

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



- 4/1 Madison Sanders
- 4/2 Helen Pirkle
John & Mary Lou Dennisson
- 4/3 Maude O'Donald
Philip Wages
- 4/7 Brenda Borg
- 4/9 William O'Donald
- 4/10 Chris Morgan
- 4/18 Barbara Snipes
- 4/22 Brian & Amy Medford
- 4/24 Matt Morton
- 4/25 Fred Stover

X



Martyne Gilleland, Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Rhoda Hall, Pam Johnston, Sgt. Benjamin Stewart, Jinnifer Hoyla, Shirley Bryant, Jan Boehn, Jeenece O'Donald, Chris Barber, Kay Whaley, Lois Horner, Doc Pirkle, John & Mary Turner, Jodi Holt, Dolores & Ose Stephens, Mikel de la Cruz, Edna Williams, Winnie Zink, Faye Freeland, Jack Cooke, Kim Miles, Van & Karen Smith

SKYWRITER

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

Remember the saying "April showers bring May flowers"? It makes me think of patience. We may want those May flowers but we have to endure April showers to get them. OK, so that's a "cheesy" introduction to our sermon series for April. As we continue our teaching on the fruit of the Spirit, we encounter patience. All of us would like to have patience, but, if patience is like a muscle that needs to be exercised, it may not be much fun getting there. Think about an infant. There's generally no patience there because there is no understanding. When the baby gets hungry there is simply nothing else that exists in his life besides his mother's breast. He wants milk now! Telling him to wait until *American Idol* goes off is not going to work. It's easy to think like an infant and have a "gotta have it now" attitude.

I remember a time when soon was not soon enough. It seems like it was only yesterday – in fact it probably *was* yesterday! Hebrews 6:12 speaks of those who inherited the promises through faith *and* patience. Wow! That makes patience pretty important if it has something to do with inheriting the promises of God. God made a seemingly impossible promise to a 90-year-old man – that he would be the father of many nations. The 90-year-old Abraham waited 10 years to see that promise fulfilled. That's patience. I'm a pretty patient guy. I'll wait 45 minutes in a doctor's office before I complain. But to wait 10 years when the biological clock quit ticking years before! That's patience! How did Abraham get such patience? (for more on Abraham see Genesis 11-25)

Abraham's patience was abnormal. I think about the five years we had to wait before having our first child, and I was not so patient. The first thing we should remember about patience is that it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22. So, I think there are two kinds of patience; the kind the world gives, and the kind God gives. The world gives patience through trials and difficulties. In this case, we learn to wait because we have no other choice. It really doesn't matter if we are patient or not. We are helplessly dependant on the mercy of our circumstances, and our circumstances are not likely to be so merciful. So we wait, sometimes patiently, sometimes not so patiently. We may even agonize in expectation of the end of our difficulty or even in anticipation of something good coming our way.

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*Skyland
 Church*
 a United Methodist Congregation

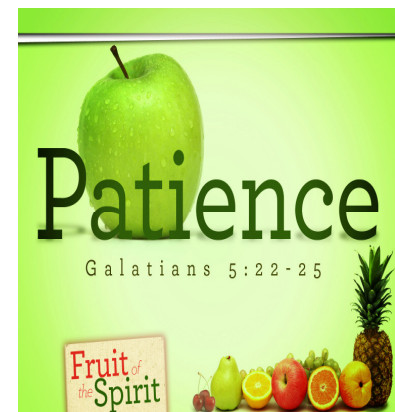


2010

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**ARTICLES FOR
 MAY SKYWRITER
 DUE APRIL 18**



From the Pastor's Desk cont'd.

Whatever good we may be expecting may even be spoiled by the anxiety fostered by the wait. It is for this reason man created Valium! What the world gives is not really patience at all, but tolerance. What we eventually find out is there are some things and some people we just can't tolerate.

The patience God gives is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It comes by way of the vine (see John 15). When we abide in the vine the nutrients of that vine flow in and through us. Patience is a fruit that comes from abiding in the vine. For those who are abiding in the vine, trials and difficulties serve to reinforce what is already there, not create what does not already exist. Therefore, trials and difficulties do not create patience but reveal its existence. Trials and difficulties are like a light shining on the fruit that God created in us through the Holy Spirit. This gives us new appreciation for trials and difficulties. They now serve a purpose greater than increasing the market share of Valium. Trials and difficulties are a means by which God can be glorified in our lives when those around us witness the fruit of His Holy Spirit. Does this mean that we enjoy trials and difficulties? Certainly not! But, they take on a new usefulness in the Kingdom of God. What Satan intends for evil, God will use for good (see Genesis 50:20).

Can I bring all this rambling home? Thank you for your patience, I believe I can. I want patience, but I don't want the tolerance the world gives. I want the patience God gives. Worldly tolerance glorifies no one. It only glorifies trials and difficulties. I want patience that comes from abiding in the vine; the patience that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. I want patience that brings glory to God and helps me get through difficult times and fully enjoy good times. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you". - Matthew 6:33

"Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:14

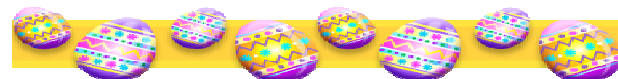
Your servant,




The trustees are in the process of replacing the classroom windows on all three floors of the main building. Several windows have already been replaced, but we have 45 more in need of replacement. Each window cost \$370. You can participate by purchasing a window, several windows, or part of a window. Your check should be designated "Window Replacement."

Friday Night Fire
 Join us for an evening of praise and worship on Friday, April 2 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. A light supper will be served in the dining area at 6:15pm.

Night of Worship
 Lifting up our hearts to God



Community Easter Egg Hunt
 Saturday, April 3 - 2:00 p.m.
 (Children ages 3 - 6th grade)

If you would like to donate individually wrapped Easter eggs, please bring them to the outer office by April 2. No Chocolate Please!

Weekly Attendance

Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
2/28	65	46	61
3/7	62	51	48
3/14	60	50	70
3/21	69	42	57

Offerings

Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
2/28	9.50	4,686.92	104.64
3/7	24.75	5,934.00	7,681.05
3/14	35.00	6,468.00	437.86
3/21	27.80	3,941.00	768.00

Designated Funds

Haiti	10.00
Property Maintenance	27.73
Local Missions	76.91
Youth - Valentine Flowers	1,720.00
Good Samaritan	21.05
Roof	5,000.00
Postage	10.00
Windows	1,863.00
Choir	10.00
Mission House Utilities	227.86
Flowers	25.00



Please remember to bring flowers from your garden to the narthex on Easter Sunday morning, April 4 for our Living Cross.



Please join us for our next Prayer Walk on Tuesday, April 6 at 6:00pm as we pray and intercede for the needs of our neighbors. Please meet at the chapel doors, dressed for the weather. We will proceed rain or shine.



Join us for a French-themed Wednesday night as our resident missionaries Andrew & Margaret Howell share about their ministry in France. They will speak after supper at 6:45pm on April 28. Come hear about the exciting work they're doing for the Lord!



The Skyland Youth & Young Adults will have a combined Work Day on Saturday, April 10 from 9am - 4pm. We need trucks, vans, yard tools (rakes, blowers, mowers, hedgers, clippers, limb cutters, etc.) and all able bodied young people to help! We will be doing yard work for our church members and local families. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please plan to attend a service of prayer on Thursday, May 6 at 7:00pm in honor of the 59th Annual National Day of Prayer. This years theme, "For such a Time as This" is based on Nahum 1:7. "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him..." God is our strength, refuge and courage in our personal and national times of suffering, despair and loss. Join us and bring a friend, neighbor or co-worker for this very special time of prayer.

