



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER I

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 4, 2009

Winter Drifts

Every year, people make New Year's resolutions. They generally look something like this:

- *Lose weight*
- *Exercise more*
- *Stop swearing*
- *Save more money*
- *Get organized*

And every year, we break them. We gain instead of losing; swear while standing on the scales; lose the deposit slips...there goes the organization part. So we generally go on with the same old familiar faults and failings that have plagued us for years. The only change is that we feel worse about ourselves for having failed. If that's the result, what's the point of making resolutions?

Maybe it's time to try a new approach. What if, instead of focusing on our shortcomings and resolving to overcome them through an effort of will, we try something more positive and grace-filled? This year, instead of "resolving," I invite you to join me in "believing!" Let me suggest some "beliefs" to practice each day (feel free to add your own!):

1. Believe in yourself, for you are marvelously endowed by your Creator.
2. Believe in the now, yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come.
3. Believe in your family, and create harmony by trust and cooperation.
4. Believe in your church; you encourage others to attend by attending yourself.
5. Believe in your neighbor, for the more friends you can make, the happier you will be.
6. Believe in this day, for every minute contains an opportunity to do good.
7. Believe in uprightness, for you can't go wrong doing right.
8. Believe in your decisions; consult God first, then go ahead.
9. Believe in God's promises; God means it when God says, "I am with you always."
10. Believe in God's mercy; if God forgives you, you can forgive yourself - and try again tomorrow.

I'll be looking for you each Sunday at the "Believing Place" - Gainesville First UMC!

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Steve Winter, Executive Pastor

Worship Services

"Trash or Treasure?"

Jeremiah 31:7-14
8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m.,
Traditional Service
Rev. Tom Jones

*Loving and Serving God as
We Love and Serve All People*

"What Gift Can I Give?"

Matthew 2:1-12
10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Praise & Worship Service
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE
12/28/2008

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	179
10:55 a.m. Combined	389
Worship Totals	568
Sunday School	187

Christmas Eve Services

12 Noon	351
5 p.m.	919
7 p.m.	493
9 p.m.	355
11 p.m.	302
Total	2,420

THE UMW THANKS YOU

God bless you for your generous response in these difficult times. Because of your gifts of food boxes, food items, and cash, 109 families (more than twice the number we took in last year) received boxes for their Christmas dinner through Good News at Noon. There was also a substantial surplus of additional food items that we used to help restock our local food pantry which will help meet ongoing needs.

Marcia Price, UMW President



Women's Coffee Gathering
Tuesday, January 6, 2009
10 a.m in the Gathering Room

You are invited to celebrate all the new year can bring to your life spiritually and through fellowship with other women. Sign up for winter classes and start this year hand in hand with your girlfriends and God. Call Nancy Mote at 770.536.2341 to RSVP.

This Winter...Get Connected!

WINTER KICK-OFF & SUPPER
Wednesday, January 7, 2009



Winter is a time to let our soul rest snuggled up in the cozy blanket of God's love. It is a time for reading and renewal, for deep thinking and devotions. Take advantage of the variety of ways in which you can use this time of winter rest to prepare your spiritual life to burst forth into bloom this year. On page four, are many ways to tend your spirit while the winter fires of fellowship and love burn brightly. Additional information on each of the new spiritual growth opportunities is available in the winter brochure.



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS
Saturday, January 10, 2009
7:45 a.m. to 12 noon

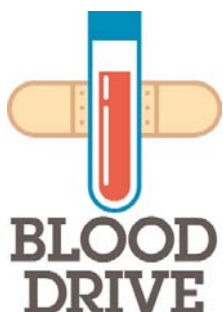
If you are serving on a committee in the year 2009, we hope that you will make every effort to attend this orientation and training event. A nursery will be provided. Contact **Jackie Powers** in the Church Office to sign up.

GAINESVILLE DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT

Sunday, January 11, 2009
3 - 5:30 p.m. at GFUMC



Please plan to attend this informative training event for clergy and church laity that is sponsored by the Gainesville District. Many exceptional workshops will be available along with excellent leaders. There will be two one-hour workshop sessions from which to choose. Registration is not required. Workshop topics and additional information are available in the Church Office.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 15
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.
in the Reception Hall

Every second someone needs blood. Help to increase the units of blood received from our congregation from the mid-twenties to a new goal of **40 units of blood per drive**. This goal can only be reached if each potential donor, anyone 17 years old weighing over 110 pounds, seriously considers giving. Don't wait for others to give, step up to the plate, and help save lives. Each unit has the potential to save three lives. Appointments are encouraged and will take priority over walk-ins. Please call the Church Office to make your appointment. A supervised children's area will be provided.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
January 7, 2009

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Vicki Bailey will be speaking on the recreation programs available at GFUMC for older adults.

A NEW SONG

Music Department News

Soundings is the newsletter for the church's music department. The first issue came out last September, and the second will be available this week.

Articles from each music area are featured, including: Chancel Choir, Children's Choirs, Bell Choir, Youth Music, Believers Band, and the Living Waters Praise Team.

At present, we are publishing three issues of *Soundings* per year: January, May, and September to cover the ensuing four months

The newsletter is mailed to members and families that are currently participating in music in the church, however copies are also available for anyone who would like to read about what's going on.

Thanks to **Lynda Petty** for editing and printing the issues. Look for your copy of *Soundings* in the mail, Church Office, or Narthex soon.

THANK YOU...

The GFUMC clergy and staff thank you for the cards, calls, gifts to the Love Offering, and other remembrances of the Christmas season that were received over the holidays. It is such a blessing for us to serve with such a loving, caring church family.

STUDENT MINISTRY

GET CONNECTED WEEKEND

January 30 - February 1, 2009



Get registered now for the "Get Connected Weekend." Forms are inside and outside the Youth Hall and in the Church Office. We also need your help in providing small group host homes for this event. If you would be interested in housing a small group of students and a college-age leader in your home, please contact David Burchett at 770.536.2341, ext. 115, or dburchett@gfumc.com. Thanks for your help!



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

February 27 - March 1, 2009
at Camp Glisson

It is time to sign up! This is always an awesome weekend for the kids, and we encourage as many parents as possible to attend. Registration forms are now available in the Youth Hall and the Church Office. Thanks for helping us get registration taken care of as early as possible!

Spring Break Mission Trips will be here before you know it. It's time to pick up your forms and let us know if you are going. The high school trip will be to New Orleans, LA, for continued Katrina relief, and the middle school trip is to Brunswick, GA, for some home repair. We hope your child will be able to join us.



CHILDREN

FAITH PRINTS

RETREAT

4th & 5th Grades
February 13 - 15



*"Now faith is being sure of
what we hope for and certain
of what we do not see."
Hebrews 11:1*

The retreat will be at Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, Georgia.

Registration forms are in the Gathering Room on Sundays and the Church Office during the week. The deadline for registration is Sunday, January 25, 2009. The cost of the retreat is \$125 per child.

PRAYER PAGERS

Pray! Dial the phone number for the person you prayed for. (You will hear 3 beeps.) Dial 111# & hang up.

Let these people know that you are thinking of and praying for them.

Gail Church

a friend of Lisa Bisson
770.201.1041

Margot Mickle

770.201.0320

Faye Shadburn

770.201.0429

Katie Tulin

1.800.225.3412

Prayer Pagers are available for you or a friend to use. If you would like to receive a Prayer Pager, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova**.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities for Adults this Winter...

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL

The 3D Plan for Eating Right, Living Well, and Loving God

By Carol Showalter
with Maggie Davis

Facilitated by Lori Floyd R.N.

Blended or Step Families: Making it Work

Offered in conjunction with the
Care and Counseling
Center of Gainesville

Facilitated by Deborah Medearis

Conversational Spanish I and II

Facilitated by Cille Bishop,
Iris Lawson, and Maria Wold

Parents Round Table

Facilitated by Kristen Green

Parenting in the Age of "Whatever!"

Facilitated by Jeff Black

*Talking in the Dark: Praying
when Life Doesn't Make Sense*

by Steve Harper

Facilitated by Dr. Terry Walton

FOR WOMEN

Christ Centered Yoga

Facilitated by Becky Martin, RYT

Esther:

It's Tough Being a Woman

by Beth Moore

Facilitated by Ginny Crumley

The Love Dare

Facilitated by Meredith Pierce

Refresh/Recharge (for women)

*Having a Mary Heart
in a Martha World*

by Joanna Weaver

Facilitated by Kay Walker
and Lee Highsmith

S.A.L.T.

Seven Areas of Life Training

Facilitated by Ouida Stough

Wednesday Night Women

*Living Beyond Yourself:
Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit*

by Beth Moore

Facilitated by Sharon Walton

FOR MEN

Tuesday Morning Bible Study:

First and Second Samuel

Facilitated by Dr. Terry Walton

Wild at Heart Men's Group

Facilitated by David Lee

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Disciple: Invitation to Genesis

Facilitated by Miriam Welling
and Bill Morrison

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Crown Financial Study

Facilitated by Judy Miller
and Steve Clever

Seven Pillars of Health

Facilitated by Lori Floyd R.N.

*Sign up for any of these
classes at the Winter Kick-off
on Wednesday, January 7,
or in the Church Office.*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Winter Kick-off -- January 7, 2009

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. in the GREAT Room

Beef Roast, Baked Potato,
Seasoned Baby Carrots, Biscuits,
Garden Salad Bar, Pasta Salad, Sliced Peaches with
Cottage Cheese, and Double Chocolate Cake.

Kid's Meal: Hamburgers

Make your supper reservation while browsing online at www.gfumc.com/family_supper. Don't have access to the internet? Don't worry! Call **Mildred Smith** at 770.536.2341, ext. 143, by Monday at 12 noon to make your reservation.

GRIEFSHARE

Begins Sunday, January 25, 2009

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Room S-05



GriefShare is a weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It's a place where people understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. For more information or to register, call the Church Office. The cost of the workbook is \$20.

BALLROOM DANCE BEGINS - ARE YOU READY?

Thursday, January 8 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Hall



Get out your dancing shoes and join us! Cost is \$30 per couple (members) and \$35 per couple (non-members). Instructor is **Jean Hawkins**. Call the Church Office to sign up.



Sharing Christmas

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Gainesville First UMC

understands what it means to reach beyond the walls of the church. As a result of your generosity, 25 families were provided Christmas assistance through our Outreach and Congregational Care

Ministries. This does not include a number of families that were helped directly through the outreach efforts of various groups and Sunday School classes.

In addition, during this Advent season, 69 of our members who are homebound or are in assisted living facilities were visited by volunteers from the church. The volunteers delivered gift bags prepared by members of the Congregational Care Council.

Our United Methodist Women led a food drive that produced 109 boxes of food for Good News At Noon. Because of the abundance of food donated, we were also able to help stock the Food Pantry during a critical time of need.

Through the work of the Evangelism Committee, 60 residents and staff at the Youth Detention Center were provided a meal. The meal was served on Christmas placemats that were decorated by the children of our church. The residents received gifts that included over 25 card games and more than 80 bottles of shampoo, lotion, and hair gel. They also participated in a time of worship and a celebration of God's love which was led by our Living Waters Praise Team.

And finally, our donations to date to the Murphy-Harpst Children's home to date have exceeded \$8,100! Thank you for your support and generous demonstration of the true spirit of Christmas. Always remember the words of Jesus who said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Thanks be to God!

Food Pantry Drive

January 18 - 25



The Community Food Pantry is in need of food items to stock their supply pantry. Some of the nonperishable items they are requesting are: beans of any kind, Ramen noodles, grits, oatmeal, and canned meats. Look for additional information on this collection in the next *Bridge* newsletter and in the Sunday worship bulletins.

Calendar

JANUARY 4 - 11, 2009

SUNDAY - January 4

- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 9:00 Library open (through 11 a.m.)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:55 J.A.M. - Jesus and Me (Children's Church)
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship Service
- 10:55 Traditional Worship
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Christian Believer
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 Disciple II
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth fellowship)
- 5:00 Live B.I.G Winter Kick-off. (Children's Program)

MONDAY - January 5

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library open
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 10:00 First Monday Circle
- 4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
- 6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 6:30 Basketball Practice
- 6:30 Evangelism Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Health & Wellness Meeting
- 7:30 Adult Basketball

TUESDAY - January 6

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Intercessory Prayer Group
- 9:00 Cardio Pump Aerobics
- 9:00 Library open
- 9:30 Believers Band Practice
- 10:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 10:00 Women's Coffee Gathering
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 6:30 Stephen Minister Training
- 7:00 UMW: Mission Action Meeting

WEDNESDAY - January 7

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper, Winter Kick-off & Registration
- 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:15 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY - January 8

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:30 Christian Believer
- 9:30 Disciple III
- 6:00 Basketball Practice
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - January 9

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 12:00 50+ Planning Meeting
- 1:00 Prayer Shawls
- 7:15 Emmaus

SATURDAY - January 10

- 7:30 Day of Service & Mission
- 7:45 Equipping the Saints
- 12:00 Adult Ministries Team Meeting
- 12:00 Young Adult Volunteer Meeting/Lunch

SUNDAY - January 11

- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:55 J.A.M. - Jesus and Me (Children's Church)
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Traditional Worship
- 2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806 Meeting
- 3:00 District Training Event
- 4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 Live B.I.G
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth grades 6-12)
- 5:30 7 Pillars of Health
- 5:30 Christian Believer
- 5:30 Disciple I
- 5:30 Disciple II

2009 GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

"FUN" RAISER NEWS

Bingo Anyone?

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Dinner at 6 p.m., games at 7 p.m.

An exciting night of BBQ, Bingo, fabulous prizes and a live auction for homemade cakes. Fun for family and friends of all ages! Save the date!



ATTENTION! Calling all Cooks!

Do you love to bake? Do you have a delicious cake recipe? We need you! Homemade cakes are needed for the GDS "fun"raiser cake auction. Call **Ellen Scott** at 770.287.7324 or **Jaimie Harrison** at 770.297.8118 for information.

Contact Us

If you have an emergency after office hours, on the weekend, or over a holiday, and need to speak with a pastor, please call the Church Office at 770.536.2341. The voice mail recording gives you the option to select an emergency contact. Press "5" and follow the instructions. Thank you.

Pastoral Staff at Gainesville First United Methodist Church:

Name	Title	ext..	Email
Rev. David Burchett	Director of Student Ministry	115	dburchett@gfumc.com
Rev. Wendy Cordova	Pastor of Evangelism & Lay Ministry	135	wcordova@gfumc.com
Rev. Debby Fox	Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship	149	dfox@gfumc.com
Rev. Tom Jones	Pastor of Congregational Care & Older Adults	119	tjones@gfumc.com
Dr. Terry Walton	Senior Pastor	109	twalton@gfumc.com
Dr. Steve Winter	Executive Pastor	141	swinter@gfumc.com

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Website: www.gfumc.com • Preschool Phone: 770.534.0409

CARE AND COUNSELING CENTER of Gainesville



You are not alone. Counseling can help and heal. Call 770.533.5702 for an appointment or for more information.

DEVOTION & PRAYER LINE

Call 678-343-2733 to hear a brief devotional and prayer from one of the pastors of GFUMC. Prayer requests are forwarded to the pastoral staff.



UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES?

Listen to the radio broadcast of the 10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship Service on AM 1240 WGGA.

UMW MEETINGS...

First Monday Circle

Monday, January 5 at 10 a.m.

Mission Action

Tuesday, January 6 at 7 p.m.

WALK TO BETHLEHEM



We've come a long way. Are you weary? Always remember that no matter what trials you face, you are never alone. You can walk with confidence because the Lord is walking right beside you. Take some time this week to reflect on where you place your hope and what that means. Walk with confidence and determination. Let's walk this week with the One who gives us hope eternal.

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31



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