

The Christian Index

Gannon Chairs  
Budget Group  
MAY 19,  
1983

I. Truett Gannon has been named chairman of the 1984 Georgia Baptist Convention Co-

operative Pro-gram budget committee. Dr. Gannon is pastor of Smoke Rise Church in Stone Mountain.



Dr. Gannon and chairman of GBC executive committee.

Other members of the budget committee are Sam Allen of Savannah, Frank N. Bearden Jr. of Demorest, Robert Born of Lithonia, G. Hugh Dozier of Columbus, Richard A. Hearn of Ludowici, Phillip D. Jet of College Park, Sidney H. Odom Jr. of Centerville and J.W. Wallis of Dublin.

File:  
SMOKE  
RISE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
STONE  
MOUNTAIN

7131  
4

Support of the work of  
Mountain Park church in  
Stone Mountain was given two  
manus by Bob and Charlene  
Sappington and Ray and Brenda  
Thomas. 6-9-1983

2



Smoke Rise church in Stone Mountain dedicated a new nursery suite.  
Mrs. Carolyn Williams

Subject Files  
CHURCHES -  
SMOKE RISE  
BAPTIST

Mrs. Barbara Adair is organist at Brookhaven church in Atlanta.

Pastor and Mrs. Jim Chavis of Dunwoody church begin 10 weeks of study leave this week.  
Gail Winkle resigned as director of kindergarten at Dunwoody church where she has served four years.

6-9-1983

Tim Smith is summer youth director at Sardis church. He is from Tucker and a student at Mercer University. 6-9-1983  
Pine Lake Music Company is sponsoring a "Christmas In August" music conference at Mt. Carmel Christian Church Aug. 26-27 for area ministers of music. Contact Wayne Haynes in Decatur at 404/981-8940 for information and registration. Registration deadline is At

# People And Places

subject File: Churches -  
Smoke Rise Baptist  
Church



SMOKE RISE church in Stone Mountain chartered 21 buses to transport 1,100 members to Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta for a Together We Build banquet. Pastor J. Truett Gannon (r) said it was the largest single charter in the history of Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA). The congregation raised \$1,006,000 at the TWB banquet. Smoke Rise plans to erect a \$3-million sanctuary soon.

10 - The Christian Index

# Smoke Rise Baptist Church

has moved into it's new facilities located at

**5901 Hugh Howell Road.**

(Just off the Stone Mountain Expressway)

We appreciate the wonderful response and we would love for you to come and worship with us.

**Phone 469-5822 or 938-5527**

P. 18, 10/18/72 - Neighbor

copy 1107 - 1108 1108

## Neal Named Associate Editor Of The Index

William T. Neal III becomes associate editor of *The Christian Index* Jan. 1. He has been assistant to the director of Georgia Baptist Education Division for two years.

He was elected by GBC executive committee last week, on recommendation of *The Index* board of directors. He was elected without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Neal succeeds Robert H. Dilday, who left *The Index* staff in September to become associate editor of the Virginia Baptist paper, *The Religious Herald*.

Mr. Neal is a native of Columbus, a graduate of Columbus College and Southern seminary. He is now working on a doctor of ministry degree at Southern.

While a student at Southern, he was seminary news director for three years. He was editor of his college newspaper, also.

He also has been youth director of First churches of Columbus and Thomaston and at

Waldrop Memorial and Hilton Terrace churches of Columbus. He was Baptist campus minister at Columbus, LaGrange and Andrew colleges from 1974-84. He was state Baptist Student Union president in 1969-70.

In his work for the past two years, Mr. Neal has coordinated public relations projects for GBC colleges and campus ministers. And he has been GBC staff liaison for the special task force on Georgia Baptist colleges.

Mrs. Neal is the former Judith Rutledge of Columbus, a graduate of Wesleyan College. She formerly worked in GBC Education Division and now works for Gwinnett County School System. She is daughter of the late Jack Rutledge, famed "Singing Sheriff" of Muscogee County.

The Neals are both Sunday School teachers at Smoke Rise church in Stone Mountain. Mr. and Mrs. Neal have one daughter.



BILL NEAL posed with his wife Judith and daughter Mary Elizabeth. He becomes associate editor of *The Index* Jan. 1.

*The Christian Index*  
January 1, 1987

PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Christian Index  
Mountain Park First church  
at Stone Mountain will dedicate  
its new buildings May 22 in ser-  
vices led by pastor Robert  
Woodall.

*insert*

Files SMOKE RISE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
ST. MARY GA.

The  
Christian  
Index  
May 19, 1953



Smoke Rise church in Stone  
Mountain will present Felix  
Mendelssohn's *Ellyah* May 22 at  
7 p.m. and  
May 23 at 7:30  
p.m. David  
Ford will sing  
the title role in  
the oratorio  
conducted by  
minister of  
music Steve  
Dean with  
direction by  
Everett Robert-  
son. Mr. Ford  
has sung with numerous groups  
including the Robert Shaw  
Chorale.

*insert*

The Christian Index  
Mike Barbee will be summer  
youth worker at Stone Mountain  
First church. He is student at  
Southern seminary.

May 19, 1953

*insert*

Subject File:  
Churches Baptist  
Smoke Rise

The Christian Index  
January 23, 1989

# Baptists 'Celebrate' SBC Seminaries At Meeting Sponsored By Georgians

By Jack U. Harwell, Editor

"We rediscovered that these wholesome men are truly dedicated and called of the Lord. We learned again that we are on the same team. It was one of the most mutually-affirming things we have experienced in a long time."

That is what the host pastor, J. Truett Gannon, said last week after a "Celebration of Southern Baptist Seminaries" at Smoke Rise church in Stone Mountain.

About 200 Georgia Baptist ministers and laypersons went to Smoke Rise church to greet all six presidents of Southern Baptist seminaries.

**THE MEETING** was sponsored by Smoke Rise church and Atlanta Baptist Ministers' Conference. Dr. Gannon moderated. He is president of Georgia Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Each of the six seminary presidents was given time to trace his personal spiritual pilgrimage. Then the floor was opened to questions from the audience. Questions continued around the lunch table and into the afternoon.

Milton Ferguson of Midwestern seminary is current chairman of the seminary presidents' fellowship group.

**HE TURNED** opening statements of all six presidents when he said: "I am president of a Southern Baptist theological seminary because I am excited about the gospel, I take evangelism seriously and I take the gospel seriously.... It is a love affair in response to God's initiative."

When questions were faced, a director of missions wanted to know about newspaper articles which alleged the presidents had "capitulated" in the "Glorieta Statement," adopted in response to initiatives by the SBC peace committee.

Roy Honeycutt responded that "the statement made a commitment to openness and fairness to all persons in the SBC."

But, he said, "It is not my intention to change the basic character of our school to become a fundamentalist institu-

tion.... We made six commitments. They are reasonable expectations of anyone."

An Atlanta pastor wanted to know how pastors and seminarians could combat "anti-intellectualism" in America.

**RANDALL LOLLEY** responded: "That is the principal point of theological tension today.... I have tried, but have not reached a conclusion to that question...."

"It is strange that people want their doctor to have the finest possible education. But they are happy for their pastor never to have darkened the door of any school anywhere."

Russell Dilday injected: "You and we can point out Biblical patterns and role models. And you can invite seminary personnel into your pulpits. Let your churches know they are real people who love the Bible."

**ANOTHER** questioner asked Dr. Honeycutt why he had "declared holy war" on fundamentalists in 1983.

Dr. Honeycutt responded: "I have never declared holy war on anyone. That was a most unfortunate example of reporting. It was not a declaration of war, but a recognition of conflict...."

"I did not declare war any more than President Roosevelt declared war in December of 1941. He went before Congress and told them what had happened at Pearl Harbor. Congress declared war...."

Dr. Honeycutt added: "I will continue to defend our institution and our faculty. I will be as conciliatory as possible, but I will stand on the side of the classic Baptist heritage of Southern seminary."

**ANOTHER** guest wanted to know how the presidents felt about charges of "apprehension" since they had issued the "Glorieta Statement."

Dr. Dilday responded: "The Glorieta Statement was a good faith effort to affirm our total commitment to the total trustworthiness of Scripture.... It was not an effort to appease anybody,

or to engage in some kind of slick jargon, as some have charged....  
"We were trying to say that the Bible does not mislead us, that it can be trusted."

Another pastor asked if requirements for faculty appointments would be affected.

Dr. Lolley answered: "Faculty appointments will be the main ingredient to come out of our current SBC struggle.... We will see to it that concerns expressed across our convention will be heard by those in the process."

Dr. Lolley added: "We are going to find a way to broaden the perspective at Southeastern. It is good education and it is good response to our current situation...."

"I do not accept the premise that a professor cannot teach what he is not convictionally convicted about.... I am not an inerrantist, but you have to know the ideas that are out there in the real world."

**A LADY GUEST** wanted to know about the future of women in the ministry in the SBC.

Landrum Leavell answered: "I am not in the calling business. Any person who feels God has called them has an equal opportunity for training at New Orleans seminary."

But, Dr. Leavell added: "I will set every female student down and tell her she has two major problems—to find a church that will ordain her and a church that will call her when she graduates.... She will have that problem the rest of her life...."

Dr. Lolley injected: "We assume the church which recommends a young woman to seminary will welcome her back into ministry when she is trained.... I will never accept or train a student, then refuse to employ that person when she is trained."

A pastor asked if the seminary presidents would accept a homosexual student.

Dr. Leavell was the only president who responded. He said, "I would not accept a known, practicing adulterer or homosexual."

**WHEN ASKED** about the future of the SBC and its theological tensions, Dr. Ferguson responded:

"We cannot see the future any more clearly than you can. But, we believe God is leading us beyond a win-lose strategy. There are no winners in our kind of struggle. But we cannot be silent as presidents...."

"We came to the conclusion that God was leading us to give ourselves to reconciliation."

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Please turn  
OVER.



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# At Meeting Sponsored By Georgians

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Dr. Leavell added: "We had better elect our finest and best Southern Baptists to serve on our boards, or the character of our institutions will change."

Dr. Lolley added: "We've got to work on the trust level."



**JETT GANNON** (at podium) presided as six Southern Baptist seminary presidents answered questions at Smoke Rise church in Stone Mountain. From left are Russell Dilday of

Southwestern seminary, Landrum Leavell of New Orleans; Bill Crews of Golden Gate, Roy Honeycutt of Southern, Randall Lolley of Southern Baptist, Milton Ferguson of Midwestern.



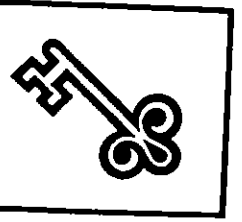
The DeKalb News-Sun

12/14/88

On

# Keynotes

## DeKalb



**WILLIAM GREGORY BARRON** and Rose M. Barron of Grayson, formerly of Decatur, announce the birth of a daughter, Jessica Anne, December 1 at DeKalb General Hospital. The baby weighed seven pounds, three ounces and was 20 and 1/4 inches long. The grandparents are Mrs. Irene McDaniell of Aiken, S.C., Mrs. Ann Simpson of Ft. Myers, Fla., and Gerald Barron of Lawrenceville.

**DR. CHRISTOPHER KOCH** has returned to Kenya after a three week visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Koch of Decatur. Chris has renewed a two year contract with the University of Nairobi where he teaches archeology and anthropology. His brothers Matthew from Arlington, Va. and Nick from Doraville, were home for the reunion.

**MRS. GEORGE T. WEBB** of Decatur has returned home after attending the Laura Lott-Richard Whitehead wedding in Americas.

**MR. AND MRS. GILBERT SANDERS** of Bowling Green, Ky., visited their son John Sanders in Decatur over the Thanksgiving holidays, before taking a cruise to Jamaica and other Caribbean islands, returning here before Christmas.

**MR. AND MRS. EMORY SMITH** of Derrydown Way have returned from a trip to Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands.

**MRS. DOROTHY CADE** has returned to her home in Belvedere following hospitalization at Grady Hospital, with a stroke.

**GREATER ATLANTA Christian Writers Conference** is scheduled for Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Friday and Saturday, January 6 and 7. Noted religion writers Dr. James and Marti Hefley will lead the conference, hosted by Dr. Nelson Price. For further information call 424-9800.

**MR. AND MRS. BRUCE HERRNDON** of Pine Ridge Drive, of Stone Mountain, announce the birth of a daughter, Victoria Christine, on November 5 at DeKalb General Hospital. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Herrndon of Decatur and Mr. and Mrs. George Pass of Stone Mountain. The paternal great-grandmother is Ms. Mary H. Farmer of Rocky Mount, N.C., and the maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Minnie Pass of Enverness, Fla. The couple have a son Christopher two. The mother is the former Patricia Pass of Decatur. The baby was hospitalized at Scottish Rite Hospital for awhile following her birth, but she is home now.

**MR. AND MRS. MATTHEW TURNER** of Tuscon, Ariz., announce the birth of a son, Matthew Dyan, on November 25 in Tuscon. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Turner of Altoona, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Paul Phillips of Chattanooga, Tenn. The paternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Dorothy Turner of Decatur. The mother is the former Peggy Phillips of Chattanooga, Tenn.

**DR. J. TRUETT GANON** of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain recently received the Louise D. Newton award from Mercer Alumni for the "Pastor who contributed outstanding service to Mercer University." Russell Barker, director of missions for the Atlanta Baptist Association, was given the award "for outstanding denominational service to Mercer University."

**MRS. BEVERLY MEITS** returned recently from New York City, where she visited a 99-year-old great-aunt and her aunt Vernal Dunbar. While there Mrs. Meits researched her family history for a book which she is writing.

**THE REV. AND MRS. JOHN FINLEY** of Tucker announce the birth of a daughter, Rachel Kimble, on October 31 at DeKalb General Hospital. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Vaughan of Memphis and Mr. and Mrs. Miller Finley of St. Louis, Mo. The couple also have two sons, Nathan, six, and Matthew, four. Rev. Finley is pastor of Scott Boulevard Baptist Church in Decatur. The mother is the former Norma Vaughan of Memphis.

**HELEN AND CURTIS CROSS** will be honored with a 50th wedding anniversary celebration Sunday, December 11, by their children and grandchildren in the Friendship Hall of Mt. Carmel Christian Church between 3 and 5 p.m.

**HORIS WARD GOLD BANJOS** will present a program of old-fashioned Christmas songs and folk songs at the Rain-bow Park A.A.R.P. Chapter #3671, Monday, December 19 at 11 a.m. with lunch following. The new officers will be announced and installed.

**GLENN RUSHER**, pastor of Rowland Hills Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, has resigned to accept the pastorate at Bethany Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C.

**MR. AND MRS. DAVID ANDREWS** and family have moved from Stone Mountain to Miami Beach, Fla., where he was transferred.

SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH

# Realizing dreams through deeds

752.1/3104

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

5901 Hugh Howell Road  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

► **Phone:** 770-469-5856

► **Web site:** [www.smokerisebaptist.org](http://www.smokerisebaptist.org)  
► **Services:** 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. Sunday;  
9:30 a.m. Sunday school; 5:15 p.m.  
Wednesday (midweek meal/activities)

► **Membership:** 3,000

► **Senior pastor:** The Rev. Robert F. Browning

### Mission

Smoke Rise Baptist is on a mission to change the world through dreams and dedication. "We just drafted a new dream at Smoke Rise, and our dream is to give ourselves away," the Rev. Robert F. Browning said. "Our theme is 'Every Member a Minister.' So, you have a mission, a dream, and a theme. And what we're doing is encouraging every member to discover his or her talents, skills, abilities and use them to advance the kingdom of God and make the world a better place to live."

### History

Smoke Rise began as a mission of Briarlake Baptist Church in 1969 amid a growing Stone Mountain community. Things moved quickly, and before long congregants were worshipping in a new sanctuary on Hugh Howell Road. The Rev. Frank Johnson was the first pastor, followed by the Rev. Truitt Gannon, who served from 1976 until retiring in 1997. Browning filled the post about a year later.

Through the years, Smoke Rise has established itself as an action-oriented congregation with more than 1,500 active members, many of them baby boomers. The church also is noted for a heavy mix of moderate and conservative



LOUIE FAVORITE / Staff

The Rev. Robert F. Browning says Smoke Rise members are encouraged to discover and share their talents to advance the ministry.

Baptists. "I like to describe a church as a quilt, rather than a blanket, made up of a variety of people from different backgrounds, cultures with different worldviews and certainly different gifts," Browning said. "And we come together and focus on what we have in common, not our differences." The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Georgia Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention are among Smoke Rise's affiliations.

### Pastor's path

In 1969, the same year that Smoke Rise opened its doors, Browning, then a 19-year-old college student, began pastoring in his home state, Kentucky. He and three older brothers regularly attended Baptist church services accompanied by their parents, who have since died.

"What I appreciate so much about my parents is they never tried to control me, but instead encouraged me to discover and develop my own gifts and to chart my own course and to do whatever God led me to do," Browning said. And Browning isn't the only family member in ministry. Some of his brothers are church deacons in Kentucky.

Browning, who graduated from Western Kentucky University with a teaching degree in 1972, attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. There, he received master's and doctorate degrees. Before coming to Georgia, the minister had

been pastor at First Baptist Church Somerset in Kentucky for 17 years. Browning and his wife, Jackie, have been married 33 years. Their three children are Jason, Amy and Josh.

### Ministries

This year, the ministerial emphasis at Smoke Rise is on realizing "dreams" and performing deeds. To that end, the church sponsors ongoing classes and special events designed to help people uncover and use their gifts. Recently, Smoke Rise was host to a Missions Fair aimed at pairing members with a variety of charitable organizations. The event included 40 agencies, among them Habitat for Humanity, Mission leaders from Mexico, New York, Uganda and Honduras also visited the church to solicit support and volunteers for its ministries. "The world is filled with people that are hurting and we need to go help them," Browning said.

Life skills, Bible and preschool education programs are among other ministries at Smoke Rise. The church also invests heavily in youth and senior programs. There's even a performing arts and recreational ministry that offers everything from flute lessons to softball leagues.

### Thoughts from the pastor

"At Smoke Rise, we want to be faithful to God, good to each other and good for the world," Browning said.