

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



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

PRAYER REQUESTS: Martyne Gilleland, Hugh Jackson, Carolyn Mull Helen Buffington, Blackie Black, Faye Freeland, Allen Jones Lois Ellis, Bonnie Ellis, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Mildred Holt Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Rhoda Hall, Van Smith, Mae Bennett, 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, Geraldine Freeman, Sally Foster, Betty Mitchell

SKYWRITER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Block Party	2
Flea Market/Bake Sale	2
Easter Cantata	3
Easter Egg Hunt	3
Good Friday Service	3
Missions Night	3

**ARTICLES FOR
MAY SKYWRITER
DUE APRIL 19**



*"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."*

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

For a couple of weeks now, I have watched the flowers blooming and trees budding. I can hear the birds chirping and the lawn mowers whirling. That means it will soon be Resurrection Day! It is easy this time of year to think about egg hunts and bunny rabbits, but let's lay those things aside and look at the True meaning of Resurrection Day. Psalms 111:9 tells us, "God has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name." Resurrection Day means redemption for us! We even came across the theme of redemption in our Wednesday evening study of Exodus. God did not simply take the Israelites out of Egypt. He redeemed them to be His people. He sent Moses to the Israelites with a promise in Exodus 6:6, "I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments." Scriptures like these give us the background for Resurrection Day. Resurrection Day is rooted as far back as Genesis 3. From the moment Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, God set about providing for the redemption from that sin. Resurrection Day is more than bunnies and eggs.

Resurrection Day is a celebration of Grace. "We have been "justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). Several words should jump out at us in this verse, but let's look at just two of them; grace and redemption. We have no claim to redemption apart from God's grace. We cannot claim that we have earned our redemption, for that violates the Biblical meaning of redemption. Perhaps in society one can redeem themselves, but in God's economy the price of sin is beyond one's ability to pay. Redemption by Grace means that we have redemption because God has Grace. Now that's a stimulus package with which I can agree!

Resurrection Day is a celebration of Forgiveness. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). Again, let's look at two words from this verse; blood and forgiveness. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Hebrews 9:22). These two words are intrinsically linked, and Ephesians 1:7 is not talking about a little bit of blood. It is referring to life's blood.

Continued on next page



From the Pastor's Desk cont'd.

Jesus' blood was drained out of Him. He died as a result of suffocation from the enormous weight of our sin and the extreme blood loss from the brutal stripes on His back and the piercing of His side. These two things combined bought us forgiveness. Jesus bore our sin on the cross and we find forgiveness in that river of His blood. You cannot make up for past sins, but you can apply the blood of Jesus to the doorposts of your heart.


Resurrection Day is a celebration of Purity. Jesus "gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:14). So much could be written about this verse alone, but let's look at just two words; purify and possession. The Old Testament understanding of holiness was to be set apart for

a specific purpose. My mother had a specific pan for making cornbread and a specific bowl for making biscuits. These were holy in the sense that they were set apart and could be used for no other purpose. When we talk about being purified from sin, we must understand that we are really saying that we are set apart *from* sin and set apart *for* God. Certainly, this verse bears that meaning well when it says "to purify for Himself a people for His own possession." Resurrection Day celebrates this set-apartness.

Resurrection Day is a celebration of Adoption. We are not just set apart from sin. We are not just His people, like the people of a kingdom belong to the king. We are part of His family! Jesus was sent "so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the

adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:5). This verse reveals the meaning of redemption. We belonged to Him *before* sin separated us from Him. Jesus redeemed us so that we belong to the family of God again.

A true Resurrection Day celebration rejoices in these simple facts. Think about it. If Jesus' resurrection had accomplished nothing, it would still have been a marvelous and miraculous event worthy of celebration. Jesus' resurrection accomplished so much that no one person can fully explain it, to do so would require a lifetime of work and volumes too numerous to count. We must be sure to celebrate God's Grace that sent Jesus to the cross to redeem us to be His own holy people, cleansed by His blood, forgiven of our sin, and adopted as joint heirs with Jesus. Celebrate.

Your servant,


Check out Pastor John's new blog "Straightening Out the Bunny's Tale" you'll find it at www.skylandumc.org/media

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY
SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The United Methodist Women are having a Flea Market and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 2 - 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Prior to the sale, donations can be left on the stage in the Fellowship Hall
 Please assign a price for each item

Weekly Attendance & Offerings				
	2/15	2/22	3/1	3/8
Small Groups	66	76	68	49
10 a.m. Service	46	33	55	43
11 a.m. Service	40	61	54	49
Mile of Pennies	14.65	33.00	31.10	21.30
General Funds	4,071.60	3,725.41	7,377.75	3,354.15
Designated Funds	675.00	462.77	1,397.58	45.00

Designated Funds	
Flowers	150.00
Katie Freeland Mission Trip	645.00
Property Maintenance	88.18
Global Ministry	385.17
Good Samaritan Evangelism	38.00
	70.00
Homeless Offering	25.00
Nursery	110.00
Library (Janette Buchanan)	25.00
Meaders Mission House	999.00
Choir	10.00
Hazel Pool Memorial	35.00



"Written in Red"

Created by
David Guthrie & Robert Sterling

Palm Sunday, April 5
10:00am Worship Service



Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11 - 2pm
 (children ages 3yrs - 6th grade)



Everyone is invited to join us on Friday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary as we reflect on the redemption offered to us on the Cross of our Lord.



Missions Night
April 22, 2009

Please join us on April 22 at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to hear about Charlie & Miki Chastain's ministry in Russia serving street kids and disabled orphans