



The BRIDGE

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NUMBER 2

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 11, 2009

I'm not sure why, but as a junior in High School I decided I would run for Student Body President of Griffin High School. I had lost in an attempt to be the Student Body President at Spalding County Junior High School when I was in the eighth grade. Maybe I was a glutton for punishment and defeat, or maybe I was driven with ambition. Whatever the reason, I ran for President.



We ran on tickets of President and Vice-President which meant I had to find a running mate. I chose Clifford Harps who was African-American and a really great guy. We worked hard and had fun preparing for our campaign. We knew it was an uphill battle because our opponents were two of the most popular guys in school. We believed in what some said would be impossible. One of our slogans still remains in my memory today: "You're in Good Hands with Walton and Harps." It was plastered on a huge poster with a white hand and a black hand mimicking the popular All State Insurance logo and slogan. Another slogan I remember was "Together We Can Make a Difference." This theme was on another huge poster of a white hand and a black hand holding a gavel together. The campaign occurred just 18 months after Griffin-Spalding County Schools integrated. The pain of those days was fresh in everyone's memory, but the determination to move forward was also very present.

I mention this because this month will mark a significant point in our history. An African-American will become President of the United States of America. Whether he was our candidate or not, we must agree this is a momentous occasion. I do think it makes a huge statement to our children, grandchildren, nation, and our world. Regardless of the odds, we can achieve great things in this nation and world. We have a God-given ability to reach beyond ourselves and grasp dreams we never thought possible.

I hope we will take time this month and make sure we pause and notice how, in some areas, we are maturing as a human race. I know there is much trouble in our world and there is much uncertainty in our future but I have been reminded by the upcoming inauguration that there are many barriers and immaturities that are being overcome. And for this I give thanks.

And yes, we - Walton and Harps - won the election by a margin of just over 70 votes. What seems impossible for you?

With Love and Care,

Worship Services

"Who Was Present at Your Baptism?"

Mark 1:4-11, Acts 10:1-7

What Does "Spiritual Journey"

Look Like? Sermon Series

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

Traditional Services

Dr. Terry Walton

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

"A Baptism of Belonging"

Mark 1:4-11

10:55 a.m. Living Waters

Praise & Worship Service

Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 1/4/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	288
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	140
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	497
Worship Totals	925
Sunday School	582
Watch Night Service.	56

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Bob Anderson**, 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 at 770.536.2341.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to **Mary Montgomery** on the death of her mother.

...to **Eugene Weschler** on the death of his father.

MLK HOLIDAY

The GFUMC Church and Church Office will be closed on **Monday, January 19, 2009**, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. If you have a pastoral need, please call the Church Office at 770.536.2341 and follow the telephone prompts for emergency calls.



This Winter...Get Connected!

NEW BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN

The week of Sunday, January 11

Winter is a time to let your 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. Additional information on each of the new spiritual growth opportunities is available in the winter brochure.

GAINESVILLE DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT

Sunday, January 11, 2009

3 - 5:30 p.m., beginning in the Sanctuary



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. One donor's blood can potentially help save three lives. Nationally, only five percent of eligible donors actually give blood, and in Georgia, only three percent. Almost all of us know someone who has been the recipient of a blood donation.

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. Won't you consider giving in honor of the person(s) you know?

Appointments are encouraged and will take priority over walk-ins. Please call the Church Office at 770.536.2341 to make your appointment. A supervised children's area will be provided.

THE HOSPITALITY TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Coffee Makers & Donut Servers Needed

We are searching for gracious, kind folks who will volunteer to come and "do" coffee for our members, friends, and visitors on the 5th Sundays in 2009 (there are only 4 of them!) If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341.



OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
January 14, 2009

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Mindy Liggett will be speaking about the Prayer Quilt and Prayer Shawl Ministry at GFUMC.

A NEW SONG



A new year is a wonderful time to try something new. I invite you to visit our contemporary praise and worship service, Living Waters, at 10:55 a.m. in the Reception Hall. This service includes many of the elements of the traditional service, but it also has a relaxed atmosphere featuring music provided by a praise team.

Living Waters is a ministry of our church that has been growing and changing for the past six years. Even if the worship style you prefer is a more traditional style, a visit to Living Waters would allow you to better understand and share this ministry with others in and outside our church.

We are a church of radical hospitality with varied ministries inviting people to experience the presence of God inside these walls and in their lives. Living Waters is a vital piece of that mission. Come share in worship with us and then share that experience with others. A new year is a wonderful time to try something new.

Michelle Alexander
Music Ministry Assistant & Living Waters Praise and Worship Leader

STUDENT MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS Beginning Sunday, January 11



We will begin exploring the world of financial management. The class will continue to be led by **Dan and Robin Parr**, however **Butch Bennett** and **Bobby Hammond** will join us as we take a look at finances from a biblical perspective. We will use DVDs from Dave Ramsey. We hope you will take advantage of this information before you head off to college!



DON'T FORGET!!!

Registration is now open for the Get Connected Weekend, Confirmation Retreat, and the Spring Break Mission Trips. Forms are available in the Church Office and the Youth Hall.

VBS INTERNSHIPS FOR 2009

We are now taking applications for the 2009 Youth VBS internship positions. As a youth intern, you will work alongside our VBS directors overseeing the VBS program from preparation through VBS week, June 15 – 19, 2009. You will recruit youth volunteers and act as a liaison between the youth and the VBS directors. What a great leadership position to list on college and job applications! You must be at least a rising junior in high school. If you are interested, please call **Meredith Pierce** at 770.532.8479.



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 Dahlenega, 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**.



DO YOU NEED A STEPHEN MINISTER?

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

A Stephen Minister is a caring Christian friend who listens, prays, supports, and encourages. He or she is someone who will faithfully "be there" for you to meet about an hour each week for as long as you have a need.

If you would like to receive the care of a Stephen Minister or if you want to know more about this ministry, please contact **Tom Jones**, Pastor of Congregational Care and Older Adults at 770.536.2341 or tjones@gfumc.com.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

January 14, 2009

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

Southwest Chicken, Spanish Rice, Mexican Beans, Tortilla Chips with Salsa, Garden Green Salad Bar, Pineapple with Cottage Cheese, and Key Lime Pie.

Kid's Meal: Chicken Tenders and French Fries



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.



GRIEF SHARE

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 at 770.536.2341. The cost of the workbook is \$20.

L.A.M.P. MINISTRIES Latin American Missionary Program

This year, GFUMC is in partnership with L.A.M.P. Ministries in their efforts to reach out and provide shelter for as many teens as possible of every race, color, religion, and creed.

Many of the teens that L.A.M.P. serve come from broken homes. Some are sent by Juvenile Court, others are referred by their school. Some come from gangs and off the street. Others come looking for a shelter or a place to call home.

Founded by Ruben and Mary Mauricio, this is the only program that takes kids and places them in their home for an indefinite amount of time. They work with them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

L.A.M.P. helps with in-house care, community youth programs, emergency shelter, family counseling, emergency services, and case management.

For additional information on this ministry and for ways that you can help support this organization, please contact **Tom Jones**, Pastor of Congregational Care and Older Adults.

WALK TO BETHLEHEM

The Walk to Bethlehem has ended for 2008. Our mileage total as of January 2, 2009, is 5,453 miles, which is approximately 1,000 miles short of our goal. Achieving that goal was only one of our objectives for the walk. Hopefully, you have achieved or exceeded your personal goals of improved fitness and a closer more meaningful relationship with the Savior. I would encourage you to continue to spend time pursuing improved physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

If you have mileage you have not turned in, please do so and the final mileage total will be published in next edition of *The Bridge*.

*"Don't you know that you yourselves
are God's temple and that God's
Spirit lives in you?"*

1 Corinthians 3:16



2009 GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

BINGO "FUN" RAISER

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!



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.

If you are interested in being a Team Leader for GDS, please email **Sharon Farkas** at Sharonfar@aol.com or call the Church Office at 770.536.2341 and leave a message for **Shirley Corders**.

Volunteer Registration for GDS will begin on Sunday, February 1.



Food Pantry Drive January 18 - 25

The Community Food Pantry is in need of food items to stock its supply pantry. Some of the nonperishable items requested are: beans of any kind, Ramen noodles, grits, oatmeal, and canned meats.

Following the worship services on Sunday, January 18, brown bags with an attached list of food items will be given out for convenience and easy distribution and drop-off. Bags with donated items may be returned to the church and placed in the bins located in the Gathering Room, at the MAC entrance, and near the rear entrance to the Sanctuary.



GFUMC contributed to help provide toys for all the children that attended the largest hispanic event assembled in the North Georgia Conference.
Photos by Gerald Thurman

Calendar

JANUARY 11 - 18, 2009

SUNDAY - January 11

- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Organ Familiarization Session
- 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

MONDAY - January 12

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library open
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
- 5:30 Basketball Practice (til 7:30 p.m.)
- 5:30 GDS Committee Meeting
- 6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 6:30 Prayer Ministry Team Meeting
- 7:00 Congregational Care Council
- 7:00 Emmaus
- 7:30 Adult Basketball

TUESDAY - January 13

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
- 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 Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman
- 10:00 The Love Dare
- 10:00 One on One Discipleship
- 10:00 SALT
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 6:30 Recreation Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Stephen Minister Training
- 7:00 Stephen Ministry
- 7:00 Troop 16 Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY - January 14

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library open
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper
- 6:00 3D Plan
- 6:00 Blended or Step-Families
- 6:00 Conversational Spanish I and II
- 6:00 The Jesus Challenge
- 6:00 Lighthouse (Youth grades 6-8)
- 6:00 Parenting in the Age of "Whatever!"
- 6:00 Parents Round Table
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World
- 6:00 Talking in the Dark
- 6:00 Wednesday Night Women: Living Beyond Yourself
- 6:00 Wild at Heart Men's Group
- 6:00 Youth Bell Choir
- 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:15 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY - January 15

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
- 9:00 Library open
- 9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 9:30 Christian Believer
- 9:30 Disciple III
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 12:30 Red Cross Blood Drive
- 6:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
- 6:00 North Hall Football Banquet
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - January 16

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics

SATURDAY - January 17

- 2:45 Honduras Mission Trip begins

SUNDAY - January 18

- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Organ Familiarization Session
- 10:55 J.A.M. - Jesus and Me (Children's Church)
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Traditional Worship
- 4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 7 Pillars of Health
- 5:00 Christian Believer
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 Disciple II
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth grades 6-12)
- 5:00 Invitation to Genesis
- 5:00 Live B.I.G.



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 WGG.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, tune in to WDUN 550 AM for the latest in GFUMC closings. You may also call the church answering machine at 770.536.2341 for information.



WHAT DOES "SPIRITUAL JOURNEY" LOOK LIKE?

We talk about and study from a variety of perspectives the aging process. We refer to our most senior adults as "mature" adults. But have we considered that there is a maturing process of the soul? Some call it "Spiritual Journey." The journey from being "born again" to growth into "sainthood" is just as crucial for our health and life as our physical maturation process. For the next six weeks our Senior Pastor, **Terry Walton**, will be addressing this phenomena called "spiritual journey" in a sermon series entitled "*What Does "Spiritual Journey" Look Like?*" beginning January 11 and concluding on February 15. Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us!



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