

SKYWRITER

January
2012

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland



As a child I got to stay up late and watch Guy Lombardo's New Year's Eve special. Usually, I feel asleep and my Dad woke me up just before the "Big Moment." As a teenager I had an occasional date on New Year's Eve. As an adult, my fondest memories are parties that we had at church. A couple of those parties were here at Skyland.

The beginning of a new year is often considered to be an opportunity to start over. We make resolutions, some of which we actually keep. Lose weight, pray more, study the bible more, contact long lost relatives, you know, the usual stuff. So what's going to be different about this year?

When you think about it most of the heroes of the faith had their restart moments. Adam, Noah, Jonah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and David, to name a few. It may be easier to name the ones who didn't start over. Jeremiah and John the Baptizer are good

examples. But both of these prophets had a "start over" message they shared with Israel. Jeremiah prophesied the destruction of the Temple and the construction of the new Temple that God would build. John the Baptizer called for repentance and prophesied the greatest restart of all time – the coming of the Messiah!

As we come to New Year 2012 (can you believe it?), what areas of your life need a restart? I'm not talking about eating habits, TV habits, or exercise. I'm talking about things that make a real difference – relationships! What relationships need your attention early in 2012? How is your relationship with God? Are there family members with whom you need a "relationship restart?" Could you treat your wife or children a little better?

Everyday God offers us an opportunity to start over, we just think about it more when the New Year comes. So, this New Year, embrace a discipleship restart. Start praying more. Increase your tithe and offerings. Increase the time you spend in ministry. Be a good steward of God's grace and have a wonder-filled New Year!

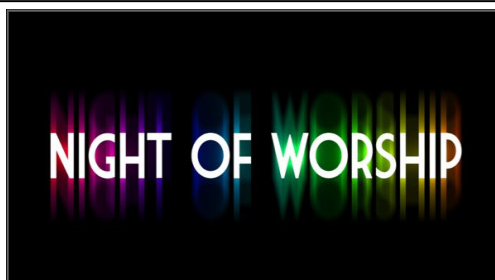
Your servant,

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Please submit your information for the February Skywriter by January 15, 2012





Let the Fire Fall!

Friday, January 6, 2012 is our first Friday Night Fire service of the new year. Join us for an exciting time of worship and prayer beginning at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. A light supper will be served at 6:15pm in the dining area.

Vision 2012

Join us on **January 14, 2012** as we seek God's vision and plan for 2012. Those participating in our visioning process as well as our work areas, Nurture, Missions and Evangelism will meet from 9am -12pm. Your presence is important. If you are unsure which work area you are on, please call the church office. If you would like to join a work area, please come on Saturday, January 14 at 9:00am.

Weekly Attendance

Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
11/27	52	45	64
12/4	47	52	64
12/11	53	43	71
12/18	68	43	90

Offerings

Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
11/27	2.50	4,704.96	329.76
12/4	5.80	7,784.93	4,340.53
12/11	3.50	3,103.50	1,773.14
12/18	2.30	8,169.00	1,540.45

Designated Funds

Mission Post Office	717.09
Staff Gifts	1,405.00
Toy Drive	60.00
Mission House Utilities	177.76
Apportionments	3,185.20
Good Samaritan Fund	57.00
Technology	250.00
Youth	380.00
Stage Renovation	1,112.00
Postage	3.00
Operation Angel	50.00
UM Children's Home	381.38
Kenney Memorial	50.00
Flowers	100.00
Property Maintenance	2.55
Finance	52.90

Fellowship Dinner



Everyone is invited to join us for our first Fellowship Dinner of the new year!

Wednesday, January 4, 2012
6:00pm - Dining Area

For reservations, please email or call the church office by January 2, 2012

MENU

Sesame Chicken
Rice w/Gravy
Green Peas
Rolls
Dessert

Atlanta - Emory District Leadership Training

Sunday, January 8, 2012
2:00pm - 5:00pm

Norcross First United Methodist
2500 Beaver Run Rd
Norcross, GA 30071

For childcare reservations, please call
Donna Brandt at 770-448-4142 by 1/4

No registration is required for workshops

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

Kristen Wages, Worship Band Director

Jose Garcia, Pianist

Kimberly Thomas, Church Secretary

Eleanor Flanagan, Comptroller

Ini Emmah, Fellowship Dinner Chef

Melissa Wise, Nursery Attendant

Alex Thompson, Pastoral Intern

Stephen Burnette, Pastoral Intern

Clair Carter, Intern with Middle-Schoolers

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1/2	Brant Kenney	1/20	Hazel McMichael
1/4	Carolyn Mull	1/24	Jose Garcia
1/11	Genesis Mata	1/26	Bob & Yvonne Norman
1/14	Pete Wages	1/30	Linda Anderson
1/17	Leah Sanders	1/31	Lois Anderson Becky Wickham
1/18	Sandy Sheehan Hannah Wages		



Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Pam Johnston, Jinnifer Hoyla, Shirley Bryant, Jeenece O'Donald, John & Mary Turner, Maude O'Donald, Doris Hester, Steve Bryson, Kay Hastings, Jimmy Johnson, Sarah Olds, Leonard Baumann, Geraldine Freeman, Nella Jones, Sarah Bryson, Harold Burrell, Edna Williams, Emma Tingley, Jan Boehn