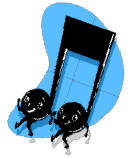


# The C R O S S T I E



This Sunday, April 29 • 6:00 PM  
*Children's Choir Spring Program*

plus



## The Story-tellin' Man

A Musical by Ken Medema



## Relay for Life Fundraiser

April 29

Breakfast 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. — \$3.00 each

### Silent Auction & Country Store

Come eat, bid on beautiful themed baskets and find something at the country store.

Youth Relay for Life Bake Sale is May 6.

Please bring baked goodies wrapped individually in Ziploc bags to Images that morning.



## 7th Annual Smoke Rise Open Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

Saturday, May 5

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Email: [carshow@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:carshow@smokerisebaptist.org)

Phone Number: 770-413-2133 ext 224



## Women's Ministry Presents:

*Sacred Spaces* - Creating Beauty through the Seasons of the Church

Tuesday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Worship is a primary part of our week - it renews and refreshes our spirits,  
and if done thoughtfully, it can engage our senses.

Danny Vancil will create different kinds of floral arrangements for worship  
and teach us

about the use of visuals as an aid to our worship.

He also promises a few extra surprises  
for the home! Tickets on sale now.

Includes Lou's delicious Spring salad buffet.



## No 8:30 Service on May 6

Join us for a Special Sanctuary Choir Presentation at 11:00

### MissionAwards Program

May 9 — 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel  
G-Force, GA's and Acteen

Recognition Ceremony

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

### Called Church Conference

Wednesday, May 16  
6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall  
(Details Inside)



The April 27, 2007  
Newsletter of the  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church

## Music Ministry Opportunities



**The Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra**  
Sunday, May 6 • 11:00 AM • Sanctuary  
*Hymn of Praise*  
Felix Mendelssohn

Featuring soloists: Kristen Brannan, Richard Clement,  
and Laurel Davis



**The Youth Music Ministry**  
Sunday, May 6 • 7:00 PM • Sanctuary  
*Made in God's Image*  
Spring Concert



Wednesday, May 30 • Purl' nere 7:00 PM • Sanctuary  
*Yonder*  
Sweet Gospel Music with a Heavenly Theme

## Births

Wesley Davis was born March 28 to Bill and Julie King; brothers are Will and Wyatt; Tessa-Jane Elizabeth, born April 11 to Alex and Jennifer Cozens; grandparents are George and Eileen Cozens; Christine Elizabeth, born April 19 to Greg and Cady Dugger; grandparents are Russ and Brenda Dugger; uncles are Jimmy and Mark.

## SRBC 3rd Relay for Life Event — May 11-13

Relay for Life, a signature event of the American Cancer Society, will be Friday, May 11, and Saturday morning, May 12, at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. The Smoke Rise team is RISING TO THE CHALLENGE, hoping, praying and working to find a cure for cancer. Please support the following team members with your prayers and financial contributions: Bill & Cathy Blanton, Janis Brown, Margaret Fite, Carolyn Alfred, Bob & Lois Jernigan, Vic Greene, Gail Hunter, Bob Hand, Frank & Shirley Bowden, Lesli Hunter, Pat Smith, Amy Allison, Ralph & Joanie Huston, Paul Durden, Bess Burkett, Robin Helms, Richard & Nancy Davis, Katie Lewis, Erin Roberts, Kay Jowers, Sheila Dean, Linda Paul, Al Furr, Debbie Scott, Daniel Weatherby, Danielle Richards, Mary Chambers, Larry Yates, Carol Ann Fulgham & Linda Still.

## Fellowship Circle Meets May 9

at 10:30 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool to Watkinsville for lunch. All ladies interested in joining out Wednesday morning circle for next year are encouraged to come. If you plan to attend, please contact Teressa Owens at 770-564-9659 or email her at [owensteressa@yahoo.com](mailto:owensteressa@yahoo.com) so we can make a reservation for you.

## Deaths

We extend our sympathy to these who have lost loved ones: Susan White, whose father died; Ken Duvall, whose mother died; Katie Kircher, whose father died; and Coriene Johnson, whose sister died.



## Register Now for Summer Camps!

**BIG STUF CAMP** - June 6-10 for grades 6th-12th @ Panama City Beach, \$300. Get your name on the waiting list!

**World Changers** - June 30 - July 7 in New Orleans. For high school only, \$260. Hurry, just a few spots remain.

## Faith & Issues

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

May Schedule

- 6 End Times Theology: Interpreting Apocalyptic literature 13 TBA
- 20 What do Baptists Believe? Dr. Loyd Allen
- 27 Open Discussion

## Fire Safety



What do you need to know to protect your home and family? Our own Thad Smith with the Gwinnett County Fire Department will show us the basics of fire safety that everyone should know. Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## The Parenting School:

*Explaining Death, Loss and Tragedy to Your Children*

**Sunday, May 6; 9:45 am in the Chapel**

Speaker is Dr. Doyle Hamilton, III.

Doyle is a certified pastoral counselor and a licensed marriage and family therapist. He will talk about some age-appropriate ways to help your child understand death, loss and tragedy.

## Called Church Conference Wednesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

A Called Church Conference will be held for the purpose of hearing the recommendation from the Personnel Committee on the church staff reorganization.

There will be discussion on the recommendation, followed by a vote.

Copies of the recommendation will be available in the church office beginning May 7 for your review prior to the meeting.

Come for dinner between 5:15 and 6:30 and the Called Conference at 6:30.

## Save the Dates!

### VBS Smoke Rise Sports Evening Edition

June 10-14 ■ Get Ready to Get in the Zone ■ 5:00 – 7:30 pm  
Dinner, Worship Rally, Sports Activities & Special Speakers!  
FUN for the Entire Family!

Get On the Team Don't just be a Fan in the Stands

Contact: [kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:kdenton@smokerisebaptist.org) to be on the VBS team.

## Notes from the Pastor

### “Today We Are All Hokies”

Once again our nation is mourning. Today we are all Hokies and our thoughts and prayers are with the students, faculty and staff at Virginia Tech.

Last Monday, a twenty-three year old senior by the name of Cho Seung-Hui went on a shooting rampage, leaving thirty-two dead and scores injured. This was the deadliest shooting in modern American history.

**What should the Christian response be to this tragedy?** As people of faith, we must let our beliefs shape our response. To do any less is not to be a follower of Jesus. If our faith is not up to this challenge, then it is futile.

I don't believe this to be true. I think it is up to the challenge and can impact our response. So what do I think our faith should enable us to do in response to this tragedy?

**First of all, it should move us to show compassion to all the people touched by this incident, including the gunman's family.** As a matter of fact, the level of compassion we extend to his family is an indicator of the depth of our faith.

Certainly, we grieve for the families that lost loved ones and the entire Virginia Tech community. There is no question about this. These untimely deaths were cruel and senseless, breaking our hearts even more. As each one is laid to rest, we relive the horror of last Monday and the havoc it created for their family.

Let us not forget, however, that thirty-three people died that day and the last to die also left a family that is devastated. Speaking for that family, the shooter's sister, Sun-Kyung Cho said, “We are humbled by this darkness. We are living a nightmare. We have many unanswered questions as well. We feel hopeless, helpless and lost.”

We need to mourn their loss, too. Their lives will never be the same and their good name will forever be stained.

It is my prayer that the Christian world will embrace the gunman's family the same way the Pennsylvania Amish extended love and compassion to the family of Charles Roberts IV, the man that killed their innocent family members last fall. The depth of their faith was immeasurable. I hope ours will be, too.

**Secondly, our faith should enable us to live life to the fullest as long as we have breath.** We must live for those that were slaughtered. It is our final gift to them.

We must not retreat in fear or be paralyzed by despair. Life is too precious and sweet to spend one moment trying to recapture an illusion of security.

Sure we live in a dangerous world, but our faith should give us ample courage to forge ahead determined to make good things come from bad. “Hope rises in the heart when times are dark, as they are today,” Columnist Lorraine Murray wrote in a recent edition of “Grace Notes.” Knowing there is no situation so hopeless that God cannot embrace it and change it for the better is the basis of all we believe. If we do not believe this, then all else we believe is useless.

**Our faith should motivate us to show the world the consequences of evil.** The debate will linger as to whether the gunman was mentally ill or evil or both. Personally, I believe he was a mentally deranged person whose fantasies consumed him. Let me be quick to say, though, that not all mentally ill people are violent. As a matter of fact, less than one percent is.

Whatever Cho's reasons for killing innocent people that day, his actions were evil and caused unspeakable pain. The world needs to be reminded that violence always creates problems and leaves crippling, devastating pain in its path. Last week's shooting is another example.

I read with great interest yesterday in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* the words of Imam Plemon El-Amin. He talked about how we use violence to solve international problems, express our frustrations through music, entertain children and adults at the movies or with video games. “We are all breathing a daily dose of violence. Just as we think we are going to get some kind of release by killing people in the name of war, this individual thought he could get some kind of release by killing in the name of his own personal war.”

These are the words of a Muslim. How can followers of Jesus not blend their voices with his and call for alternatives to violence?

**Our faith should cause each of us to examine our own lives and relationships to see what changes we need to make.** Lama Surya Das, a Tibetan Buddhist leader said in response to this tragedy, “We have to look into the human heart. This is the true battlefield.”

He's right. All of us have a shadow side because we are a combination of the good, bad and ugly. Our ugly side can also get out of control and hurt people. We need to recognize this and seek help just as we had hoped this young man would seek help and make changes.

**Finally, our faith should compel all of us to own this problem.** Every person of faith must participate in this dialogue and become a part of the solution. All of us must wrestle with some tough questions.

How do we respond to people that are struggling, especially those that resist our efforts? How do we help families that have grown weary trying to help family members they do not understand? What roles do the government and church play in making the world safer? What are the responsibilities of parents, neighbors, friends, teachers and administrators? How do we keep unstable people from hurting themselves and others? What can be done to prevent this from happening again?

I am convinced that God is counting on us to figure this out. I also believe He has confidence in us to do so.

He has certainly done His part by sending Jesus to help us. Could we have a better teacher or role model? He rolled his sleeves up and worked hard to solve society's problems. It became his passion. It was his priority. He confronted the ugly in people and offered new ways of

thinking, believing and relating to others. He made personal sacrifices to make the world better. Ultimately, he became a wounded healer. He gave his life for the cause of justice and peace.

**“As I have loved you, you must love one another,” Jesus said. “As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you” John 13:34 and 20:21.**

“Where is God?” Jewish theologian Martin Buber was asked. “He is between people. He is found in relationships connecting people.” And so must we be if we want to be in the center of His will. We cannot be the presence of Christ in this world and be anywhere else.

How appropriate that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. That's where he lived his life and was destined to die.

Standing between people is scary and dangerous, especially if they are angry or disturbed. You can become the target for both. What would motivate you to take this risk?

“As I have loved you, you must love one another,” Jesus said. “As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you” John 13:34 and 20:21.

When a nurse that was bandaging the wounds of an enemy soldier heard one of her own soldiers say, “I wouldn't do that for a million dollars,” she replied, “Neither would I.” Surely there are some things we believe that bring the best out in us when the world expects the worst.

Remember how Jesus ended the story of the Good Samaritan? “Go and do likewise.” I believe this is his message to us today, too.

In light of this, I wonder how God wants to use you this week to diffuse a volatile situation, reach out to a lonely person, help someone see the horror of violence, offer a new way of looking at a problem or bind the wounds of someone hurting. For the sake of peace instead of pain, be the presence of Christ.

Until Sunday,

Bob

## 2nd Annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Ride



**May 19**  
**Watch for details!**



### **Smoke Rise Summer Camp May 29 - August 3**

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).

### **Ushers Needed on Sundays**

Contact Linda Cummings at [lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:lcummings@smokerisebaptist.org) or 770-469-5856 to volunteer. Let her know which Sunday of the month you prefer and which worship service (8:30 or 11:00). Thank you in advance for your help.

### **April Donations Go to Stone Mountain Co-op**

Needed: canned fruit, toilet paper, rice, powdered or canned milk, pancake mix, jelly.

### **Co-op Volunteers Needed for May and June**

Contact Becky Seay at 770-381-6865 to volunteer.

#### **FINANCIAL STATISTICS**

**As of April 19, 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	\$ 676,449.62	\$ 841,668.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>12,872.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 689,322.51	\$ 841,668.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 573,148.97	\$ 655,179.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES - WORSHIP	10,235.63	12,975.00
TOTAL MINISTRIES - EDUCATION	34,149.15	56,603.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	55,741.42	75,736.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	20,328.96	22,250.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>1,301.40</u>	<u>6,416.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 694,905.53	\$ 829,159.00
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE:</b>	\$ 400,103.81	

#### **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	+2,573,892.31
Expenses	<u>-2,764,219.45</u>
Cash Balance	\$ 3,645.00
Outstanding Commitment	\$ 15,333.00



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#### **OURSTAFF**

**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

### ***The SRBC Cookbooks are Back!***

... by popular demand!! A limited number of *Smoke's Risin' in the Kitchen* Vol. III, first printed in 1999 are available in the church office. They are \$15 each. Great for shower gifts, Mother's Day, birthdays, etc/