

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, Children's Director

Kristen Wages, Youth Director

Janet Walsh, Minister of Music

Jose Garcia, Pianist

Kimberly Thomas, Secretary

Eleanor Flanagan, Comptroller

Ini Emmah, Fellowship Dinner Chef

Melissa Freeman, Nursery Attendant

X



- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1/4 Carolyn Mull | 1/24 Jose Garcia |
| 1/11 Genesis Mata | 1/26 Bob & Yvonne Norman |
| 1/13 Justin & Glorianne Slovensky | 1/28 Jack Cooke |
| 1/14 Pete Wages | 1/31 Lois Anderson |
| 1/17 Leah Sanders | Becky Wickham |
| 1/18 Sandy Sheehan | |

Prayer Requests: Martyne Gilleland, Hugh Jackson, Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Faye Freeland, Janette Buchanan, Randy Ellis, Allen Jones, Lois Ellis, Bonnie Ellis, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Blackie Black, Mildred Holt, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Edna Williams, Hazel Pool, Van Smith, Rhoda Hall, Sgt. Benjamin Stewart, Jinnifer Hoyla, Mae Bennett, Pam Johnston, Iris Holmes, Shirley Bryant, Bill O'Donald, Jan Boehn, Jeenece O'Donald, Chris Barber, Virginia Burrell, Ose & Dolores Stephens, Jean Bennett

SKYWRITER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Planning Day | 2 |
| Learn to Speak Spanish | 3 |
| Young Adult Fellowship | 3 |
| District Training Event | 3 |
| Friday Night Fire | 3 |

**ARTICLES FOR
 FEBRUARY SKYWRITER
 DUE JANUARY 18**

Happy New Year
 Happy New Year
 from our staff
 from our staff



From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

Happy New Year!! 2009 is here! Every year seems like it goes by quicker than the year before. I remember as a child it felt like the years crept by (maybe it had something to do with hating school). We can look back over 2008 and be pleased with what we accomplished or criticize ourselves for what we didn't accomplish. At the end of every journey there are celebrations and complaints. I have no complaints. 2008 was a great year and I know that 2009 will be even better. Isaiah 52:1 says,

*Awake, awake! clothe yourself
 in your strength, O Zion;*

*Clothe yourself in your
 beautiful garments, o
 Jerusalem, the holy city;*

*For the uncircumcised and the
 unclean will no longer come
 into you.*

Awake, awake, Skyland! Clothe yourself, prepare for the New Year. The Lord promises us good things. He plans to prosper us and not to harm us. He plans to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). A little over a month ago we elected new officers for 2009 and it is time for them to go to work, but not just them! It is time for all of us to go to work. "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

When you read the book of Acts you find that the Apostles and the early Christians worked very hard and endured great hardships for the Kingdom of God. Only a few of us can remember starting a year in economic depression. Even in the face of economic crisis, God promises prosperity. Now, I'm not preaching a "prosperity gospel" or a "name it and claim it" faith. However, I do believe God makes good on His promises!

Continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk cont'd.

Therefore, I cannot help but believe that 2009 will be a great year for the Kingdom of God and for Skyland Church. Could we encounter some hardships along the way? Probably. Might we have needs that seem to go unmet? Likely. Is it possible that some things we plan will not work out the way we want? Sure. But, in all these things we are more than conquerors! So, let's put away sorry over our past, worry about our present, and anxiety about our future. Let's demolish arguments and every pretension that set themselves up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). "This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24). This is God's year and God's time. Rejoice and be glad! 2009 is going to be a

wonder-filled year – filled with miracles, signs and wonders. I've been thinking about some of the wonderful things that will be happening in 2009. Numerous Bible Studies – some of which will take place in the church, some will take place in homes (Alpha in Spanish being one of them). ESL and maybe SSL classes. A family will move into the Mission House. The block party – what a great chance to meet our neighbors. Numerous Wednesday night dinners – Sesame Chicken! Many worship opportunities, including Friday Night Fire! Prayer meetings in the church and in homes. Planning, Administrative Council, committee, and work area meetings. Feeding the hungry. Mission trips. And much more! And out of all of these I set before you two priorities: Evangelism and Love. In

2009, reach out in kind. "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Psalms 126:3). Because "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy," we must want others to know the "rapture" we feel. Our great joy must cause us to want others to come into the Body of Christ at Skyland and experience the same "rapture." In 2009, reach out in kind! Tell your friends, family, and neighbors about Jesus and about Skyland. Share with them the love God has for you. Show them the greatest love possible – a love that leads them to Jesus. You are who you are because of Jesus. You are who you are, at least in part, because of Skyland. Help your neighbor "be all they can be" invite them to Jesus. Invite them to Skyland.

Your servant,




Few organizations accomplish much without a plan. Join us on January 10 as we plan for 2009. Our work areas, Nurturing, Outreach, and Witness, will meet from 9am – 12pm to plan their events for the year and set the 2009 Calendar. 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 come on January 10, 2009 at 9am.

Weekly Attendance & Offerings

| | 11/23 | 11/30 | 12/7 | 12/14 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Sunday School | 84 | 75 | 80 | 73 |
| Blended Service | 92 | 89 | 95 | 103 |
| Mile of Pennies | 32.20 | 13.60 | 31.10 | 9.20 |
| General Funds | 3,487.00 | 6,927.66 | 6,118.10 | 3,444.25 |
| Designated | 168.13 | 2,007.35 | 461.60 | 3,843.45 |

**¿Quieres aprender español?
Do you want to learn Spanish?**

A Spanish language conversation group is now forming. Tentative time will be at 8pm on Wednesday evenings, but the time and location are flexible depending on interest/demand. If you are interested in joining in, please contact Sheila de la Cruz at (404) 354-4299. Absolutely **NO** experience or prior knowledge is necessary. We will concentrate on conversational Spanish and will have fun! No boring grammar or rote memorization.

Young Adult Fellowship

The Young Adult Fellowship will continue to meet the second Saturday of each month. We will meet at the church on **January 10 at 7:00pm** and go out to eat together at Edo Japanese Steakhouse in Toco Hills. Please bring friends, family, kids...all are welcome! And be prepared for shrimp to come flying at your mouth!

Designated Funds

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Children's Toy Drive | 170.00 |
| Honor Esther Stroud | 25.00 |
| Property Maintenance | 2,921.66 |
| Good Samaritan | 68.00 |
| Global Ministry | 499.99 |
| Student Day Offering | 100.00 |
| Frances Lindsey Memorial | 120.00 |
| Worship Band | 300.00 |
| Staff Gifts | 1585.00 |
| Missions Post Office | 259.60 |
| Flowers | 35.00 |
| Postage | 25.00 |
| Mission House | 25.00 |
| Children's Home | 346.28 |

Friday Night Fire

We will be getting back to our regular schedule for Friday Night Fire in 2009. We will meet the last Friday of the month, **January 30 at 7:00pm** in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and worship. Come pray and intercede for Skyland, our city and our country. Pray for wisdom and God's will to be accomplished in 2009.

**Atlanta-Emory and Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford Districts
Annual Training Event - January 11, 2009**

We look forward to seeing both clergy and laypeople learning together on **January 11 from 2:30 - 5:00pm.** at Mt. Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mt., GA 30087. For a list of workshops being offered, please call the church office. No registration is required for workshops, but nursery is provided **ONLY** by reservation. To make nursery reservations, call Rev. Terri Hoye at (770) 448-4142 x105 by Jan 5.