

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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- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 7/3 J.C. & Nella Jones | 7/15 Chris Baumann |
| 7/6 Ken Freeman | 7/18 Virginia Burrell |
| Will Morgan | 7/21 Melissa Freeman |
| Ben Herrera | 7/24 Jim Pirkle |
| 7/8 Joe Mull | 7/25 Emma Tingley |
| 7/10 Rhoda Hall | 7/27 Iris Holmes |
| 7/14 John & Linda Freeland | 7/30 Bruce Stamey |

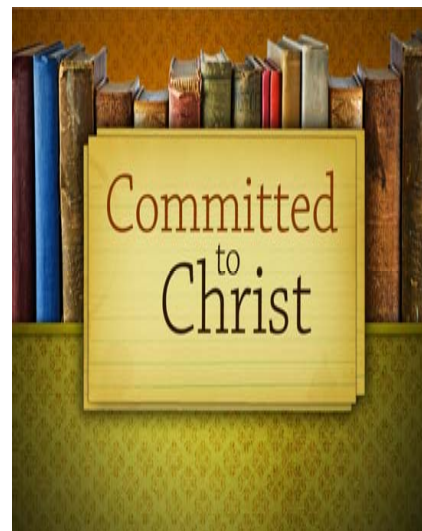
PRAYER REQUESTS: Martyne Gilleland, Hugh Jackson, Carolyn Mull, Helen Buffington, Blackie Black, Faye Freeland, Lois Ellis Bonnie Ellis, Dave & Evelyn Smith, Mildred Holt, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson, Rhoda Hall, Van Smith, Pam Johnston Sgt. Benjamin Stewart, Jinnifer Hoyla, Shirley Bryant, Bill O'Donald, Jan Boehn, Jeenece O'Donald, Chris Barber, Jean Bennett, Margo Kilpatrick, Edna Williams, Kay Whaley, Sally Foster, Winnie Zink, Maude O'Donald, Michelle Barnette, Daniel Ross, Lois Horner, Jodie Holt



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**ARTICLES FOR
 AUGUST
 SKYWRITER**



SKYWRITER

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. John Freeland

This month is Linda's and my 30th wedding anniversary. Imagine that, 30 years! I'm hardly old enough to have been married that long. When Linda and I started dating, my dad accused me of "robbing the cradle" because she was so young. In fact she had only had her driver's license a few months. Celebrating 30 years of marital bliss set me thinking about what brought us this far – LOVE.

Remember the song, "You've lost that loving feeling?" NOT! Love is a decision and not an emotion. I have heard so many speak of "falling in love," but one does not "fall" in love. To "fall" insinuates that it was, at best, accidental or, at worst, unavoidable. Love is neither accidental nor unavoidable. God's love for us is not accidental, for God did not *trip* and "fall" in love with us. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was no accident. Nor is love for God unavoidable, for many manage to *not* love God, and some even manage to hate Him. God's love *is* difficult to resist, but the hard-heartedness of some prevents them from accepting His gift of grace.

Love is a decision. One loves because they choose to do so. John 3:16, "God so loved the world," only makes sense if love is a decision. Who would want to "fall in love" if love leads to a sacrifice on the cross? Love compelled Jesus to willfully choose to die on the cross. Love is like that. It compels us to make choices we would not make otherwise. Love compels us to sacrifice all for the sake of the one we love. In Ephesians 5:25, Paul said, "Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her." That's not something you "fall into." If "falling in love" were possible, we would also expect to "fall out of love." This makes love somewhat tricky. Love is a decision; therefore there is a danger of failing to act on that decision or even forsaking that decision all together. Therefore, love was not just a decision for Linda and me 30 years ago; love is a decision everyday, all day. My decision to love Linda, "'til death do us part," demands that I act faithfully on that decision everyday, all day. Have you decided to love Jesus? If you said "Yes," that decision demands that you act like it everyday, all day.

Continued on next page

From the Pastor's Desk cont'd.

When Linda and I go out in public, I hope everyone can readily see that we love one another. When lovers of Jesus go out in public, everyone should be able to see that they love Jesus.

Sure, Love is "a many splendid thing," but love is also a simple thing. Many have complicated it and explained it to death. Love is simply responding daily to a decision. Not very romantic is it? Make romance part of the decision. Make giving part of the decision. Take a look at all the actions that define "love" and include them in your

daily actions. For lovers of Jesus, that would include worship, prayer, and Bible study, just to name a few. Worship is simply romancing God. It is being intimately intertwined in His presence to the exclusion of everything else. Prayer is simply a conversation of love. It would be pretty silly to call a marriage without conversation a loving relationship. Lovers of God talk and listen to Him. Happy marriages are made up of husbands who study their wives. I study Linda. I haven't figured her out yet, but that makes the

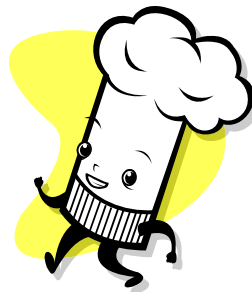
journey together more exciting. I haven't figured God out yet either, but a loving journey with Him is very exciting. Decide to be a lover and act like it all the time. Jesus has been described as the Great Lover of Our Souls. Decide to be a great lover of God and of His people.

With much love, your servant,



Skyland Block Party Chicken Tinga

- 2 bone-in chicken breast
- 1 cabbage
- 5 onions
- 5 plum tomatoes
- 5 cloves garlic
- 1 can pickled chipotle chilies in adobo sauce
- Ketchup
- Canola oil



Directions:

Cook chicken breast in heavily salted water with one whole onion and two whole cloves garlic until cooked through (reserve cooking liquid for stock in another recipe if desired). Allow chicken to cook and shred using fingers or 2 forks. Meanwhile, cook tomatoes and 3 remaining cloves garlic in boiling water 3-4 minutes, and drain. Liquefy tomatoes and garlic (no need to peel or core tomatoes) in a blender or food processor, together with one chipotle chili. Taste the sauce and add more chilies one by one until your sauce reaches desired spiciness. Slice cabbage and 4 remaining onions. Heat some canola oil in a large skillet (or Dutch oven) over medium-high heat. Add onions and cook 4-5 minutes, then add cabbage and continue to cook until vegetables are crisp-tender. Add in shredded chicken, tomato sauce and a few squirts of ketchup. Salt to taste. Continue cooking a few minutes until all flavors are blended but not until vegetables become mushy.

Enjoy with tostadas or tortilla chips. Top with Cotija cheese if desired.

| Weekly Attendance & Offerings | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | 5/24 | 5/31 | 6/7 | 6/14 |
| Small Groups | 62 | 56 | 69 | 67 |
| 10:00 Service | 48 | 43 | 47 | 60 |
| 11:00 Service | 42 | 43 | 51 | 78 |
| Mile of Pennies | 12.00 | 26.90 | 7.00 | 14.55 |
| General Funds | 5,136.00 | 3,816.71 | 9,435.00 | 4,145.00 |
| Designated Funds | 108.00 | 100.14 | 572.18 | 16,223.43 |

| Designated Funds | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Conference Offering | 420.00 |
| Copier Use | 8.00 |
| Property Maintenance | 386.18 |
| Global Ministry | 219.22 |
| Postage | 10.00 |
| Property Maintenance - Ins | 15,836.71 |
| Flowers | 50.00 |
| Good Samaritan | 23.64 |
| Nursery | 50.00 |

Canned Food Drive

The United Methodist Women need your help as they share food with those who face hunger every day. We all know that times are hard for many people these days. Please bring canned goods to the church before July 19. There will be containers placed in several halls of the church for your convenience. Thanks for your support.

Men's Retreat

You are invited this fall to gather for the 47th Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat at Rock Eagle. (September 25-27). Bill Glass, founder of Bill Glass Ministries will be the keynote speaker and will deliver a powerful message encouraging men to be the fathers and sons they have been called to live. To prepare for the weekend, we recommend reading Champions for Life - The Power of the Father's Blessing is for sale for \$5 (plus shipping) at www.ngcum.org. For more information, please call John Holt at (770) 452-7307.



The United Methodist Women need your help with making health kits for the Atlanta Women's Day Shelter. Please decorate (optional) and fill a shoe box with the following new items listed below. If you have extra shoe boxes, we can use them. If you do not have a shoe box, you may pick up one from the church or bring the items in a bag and we will provide a place them in a shoe box.

- One gallon size plastic bags
- Hand towels (not kitchen towels)
- Wash cloth
- Bath size bar of soap
- Combs (not pocket size)
- Fingernail clippers (not toenail)
- Toothbrush (single brush in wrapper)
- Toothpaste
- Adhesive plastic sterile bandages