

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

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5/3 Bonnie Brown | 5/19 Quentin Pirkle |
| 5/6 Maria Villanueva | 5/20 John & Brenda Borg |
| 5/7 Sabrina Borg | 5/21 Patty Goodwin
Edna Williams |
| 5/9 Jimmy Boyd, II | 5/24 Salvador & Lucy Mendoza |
| 5/12 Keith & Terri Ellis | 5/26 David Flanagan
Isaac Mendoza |
| 5/13 Jo Mull | 5/27 Dave Smith
Marian Kenney |
| 5/15 Meredith Freeland | 5/31 Evie Salosky |
| 5/16 John Borg | |
| 5/17 Will & Jenny Morgan | |

PRAYER REQUESTS: 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, Edna Williams, Faye Freeland, Jack Cooke, John Stroud, Ken Freeman

*Skyland
Church*
a United Methodist Congregation



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**ARTICLES FOR
JUNE SKYWRITER
DUE MAY 16**



Prayer Walk
Tuesday, May 4
Meet in front of
chapel at 6:00pm
Rain or Shine!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
FRIDAY NIGHT FIRE ON
MAY 7 AT 7:00PM THE
SANCTUARY. LIGHT
SUPPER SERVED AT 6:15
IN THE DINING AREA.**



Lifting up our hearts to God

SKYWRITER

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

Do you remember the song "Try A Little Kindness" by Glen Campbell?

You got to try a little kindness

Yes show a little kindness

Just shine your light for everyone to see

And if you try a little kindness

Then you'll overlook the blindness

Of narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded streets

This song summarizes the common definition of kindness – doing something good or kind for someone else, often someone in need. Webster says that "kindness" is "a kind deed, favor," but the Biblical meaning is something different. In the Old Testament, kindness refers to an attitude or a behavior that comes from faithfulness to a relationship or a covenant. The Old Testament understanding of kindness has more to do with relationship and covenant obligations than it does with deeds or favor. When the Old Testament speaks of God's loving-kindness (the Hebrew word *hesed*), it refers to God's unwavering commitment to the covenant He made with mankind.

With the Old Testament understanding in mind lets look at a

familiar passage. In Genesis 40, the jailbird Joseph, interpreted the dreams of his fellow inmates, Pharaoh's cupbearer and his baker. The interpretation for the cupbearer was favorable, as he would be restored to his original position of favor with Pharaoh, while the news was not so good for the baker. Does the movie "Hang 'em High" bring anything to mind? After interpreting the dream for the cupbearer Joseph asked him "Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a *kindness (hesed)* by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house" (Genesis 40:14). By using this language, Joseph reminded the cupbearer that he was obligated to remember, and return, Joseph's *hesed* at a later date. The cupbearer was obligated to Joseph. They had entered into a relationship - a partnership that obligated the cupbearer to be kind to Joseph when the opportunity arose. Unfortunately for Joseph the cupbearer forget his *hesed* and did not remember for three years.

Does that throw a kink into our understanding of kindness? Does that mean we owe no kindness to those who have not first been kind to us?

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From the Pastor's Desk cont'd.

Actually, No, it doesn't mean that at all. Heseid is relational. Joseph and the cupbearer had a relationship, even if it was based on a dream. Heseid is the substance of relationships and covenants. God responded out of Heseid when He provided the needs of the Hebrews in the wilderness. God responded out of heseid when gave Israel the victory over their many enemies. And God responded out of heseid when He sent Jesus to the cross. He had made a promise to Abraham and had entered into a covenant with him. He continued that covenant with Moses and David. And through Jesus He expanded that covenant to any and all who would accept, by faith, Jesus' action on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

Kindness is not just a kind deed or favor. It is a requirement of relationship. Heseid, means that we are obligated to offer one another kindness, because we are in covenant with one another. The marriage covenant obligates husbands and wives to be kind to one another. Brothers and sisters in Christ are obligated to be kind to one another because of the covenant they enjoy through faith in Jesus. We are required to be kind to our neighbor because we are in a relationship with them. Now, I only know the names of my immediate next-door neighbors. I've never met the neighbors two doors up or down from me, and I wouldn't know them if I saw them outside our neighborhood, but I am in a relationship with them through

Jesus Christ, even if they are not believers. Why? Jesus died for them just as He died for me. We share in God's grace, even if they have not accepted that grace. Who am I not to be kind to someone that God loved so much that He sent His son to die for them?

Transform your thinking. Your disappointment with your neighbor (or husband, wife, cousin, or friend) does not give you permission to ignore the heseid of your covenant relationship with them. So, with that in mind, "You got to try a little kindness. Yes show a little kindness. Just shine your light for everyone to see."

Your servant, 

Unfortunately someone recently broke into our mailbox and stole the offerings that had been delivered on Thursday, April 8 which prompted us to pursue ways that we could more adequately protect the tithes and offerings you send in via USPS. Skyland UMC now has a P.O. Box. Please direct all mail to this address: Skyland UMC, PO Box 191427, Atlanta, GA 31119-1427. We apologize for any inconvenience this action may cause.

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 year's 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.




YOUNG ADULTS
The Skyland Young Adult Fellowship event for May will be a dinner hosted by Juan & Sheila de la Cruz. As always, we will meet on the second Saturday of the month, May 8th at 6:00pm. Please listen for announcements and watch the bulletins and emails for further details. Please invite friends!

Weekly Attendance

Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
3/28	59	54	61
4/4	66	81	89
4/11	67	55	59
4/18	68	52	65

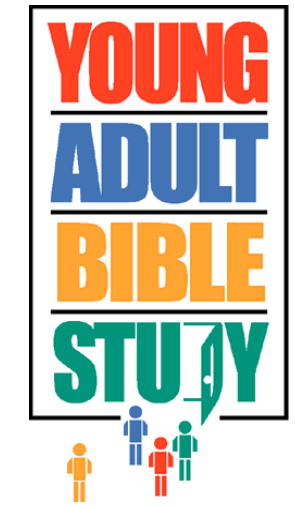
Offerings

Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
3/28	5.50	6,105.96	73.84
4/4	12.00	7,751.49	37.00
4/11	8.70	5,694.00	616.28
4/18	15.40	4,256.99	287.62

Designated Funds

Property Maintenance	460.12
Children's Ministry	15.00
Sam's Card - Kimberly	35.00
Good Samaritan	17.00
Pentecost Service	150.00
Youth	50.00
Church Windows	100.00
MOP Interest	187.62

Church Window Report
We have replaced 29 windows so far and we have 33 more to go



20 Something Bible Study
Calling all 20 Something married or single to join us for a new Bible Study starting Thursday, May 13 at 7:00p.m.
Chris Morgan's Fly Pad
1479 Ashford Place



Join us for an unforgettable evening of hot food, warm friends, fabulous decorations and cool music at "A Night of Jazz", Saturday May 15 at 6:00p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner by Chef Ande', Music by the Skyland Jazz Quartet. Tickets on sale for \$15/person on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Nursery will be available. For more information, contact Eleanor Flanagan at (404) 316-6637 or telda@bellsouth.net.


Avast Mateys! This summer's Vacation Bible School "High Seas Expedition" is almost here! We be in need of some swash buckling sea dogs to set sail with a crew of brazen buccaneer kids as we pursue the greatest treasure of all time...aye..Christ the Lord! Scurvy Dogs need not apply. Make your mark with Captain Hammer and join the adventure June 9th - 13th from 9:00am - 12 Noon.