

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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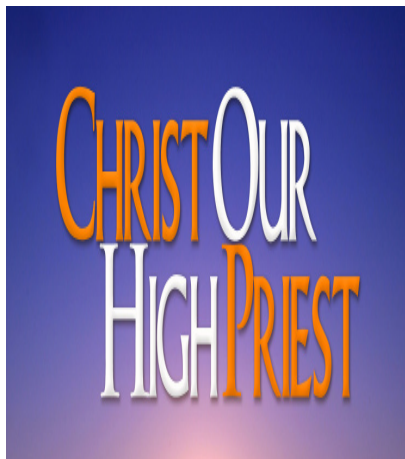
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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 11/5 Helen Buffington | 11/16 Brian Medford |
| 11/9 Esther Stroud | 11/20 Joann Mathews |
| Mary Freeman | 11/22 John & Polly Singleton |
| 11/13 James & Wanda Miller | Jessica Herrera |
| Terri Ellis | 11/25 Jocelyn Herrera |

PRAYER REQUESTS: Martyne Gilleland, Hugh Jackson, Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Faye Freeland, Lois Ellis, Bonnie Ellis, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Rhoda Hall, Van Smith, Pam Johnston, Sgt. Benjamin Stewart, Jinnifer Hoyla, Shirley Bryant, Bill O'Donald, Jan Boehn, Jeenece O'Donald, Chris Barber, Jean Bennett, Margo Kilpatrick, Edna Williams, Kay Whaley, Winnie Zink, Maude O'Donald, Michelle Barnette, Lois Horner, Doc Pirkle, John & Mary Turner, George Bennett, Jodie Holt, Laura Scott, Chris Baumann

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor	1-2
UMM Chili Cook-off	2
King's Kids Toy Give Away	3
UMW Luncheon	3

**ARTICLES FOR
 DECEMBER SKYWRITER
 DUE NOVEMBER 15**



SKYWRITER

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

The book of Hebrews gives us an image of Jesus that may cause us to struggle for understanding. Hebrews 2:17 introduces us to Jesus our "merciful and faithful high priest." "Merciful and faithful" we can understand (for the most part), but what do we do with "High Priest?" Most of us were not raised in a faith tradition that included priests. We know about pastors, clergy, preachers, men of the cloth, and reverends, but priests are a foreign concept. High Priest? Even more-so. Here, our Messianic brothers and sisters have the advantage. Jewish believers understand the concept of a high priest who acts as a mediator between God and man. Jesus perfectly fills this role as He is fully God and was fully man. He thinks like God thinks, but He understands what we think and how we feel, and He knows the temptations we face. Hebrews 4:15 reminds us that Jesus can "sympathize with our weaknesses" because He was "tempted in all things as we are, yet [remained] without sin." So, even though He personally knew no sin, He knows *our* sin because He bore it on the cross for us. His Priesthood is not of this earth but of heaven as He entered the heavenly Most Holy Place to sit beside the Father to act as our

Mediator and Intercessor. But, what does this mean for us?

Not that I was a "bad boy," but there were times when I was growing up that the "wrath" of one parent required the mediation of the other. Growing up, I had an unhealthy fear of refrigerators because there was usually a "switch" on top of them. My parents were not wrathful people, but certain rules were not meant to be bent, broken, or otherwise disfigured. "Disfiguring" those rules brought forth justice – and it wasn't pleasant! Jesus made a one-time, and all sufficient, sacrifice for our sin. He carried our sin on the cross and was disfigured by it (see Isaiah 53). This was both justice and grace. As our Heavenly High Priest, He presents not our sin to the Father but His own shed blood. Jesus already took the "switching" we deserved. Now, with His scared hands, He presents his shed blood before the mercy seat of God just as the Old Testament High Priest presented the blood of the Atonement Day sacrifice. This presentation reminds the Father, not that He is prone to forget, that punishment has been dealt and the price of sin has been paid – justice has been served.

Continued on next page


Continued from front page

In the meantime, upon our repentance, Jesus dispatches the Holy Spirit to remind us that God has so completely forgiven our sin that He is incapable of remembering it. As High Priest, Jesus has fully dealt with our sin for all eternity. The only work left to be done in relation to our sin is that we must turn from it. In Genesis 4:7 God told Cain, "Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

As children, we quickly learn that there were times that our needs were best presented to one parent by the other. When we were children we asked in childish ways because we spoke as a child. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13:11 said, "When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things." Jesus is a mediator who is biased toward meeting our needs. He understands the needs of mankind, but yet still thinks like

God. When we go to the Father in Jesus' name, Jesus presents our needs before the Father in a manner that exceeds our limited human abilities. Jesus understands our needs as a man but answers them as God. Minor needs that should be reasonably unimportant to the God of the universe are of the utmost importance, because Jesus experienced our basic needs and *was tempted* by selfish ambition and wanton pleasure. He understands our need to "master sin" before it masters us. As High Priest, He talks to the Father about this need. This divine conversation results in a heavenly dispatch of the Holy Spirit to our side and the dispatch of angelic warriors to fight in the heavenly realms on our behalf. The rulers, the powers, the world forces of this darkness, the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places have no chance before the intercession of Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the swordsmanship of angelic warriors (see Ephesians 6:12)!

Peace and joy are ours because of our Heavenly High Priest. Jesus told His disciples that it was better for them if He went away than if He stayed. "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). If it is better for Jesus *not* to be with us, then, He must be doing something significant. It is better for us for two reasons. One reason we readily know: when Jesus left, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with those who believe. The second reason is explained in Hebrews. If Jesus did *not* go He could not serve as our Heavenly High Priest, and we very much need Him in heaven interceding for us! Rejoice! Jesus has got you covered. From the presence of the Holy Spirit on earth to Jesus' presence in the Heavenly Tabernacle, Jesus is ministering to you.

Your servant, 



Everyone is invited to join us for the United Methodist Men's Family Dinner/Chili Cook-off on November 7 at 6pm in the dining area. The taste testing will begin at 5:45pm. There is no charge, however reservations are necessary. Please call John Holt or Bob Norman by November 4. The Freeland Family will provide the entertainment. Soup, salad, cornbread and dessert will be provided.

Weekly Attendance			
Date	Small Groups	10:00 Service	11:00 Service
9/13	60	48	60
9/20	64	51	48
9/27	61	54	47
10/4	59	52	70
10/11	53	53	34
10/18	50	52	71
Offerings			
Date	Mile of Pennies	General Funds	Designated Funds
9/13	39.50	4,264.50	171.44
9/20	29.30	5,121.81	237.00
9/27	39.30	4,269.81	---
10/4	28.80	8,075.01	130.17
10/11	10.20	3,596.00	495.25
10/18	9.35	12,280.00	2,827.52

Designated Funds	
Property Maintenance	2491.92
Global Ministry	143.83
UM Children's Home	237.00
Choir Treasury	10.00
Good Samaritan	27.30
Postage	10.00
Youth Ministry	50.00
Flowers	100.00
Campus Crusade/Karls	386.00
MOP Interest	350.33
Copier Use	5.00
Mission House	50.00

King's Kids Annual Toy Give Away

The annual Christmas Play and Toy Give Away is just around the corner! We are collecting new, unwrapped toys in the price range of \$8 - \$10. A collection box will be in the narthex of the sanctuary with a variety of toy examples. Wal-Mart has a great selection of \$10 toys, so please check them out! Financial donations will be gladly accepted!



All women of Skyland are invited to the United Methodist Women's luncheon on November 14 at 12:00pm. The cost is \$15/person. For reservations, please see Mary Lou Dennisson or Janet Walsh by November 10.

Please make the following changes to your church directory:

1. Andy Hammer - New phone number (770) 789-7932
2. Jessica Herrera, 500 Salem Ave, Winston-Salem, NC 27101
3. Juan & Sheila de la Cruz - New address effective 11/21 - 3068 Stantondale Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341
4. Adam Kincaid - 500 N Roosevelt Blvd #16, Falls Church, VA 22044
5. Matt Morton - 500 Northside Circle, #512, Atlanta, GA 30309, (404) 803-4134