

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

X



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



**REQUESTS
 FOR
 PRAYER**

Martyne Gilleland, Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Faye Freeland, Lois Ellis, 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, Beth Ryan

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**ARTICLES FOR
 FEBRUARY SKYWRITER
 DUE JANUARY 17**



SKYWRITER

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

Happy New Year! 2010 is here! In just a few days I, and twelve more Skylanders, will be walking in the Holy Land. We are very excited. Imagine walking where Jesus walked and seeing the sites Paul saw. Spending time in the Holy Land is exciting, but I wonder how excited we are about spending time *with the Holy One*. 1 Samuel 2:2 declares that "There is no one holy like the LORD!" Do we take Hebrews 13:5 for granted? "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." Let me share a few scriptures with you that may help establish some goals for 2010.

Knowledge of God. Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." In 2010, establish in your mind and heart that you will seek greater knowledge of the Holy One. Join a Bible Study group this year. Refuse to be satisfied with where you were in 2009. It makes no difference if you were a spiritual giant or a spiritual mouse in 2009 – don't be satisfied to stay there. Seek wisdom and knowledge. Ask the Lord to help you find someone who can help you grow in the Lord. Your children and grandchildren,

and many others, look to you for a spiritual example. Set one for them that challenges them to seek "the knowledge of the Holy One."

God's purposes. Isaiah 5:19 "Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see *it*; and let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come to pass, that we may know *it!*" There is no greater purpose than the purpose of the Holy One. This year let us, the people of Skyland, corporately and individually decide that the purposes of the Holy One will be Skyland's purposes. May we not look to the right or the left, but keep our eyes fixed on Him. May God make speed and hasten His work at Skyland. May His purposes quickly come to pass for the benefit of each of us and for the benefit of the community at large.

Rejoice! Isaiah 12:6 "Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." May 2010 be a year of rejoicing! I hope our greeting to one another will be "Hallelujah! God is Good! God is Great!" In the Old Testament, "Good" is qualitative, while "Great" is quantitative. God is both good and great.

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From the Pastor's Desk cont'd.

Simply put, God is the best (good). God is abundant (great). I am thankful for both. I am thankful that God is the best at everything. He is the best creator we could hope for, and the best sustainer and defender. He is the best savior, lord, and advocate we could hope for. But, He is also abundant. God can never be spread "thin." He is abundantly able to be good to all of us at the same time. He does not have to stop fellowshiping with me when He begins fellowshiping with you. He is fully capable of

giving *100% of us*, 100% of His attention, 100% of the time. That's good – and great! Rejoice!

Glory in the Holy One. Isaiah 41:16 "You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, and the storm will scatter them; but you will rejoice in the LORD, you will glory in the Holy One of Israel." As we draw closer to the Second Coming of Jesus, we should expect an increase in life's challenges. There has to be a tribulation period before Jesus comes again.

Not only that, there has to be trials and difficulties because these strengthen our faith. I sincerely pray that 2010 is the best year ever and that you and I have nothing but blessings and peace, but *if* that is not the case in 2010, will you still "glory in the Holy One of Israel?" I promise I will! I hope I will. Surely, I will? By God's grace I will!

Well, here's to 2010! May it be good.

Your servant,



**Friday Night Fire Service
New Year's Day**

Please join us on January 1, 2010 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary as we usher in the new year through praise and song. A light supper will be served in the dining area at 6:15pm.

A Night of Worship

Lifting up our hearts to God



A NEW YEAR & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Few organizations accomplish much without a plan. Join us on **Saturday, January 9 from 9:00am - 12:00pm** in the dining area as we plan for the new year. The Nurturing, Outreach and Witness work areas will meet to plan events and set the church calendar for 2010. Your presence is important. If you are unsure which work area you are on, please contact the church office. If you would like to join a work area, please join us.

Weekly Attendance

Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
11/29	63	46	52
12/6	68	58	54
12/13	52	111	54
12/20	63	42	58

Offerings

Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
11/29	11.90	4,891.50	147.87
12/6	12.00	7,907.97	8,929.00
12/13	6.00	9,179.50	1,405.06
12/20	10.25	4,868.10	485.67

Designated Funds


Christmas Toys	430.00
Property Maintenance	32.87
UM Student Day Offering	85.00
Choir	60.00
Good Samaritan	29.00
Postage	10.00
SUMCEL	2,500.00
Global Missions	6,000.00
Local Missions	25.00
Missions Post Office	804.03
Children's Home Offering	296.70
Gift for Kristen Wages	450.00
Staff Gifts	165.00
Meaders Mission House	30.00
Mildred Holt Memorial	50.00

Daniel Bible Study

The Sunday Night Adult Bible Study group will begin Beth Moore's 12-week study of Daniel on Sunday, January 10. We will meet in the dining area from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. If you would like to join this group, please contact Cathy Wages because she will be purchasing the workbooks. Everyone is welcome!

Bible Study

Come and Experience the Living Word




Our Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners will resume on January 6 at 6:00pm in the dining area. For reservations/cancellations, please call the church office by Monday, January 4.

**Atlanta Decatur Oxford/Atlanta Emory
District Annual Training Event
Sunday, January 24, 2010
2:30pm - 5:00pm**

We look forward to seeing both clergy and laypeople learning together on **January 24** at Sugarloaf UMC. This training event is free, no advanced sign-ups needed (please call Sugarloaf UMC if childcare is needed).