

## Is New York on your calendar?

The NY Mission Trip will be July 16-23 and the cost is approximately \$400-\$500, depending on airfare. Please register on line at [www.smokerisebaptist.org/missions](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org/missions) or contact Lynne Felton at [ljfelton@bellsouth.net](mailto:ljfelton@bellsouth.net) / 404.310.8442 or the Missions Office for more information.

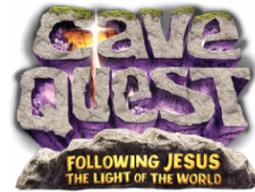
## Tijuana Mission Trip is July 16-23

We will welcome you as a member of the Tijuana Mission Team! The cost is \$450 plus airfare. Please register at [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org) and pay \$100 deposit. If you want more details, please contact Ashley Wood at [awood@nnzusa.com](mailto:awood@nnzusa.com) / 404.395.4747 or the Missions Office.

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## Cave Quest 2016 Volunteers Needed

You love Vacation Bible School, right? You love watching kids' faces light up as they worship, and you love preparing awesome Bible adventures for kids! There are a variety of volunteer opportunities for adults of all ages to work with children, with other adults, or all by yourself. Contact Becky Caswell-Speight at [rspeight@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:rspeight@smokerisebaptist.org), call the church office, or register online to sign-up today!



Smoke Rise Vacation Bible School is July 11th-14th from 9:30am-11:30am.

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# The Cross Tie Newsletter

April 6, 2016

## CBF Georgia Spring General Assembly at Smoke Rise

Smoke Rise is hosting the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of GA Spring General Assembly on April 15-16, 2016. The theme is "When the Sand Castle Crumbles. . . Why is my church dying and what can I do about it?" The keynote speaker for Friday night will be Jim Somerville, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Somerville will also be preaching on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Smoke Rise. Danny Vancil will be leading worship on Friday evening and many Smoke Rise staff will be leading breakout sessions on Friday and Saturday.



Sessions include:

A Muslim and a Christian Discuss the Koran – Rob Nash and Towqueet Alam  
Emerging Paradigm Shifts – Andy Hale and Julie Long  
Youth Ministry Network – Jeremy Colliver  
Children's Ministry Network – Becky Caswell-Speight  
Chaplains Network – Gerry Hutchinson  
Bible Study – Bryan Whitfield  
Faith in Public Life – Graham Younger  
Missions You May Not Have Thought of - Tim Adcox  
When It Comes to Congregational Visions – George Bullard  
Spiritual Formation – Loyd Allen  
Special Needs Ministry – Elaine Harris  
Relational and Asset Based Approach to Ministry – Andy Hale  
Making Your Wishes Known – Gerry Hutchinson  
Exemplars: Deacons as Spiritual Leaders – Daniel Vestal  
Self Care as Christian Discipleship – Chanequa Walker-Barnes  
CBF Global Missions – Steven Porter

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If you are planning to have dinner or breakfast at the CBF/GA General Assembly at Smoke Rise on April 15-16<sup>th</sup>, please make a reservation by noon on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> by calling the office at 770.469.5856 or emailing Laura Perkins at [LPerkins@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:LPerkins@smokerisebaptist.org). Dinner on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> is \$12/person: Baked chicken with mushroom gravy, roasted potatoes, green bean vegetable blend, mixed green salad, choice of dessert, rolls. Breakfast on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> is \$8/person: Scrambled eggs, grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, orange juice, and coffee.

## Journeys Session 7

Wednesdays at 6 pm

### Wrestling With the Old Testament

- Noah, Dinosaurs and the Role of Science (April 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Violence and God (April 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Gender and Sex (April 27<sup>th</sup>)

Led by Dr. Gregory DeLoach, President/CEO Developmental Disabilities Ministries and former pastor of several churches in Georgia.

### Help for Better Hearing

Learn more about the causes of hearing loss and what can be done about it from John Schellman, a specialist with the NUEAR Hearing Center in Tucker. John will be doing free hearing screenings beginning at 4:00 pm in the Library. (April 27<sup>th</sup>)

### My Story

Robbie Gilbert, a coach at Tucker High School, will tell the inspiring story of finding his birth mother and his journey of faith. (May 4<sup>th</sup>)

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## Ladies Spring Event: "Women Growing Stronger"



April 26, 2016, featuring Carolyn Curry. Carolyn Newton Curry, Ph.D., is the Founder and Director of Women Alone Together, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit foundation that addresses the special needs of women. Supported through grants and other contributions and partnering with Agnes Scott College Alumnae Association, the foundation works to build confidence and community among the growing number of women who are alone in our culture. In addition to writing papers on significant women's issues, she often speaks to various groups around the country on women's issues and about Women Alone Together. Copies of her new book, *Suffer and Grow Strong: The Life of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas 1834-1907* will be available for purchase. The Georgia Center for the Book selected her book as one of the 2015 Ten Books All Georgians Should Read. Carolyn is the wife of retired coach Bill Curry. Tickets are \$15 and are available now. If you would like to host and decorate a table, contact MaryLynn Manley at 770.925.7509.

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THE CROSS TIE ISSUE 1604P1 SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH Send feedback, information and updates to: [crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org](mailto:crosstie@smokerisebaptist.org)

## Like Running or Walking?

You can join a fun run/walk on April 16, at 8:30 AM at Tribble Mill Park in Lawrenceville and support medical, dental, and clean water programs in Honduras and Nicaragua. There will be post-race snacks, a DJ and demonstrations of the water filters, all sponsored by HOI! To register or get more information, please visit [www.hoi.org/5k](http://www.hoi.org/5k).

SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH  
5901 Hugh Howell Road  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087



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[www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org](http://www.SmokeRiseBaptist.org)

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church Welcomes Rev. Dr. Jim Somerville

Jim Somerville is Pastor of Richmond's First Baptist Church, a position he has held since May 2008. Jim served for eight years as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C. Jim also served as Pastor of Wingate Baptist Church, Wingate, North Carolina. Jim holds a Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. in New Testament studies from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Georgetown College, Kentucky, with a degree in Fine Art.

He was one of the featured preachers at the Festival of Homiletics at the Washington National Cathedral in 2004. His articles and sermons have been published in Christian Century, Leadership, The Upper Room, Preaching, Lectionary Homiletics, and Preaching Great Texts.

Jim will be the keynote speaker at the Georgia Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly on April 15<sup>th</sup>. He will lead us in worship and discuss how we can approach the challenge of church decline in the modern world. Jim says, "Maybe at a time when the tides of change threaten to destroy the church, it's time to go swimming, time to dive into a culture that no longer loves the church and learn a few new strokes."

He is the author of *When the Sand Castle Crumbles: Why Is My Church Dying and What Can I Do about It?*

Jim will be the guest preacher at Smoke Rise Baptist Church on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. We are honored to welcome this distinguished guest to be with us and lead us in worship.

## Run the Reagan 2016 and Support the Lilburn Co-op

Join this annual community event as a runner, or as a worker on Saturday, April 16. This year Lilburn Co-op is one of the two charities which will benefit from the proceeds. There is a timed half marathon, a timed 5K & 10K, and also a 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run, which are not timed. Register online at [2016runthereagan.com](http://2016runthereagan.com). Participants meet at Ronald Reagan Parkway and Presidential Circle in Snellville. Race begins at 9am. Volunteers are needed at 8am to assist with the race. Brochures are available in the office, or contact Parks Mann at [parksmann65@gmail.com](mailto:parksmann65@gmail.com) or 770.846.8719 for more information.

### Our Ministers

Tim Adcox  
Becky Caswell-Speight  
Jeremy Colliver  
Kathy Dobbins  
Page Fulgham  
Truett Gannon  
Chris George  
Danny Vancil

### Church Office: 770.469.5856

Minister of Missions  
Minister to Families with Children  
Minister to Families with Youth  
Minister of Spiritual Formation  
Interim Minister of Congregational Care  
Pastor Emeritus  
Pastor  
Minister of Worship & Music

### Smoke Rise Counseling Center 404.636.1457 x406

Affiliate of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia

Faye Herring, M.Div., M.S. Resident Counselor  
John Moore, Ph.D., M.S., M.Div., LAPC Director, Counselor  
Stephanie Foxman, M.S., NCC Counselor  
Lanta Cooper Carroll, M.S., M.Div., LAPC Counselor



I am happy to report that the response to the Smoke Rise Baptist Church Stewardship Campaign, Step Up, has been excellent. As of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 229 pledges have been submitted: 165 families have increased their pledges, with an additional 16 families pledging for the first time. Over 50 families have pledged to move above and beyond a 10% tithe, accounting for an increase of \$194,739.08 over their giving last year.

We are off to a strong start toward covering our 2016 Ministry Plan and developing new programs that will impact our community. SRBC families are stepping up, so that we may step out into our community.

This is a very exciting time to see God's dreams for our congregation realized. Along with your commitment to Step Up, we ask for your continued prayers for our church as we begin to write a new chapter in our history. We are grateful for God's faithfulness to our church and eager to follow God's calling for our congregation.

If you have not turned in your pledge, it is not too late. Step Up pledge cards remain available in the church office.

*Chris Allison, Chair  
Stewardship Committee*

## New Pictorial Directory Dates

It is time for a new Smoke Rise Baptist pictorial directory! Dates for photos will be Tuesday to Saturdays; Weekdays 2pm-9pm and Saturdays 10am-5pm:

- May 3rd-8th
- May 10th-14th
- May 17th-21st

We will happily assist anyone who might need additional help on Wednesday nights and Saturdays.

You may easily schedule a reservation for your photo session on our Smoke Rise Baptist Church website at [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org), or contact Olan Mills at 800.521.4511 to set up an appointment.

Each photo session will receive an 8x10 at no cost, and a copy of the new directory.

## Refresh, a Campaign of Restoration and Renewal

We're off to a great start. We had a wonderful kickoff celebration on Palm Sunday including a performance from the Children's Choir and a breakfast served by the youth and Discovery Sunday School Class. A total of 201 pledges have been received adding up to \$1,256,286 toward our goal of \$1,880,000. We have taken a great stride forward, but we still have a few more steps to go.

Our church family has enthusiastically embraced the opportunities that the Refresh campaign enables. The playground, picnic pavilions, and ballfields will be a gateway to our surrounding community. Updated space around the buildings will show our commitment to young families and our desire to be part of the community. I am also grateful that we can build on the foundation and investment of those that have come before us. The enhancements, upgrades, and updates will equip us for continued outreach to our community. We are also assisting in the restoration and renewal of our broader community by supporting the Friends of Refugees in the construction of the Jolly Avenue Development Center.

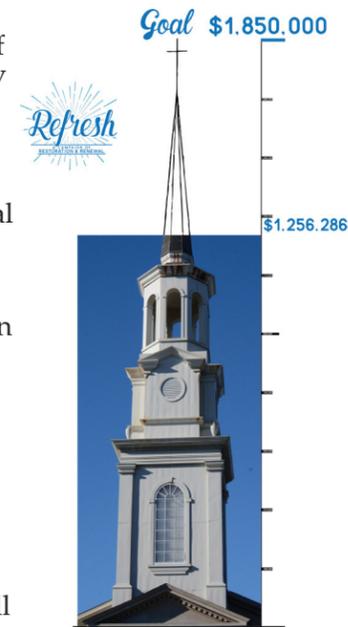
My hope is that the investment we make today will help the Smoke Rise Baptist Church community minister to our surrounding community for generations to come. Many sacrifices have been made over the years for Smoke Rise to be the church it is today. Let us continue this tradition of sacrifice and giving as we lean into the future and build on that foundation with a shared vision, surpassing what any one of us can imagine independently.

If you have not pledged, we ask you to prayerfully consider the part God is calling you to play in our Refresh Capital Campaign. Pledge cards are available in the church office and may be returned to the church office or placed in the offering plate.

*Chris Raffield, Co-Chair  
Capital Campaign Committee*

## GAP Construction Trip

Please register now for the GAP Construction Trip, May 22-27. Go to [www.smokerisebaptist.org/missions](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org/missions), click on Appalachia, complete the registration, and pay the \$100 deposit. The cost of the trip is \$300. For more info, please contact Bill Blanton at [wmblan12@icloud.com](mailto:wmblan12@icloud.com) / 678.510.9390 or the Missions Office.



## Report from the Associate Pastor Search Committee

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we have selected a candidate for the position of Associate Pastor. We believe the candidate is the best person for the job, out of all the resumes and interviews we conducted. Because of the sensitive issue of letting his church know about his future plans to join our staff, we cannot release his name at this time. However, if all goes as planned, he and his family will be with us Mother's Day weekend for a visit with the Committee, and for a meet and greet with the congregation on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, perhaps in the afternoon. On Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>, he will be presented to the congregation, and you will have the opportunity to vote.

We were unanimous in our decision, and on behalf of the entire committee, thank you for your prayer support and gracious time to do our work.

*R. Page Fulgham, Chair  
Associate Pastor Search Committee*

## Partnership with Smoke Rise Elementary School

Rev. Becky Caswell-Speight



On Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended the first ever Partnership Recognition Day at Smoke Rise Elementary. Ms. McCloud invited 42 community partners to Smoke Rise Elementary to show their appreciation and sign a Proclamation of Partnership. It was a fabulous celebration as each community partner agreed to work together to build the school and the community together. For a little over a year, Ms. McCloud has been cultivating these relationship-based partnerships.

Smoke Rise Baptist was involved because of connections we have made through: driving for MALDEF meetings, welcoming the Smoke Rise teachers back to school, the Chili Cook Off, and the Holiday Art Show. In the coming months and years, it is my hope is that Smoke Rise Baptist will continue to build on the partnership officially begun last Friday, because it only together that we build a stronger community.