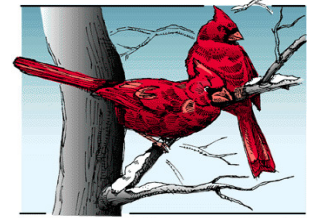


SKYWRITER



JANUARY

2011

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

I was thinking about the song "Me and Bobby McGee." I don't know who Bobby McGee is, but in the song he seems to be pretty important to the singer (until he disappears, of course). I mentioned this to one of the younger adults and they had never heard of the song, so for their benefit let me say that the song is a ballad about a girl and the man she loves, Bobby McGee. They hitchhike across country. They hitched a ride in a "diesel" and sang every song the driver knew. They have no possessions, they only have each other; well that's not quite true, she had a red bandana. (The song is available on iTunes. The best arrangements are by Janis Joplin or Crystal Bowersox.)

The chorus begins with the line; "Freedom is just another word for nothing else to lose." Simple enough. When you have nothing, there is nothing to hold you to one place or another. You might as well go somewhere else and start over. I thought about this lyric in terms of worship. We can only experience freedom in worship when we have nothing else to

lose. As long as we hold on to the things of the world, we cannot fully experience the presence of God. Of course, we can attend a worship service, but attending a worship service and worshipping are not really the same thing.

There are so many good and wonderful things out there, and man has found a way to abuse everyone of them. For example, there is nothing wrong with food. In fact you need it to survive, but too much of it will choke the life out of you. There's nothing wrong with TV, but watch the wrong things, or too much of the right things and you will numb your soul. There is nothing particularly wrong with money. I rather like money. But if your desire for it is excessive you are greedy. Pride is even OK in certain circumstances. I am proud of my wife and children. I'm even proud of my dog. But, if you become proud of yourself or too proud of your accomplishments it becomes sin.

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ARTICLES FOR
FEBRUARY SKYWRITER
DUE JANUARY 16



Continued from front page

When you have no pride left; when you have no care or concern about what others think about you; when you lay your needs and wants on the altar; when you are numb to your physical surroundings and vibrantly awake to God; when your money has become

God's money; then you will have freedom to worship. "Freedom is just another word for nothing else to lose"? Well, that's not just the lyrics to an old ballad, that's an altar call! Lay it all on the altar. Surrender all. Empty yourself before God. Let God take

everything away so that He might give you all that you need. Become a spiritual pauper so that God might make you a child of the King!

Your servant,




The Skyland Youth will start the New Year off right...by staying up all night! The Lock-in will start at **7pm on Friday, December 31** and end at **7am on Saturday, January 1, 2011**. We'll be playing some serious capture the flag and flash light tag, watching some movies and eating bunches of junk food. We'll be spending some time talking about the past year and the coming year, considering how God has changed us and what God has for us in 2011.

Join us for our first Friday Night Fire service on Friday, January 7, 2011 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary as we pray for God's guidance for the new year. This service will provide perspective on looking back, looking within and looking ahead. A light supper will be served prior to the service at 6:15pm in the dining area.

The Art of
WORSHIP



Our 2011 Planning Day is scheduled for **January 8, 2011 from 9am - 12pm**. We will have coffee and maybe pastries. The Nurture, Outreach and Witness work areas will meet on the second floor and we will use the library, parlor, and choir room for meeting rooms. Your presence is important, so please make every effort to attend.

Atlanta-Emory & Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District Training Event

The Annual District Training is scheduled for **Sunday, January 9, 2011 from 2-5pm** at Snellville UMC, 2428 Main Street, Snellville, GA. A wide selection of learning opportunities will be offered for every level of leadership. It will be a great day to network and learn. The cost of the workshops are free, however a love offering will be taken to cover the expenses of the event. Registration is not required for the workshops. Childcare will be offered for children 5 years and younger. RSVP for childcare to Moe Lawson at mlawson@snellvilleumc.org or (678) 430-6007 by January 3.

Weekly Attendance

Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
11/21	78	56	77
11/28	71	43	58
12/5	86	43	72
12/12	70	42	72
12/19	67	49	68

Offerings

Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
11/21	9.90	2,324.75	630.00
11/28	10.75	2,809.00	264.57
12/5	4.70	7,103.32	643.12
12/12	8.90	7,330.29	2,688.84
12/19	7.60	8,426.81	1,661.25

Designated Funds

Flowers	120.00
Good Samaritan	96.00
Hester Memorial	50.00
Miles of Pennies Principal	500.00
Property Maintenance	3.82
Mission House Utilities	210.75
Missions Post Office	665.21
Christmas Toys	250.00
Staff Gifts	2,180.00
Stage Renovation	560.00
Sky Camp	150.00
Choir Treasury	10.00
Meaders Mission House	50.00
Postage	10.00
Joyce Baker Memorial	700.00
Asher Pirkle Memorial	50.00
UM Children's Home	282.00
(Christmas Play Offering)	



In an effort to save money on paper and postage, Skyland is "Going Green". We will publish the monthly newsletter and announcements via E-mail. To ensure that we have your correct E-mail address, please call the church office. Also, please make sure that your E-mail address

remains current to ensure timely receipt of all Skyland Church correspondence. If you do not have an E-mail address, you will continue to receive a print version.



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to present flowers at the altar during the Sunday morning worship services, please call the church office or Brenda Borg at (770) 638-8840 to reserve your dates. The cost of each fresh flower arrangement is \$25. This is a wonderful way to honor and remember a loved one.



Prayer Walk

Please note that the Witness Committee will not have an organized Prayer Walk for the month of January. Instead, please join us for our community prayer service in the chapel on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. If the weather is permitting, we will resume on Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

Skyland United Methodist Church
1850 Skyland Terrace, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30319

Address Service Requested

**Making Disciples
of All Nations**

CHURCH STAFF

John Freeland, Pastor

Andy Hammer, Director of Children & Youth

Janet Walsh, Minister of Music

Jose Garcia, Pianist

Kimberly Thomas, Church Secretary

Eleanor Flanagan, Comptroller

Ini Emmah, Fellowship Dinner Chef

Melissa Freeman, Nursery Attendant



1/4	Carolyn Mull	1/18	Sandy Sheehan
1/11	Genesis Mata	1/24	Jose Garcia
1/14	Pete Wages	1/26	Bob & Yvonne Norman
1/16	Hannah Wages	1/28	Jack Cooke
1/17	Leah Sanders	1/31	Lois Anderson
			Becky Wickham

**PRAYER
REQUESTS**



Martyne Gilleland, Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Rhoda Hall, Pam Johnston, Jinnifer Hoyla, Shirley Bryant, Jan Boehn, Jeenece O'Donald, John & Mary Turner, Edna Williams, Jack Cooke, John Stroud, Maude O'Donald, Diane Smith, Doris Hester, Joan Iddins, Steve Bryson, Porter Dobbins, Barbara Snipes, Harold Burrell, Wanda Miller