

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



10/2 Barry & Janet Walsh	10/16 Tiffany Nettles
10/5 Jean Riding	Kimberly Thomas
10/6 Meade & Margie Morgan	10/25 Juan & Sheila de la Cruz
10/8 Linda Lewis	Betty Mitchell
10/9 Mitchell & Barbara Snipes	Kay Hastings
Laura Flanagan	10/27 Wanda Miller
10/14 Margaret Barnwell	10/28 Randy & Linda Lewis
Phil Baker	

PRAYER REQUESTS: Martyne Gilleland, Hugh Jackson, Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Blackie Black, Faye Freeland, Lois Ellis Bonnie Ellis, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Mildred Holt, 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

SKYWRITER

The Word of God

by Andy Hammer

Let me tell you a little story. One night in college we had a cookout at my church for college students. We turned cheap burgers into charcoal patties on our cheap grill for several hours feeding ravenous college students as they laughed and played. At some point during the night while I toiled over the raging inferno that was the church grill I dropped a mostly cooked hamburger on my new pair of black low-top Converse All Stars. I kicked the burger into the bushes, angry that I had defiled my classic shoes with cheap burger grease. After the party I hastily went home to shampoo my hair several times so I could get the smokey beef smell out of it.

The next morning I went back to the church for a prayer meeting. I was walking towards the front patio, the same patio where we had the cookout the night before and was confronted by a shocking sight. Sitting on the patio was a gray squirrel with a hamburger patty in its mouth... the same hamburger patty that had defiled my Converse the night before. I froze. So did the squirrel. I watched him, baffled. His black beady eyes were locked on me... he was waiting. The fifteen seconds we waited seemed to go on forever while

my mind was flooded with thoughts. Thoughts like, "squirrels don't eat meat" and "I wish I had a camera" and again "squirrels don't eat meat!"

Then slowly, the squirrel, prize in maw, backed slowly towards a barren crape myrtle and climbed nimbly up and made a short leap to the roof of the church. He scampered over the roof and was gone. I didn't really know what to think about all of that and I still don't. Hopefully, most squirrels are still eating acorns and that sort of thing and this was just a fluke. We wouldn't want to fear for safety in our own homes from roaming bands of carnivorous squirrels... But I digress... what is my point?

Some times we come upon something flabbergastingly out of the ordinary. It may call into question something that we have understood for a lifetime. What do we do with that? What do we do when we encounter something that rocks our boat so intensely we fear we may drown. Well, you might say that it depends on what it is that is rocking our boat and where it comes from.

Continued on next page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Word of God	1-2
Winter Clothing Drive	2
Praise & Prayer Conference	3
UMM Dinner & Auction	3
Wesley Walk for Others	3

**ARTICLES FOR
 NOVEMBER SKYWRITER
 DUE OCTOBER 18**

**CLERGY
 APPRECIATION
 MONTH**

*World
 Communion
 Sunday
 October 4*

**Charge Conference
 Sunday, October 25
 11:00 a.m.
 Please submit your
 reports to the
 church office by
 October 11**

Continued from front page

Lets take a biblical example. Repeatedly, a group of religious elitists called the Pharisees were baffled by Jesus. His answers and questions to them were like molten lead poured on a feather mattress (it burned right through them). A few of the Pharisees were so amazed by Jesus that they eventually became his followers, but most of them later would cry out for his death and the death of his followers.

I guess this is my real point now, what happens when you encounter a hamburger eating squirrel while you're reading the Bible? What happens to *you* on the inside? Do you just glance

over it? Do you explain it away saying that it must not really mean what it says? Our understanding of the Bible is tiny and our perception of God is puny. I've heard some people say that we put God in a box... I doubt he'd fit. More appropriately, I think we surround ourselves with a wet and useless cardboard fortress of beliefs about God that we probably would have a hard time finding in the Bible.

By the time I had left college I had heard and participated in countless debates about various issues in the Bible. Rarely, did any of those debates involve sitting down and actually reading what the Bible had said word for

word trying to understand. I and my friends had made our whole belief systems up out of catch phrases and rhetoric. Beloved, this just will not do! We must read the Bible and understand it! We must know it and savor it! Let the Word of God challenge you. We will not survive on the bits and pieces we pick up from being in church. Let the Word of God redefine you, wherever you are in life. Let it shock you with its power and overwhelm you with its depth. Let the Word of God be a "hamburger-loving-squirrel" daily in your life.

Grace and Peace,

Andy



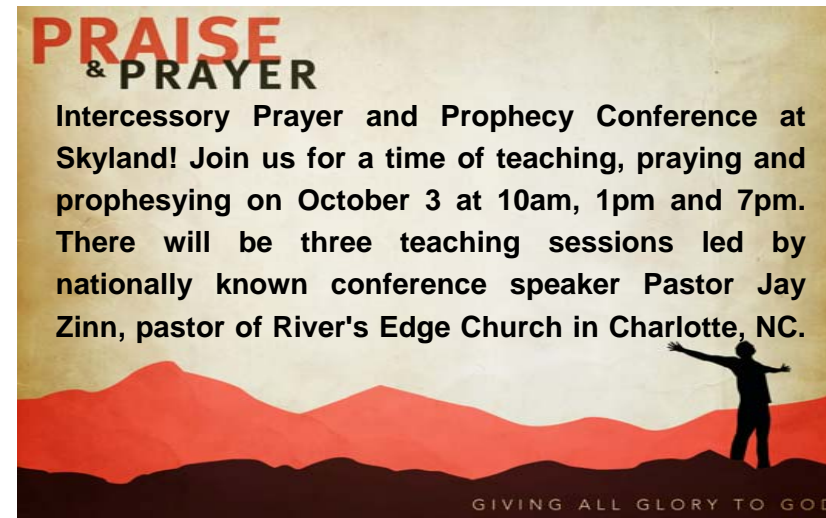
"God loves a cheerful giver" -

2 Corinthians 9:7

As winter is quickly approaching so is the cold weather that comes along with it. The United Methodist Men is sponsoring a Winter Clothing & Blanket Drive for the homeless. Items on the clothing drive "wish list" include new or gently used blankets, coats, jackets, warm sweaters, flannel clothing, thermal underwear, hats, scarves, gloves and socks. All sizes for men, women and children are needed. You can bring your donations to the boxes located throughout the church during the month of October. If you would like to volunteer to help with this much needed project, please call John Holt at (404) 216-7837. The cold weather is not far off, so let's work together to keep everyone warm this winter!!!

Weekly Attendance & Offerings				
	8/16	8/23	8/30	9/6
Small Groups	53	59	65	59
10:00 Service	41	43	52	43
11:00 Service	44	61	55	97
Mile of Pennies	10.50	8.00	3.10	9.12
General Funds	3,636.50	3,319.00	8,189.34	7,258.00
Designated Funds	75.00	330.53	14,763.49	238.75

Designated Funds	
Brazil Mission Trip - Andy	75.00
Property Maintenance	1,059.58
Global Ministry	303.82
Mission Trip Refund (Katie Freeland)	1,556.00
Good Samaritan	518.75
Children's Ministry	500.00
Parsonage	1,746.23
Sound	285.66
Technology	6,000.00
Library	500.00
Youth	1,000.00
Worship Band	600.00
Mission House	500.00
Revival	542.73
Choir Treasury	10.00
After School Tutoring	200.00
Postage	10.00



Covered Dish & Auction

The United Methodist Men will sponsor a Covered Dish Dinner & Auction on October 17. Dinner will be served at 6pm and the auction begins at 7pm. Please bring your donations of useable household goods, tools and furniture to the stage in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from this annual fundraiser are used to support various projects both within the church and throughout the community. Thank you for your support.

Wesley Walk for Others

The 27th Annual Wesley Walk for Others will be held Saturday, October 24, as Wesley Community Centers continues "giving feet to the faith of the church!" The walk starts at 7:30 a.m. at Stone Mountain First UMC. All funds raised will support Wesley Community Centers' ministries: Camp Wesley program for children and youth, Bethlehem Senior Center and Project Extend. For more information and to register, please call the church office.