

# SKYWRITER



## Were You There?

*by Rev. John Freeland*

A few weeks ago Linda, Katie, Meredith and I went horseback riding. It was quite the experience. I discovered that there is a trick to horseback riding. I just don't know what that trick is. But, in our horses, I found some parallels to the Christian life.

Thunder was a tired old horse that had retired from more glorious days as a joisting star with the Renaissance Festival. He was a big horse. So big I needed a stepladder to climb aboard. OK, so maybe I exaggerate a bit. I did need a two-step booster to get in the saddle. No, it doesn't make me feel like much of a man, needing a boost to get on my horse. As I mounted Thunder I expected him to dart out from under me as though once again in a joisting arena. Unfortunately; not so much Thunder had big feet that he didn't like to pick up off the ground. So, while I was riding this elephant of a horse, he dragged his feet and stumbled often. Something like a drunken sailor. He had traveled this trail often and didn't require any direction from me. He most often ignored my commands and did what he wanted to do. Thunder was like some Christians I

have met. His days of glory were gone, and he was tired. It is easy to fall into the rut of a trail frequently traveled. Thunder's problem was not his age. His problem was that he was tired. Thunder would have been happy to stay in the stable and let some other horse do the job. We must be careful to deny ourselves the liberty of becoming tired, lazy, and lethargic. We must also resist the temptation to settle into a life without joy and enthusiasm. Don't let your best days be the days that are behind you. I pray that we all find new joy in following the will of God and resist putting our own will above His.

Comanche was Meredith's ride. Comanche was a painted horse, one like Little Joe used to ride. Comanche was a follower. She followed so close that sometimes her nose tapped me in the back. She did follow some commands but for the most part, wherever Thunder went, Comanche was sure to follow. There is some good in being a follower provided the follower follows the correct horse. Being a follower of Jesus, for example, is a good thing.

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**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR  
INFORMATION FOR THE  
JUNE SKYWRITER  
BY SUNDAY, MAY 15**

Everyone is invited to come worship in the freedom and joy of the Holy Spirit at our next Friday Night Fire service on Friday, May 6 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. A light supper will be served at 6:15pm in the dining area.



## Continued from front page

The danger is that we must be cautious not to follow the “Thunders” of the Christian world. Find where Jesus is leading and follow Him. Be a leader of other Christians who are less spiritually mature than you.

Ranger was lazy and stubborn. The only way Ranger would move was if she was kicked – frequently. Linda kicked Ranger so often that her legs hurt when the trail ride was over. Ranger just didn’t want to move. It’s not that she wanted to go back to the stable; she just didn’t want to move. To be spiritually stuck is a dangerous place to be. Many Christians however are content where they are spiritually. They don’t want to move. They don’t want to go back, but they don’t want to go forward either. Keep moving. Don’t wait to be kicked until your sides are sore. Git along little doggie.

The best horse of the bunch was Apache. Katie rode Apache like she knew what she was doing. Compared to Thunder, Comanche, and Ranger, Apache was a prize. If our horses had had any ambition, they would have aspired to be like Apache. Apache obeyed commands, even though Katie wasn’t exactly a champion jockey.

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Apache moved when it was time to move and stopped when it was time to stop. She was sure-footed. My friends, we should all be like Apache; Christians to be looked to for an example; mentors of others less spiritually mature; obedient to the commands of our Lord; sure-footed and steady; moving when it is time to move and stopping when it is time to stop. Let us be faithful and true. May others aspire to be like us, not because we are anything special, but because others see Jesus in us.

Which are you? Are you Thunder, spiritually retired and tired? Are you Comanche, a follower, not a leader? Are you Ranger, lazy and stubborn, lacking ambition? Or are you like Apache; full of the Spirit, sure-footed and faithful, someone other Christians look to as an example of Jesus? Stand firm and be strong. Others are expecting to see Jesus in you.

Your servant,




Everyone is cordially invited to a Retirement Reception honoring Janet Walsh after 39 years of wonderful service and inspiration through music on **Sunday, May 22 from 2-4pm** in the Fellowship Hall.



We are starting an intensive six week long summer day camp program that will minister to children (*pre-K - 5th grade*). Camp activities will include Bible study, worship, prayer, tutoring, physical activity, arts/crafts, movies and off-site field trips. SkyCamp will be held **Monday - Friday, 1 - 5pm beginning June 13 - July 27**. For more information, please contact Andy Hammer or send an email to [children@skylandumc.org](mailto:children@skylandumc.org).

**Weekly Attendance**

Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
3/20	72	56	72
3/27	69	47	61
4/3	62	58	58
4/10	66	51	67
4/17	76	60	76

**Offerings**

Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
3/20	1.04	5,485.60	1,778.00
3/27	8.00	3,980.09	8,020.00
4/3	8.50	7,222.46	478.45
4/10	9.75	7,114.98	1,572.63
4/17	7.40	5,314.30	543.22

**Designated Funds**

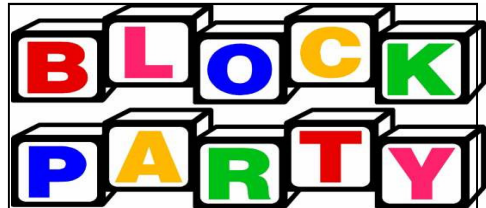
Good Samaritan	58.00
Global Ministry - Japan	1,251.00
Sanctuary Renovation	7,830.00
Youth Pancake Supper	1,189.00
Mile of Pennies (principal)	500.00
Mile of Pennies (interest)	193.22
Property Maintenance	3.45
UM Children's Home (Martyne Gilleland)	75.00
UMCOR - Japan	200.00
Hugh Jackson Memorial	75.00
Postage	5.00
Yard Sale	732.63
Missions	150.00
Missions (Sarah Olds)	130.00



Everyone is invited to come walk with us on **Tuesday, May 3 at 6:00pm** as we pray and intercede for the needs of our neighbors. Please meet in front of the chapel. In observance of the National Day of Prayer, we will gather in the chapel at 7:00pm to worship and pray for our nation to return to the Lord.

**Youth & Children**

- ◆ SkyCamp is recruiting volunteers! We're looking for a number of volunteers to help with crafts, parties, field trips and tutoring. Please take a look at the SkyCamp bulletin board for more information.
- ◆ The Youth are going to Six Flags on Monday, May 23. We will meet in the church parking lot at noon and return at 9:00pm. The cost is \$20/person. Please eat lunch before you come. We will eat dinner outside the park.



Skyland's 12th Annual Block Party will be held on **Saturday, June 4 from 5- 8pm**. The Block Party is Skyland's mission outreach to the community. It takes the entire church to host this event. As the signup sheets come out, please commit to being a part of this event. Remember, while it is not our main goal, we have gained many new and active members through this outreach. Please be part of this, not only by working a station, but taking the time to meet and greet our neighbors who attend. Set-up will begin at 1:00pm and many hands are needed. Please come and help as you are able. **DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED!**

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, 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*



5/3	Bonnie Brown	5/16	John Borg
5/6	Maria Villanueva	5/17	Will & Jenny Morgan
5/7	Sabrina Crawford	5/20	John & Brenda Borg
5/8	Matt & Tiffany Morton	5/21	Edna Williams
5/9	Jimmy Boyd, II	5/24	Salvador & Lucy Mendoza
5/11	Danny Baumann	5/26	David Flanagan Isaac Mendoza
5/12	Keith & Terri Ellis	5/27	Dave Smith Marian Kenney
5/13	Jo Mull	5/31	Evie Salosky
5/15	Meredith Freeland		



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, Jack Cooke, Maude O'Donald, Diane Smith, Doris Hester, Joan Iddins, Steve Bryson, Kay Hastings, Jo Mull, Sybil Turner, Jimmy Johnson, Sarah Olds, Leonard Baumann