

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



- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 9/1 John & Jodie Holt                       | 9/16 Jennifer Turner                  |
| 9/2 Karen Baumann                           | 9/22 Bob Norman                       |
| 9/6 Bill & Cathy Wages                      | 9/25 Darlene Dixon                    |
| 9/8 Penny Rose                              | 9/26 Jeenece O'Donald<br>Meade Morgan |
| 9/9 Revel & Mary Freeman<br>J.C. Jones      | 9/28 Sheila de la Cruz                |
| 9/11 Bill & Maude O'Donald                  | 9/29 Hugh Jackson                     |
| 9/12 Henry & Kimberly Thomas<br>Daniel Mata | 9/30 Lynn Scherer<br>Juan de la Cruz  |
| 9/14 Amy Medford                            |                                       |

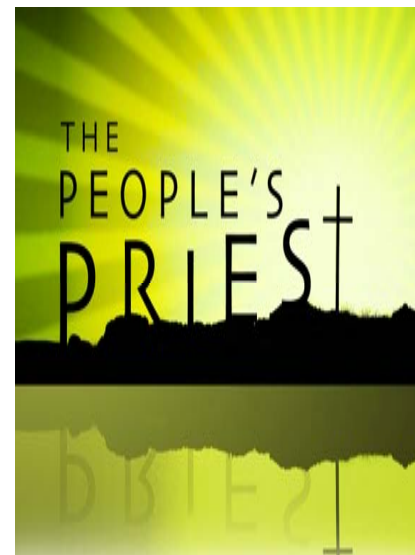
**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Martyne Gilleland, Hugh Jackson, Carolyn Mull Helen Buffington, Blackie Black, Faye Freeland, Lois Ellis, Bonnie Ellis Dave & Evelyn Smith, Mildred Holt, Margaret Barnwell, Velma Jackson Rhoda Hall, Van Smith, Pam Johnston, Sgt. Benjamin Stewart, Jinnifer Hoyla, Shirley Bryant, Bill 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



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

The People's Priest	1-2
Young Adults Retreat	2
UMW Spiritual Event	2
Playground Cleanup Day	3
Fun for Seniors	3
Work Day Offering	3
UMM Annual Retreat	3

**ARTICLES FOR  
 OCTOBER SKYWRITER  
 DUE SEPTEMBER 20**



# Skywriter

## From the Pastor's Desk

*by Rev. John Freeland*

Calling has become such an easy thing that it has virtually lost its Biblical meaning. With home phones and cell phones, being "called" can be a problem. It seems we can't get away from being "called." I remember seeing a picture of a car from the 50s that had a phone in it. It was an amazing thing back then. Now just about everyone has a phone in their *pocket*. (Don't you hate it when the person checking out in front of you in the grocery store self-check-out lane is talking on their cell phone!) Hebrews 3:1 tells us that we who are saved are "partakers of a heavenly calling." What is the "heavenly calling" all about?

A heavenly calling might be considered much like a vocation, but let's not confuse a vocation with a job or even a career. It rains and the grass grows and eventually must be cut. For most of us this is a job – something that must be done – which we may or may not enjoy. For others, who own a landscaping business, this is a career. A vocation has much more to do with calling and lifestyle. We might say that a job is something you do, a career is something you follow, but a vocation is something you fulfill. As "partakers of a heavenly calling" we fulfill God's purpose for us.

In Exodus 19:5-6 God issued such a heavenly calling to the Israelites whom He had delivered from slavery and led out of Egypt. God called them to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." This was not a job offer or a career path. This was a vocation – a way of life. They were to be priests 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. They were to be holy all the time – not just on the Sabbath.

"You are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9) We, who believe in Jesus, are partakers of a heavenly calling, a holy vocation. We, like the Israelites of Exodus 19, are a royal priesthood and a holy nation. We have a purpose, a vocation. We are to preach and proclaim the Good News of Jesus who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. This is indeed a high and holy calling – and an impossible task – but it is equally impossible for any person to come out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

**Continued on page 2**

**From the Pastor's Desk cont'd.**

Therefore, transformation is required. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:17, said "If anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." This calling from darkness to marvelous light *is* possible because through faith in Jesus we

are transformed to be new creatures. What is past is past. It is over and done with if we have repented.

Joyfully partake of this heavenly calling. Take up the vocation of priest to the nations. Preach the Good News and give testimony that the Lord is Good. Proclaim

His Excellencies. Walk in newness of life. Act like a new creature. Don't allow the past to haunt you any longer. Forgive and be forgiven. "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession." Rejoice!

Your servant,




**YOUNG ADULTS**

The Young Adult Fellowship group is heading to the Baumann's lake house, **Friday & Saturday, September 18-19** for their annual retreat. You are invited to drive down on Friday evening for a time of relaxation by the lake or just come for the day on Saturday. Meals and snacks will be provided. Please bring your Bible and bathing suit. Children are welcome and remember to invite your friends! Please RSVP to Kristen Wages by **September 16** so we can plan for the meals. Please call Kristen at (404) 323-7221 or send an email to [kurd819@gmail.com](mailto:kurd819@gmail.com) if you would like to participate. Directions will be provided as the date approaches. Hope to see you there.



**Women's Fellowship**

The Atlanta Emory United Methodist Women invite you to a time of Spiritual Renewal on **Saturday, September 19** at Clarkston UMC from **9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.** Renita Thomas, Associate Director of North Georgia Connectional Ministries will be the guest speaker. The cost of the event is \$8/person before September 12 and \$10/person afterwards. Please invite your friends, relatives and neighbors to "*Come to the Table*" for spiritual renewal and fellowship. For registration info please contact Mary Freeman at (404) 261-8572 by **September 9.**

Weekly Attendance & Offerings				
	7/19	7/26	8/2	8/9
Small Groups	48	60	50	65
10:00 Service	50	51	50	65
11:00 Service	40	60	58	57
Mile of Pennies	8.70	27.50	29.35	9.00
General Funds	3,286.70	5,431.73	9,852.65	5,252.00
Designated Funds	644.67	1,055.57	92.00	----

Designated Funds	
Mission Trip - Andy	700.00
MOP Interest	344.67
Library - In honor of Edna Williams by Friendship Class	25.00
Evangelism	120.00
Property Maintenance	60.57
Choir	10.00
Good Samaritan	22.00
Postage	10.00



Please join us on **September 5** to help work on the playground beginning at 9:00 a.m. We need to pull weeds and spread new mulch. Bring work gloves, shovels and



**Fun for Seniors**

The Sky Angels will meet in the dining area on **Thursday, September 10.** Please bring a covered dish to share and invite your friends to come and hear "*Little Rickey*" sing some of our



**Work Day Offering**

The Work Day Offering for the United Methodist Children's Home is taken once each year by the churches of the North Georgia Conference to provide a significant portion of the operating income of the Children's Home. Please give generously to the Work Day Offering

All Skyland Men are invited to attend the 47th Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat at Rock Eagle (**September 25-27**). Plan now to attend this awesome spiritual weekend! The keynote speaker is former NFL player Bill Glass, founder of Bill Glass Ministries. Pastor John will present a workshop on "*How to thrive in a spiritual storm*". For more information, please call John Holt at (770) 452-7307.