

The C R O S S T I E

Ladies Christmas Event: "A Simple Christmas"

Our annual Christmas dinner is Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Guest speaker is Nancy Burgess, founder of Heart and Soul Connection. Her topic, "A Simple Christmas" will encourage women to prepare their hearts and homes for a stress-free Christmas that focuses on family, friends, and Christ throughout the season. Tickets will go on sale beginning Sunday, November 4, at \$15 per person. If you would like to host and decorate a table, please contact MaryLynn Manley.



Help A Child Experience A Night in Bethlehem!

On Sunday, December 9 from 5:00-7:00 pm Smoke Rise Baptist will transform into Bethlehem Village...where the Christmas Story will truly come to life! On this date we will invite families from our community and provide a place for them to get a better understanding of the incredible sacrifice God made in sending Jesus. We need prime timers, senior adults, youth and interested families.... people of all ages to be shopkeepers, craftsmen, shepherds and local merchants and musicians. Help with set-up and take-down is also appreciated! Please contact Kellie Denton, Amanda Burton or Kara Blankenship to be a part of this wonderful outreach at 770-469-5856 or kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org.

"Sacred Space" is Moving

The group will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the church parlor beginning November 7.

Sacred Space is an experiential exploration of the varied Christian spiritual disciplines. Weekly experiences will attempt to balance head and heart as together we learn about the history and personalities related to each discipline and the many ways that each one can be practiced for personal spiritual formation. To learn more about this experience, please feel free to contact Rick Bennett at rbennett@thefellowship.info.

Worship in November

8:30 (Chapel) and 11:00 (Sanctuary) Each Sunday Morning in November

4: All Saints' Day (Observed)

Music by the Sanctuary Choir; Kathy Farmer, Flutist; and Kristen Brannan, Soloist

11: Season of Thanks — The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Children Choristers, The Festival Singers and The Sanctuary Handbell Choir

18: Season of Thanks — The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

The Sanctuary Choir and The Smoke Rise Brass

UPS in the Fellowship Hall

25: Christ the King Sunday — The Last Sunday of the Church Year

The Sanctuary Choir and Soloist, Heather Huff



The October 26, 2007

Newsletter of the

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

The Parenting School

Growing Up in a High Tech World Without Boundaries

November 4

9:45 a.m. in the Chapel

Rev. Ernie Forrester

The goal of good parenting is not to scare your children but to help them make good choices and become responsible adults. Ernie will talk about some of the inevitable issues your child will face in cyberspace, watching cable TV, music choices, and more.

Associate Pastor Search Committee Appointed

The Search Committee for the Associate Pastor has been appointed. Remember them in your prayers as they begin their work. The members of the committee are:

- Jody Jones (Chairperson)
- Tom Raines
- Larry Holmes
- Carole Harrison
- Graham Felton
- Charles Hancock

Faith & Issues

Sundays at 9:45 am; Room A125

November Schedule

- 4 Difficult Topics for Christians: War
- 11 Difficult Topics for Christians: Immigration
- 18 Difficult Topics for Christians: Hate Crimes Legislation
- 25 Open Discussion

Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall

Led by Dr. Larry L. McSwain,

Professor of Ethics and Leadership at McAfee School of Theology

11/7 *The Power of a Child: Manger Leadership, Luke 1:46-55*

11/14 *The Weakness of a King: Living Unjustly, Matt. 2:13-23*

Chrismon Time!

Christmas will be here soon! We need folks willing to help out with our 2007 Children's Chrismons for the Family Christmas Eve service. Contact Kellie Denton, Amanda Burton or Cathy Decuir. Helping hands needed, crafty skills not necessary!

Brooklyn Toy Drive

Toy collections centers are ready but **EMPTY!!!** The Children's Mission project is collecting new, unwrapped toys for our Brooklyn, NY ministries. Youth and teenager gifts are also needed! (CD's, sports items, DVD's, etc). Please help give a Christmas gift to those less fortunate. Collection center is upstairs in the Breezeway area across from sanctuary. For more info contact Kellie Denton at 770-469-5856. Toys will be collected up until November 20th (no used toys and no clothing please).

Deaths

We extend our deepest sympathies to these who have lost loved ones: Laurie Redmon whose grandmother died; Keith Durso whose brother died; and Mike and Janis Holcomb whose son-in-law died.

Births

"Caleb Edwin" was born to Allison and Tyler Sutton on October 14. brothers are Jacob and Austin.

"Madeline Ivey" was born to Laurie and Brent Redmon on October 18; brother is Hunter.

Weddings

Congratulations to Leslie Buckler and Jeffrey Nelson who were married on October 13; Leslie is the daughter of Bobby and Jane Buckler.

Congratulations to Anne Marie Parker and John Schleier IV who were married October 20. Anne Marie is the daughter of Carol Chapman and Greg Parker.

Congratulations to Radha Patel and Adam Kelley who were married on October 20; Adam is the son of Jeff and Marsha Kelley.

Volunteers Needed for School Programs

The school programs are located in Sandy Springs and Stone Mountain and are for special needs children, including those with LD, ADD, Asperger's Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities, etc. Positions needed are in the area of school leadership such as retired principals, lead teachers, etc. Also, someone is needed to hold chapel weekly - chapel will typically be on Friday from 8:45-9:15am in Sandy Springs. Help with Drama, Visual Arts, Music, Pottery, and Sign Language is also needed.

If interested please contact Jim Meffen for more information at 404-835-9000

Russia Mission Opportunity

Global Aid Network is in need of several volunteers to travel to Krasnoarsk, Russia, in January 2008. Registration deadline is November 16. If you are interested in this extraordinary mission opportunity to help orphaned children in Siberia, please contact Jim Palmer at 770-985-4191 or 770-922-9502.

Uganda Mission Opportunity

Wilson Echols is enlisting a Uganda Mission Team for May 31 – June 16, 2008. Mission Opportunities will be Construction, Teaching Children, Sports and Games, Nurturing, Preaching (men only), School Visitation, Evangelism/Tract Ministry, and more.

Travel arrangements must be made by January 31, 2008. For more information, please contact Wilson Echols at wechols@bellsouth.net or 404-771-5215. Mission Manuals are available in the Missions Office.

Sadies Ladies Circle Will Meet November 12

at 6:30 at the home of Elizabeth Wells. We welcome visitors.

Thank You for Successful Stewardship Program

Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for all the work on this year's Stewardship program "New Consecration Sunday." Members include: Chris Allison, chr.;Chris Boltin; Doug Cowan; David Dodson; Kathy Goodenow; Ellen Low; Wayne Martin and Linda Cummings.

A special thank you from the Stewardship Committee to: Arlene Kirkland and the Sadies Ladies Circle for organizing the Celebration Lunch and taking reservations.

Lou Tankersley and her staff for preparing the lunch and helping the Sadies Ladies Circle.

The Church Staff for helping to support the Stewardship Program in all areas of our church life.

Our donors for helping fund our Celebration Luncheon.

Those that helped with the mailings.

Griffin Services for helping with placing our posters and banners.

AND especially to the congregation for understanding what it means to be a wise and faithful steward of all that God has entrusted to our care and participating in furthering the Kingdom of God through individual giving.

Available at Smoke Rise

Life Line Screening

Friday, November 2 in the gym — 9:00a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Pre-registration is required.

You may call 1-800-324-1851 for an appointment.

"These are Tests that can help Save Your Life"

Notes from the Pastor

“Court TV” Luke 12:13-21

This television show premiered on September 16, 1996 and was an instant hit. It took over the top spot in the ratings for courtroom drama, a position it has never relinquished. It has been nominated ten times for a daytime Emmy. Originally it was going to be titled, “Hot Bench,” but was changed to “Judge Judy” to reflect the name of the leading character.

Judy Sheindlin had a reputation in New York for being one of the toughest family court judges in the country. She served on the bench for twenty-five years and was known as a no-nonsense jurist. She was featured in a *Los Angeles Times* article in 1993 that caught the attention of the producers of “60 Minutes.” They did a segment on Judge Judy that led to national recognition and her own television show, where people enter her courtroom to settle disputes.

In today’s text, Jesus refused to be a judge, regardless of how popular it may have made him. When approached by a man that wanted Jesus to settle a family dispute, he declined. “Who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” Jesus asked. It was clear he wasn’t going down that road. I think I know why. It would have consumed him. Look how many courtroom television shows there are now, and this is just the tip of the iceberg.

It was, however, not uncommon for people to approach rabbis to help settle family disputes. Wealthy people probably used paid arbitrators, but the common folk turned to religious leaders. Perhaps this was why this man approached Jesus.

I am confident that Jesus did not say what this man wanted to hear. After refusing to get involved in this dispute, he said to the crowd, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions” Luke 12:15.

Is there more than one kind of greed? I suppose there is. There is a greed that desires wealth, power and attention. There is a greed that wants everything in sight, covets what others have and wants more than anyone else. There is a greed that does not know what is worth wanting. Yes, I guess there is more than one kind of greed. Which causes you to struggle the most?

Why should we be on our guard against greed? I think it brings the worst out in us. The demons of fear, want, power and desire take over our lives and cause us to say some ugly things and make some terrible choices. They pit brothers, friends and business partners against each other. They widen the gap between the rich and the poor and the powerful and the weak. They reduce the value of life to the accumulation of possessions and the purpose of life to the relentless pursuit of them. They deceive us into thinking that being wealthy, powerful or famous satisfies our greatest yearnings and needs. They make us the center of our universe.

Don’t we see this in the parable Jesus told about the landowner blessed with a bumper crop? What was he going to do with this widely successful harvest? Apparently he had no trouble deciding to build bigger barns and using it all for his own pleasure.

I’m not surprised, especially when you listen to his self-talk. It is saturated with the personal pronouns I, me and mine. Barclay refers to them as “aggressive pronouns,” and Craddock says that they reveal that this man lived for himself, talked to himself, planned for himself, congratulated himself and trusted himself.

What was God’s response to this man’s astonishing lack of gratitude, humility and accountability? He called him a fool and said that very night he would be separated from all he thought would insure longevity and happiness.

That word, fool, is a harsh one, isn’t it? It means “mindless one.” Why did God consider this man a fool? After all, there is no indication that he was dishonest, corrupt and unjust or that he mistreated his workers. **Why was he a fool?**

He squandered an opportunity to do a lot of good. He could have used his abundance to heal painful wounds, meet strategic needs and make life better for those that were struggling. He could have been a wonderful role model that inspired others to share their resources and build a better community. He could have been his generation’s Warren Buffett, Bill Gates or Bono. He missed this golden opportunity to be grateful and generous, never to come his way again.

He also left his family with the same problem facing the two brothers at the beginning of this text. His family would fight over his possessions after he was gone. What irony.

What is the point of the parable for us? Why did Jesus tell it and Luke insert it here? I believe both were holding up the high standard of sharing. The purpose of religion is to build community and it is accomplished by the actions of grateful and generous people.

Robbie Brown could have done anything he wanted with the \$20,000 he received as an outstanding senior at Emory’s graduation last spring. Brown won the McMullan Award, given to the senior that exhibited outstanding citizenship, exceptional leadership and potential for service. He could have bought a newer car since he drives his dad’s beat-up 1988 Volvo station wagon or used it to help pay for law school, which he entered this fall. He could have taken a trip around the world as a reward for four years of hard work. He did none of these things, however. Instead, he gave every penny of it to Elizabeth Sholtys, a fellow Emory student who, in her junior year of college, opened a home for street children in India.

In 2005, Elizabeth opened the Ashraya Initiative for Children, a home in the slums of Pune, India. At 23, Sholtys now has legal custody of nine children who live full time in the home. Ten more girls are involved in the home’s outreach program.

“Right away, I knew I wanted to give this money to Liz,” Brown said. “She needs it so much more than I do.” I think I understand why Brown received this award.

What a contrast there is between the central character in Jesus’ parable and this recent Emory graduate. The land owner Jesus referred to lived in a world of one, or in the words of the hero in the novel, *Atlas Shrugged*, “He worked for nothing but his own profit.” How sad.

I think Jesus was afraid his followers would give in to selfishness, too. He knew how strong and devastating the pull of greedy gravity was. **“Don’t give in to it,” he seemed to be saying. “The world has enough fools.”**

Until Sunday,
Bob

Sunday, November 18
UPS - Special Speaker is Preston Jones
Bring your friends . . .



Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 4 — Move Clocks Back One Hour

2007-2008 Basketball Season

League	Cost	Start Date	No. of Weeks
5-6 Year Old Coed	\$90	Saturday, January 5	6
7-8 Year Old Coed	\$95	Saturday, January 5	8
9-11 Year Old Boys/Girls	\$95	Saturday, December 8	9
12-14 Year Old Boys/Girls	\$95	Saturday, December 8	9
High School Boys/Girls	\$95	Mon. & Tues. Dec. 10/11	10
Men's Open & Men's 35+	\$75	Friday, January 4	10

Reversible Mesh Jersey provided

Skills assessment for 7-14 yr teams - Early November
 Practices 1 hour per week beginning - Mid-November
 Weekday practices for 5-14 year olds on Smoke Rise teams
 On-line sign up only at impactbasketballleague.com

Ballroom Dance Classes

A beginner's ballroom dance class is being offered as soon as 10 or more couples sign-up. This will be on Monday nights at 7:30 in room 106. No partner is necessary to join the class. Come for lots of fun and laughs!

Our Tuesday intermediate class meets on Tuesday nights at 7:00p.m. in room 106. To register, call the recreation office, 770-469-5856 ext. 224 or Bud Van Orden, instructor at 770-923-3754.

Coming Up

- Nov. 4 - Deacon Ordination/Installation Service – 6:00 p.m. with reception following in the fellowship hall.
- Nov. 6 – Prime Time – 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 7 – Building Committee Meeting/Conf. Rm. – 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 8 – Tour of Hindu Temple – Leave the church at 9:15. Lunch TBA.
- Nov. 8 – Finance Committee Mtg. – 7:00 p.m. S223 – Ministry Plan for 2008 will be presented by the Budget Preparation Committee.
- Nov. 11 – Deacon Lunch/Mtg. – Ministry Plan for 2008 will be presented by the Budget Preparation Committee.
- Nov. 18 – Thanksgiving Dinner and program – 6:00 p.m. Immediately following leave to see the “Lights at Lake Lanier” Tickets will be sold Wednesday's and Sunday's for \$6.00 per person.
- Tickets for the “Casting Crowns” Concert on Friday, November 23 will also be sold on Wednesday's and Sunday's.
- The SRBC Family Fun Team is in the process of planning a “Christmas Tour of Homes” for December 6 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Watch for tickets to go on sale and additional details coming soon.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of October 19, 2007

Three hundred seventy families have pledged \$1,875,654.40 to date for the 2007 Budget.

	YEAR TO DATE (THIS YEAR)	BUDGET TO DATE
<u>INCOME</u>		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,783,999.00	\$2,104,170.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	44,786.54	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,828,785.54	\$2,104,170.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,524,948.10	\$1,662,330.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – WORSHIP	37,175.84	34,950.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES – EDUCATION	88,090.02	124,092.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	159,314.65	181,952.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	53,537.88	57,000.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	4,268.91	15,330.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,867,335.40	\$2,075,654.00
MORTGAGE BALANCE:	\$ 294,190.25	

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	+2,591,295.41
Expenses	<u>-2,779,552.45</u>
Cash Balance	\$ 5,715.10
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 0.00



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OUR STAFF

Church Office: 770-469-5856

Robert F. Browning, D. Min.	Pastor
Linda Cummings	Interim Church Administrator/Senior Adults
Kathy Dobbins	Minister of Spiritual Formation
Danny Vancil	Minister of Worship & Music
E. Ernest Forrester, Jr.	Minister of Families with Youth
Kellie Denton	Interim Minister to Families with Children
Tim W. Adcox	Minister of Missions/Recreation
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

Attention! Nursery Parents and Extended Session Volunteers

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