you.

Tim Adcox

### CBF/GA 2007 General Assembly at SRBC!!

Smoke Rise Baptist Church will be hosting the CBF/GA 2007 conference March 9-10.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our church and these two days will be packed with exciting events and great information.

We are in need of volunteers to help the conference run as smoothly as possible and to meet the needs of our guests. Friendly greeters are needed to welcome guests to our church on these two days.

Sign-up sheets for greeters are in the sanctuary breezeway. For more info on greeting contact Kathy Dobbins at [kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdobbins@smokerisebaptist.org) or 770.469.5856. If you would like to lend a hand in any other area it would be greatly appreciated and needed. If so, please contact Linda Cummings at 770.469.5856.

### 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.



### Why do I participate in Relay for Life? by Victor Greene

There are two main reasons why I became involved in Relay for Life. At age 50, I have known many people who have had to fight this disease called cancer and I believe that no one should have to fight this battle alone. In the game of 'tug of war,' adding one more person to one side can many times be just enough to change the balance of power and bring victory to one side. I am not a doctor but I am one person who is willing to try to change the balance of power to find a cure for cancer.

For many years God allowed me the opportunity to be in positions of leadership with the youth of our community. I have always felt that a commitment and personal involvement are the best examples of what a true leader should be. Where is it written that a leader must only lead from the front? How could I ask our youth to be involved in a cause if I were not willing to take my time and energy to be personally a part of the cause?

It would be easier to sit back and say, "I am too busy" or "What difference can one person make?" Maybe, just maybe, I could be that "one" more person to help win this all important Tug of War called cancer. I pray that prayer every day.

### Your Help is Needed!

SRBC needs your help for the upcoming mission trip to Honduras in March. Four \$1,000 scholarships are needed so that four members of the team — three translators and one nurse — can make the trip and provide help to the people of Honduras. If you are able to make a donation please call the Missions Office at Smoke Rise (770.469.5856). Thanks for your generosity!



## Notes from the Pastor

Last Sunday's **Mission Service** was wonderful. My hat is off to all that made this service possible. The amount of work and preparation that go into designing and leading this type of service is immeasurable. I want to thank everyone responsible and commend them for a job well done.

"Every member a minister" has been our theme for several years. "To give ourselves away" is our new dream. In my opinion, these two statements not only identify us as a church, but also give us a clear direction of where we are going. We are here to be the presence of Christ in a broken world, offering hope and help to all that need us. How grateful I am to be a part of a church that takes the Great Commission seriously.

Let me share a portion of the communion devotion I delivered the week prior to Missions Sunday. It reflects my heart's desire.

### "What Is Your Level of Compassion?"

**Matthew 9:35-38**

Mother Teresa had it. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. did, too. Television superstar Oprah has it and so does U-2's lead singer, Bono. All of them had or have the kind of compassion described in today's text. It is a compassion that reaches to the innermost core of a person, moving him or her to respond boldly with immeasurable generosity and grace.

Jesus also had it. As a matter of fact, some believe that compassion was the most compelling force in his life. It enabled him to see what others ignored and act while others stood idle. This was because he felt the pain of those that were sick, sorrowful, hurt, hungry, lonely, poor, weak and confused. He could not abandon them as so many others had even if it meant making heavy sacrifices.

Surely we see that this morning. Everything on this sacred table reminds us of his compassion. He poured his heart and soul into leading those that were like sheep without a shepherd. He became a strong advocate for those whose lives were made more difficult by religious and political leaders. He used his talents to relieve the suffering and pain of those that others held in contempt. He used his encouraging words to give hope to those in despair.

So deep was his compassion that he never wavered even in the midst of stiff opposition. This was because he was as courageous as he was compassionate. When faced with the choice of running away and saving his own life or staying with sheep that needed a shepherd, he stayed. When confronted with the choice of focusing entirely upon his needs and pain or comforting the thief to his side, he turned his attention to the other cross. When presented with the choice of hating his enemies or forgiving them, he forgave.

**This is a level of compassion rarely seen in our world.** It is the kind of compassion needed from us, however, if wounds are going to be healed and people are going to find hope. It is the level of compassion needed to combat the hatred and ill-will that permeate our world.

We live in a dangerous world that is filled with violence. So did Jesus. How did he respond to this violence from the beginning of his ministry to the end? He did so with courageous compassion. He knew that the intensity of hatred in society must be matched by an equal degree of compassion or hatred would win and rule the day.

**When he said the fields were white unto harvest and pleaded for his disciples to pray for workers to enter the fields, what did he mean?** I believe he meant that we must bravely walk into a hostile world and show it another way to think and live. Surely you see the connection between Jesus' compassion and his call for

workers in the fields.

Like Jesus, we must respond to evil with good and pain with empathy. We must listen to those suffering from injustice and speak truth to power. We must be willing to use our time, talents, energy, influence and resources to build bridges to people, not walls between them. We must even be willing to suffer and die out of love rather than retaliate or seek revenge out of hate.

I think I know why there are not many workers in the "fields that are white unto harvest." This kind of farming is hard and costly. It is the only kind of work, however, that will produce a harvest of peace and goodwill. For I believe with all my heart that justice must precede peace and hatred must be met with an equal level of compassion. Anything less will fail.

And do you know where all this begins? In your home and mine. In our neighborhoods and workplaces. In our schools and churches. In the marketplace and in the boardroom. In the courthouse and the state house. In the halls of Congress and in the White House. On the mission field and on the battlefield.

"Let justice roll on like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream," Amos wrote. The only thing that will blast open the dam of hatred and let the waters of justice flow is the level of compassion that Jesus taught, lived and modeled.

You and I have a few minutes to think about this while the bread and cup are passed. I encourage you to use every minute of it to talk to God about your role in the "fields that are white unto harvest." Where is your field? Who in your field is hurting? How do you need to respond as a disciple of the crucified and resurrected Lord?

Mother Teresa had it. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. did, too. Oprah has it and so does Bono. They all had or have this deep level of compassion. What about you?

Until Sunday,

Bob



Due to the unpredictable weather we have been having lately, SRBC would like to keep you updated on any schedule changes that might take place due to bad weather. You can now tune to Channel 11 News to hear about our closings or cancellations.

## Births

Congratulations to Ryan and Christy Ross on the birth of a daughter, "Kathryn Sydney," born January 25; and, to Trey and Julie Smith on the birth of a son, "Charles Allen," born February 6; brother is Nate; grandparents are Bill and Cathy Blanton.



## Death

We extend our sympathy to Tom Jollay whose stepmother died.



## 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!

### February Donations Go to Stone Mtn. Co-op

Needs are macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce and canned fruit. Bring your donations to the shelves near the office or to the shelves in the hallway under the gym.

#### FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of February 13, 2007

Three hundred sixty-seven families have pledged \$1,878,495.20 to date for the 2007 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<b>INCOME</b>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 282,712.98	\$ 420,834.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>3,909.48</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 286,622.46	\$ 420,834.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 219,764.53	\$ 322,991.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	4,616.94	6,050.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	11,652.92	29,545.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	16,437.22	42,259.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	9,220.32	11,500.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>(157.50)</u>	<u>3,041.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 261,534.43	\$ 415,386.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 434,798.51	

#### 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	+2,564,722.31
Expenses	<u>-2,756,962.45</u>
Cash Balance	\$ 1,732.00



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
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



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

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

- February 25: The Poetic & Wisdom Literature, led by Gary Leazer.
- March 4: The New Testament Gospels, led by Colin Harris.
- March 11: The New Testament Letters and Revelation, led by Colin Harris.