



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 2

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 13, 2008

As we continue looking at *“First Things First”* in this New Year, I am reminded of a quote I heard many years ago: “Discipline weighs ounces; regret weighs tons!” In light of that quote, I ran across these wonderful words written by a friar in Nebraska several years ago. One cannot read them without being instructed and inspired:



*“If I had my life to live over again, I'd try to make more mistakes next time.
I would relax, I would limber up, I would be sillier than I have been this trip.
I know of very few things that I would take seriously.
I would take more trips. I would be crazier.
I would climb more mountains, swim more rivers, and watch more sunsets.
I would do more walking and more looking.
I would eat more ice cream and less beans.
I would have more actual troubles, and fewer imaginary ones.*

You see, I'm one of those people who lives life prophylactically and sensible hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had it to do over again, I'd have more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else, just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead each day. I've been one of those people who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot-water bottle, a gargle, a raincoat, aspirin, and a parachute.

If I had it to do all over again I would go places, do things, and travel lighter than I have. If I had my life to live over I would start barefooted earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would play hockey more. I wouldn't make such good grades, except by accident. I would ride on merry-go-rounds. I'd pick more daisies.” (Charles R. Swindoll, *Laugh Again*)

May it be so for us in 2008. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday as we remember our Baptism together.

With Love and Care,

Worship Services

“The Day the Heavens Were Opened”

Matthew 3:13-17

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

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Dr. Terry Walton

“The Gift of the Beloved”

Matthew 3:13-17

10:55 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Living Waters Contemporary Worship

Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 1/6/08

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary: 334

10:55 a.m. Living Waters: 120

10:55 a.m. Sanctuary: 596

Worship Totals: 1,050

Sunday School: 541

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in memory of

John E. "Sonny" Buffington

and in honor of our

children and grandchildren:

Beth and David Weikel,

Elizabeth, Maggie, Bill,

Sarah, and Becca, and

Ginger and Todd Folger,

Zeke, Kristia, Amber,

and Isabella, given by

Linda Samples Buffington.

The rosebuds on the altar are to the glory of God and in

honor of the birth of

Virginia Leigh Rogers

and **William Lee Rogers IV.**

Proud parents are

Lee and Kara Rogers.

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

GAINESVILLE DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT

Sunday, January 13

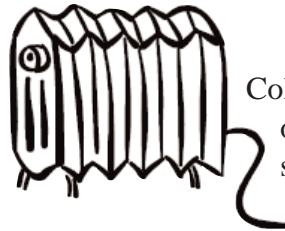
3 - 5:30 p.m. at GFUMC

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. Reservations are not required for the District Training Event. If you wish to attend, just show up to the opening session in the Sanctuary at 3 p.m.



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

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

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 begin this month. 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.



PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY

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

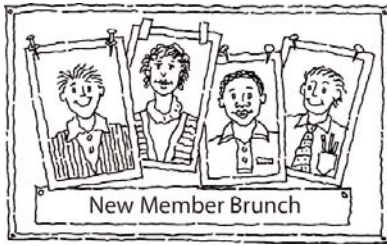
770.390.4105



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.

NEW TO GFUMC?



Did you become a member of GFUMC in 2007?

If so, the Pastors and Staff would like to invite you to the **New Member Brunch** on **Sunday, January 13** at **9:30 a.m.** in the GREAT Room. Please R.S.V.P. to **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341 ext. 139 or bswenson@gfumc.com.

GRIEFSHARE



GriefShare

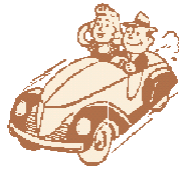
Begins **Sunday, January 27**
5 p.m. in Room S-22

You do not have to go through the grieving process alone. **GriefShare**, a friendly caring group of people will walk alongside of you through one of life's most difficult experiences. To register, contact **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341, ext. 139 or email Beth at bswenson@gfumc.com.



Keith and April Cox have provided GFUMC a scrapbook with detailed information and pictures of their ministry with the CCCD in Jamaica to keep in the Library. Continue to keep this family in your thoughts and prayers in the New Year.

OLDER ADULTS



GADABOUTS

Wednesday, January 16
11 a.m. in the Reception Hall
Jimmy Cutrell will provide a musical program.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CSI:
CHRISTIAN SCENE
INVESTIGATION



4TH AND 5TH GRADE RETREAT
FEBRUARY 8 - 10
Camp Glisson, Cost: \$100

Join us as we seek the Truth through Jesus. Registration forms are in the Gathering Room and the Church Office. Sign up by **January 27, 2008.**



We are now taking applications for the **2008 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 16-20, 2008. You will recruit youth volunteers and act as a liason between the youth and the VBS directors. *What a great leadership position to list on college applications!* You must be at least a rising junior in high school. If you are interested, please call **Meredith Pierce** at 770.532.8479.

STUDENT MINISTRY

THE HARBOR

Come join us for a month of **Questions & Answers** along with game shows, and as always, a great time of worship. If you've ever had questions about your faith or Christianity, we'll be addressing these during the month of January. This week we'll be looking at the issue of "free will."

Forms will be out soon for the **Spring Break Mission Trip** to Ringold, Georgia, **GAP: Gainesville Aid Project**, and **BigStuf**.

Thanks to all of the kids who came in over the Christmas school break and helped us clean up, straighten up, and do some painting in the Youth Hall. You guys and girls are great. The Youth Hall looks great too!!!

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.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE NEWS

COTTON PATCH GOSPEL

Somethin's Brewin' in Gainesville!

What would the Gospel have been like if Jesus had been born in an old, abandoned trailer out behind the Dixie-Delite Motor Lodge in Gainesville, Georgia? Ever wonder? *Cotton Patch Gospel*, the "Greatest Story Ever Re-told," might be an answer.

As the play unfolds, you'll see Jesus and an unusual cast of characters share the Gospel in a way that will make you laugh and cry, maybe even at the same time! The talented actors of Northside United Methodist Church in Atlanta will bring the Gospel to us on **Saturday, January 26** as part of the Great Day of Service Dinner Theater. All proceeds fund GDS projects.

Reserve your seat before **Sunday, January 20**, for this single performance of Cotton Patch Gospel!

Cotton Patch Dinner Theater Saturday, January 26

**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.)

Make your reservation by Sunday, January 20.

We are still accepting art!

If you are donating a piece of art for the silent art auction fundraiser that benefits GDS, please drop the donation off at the GFUMC Church Office no later than **Wednesday, January 23, 2008**. You must also complete a donation form when dropping off your artwork. Please call **Nancy Norton** at 770.535.0106 or **Evanda Moore** at 770.536.1419 if you have any questions.

*For more information about Great Day of Service
visit the GDS website at www.gfumc.com/gds.*

HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY

WALK TO BETHLEHEM

The Walk to Bethlehem is over for 2007. We traveled **10,285 miles** and exceeded our goal! Did you meet your personal goals - all of them? Are you more physically fit? Are you focused on keeping God first in your life? Hopefully you've satisfied your soul with spiritual food and living water and the exercise has revitalized the body God

has given you enabling you to perform His vital work here on earth. Let's continue to keep our eye on the prize.

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14



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.





Did You Know?

Debby Fox, our new Pastor of Christian Education is an Ordained Deacon? Are you wondering what that means? You are not alone! The Book of Discipline helps us to clarify the ministry of both deacon and elder:

Deacon: Those who respond to God's call to lead in service and to equip others for this ministry through teaching, proclamation, and worship and who assist elders in the administration of the sacraments are ordained deacons. ¶303.2

Elder: Those whose leadership in service includes preaching and teaching the Word of God, administration of the sacraments, ordering the Church for its mission and service, and administration of the Discipline of the church are ordained as elders. ¶303.2
Ordained to Word and Service

Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word and Service to both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connects the two. Deacons exemplify Christian discipleship, create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship, and connect the needs and hurts of the people with the church:

- in the world, the deacon seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice and assists lay persons as they claim their own ministry; and
- in the congregation, the ministry of the deacon is to teach and to form disciples, and to lead worship together with other ordained and lay persons, connecting the needs and hurts of the people with the church. (¶320)

Deacons give leadership in the church's life:

- in the teaching and proclamation of the Word
- in worship and in assisting the elders in the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper
- in forming and nurturing disciples
- in conducting marriages and burying the dead
- in the congregation's mission to the world and
- in leading the congregation in interpreting the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world (¶319)

Calendar

JANUARY 13 - 20, 2008



WEDNESDAY - January 16

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 2:30 Blood Drive (until 7:30 p.m.)
- 3:00 Bridge
- 4:00 Mime Practice
- 5:00 Family Supper
- 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

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

MONDAY - January 14

- 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 Great Day of Service Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 7:00 Nursery Staff Meeting
- 7:30 Adult Bells
- 7:30 Adult Basketball

TUESDAY - January 15

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
- 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Group
- 9:30 Believers Band Practice
- 10:00 Intimate Issues Bible Study
- 10:00 Living A Purpose-Full Life Bible Study
- 10:00 Stepping Up Bible Study
- 4:00 Youth Basketball Practice (until 9 p.m.)
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 6:00 Discernment Team Meeting
- 6:30 Congregational Care Meeting
- 6:30 Prayer Ministry Team Meeting
- 8:00 MLC Band Practice

THURSDAY - January 17

- 8:00 Trustees Orientation
- 9:30 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
- 6:00 NHHS Football Banquet
- 6:30 SPR Meeting
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - January 18

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 4:00 Youth Basketball Practice (until 7 p.m.)

SATURDAY - January 19

- 2:00 Mission Team leaves for Honduras

SUNDAY - January 20

- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 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
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Harbor
- 6:00 Transitions Bible Study for Singles
- 7:00 MSL

FAMILY SUPPER

Wednesday, January 16

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

BBQ Chicken, Seasoned Baked Beans, French Fries, Dinner Rolls, Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit Bowl, Cottage Cheese, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, and Assorted Desserts.



There will not be a separate Kid's Meal.

Cost: \$5/adult, \$3/child, \$15 family maximum. Call **Stan Bearden** at 770.536.2341 ext. 114, by 12 noon on Monday of 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.



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 in the Reception Hall.** 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.

Access Information Online

Now you can view a PDF of the weekly newsletter, *The Bridge*, and view the church calendar online. You can access the newsletter by clicking on the "This Week" tab from the homepage and choosing "The Bridge, weekly newsletter." The calendar can be accessed by clicking on the tab labeled "Calendar" and choosing "Events Calendar." Enjoy these features!



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