



The BRIDGE

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NUMBER 3

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 18, 2009

What wonderful worship experiences occurred this past Sunday! It was a day in which we all remembered our baptism and were thankful. Both in Living Waters Worship and in Sanctuary Worship, there were smiles and tears as our memories were stirred. The Baptism of the Lord Sunday is one of my many favorites of the year.



This year at Gainesville First United Methodist Church, we will be focusing on and practicing **Passionate Worship**. We will continue our work and efforts toward **Radical Hospitality** while emphasizing Passionate Worship. Bishop Robert Schnase's book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* writes **“Vibrant, fruitful, growing churches offer Passionate Worship that connects people to God and to one another. People are searching for worship that is authentic, alive, creative, and comprehensible, where they experience the life-changing presence of God.”** I agree. People are hungry for a relevant and meaningful experience with God.

Bishop Schnase makes a profound observation when he notes **“Passionate Worship is alive, authentic, fresh and engaging. In Passionate Worship, people are honest before God and one another and open to God's presence, truth and will for their lives. People so eagerly desire such worship that they will reorder their lives to attend.”** This will be our goal this year. While I believe we have a strong worshipping congregation at GFUMC, there is always room for improvement and growth. So come to worship with great expectation and when you must miss be prepared to hear about the wonderful worship that was experienced.

I encourage you to make worship the **“main event”** in your life each week. It will reorient your week and your life. Whether you choose to worship in Living Waters, in the Sanctuary, or at Lakeside, we are committed to making worship the premier event at GFUMC and in this community. So get ready, get set, and go! 2009 is going to be wonderful year to worship the God who loves us so very much. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday at the place of “passionate, exciting, authentic, and engaging worship.” Don't miss it.

With Love and Care,

*P.S. To purchase a copy of the book
Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase,
please contact Jackie Powers at jpowers@gfumc.com or 770.536.2341.*

Worship Services

“There's A Price on Your Head”
I Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
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*

“Tempted; Just Like Me”
Luke 4:1-13
10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Praise & Worship Service
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 1/11/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	383
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	141
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	643
Worship Totals	1,167
Sunday School	672

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 **Roy Turner** on the death of his wife.

...to **Dick Valentine** on the death of his father.

...to **Rob Warrilow** on the death of his brother.

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.



HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

January 17 - 25, 2009

Please be in prayer for the 20 team members who are going to minister to the children of Orphanage Emmanuel in Guamaica, Honduras, where GFUMC members, **Reed and Kim Skinner**, are currently serving. Also be in prayer for the people and children the team will be ministering to while on this mission trip. Team members will be working on buildings at the dairy (which is on the grounds of the orphanage), doing crafts, and working directly with the children and in the clinic seeing patients.

Members of this team include: Butch Bennett, John Bisson, Lisa Bisson, Joyce Hayes, Laura Head, Katie Highsmith, Lee Highsmith, Donna Hubbard, Mike Maloney, Eddie Martin, Francisco Mejia, Maria Oliver, Julie Payne, Allan Thomas, Chris Thomas, Dru Thomas, Tony Walker, Dick Williamson, Marilyn Williamson, and Ricky Zoller.

THE HOSPITALITY TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Coffee Makers & Donut Servers Needed

We are searching for gracious, kind folks who will volunteer to come "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.



Community Food Pantry

Food 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 this Sunday, January 18, brown bags with an attached list of suggested food items will be given out for convenience, 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.

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 at 770.536.2341. The cost is \$20.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
January 21, 2009

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Jan Ewing will be speaking
about the Drama department at
North Hall High School.



50+

Monday, January 26

6 p.m. in the
Reception Hall

Do you know who owns the Lee Gilmer Airport? Do you know how big it is? Do you know how important it is to Gainesville and Hall County? If not, come to 50+ and hear **Bill Haley** relate how this high-flying public utility serves our community.

CPR CLASS



HEARTSAVER CPR CLASS

Saturday, February 7

9 a.m. - 12 noon
in the Adult Lobby

This class is for anyone who would like to learn CPR and the use of the external defibrillator (AED). CPR is a life-saving course in case of an emergency in the home, workplace, or anywhere you go. Cost for the course is \$20 and includes materials. Registration is required. Call the Church Office at 770.536.2341. For more information, contact **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse.

STUDENT MINISTRY

PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

We are beginning a new session of Sunday school for the seniors covering money management and budgeting following Biblical principles. The class will meet in Room S-37 during the Sunday school hour (9:45 a.m.) and will be led by **Butch Bennett, Bobby Hammond,** and **Robin and Dan Parr.**



DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING...

There is still time to register for the **Get Connected Weekend**. This is going to be a great time of learning and fun. Join us on the evening of Friday, January 30 through noon on Sunday, February 1 for a weekend of getting connected to God, your peers, and your community. There is also still time to sign up to be a host home for one of our small groups for the weekend. Give **David Burchett** a call with any questions!

The deadline for registering for the **Confirmation Retreat** at Camp Glisson is rapidly approaching. We need your child's form by Sunday, February 1. Forms can be found in the Youth Hall, outside the Youth Hall, and in the Church Office.

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.



PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY

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

Diana Cindea

a friend of Lora Cooley
770.201.0121

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** at 770.536.2341.



DO YOU NEED A STEPHEN MINISTER?

The 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” to meet with you with each week for approximately an hour 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 21, 2009

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

Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce, Garlic Toast, Antipasta Salad Bar, Chicken Salad, Fresh Fruit Bowl with Cottage Cheese, and Pineapple Upside Down Cake.

Kid's Meal: Cheese Pizza



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 Tuesday at 12 noon to make your reservation.



The Walk to Bethlehem officially ended on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Our final mileage total is **5,936.5**. I hope those of you who participated enjoy improved physical, emotional, and spiritual health. I would encourage you to continue the healthy patterns of exercise, reflection, and prayer that you've established during the past 9 weeks.

Lori Floyd, Parish Nurse

“Dear Friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

3 John 1:2

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

4TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST

Friday, February 6



Save the date for our largest annual Preschool fundraiser! Many of the preschool students will perform; artwork and photos of students will be available for purchase; and a silent auction of gifts and baskets to benefit the GFUMC Preschool will be included again this year. Lunch reservations will be required. More details will be available in the next edition of *The Bridge*.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2009/10

Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. You may call the Preschool at 770.534.0409 for additional information.

Families of students currently enrolled: Feb. 9 - 13
GFUMC Church members: Feb. 17 - 20
Open Registration (Public): Feb. 23 - 26

There is a \$70 non-refundable registration fee for all applicants, along with a full month's tuition fee for all Pre-K students (non-refundable).



CHRIST CENTERED YOGA

DONATION CLASS

Tuesday, January 27

8:30 - 10 a.m.

To honor Rahab's Rope

Bring a friend and join us as we lift up **Vicki Moore**, founder of Rahab's Rope, a non-profit organization that offers hope and transformation, through the love of Christ, to women who were forced into the sex trade of India and have been thrown out by their abusers. Rahab's Rope Women's Center offers a place that provides food, shelter, and protection. It also offers education and vocational training. It is a place of hope and second chances.

We praise God for what He has done and will continue to do in the lives of the women at Rahab's Rope and those who serve them. Suggested donation is \$25, cash or checks made payable to Rahab's Rope, a 501c-3 non-profit organization. Complimentary childcare will be available during the donation class.

Becky Martin RYT

2009 GREAT DAY OF SERVICE BINGO "FUN" RAISER

Join us for a fun and casual evening that will include a delicious Johnny's BBQ buffet dinner followed by several rounds of bingo. Extra bingo cards will be available for \$5 for those who are eager to win fabulous prizes. The night does not end there....a live auction for homemade cakes will tempt the tastebuds of anyone who enjoys a sweet treat.

Come join friends and family for a night of fellowship and fun!

Saturday, January 24
6 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. Bingo
& Cake Auction



Tickets are for sale now in the Church Office throughout the week and in the Gathering Room on Sundays.

Cost is \$30/Adult (*\$15), \$15/Child (*\$7.50), or a maximum for a family of 4 or more \$75 (*\$37.50). Cost includes dinner and one bingo card per person. *Designates tax deductible amount.

Make your reservations today. Payment is expected at the time of reservation. All proceeds fund Great Day of Service projects.

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.

UMW NEWS

UMW Board Meeting
Monday, January 26
10 a.m. in the Gathering Room



Calendar

JANUARY 18 - 25, 2009

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.

MONDAY - January 19



*Martin Luther King Jr.'s
Birthday Observance*

The Church and Church Office will be closed. If you have a pastoral need, please call 770.536.2341 and follow the prompts for an emergency call.

TUESDAY - January 20

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 The Amazing Collection
10:00 Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman
10:00 The Love Dare
10:00 One on One Discipleship
10:00 SALT
12:00 Homebound Visitation Meeting
6:00 Believers Band Practice
6:00 Trustees Meeting
6:30 SPR Meeting
6:30 Stephen Minister Training

WEDNESDAY - January 21

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 Adult Ministries Team Meeting
7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:15 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal
7:15 Youth Council Meeting

THURSDAY - January 22

8:00 Fitness Club
8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
9:00 Library open
9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
9:30 Christian Believer (Off-site at LVE)
9:30 Disciple III
5:30 Finance Meeting
7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - January 23

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

SATURDAY - January 24

9:00 Emmaus
6:00 GDS Bingo "FUN" Raiser

SUNDAY - January 25

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
12:30 New Member Banquet
4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
4:30 Worship Committee Meeting
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 GriefShare
5:00 The Harbor (Youth grades 6-12)
5:00 Invitation to Genesis
5:00 Live B.I.G.
5:45 Executive Committee Meeting
7:00 Church Council

INCLEMENT WEATHER

For information on the latest GFUMC closings in the event of inclement weather you may:

Call the church answering machine at 770.536.2341 to listen to the voice mail

Tune in to WDUN 550 AM

Visit these websites:
www.gfumc.com
www.gainesvilletimes.com
www.accessnorthga.com

Thank you.

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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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.



UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES?

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



DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM CHURCH LEAGUE

Anyone interested in kayaking?

We would like to start a Dragon Boat church team this spring. For more information or to sign up, call **Vicki Bailey**, Interim Director of Recreation, at 770.536.2341.

FAITH PRINTS

RETREAT

4th & 5th Grades

February 13 – 15



The deadline for registration is next Sunday, January 25, 2009. The cost of the retreat is \$125 per child.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED