

# SKYWRITER

## From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, *to be pleasing to the Lord.* (2 Corinthians 5:9)

I propose that we increase our resolve that in everything we do to be pleasing to the Lord.

That may already be your goal. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight." Our new mission, should you choose to accept it, requires that in everything we do we do it by faith, not by sight. This includes not only your church life, but your personal life as well. Twenty-five years ago I realized that God wanted my family to be debt free (Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another. Romans 13:8). This required sacrifice and faith. We sacrificed and did things as cheap as possible. We paid our tithe and our bills by faith and shopped for groceries by faith. And God was faithful. Pleasing God often requires great sacrifice and sometimes a certain level of discomfort. We ate cheap and drove old cars. Still we are not rich, but we are blessed!

Many at Skyland have commented that they feel we are entering into a new era. Not an era as though

we have done something right, although that could be part of it, but an era that God is about to do something new and has invited us to join Him. This new move of God doesn't come without expectation and responsibility on our part. It is time for every Skyland member and regular attendee, to step up in every area of church life.

**Step up your attendance.** You don't have to come to every event, but come to most of them. Your presence is important! You are our brother/sister in Christ, and your spiritual family needs you.

**Use all of your talents for the glory of God.** Forget your own needs and desires and ask what God desires from you. Step up your ministry efforts. If you don't have a ministry, find one and participate in it. I recently asked for your input regarding where you thought God was calling you to serve in Skyland's leadership in 2012. I have heard from six of you. It will take more than six people to lead our church in 2012. Are you willing to let these few people make all the decisions?

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**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER SKYWRITER BY AUGUST 14**

**Prayer Walk  
Tuesday, August 2**

**Meet in front of the Chapel  
at 6:00pm rain or shine**

Everyone is invited to come worship in the freedom and joy of the Holy Spirit at our Friday Night Fire service on August 5 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. A light supper will be served at 6:15pm in the Dining Area.



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**Step up your giving.** Don't hold out on God. God asked for a 10% tithe of your gross income. Give it to Him and then give a little more. Right now none of us are making much in interest or on the stock market, but tithe from this income anyway. Trust the Lord and walk by faith!

**Pray and study more.** Join with other prayer warriors on Tuesday nights at the church and on Friday nights at John Upchurch's home. Prayer is the deal breaker. *If we are unwilling to pray, we should expect little or nothing from God. Don't rely solely on the prayers of others, talk to God for yourself!*

I cannot stress to you the importance we need to place on pleasing God in everything we do in our church life and in our personal life. Every plan, every event, every Bible study and worship service needs to be precipitated by the questions, "Is this pleasing to God?" and "What is my personal part in pleasing God in this event?" I humbly ask you to join me in this ambition to be pleasing to Him.

You servant in Christ's love,



## REFRESH, RENEW, REVIVE!

Join us for a special and unique weekend of prayer and revival with Rev. Rick Bonfim, North Georgia Conference Evangelist, **August 5th, 6th, and 7th.**

**Friday, August 5:** Rick Bonfim will be ushering us into a new place in the presence of the Lord at August's Friday Night Fire Worship service. It is our hope that you will bring your family and friends for dinner and Fire. 6:15 Dinner; 7:00 Fire

### Saturday, August 6:

- **Young Adults:** Pastor Rick Bonfim will be up close and personal with the Young Adults. Meet at the church at 10:30. A nursery is provided for your beautiful children.
- **Middle Adults:** Pastor Rick will meet with adults over 40. This will be in a intimate setting at the Jim Pirkle home, 3919 Cardinal Ct., Tucker, GA 30084, 4:00pm

### Sunday, August 7:

- **9:00am Sunday School:** Pastor Rick will meet with the Senior adults in the Parlor during the regular Sunday School hour. Your time with him will be personal and relevant.
- **Worship:** Pastor Rick will preach at each of our Sunday worship services, 10:00 and 11:00.

### But wait there is more:

- **Prayer:** Help prepare for this great event led by Pastor Rick through prayer. Make a commitment to pray for this first weekend in August. Here are some prayer opportunities:
  - ✦ Sign up for the 24-hour prayer vigil that begins Thursday night, August 4th at 6:00pm
  - ✦ Come to the Sanctuary early Friday night August 5th and pray before Friday Night Fire
  - ✦ Participate in prayer at each and every service and event prior to August 5th
  - ✦ Begin praying now, everyday!
  - ✦ For more information about prayer support please contact Susan Nutter at (404) 257-3340

### Weekly Attendance

Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
6/19	61	61	56
6/26	66	50	82
7/3	50	53	53
7/10	78	74	98
7/17	58	39	60

### Offerings

Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
6/19	2.60	4,966.50	1,252.00
6/26	8.00	3,610.81	346.00
7/3	7.10	8,099.09	276.82
7/10	7.60	3,187.96	85.00
7/17	7.00	2,303.00	931.28

### Designated Funds

Flowers	125.00
Good Samaritan	229.00
Children's Home	35.00
Stage Renovation	500.00
Video License	200.00
Youth	152.00
Sky Camp	270.00
Youth - Flag Fundraiser	392.00
Property Maintenance	3.82
Delphy Spencer Memorial	75.00
Postage	3.00
Library	700.00
Global Ministry - MOP Int.	206.28



Men & Women are both invited to participate in an 11-week Bible Study "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place" by Beth Moore. The class will begin on **Sunday, August 14, 6-8pm** in the dining area. Beth Moore invites you to enter the sanctuary of your God and let Him reveal marvelous mysteries to you. This in-depth study explores the fascinating account of the building of the tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for your walk with God today. If you are interested, please call Cathy Wages at (404) 321-6622 so she can order a workbook for you.



### Babies, Babies..and More Babies!!

Within the next year, Skyland will welcome at least four newborns! We need your help to get ready for these wonderful children. We're updating and refreshing the baby nursery and ask that you prayerfully consider donating one of the following items: wall clock, (2) waterproof crib sheets, changing pad with cover, baby gate with built-in-door. If you are interested in helping prepare for the new additions to our church family, please contact Leah Sanders. We're also looking for volunteers to help with all our toddlers. Even if you can't give financially, please lift up all our babies and mothers in prayer.

## SPANISH FRIDAY NIGHT FIRE SERVICE FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 7:00PM

Join us for an evening of praise and worship en Español with coffee hour to follow. The guest preacher will be Joel Rodriguez from Norcross First UMC and their Spanish praise band will be joining us as well.

Skyland United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 191427  
Atlanta, GA 31119-1427

Address Service Requested

**Making Disciples  
of All Nations**

**CHURCH STAFF**

*John Freeland, Pastor*

*Andy Hammer, Children & Youth Director*

*John Burke, Choir Director*

*Jose Garcia, Pianist*

*Kimberly Thomas, Church Secretary*

*Eleanor Flanagan, Comptroller*

*Ini Emmah, Fellowship Dinner Chef*

*Melissa Wise, Nursery Attendant*

**Birthdays &  
Anniversaries**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>8/2</b> Chris & Karen Baumann<br>Raymon & Leah Sanders | <b>8/22</b> Barry Walsh<br>Mildred Bryson                  |
| <b>8/3</b> Austin Flanagan                                | <b>8/26</b> Andy Hammer                                    |
| <b>8/4</b> Mildred Martin                                 | <b>8/28</b> Iris Meaders                                   |
| <b>8/7</b> Bob & Penny Rose<br>Nonie Morton               | <b>8/29</b> George & Jean Bennett                          |
| <b>8/8</b> Lynn Scott                                     | <b>8/30</b> John & Jodi Holt<br>Tom Foster<br>Eleanor Dale |
| <b>8/11</b> Cathy Wages                                   |  |
| <b>8/16</b> Raymon Sanders<br>Bob Rose                    |  |



Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Pam Johnston, Jinnifer Hoyla, Shirley Bryant, Jan Boehn, Jeenece O'Donald, John & Mary Turner, Edna Williams, Maude O'Donald, Diane Smith, Doris Hester, Joan Iddins, Steve Bryson, Kay Hastings, Jo Mull, Jimmy Johnson, Sarah Olds, Leonard Baumann, Lois Anderson, Geraldine Freeman, Nella Jones, Jean Bennett