



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 1

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 6, 2008

There are 366 days in this New Year. It is a leap year, which means for those persons who have birthdays on February 29 they can actually have “their” day this year. There are 52 weeks this year with 52 opportunities for work and play. It is a New Year with new possibilities and new adventures.



But before we talk about the New Year, let's talk about “*First Things First.*” My mom and dad cautioned us as children “not to get the cart before the horse,” so I’m inviting us to consider this wise ole’ saying about carts and horses. It seems to me that before we can talk about Monday through Saturday, that we need to talk about Sunday, the first day of the week. How will we spend our Sundays this year? I encourage us to put “*first things first*” with a statement of worship on the first day of the week each week. What would your year be like if “every” week you worshipped God in God’s house? When you are in town, worship with your faith community. When you are out of town, take time and find a place of worship. You will make a statement of “*first things first*” to your soul, your children, and your friends. I believe before we can live Monday through Saturday with any kind of real fulfillment, that we must first worship on Sunday, the day of Resurrection.

In our family we eat black-eyed peas and collards on New Year’s Day. Why? Because tradition teaches the more of those you eat, the more dollars and cents you will have in the New Year. But let’s talk “*first things first.*” Before I can feel good about spending whatever dollars and cents come my way in 2008, I must first make a statement of gratitude and faith to God with my first fruits. If I give God my first 10% of dollars and cents then I am a better equipped steward of the remaining 90% God allows me to use for my family and life. I challenge and invite you to put “*first things first*” in your personal economics this year. You will be amazed at the difference it makes in your life.

It is a New Year. Let’s make sure it is a blessed year by putting “*First Things First.*”

With Love and Care,

Worship Services

“The First Thing”

Matthew 2:1-12

8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m.

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Dr. Terry Walton

“What Gift Will You Bring?”

Matthew 2:1-12

10:55 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Living Waters Contemporary Worship

Rev. Wendy Cordova



Holy Communion will be served during all worship services.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

12 Noon: 351
5 p.m.: 934
7 p.m.: 571
9 p.m.: 402
11 p.m.: 285

Christmas Eve Totals: 2,543

ATTENDANCE 12/30/07

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary: 187
10:55 a.m. Combined Worship: 365
Worship Totals: 552
Sunday School: 217

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Narthex are to the glory of God and in honor of our grandmother, **Carol Thibadeau**, and in loving memory of our grandparents, **Jack & Virginia Francis** and **Bill Thibadeau**, given by Paul, Dan, and Carla Francis.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in memory of **Bob Molloy**, given by his family.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In order to protect the privacy of our members we will not print the information that is normally listed under this heading in the online version of *The Bridge*.

If you are a member of GFUMC and would like to have access to this information, please contact Jackie Powers in the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

Go to www.gfumc.com/gds for updates on all the Great Day of Service activities.



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

TRAINING EVENT

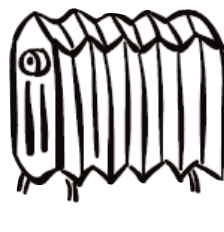
Saturday, January 12
7:45 a.m. - 12 noon

There will be an orientation of all church leaders serving during the year 2008. If you serve on a committee, we hope that you will make every effort to attend. It will be a great way for the church leadership to begin a new year together as we set the course for God's call upon us in 2008.

Nursery will be provided. Please contact **Jackie Powers** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341 ext. 102 to sign up or if you have any questions.

HEATER COLLECTION

January 6 - 13



Collection containers will be in the Gathering Room and outside the GREAT Room in the MAC area. New and slightly used heaters are greatly appreciated for families in our community. Heaters will be distributed through **Gainesville Action Ministries**.

This collection is sponsored by the Outreach Ministry Team.

WINTER BIBLE STUDIES

COMING IN JANUARY

Are you looking for a New Year's resolution that you can actually keep? Step up your faith in 2008 and join one of the 11 new Bible Studies that are slated to begin this January. You can find out more information on the upcoming Bible studies and register online at www.gfumc.com. If you do not have Internet access you may also register by calling the Church Office at 770.536.2341. (Additional information is also on page 4 of this edition of *The Bridge*.)



GAINESVILLE DISTRICT

TRAINING EVENT

Sunday, January 13, 2008
3 - 5:30 p.m. at GFUMC



This is open to laity and clergy of the Gainesville District churches and will be held at GFUMC. There will be two one-hour sessions on the following topics: Finance Committee & Treasurers, Lay Leaders, Secretaries, Local Church Structures, Congregational Care, Training for Disaster Relief, Excellence in Worship, Personal Evangelism, Natural Church Development, Cemetery, Personal Gifts, History and Archives, Tax Law, UMW, SPR Committee, and Hispanic Ministries.

Call the Church Office at 770.536.2341 to register or for more information.

JOIN THE SONG!



We are at the beginning of a New Year! It is a great time for you to join one of GFUMC's musical ensembles.

The **Chancel Choir**, the church's main service choir, meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room (Room N-104). The choir presents a wide variety of music, from classical to spirituals, throughout the year.

The **Youth Choir** meets on Sundays at 4 p.m. and sings for services throughout the school year. The **Music and Mission Tour** is a highlight in the early summer for Youth Choir members.

The five choirs for children include the **Cherub Choir** (3's), **Celestial Choir** (4's), **Celebration Choir** (5's), **Carol Choir** (Grades 1 and 2), and the **Festival Choir** (Grades 3, 4, and 5).

There are two handbell choirs, the **Adult Handbell Choir** which meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and the **Youth Bells** which meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

New members are always welcome in any group, and you'll find a warm, friendly greeting in the music ministry.

Call the Music Office at 770.536.2341, ext. 110 for more information on any of the music ensembles.

OLDER ADULTS



GADABOUTS

Wednesday, January 9
11 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Dot Dusenberry will provide a motivational program. Invite a friend to join us in the New Year.

COTTON PATCH GOSPEL

Cotton Patch Dinner Theater
Saturday, January 26, 2008

Ya'll join us for an evening of southern art, food, and music!
All proceeds fund Great Day of Service projects.

\$30 per person.
(\$15 tax deductible.)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



CSI:

CHRISTIAN SCENE INVESTIGATION
SEEKING THE TRUTH THROUGH JESUS
4TH AND 5TH GRADE RETREAT
FEBRUARY 8-10
Camp Glisson
Cost: \$100

Registration forms are in the Gathering Room and the Church Office. Sign up by **January 27, 2008.**

STUDENT MINISTRY

THE HARBOR

Everything is back to normal for our student ministry beginning this Sunday night at **The Harbor**.

Join us from 5 - 7 p.m.
in the Youth Hall.

This month we will be answering questions on Christianity that were submitted by our own students. The questions we've received so far have been outstanding! Below are our topics for the next few weeks:

January 6 - The Nature of God

January 13 - Free Will

January 20 - Prayer

January 27 - Evangelism

Invite a friend to join us at **The Harbor** in the New Year.

Everyone is welcome!

Parents: No matter what your child says, you are always welcome to attend!

UMW CIRCLE NEWS



Monday, January 14

10 a.m. at the home of

Myra Harris,

3635 Hanover Drive, Gainesville.



Monday, January 21

11 a.m. at the home of

Sandy Cole,

6455 Pointe Twenty-two Drive,
Gainesville.



GriefShare

Begins **Sunday, January 27**
5 p.m. in Room S-22

The holidays are a difficult time of year for those who have lost loved ones. The Congregational Care Committee has decided to begin *GriefShare*, a friendly caring group of people who will walk alongside of you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You do not have to go through the grieving process alone. To register contact **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341 ext. 139 or email her at bswenson@gfumc.com.

BEGINNING THIS WEEK...

Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study:

The Study of the Old Testament -

Person and Book of Job

Begins Tuesday, January 8

7 - 8 a.m. in the Reception Hall

There is no cost to attend. This Bible study is ongoing. Facilitated by Dr. Terry Walton.

Islam, Christianity, & Judaism

Begins Wednesday, January 9

6 - 7 p.m. in Room S-06

This 6-week study is facilitated by **Russ Francis**.

Pastor's Bible Study: The Study of the Old

Testament - Person and Book of Job

Begins Wednesday, January 9

6 - 7 p.m. in the Gathering Room

There is no cost to attend. This 4-week study is facilitated by **Dr. Terry Walton**.

John: The Fourth Gospel

Wednesday Evening Men's Study

Begins Wednesday, January 9

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Room S-13

There is no cost to attend. This ongoing study is facilitated by **Rev. Tom Jones**.

Refresh/Recharge: James by Anne Graham Lotz

Begins Wednesday, January 9

6 - 7:30 p.m. in Room S-12

Facilitated by **Lee Highsmith** and **Kay Walker**.

Additional Bible studies are being offered in Winter 2008.

Visit our website www.gfumc.com for additional information or call the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY



Please Pray for:

Emily Glass

770.390.4115

Tonya Gore

Angela Burrell's niece

770.220.4079

Diane Hanes

Shirley Brewster's niece

770.269.0131

Don Little

770.390.4021

Snow Family

770.220.4134

Katie Tulin

1.800.200.6848

Sherry Weeks

770.390.4105

~

**Let them know you
are thinking of
them. It's easy!**

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY



PRAYER QUILTS

& PRAYER SHAWLS

Do you have unused remnants of fabric or skeins of yarn you no longer need? Consider donating them to the **Prayer Quilt or Prayer Shawl Ministry**. This is a ministry that combines prayer with the creation of beautiful quilts and shawls that are given to individuals who are experiencing personal crisis. If you have donations or are interested in obtaining more information about these ministries, contact **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse at 770.536.2341, ext. 144. Collection bin is located in the Church Office.

HEARTSAVER

CPR CLASS

Saturday, February 9

9 a.m. - 12 noon

in the Adult Lobby



The Health and Wellness Ministry is offering CPR Training. CPR is a life-saving course which is invaluable in case of an emergency in the home, workplace, or anywhere you go. Cost for the course is \$15 and includes materials. Register online at www.gfumc.com or by calling **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341, ext. 139.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE

At the last meeting of the Outreach Ministry Team, Gainesville First United Methodist Church presented Robb Owens, Executive Director of Hall County Habitat for Humanity a check for \$15,000.

This check is our initial payment for a cooperative three house, multiple church "Trinity House" build which will begin in early 2008. The three houses will be built in the Black and Cooley Drive area of Gainesville. This is yet another example of the ways that Gainesville First UMC is involved in the community. You will be receiving more information about this building effort, and learning about ways that you can provide "helping hands."



HOMEBOUND VISITATION MINISTRY

This is a new ministry program of outreach and care. Your help is needed. You will become a part of a team of volunteers who will be asked to select one of our homebound members as your care receiver for one year. You will then make one personal visit a month and maintain contact once a week by phone or written correspondence. An orientation luncheon will be held on **Thursday, January 24, at 12 noon**. If you are interested in participating in this new opportunity for ministry, please contact **Rev. Tom Jones** at 770-536-2341 or at tjones@gfumc.com.

IS EVERYTHING REALLY MEANINGLESS?

*A study of the Old Testament
book of Ecclesiastes*
Starts **January 6, at 9:45 a.m.**
in **Room S-01**



Are you looking for an adult Sunday School Class? Please visit the **Builders Class** as we begin an exciting new series on the Old Testament book of *Ecclesiastes*. This will be an interesting, informative, and fun in-depth Bible Study! Come grow with the Builders! Visitors are welcome at any time!

Calendar

JANUARY 6 - 13, 2008

SUNDAY - January 6

8:30 Traditional Worship
9:45 Library open until 11 a.m.
9:45 Sunday School
10:55 Kid's Church
10:55 Living Waters Contemporary Worship
10:55 Traditional Worship
4:00 Youth Choir
5:00 Disciple I
5:00 The Harbor

MONDAY - January 7

9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
4:00 Bible Club & Tutoring
5:30 Youth Basketball Practice (until 7:30 p.m.)
6:30 Disciple II
6:30 Parish Nurse Meeting
7:30 Adult Bells
7:30 Adult Basketball

TUESDAY - January 8

7:00 Men's Bible Study
9:00 Intercessory Prayer Group
9:30 Believers Band Practice
9:30 Tallulah Fall Study Club Meeting
5:00 Youth Basketball Practice (until 9 p.m.)
6:00 Believers Band Practice
7:00 Mission Action Meeting
7:00 Stephen Ministry Meeting
7:30 MLC Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - January 9

9:00 Aerobics
11:00 Gadabouts
3:00 Bridge
4:00 Mime Practice
5:00 Family Supper
5:00 PD Surfer's Rehearsal
6:00 Children's Choirs
6:00 Children's Council & Friends
6:00 Disciple IV
6:00 Islam, Christianity, & Judaism
6:00 Pastor's Bible Study: Old Testament
Person & Book of Job
6:00 Refresh/Recharge: James
6:00 Youth Bells
6:15 Youth Bible Studies
6:30 Living Waters Praise Team
6:30 Men's Bible Study: John
6:45 Children's Bible Studies
7:00 Chancel Choir

THURSDAY - January 10

9:00 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
10:00 MOPS
1:00 Prayer Quilts
4:00 Youth Basketball Practice (until 9 p.m.)
6:30 Beacon Planning Team Meeting
7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - January 11

9:00 Aerobics
10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
1:00 Prayer Shawls
4:00 Youth Basketball Practice (until 7 p.m.)
7:30 Emmaus

SATURDAY - January 12

7:45 Equipping the Saints

SUNDAY - January 13

8:30 Traditional Worship
9:30 New Member Brunch
9:45 Library open til 11 a.m.
9:45 Sunday School
10:55 Kid's Church
10:55 Living Waters Contemporary Worship
10:55 Traditional Worship
3:00 District Training Event
4:00 Youth Choir
5:00 The Harbor
7:00 MSL

Blood DRIVE

*Give the gift of
life this year!*

Wednesday, January 16

2:30 - 7:30 p.m.

in the Adult Lobby

*Sponsored by the
Parish Nurse Ministry.*

Welcome Back!

FAMILY SUPPER
Wednesday, January 9

5 - 6:30 p.m. in the GREAT Room

**Southern Style Chili with Beans, Baked
Potatoes, Cheese Biscuits, Salad Bar,
Broccoli Salad, Fresh Fruit, and Carrot Cake.**
Kid's Meal: Pizza & Chips



Cost: \$5/adult, \$3/child, \$15 family maximum. Call **Stan Bearden** at 770.536.2341 ext. 114, by Monday at 12 noon each week to make your reservation for supper.

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 & Discipleship	135	wcordova@gfumc.com
Rev. Debby Fox	Pastor of Christian Education	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

2780 Thompson Bridge Road, NE • Gainesville, Georgia 30506

Church Office Phone: 770.536.2341 • Fax: 770.534.7914

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.



MAKING MARRIAGE WORK:

A Biblical Look at Marriage
by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott

The Family Matters Sunday School class invites you to join them for a NEW! 4-week study beginning **Sunday, January 6, 2008.**

Family Matters meets on Sunday mornings from 9:55-10:45 a.m. in Room S-02, off the Adult Lobby. For more information, please contact **Lisa Bisson** at 770.530.8025.

Extra! Extra!

The Bridge is now online at www.gfumc.com. Each week you can go to the church's website and click to view a PDF of the weekly newsletter. You can also view the church calendar online. We hope that you will enjoy using these new features as we continue to keep you informed!



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