



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 4

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 25, 2009

I have some wonderful news to share. Living Waters, our praise and worship service, has been experiencing steady growth over the past year. Living Waters is held in the Reception Hall at 10:55 a.m. each Sunday. The Reception Hall seats 150 people. God is blessing this service, and they are growing beyond their space limitation. In other words, Living Waters is experiencing some God-given “growing pains.”



After much discussion and prayer, it has been decided to offer an additional Living Waters Worship Service on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, March 1. On this first Sunday in Lent, there will be two opportunities for Living Waters Worship - 9:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. - both in the Reception Hall. Just as we have two worship services in the Sanctuary (8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.), we will now have two in the Reception Hall.

One of the ministries that we celebrate at GFUMC is our Sunday School Ministry. Every class is a blessing that feeds souls for God’s good work in those lives. We do not intend to weaken this ministry. We are a congregation of more than 3,200 people which averages near 1,000 people in worship every Sunday. We average near 700 in Sunday School. These figures tell us that there are a significant number of people not attending Sunday School. It is our hope that this new worship opportunity will attract persons who do not attend Sunday School, as well as those who may not be attending worship on a regular basis. It is also our most fervent prayer that this new Living Waters Worship experience will offer another avenue for unchurched people in our community to find their way to know of God’s love for them.

I want to personally thank Wendy Cordova and Michelle Alexander for their good leadership in Living Waters Worship. When you see them give them a word of encouragement as they venture into the unknown. Pray for this new adventure. Consider supporting this new worship opportunity with your presence. We will be seeking around 20 families to commit to worshipping at 9:30 a.m. for three months to help give this service a healthy launch. I also invite you to share a positive word about the new service with family, friends, and neighbors. You never know what God can do with a positive witness for His Church.

God is doing some wonderful things at GFUMC in our places of worship. Don't miss it!

With Love and Care,

Worship Services

“A Recycled Buzz Word”

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20
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 Wedding to Remember”

John 2:1-11
10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Praise & Worship Service
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 1/18/2009

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary | 233 |
| 10:55 a.m. Living Waters | 129 |
| 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary | 432 |
| Worship Totals | 794 |
| Sunday School | 488 |

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 **Flo Smith** on the death of her father.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Austin Michael Dean was born on January 8. He is the son of Tracy Dean.



Community Food Pantry Food Drive

Continues through January 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. 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. The demand for food has been great. Please be generous.

GRIEFSHARE

Begins this Sunday, January 25
5 - 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 for the workbook.



RELAY FOR LIFE MEETING

Sunday, January 25

There will be an organizational meeting **immediately following the 10:55 a.m. worship services** for anyone interested in participating on the 2009 GFUMC Relay for Life team. The meeting will be held in **Room S-12**. This year's Relay for Life event will be held at Road Atlanta on Friday and Saturday, June 5-6. For more information, contact **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse.

CHRIST CENTERED YOGA DONATION CLASS

To honor *Rahab's Rope*

Tuesday, January 27

8:30 - 10 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Rahab's Rope Women's Center is a place of hope and second chances for women who were forced into the sex trade of India and have been thrown out by their abusers. Suggested donation is \$25. Make checks payable to Rahab's Rope. Complimentary childcare will be available.



CAREER CONNECTION INITIATIVE

Providing assistance for those people whose jobs have been negatively impacted by the economic downturn.

Beginning Monday, February 9

8 - 9:30 a.m., Adult Lobby

Topic #1: Frugal Finance

Facilitated by Carl Liggett and Anne Dittman. Attire: Dress as if you were going to work!



HEARTSAVER CPR CLASS

Saturday, February 7

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

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.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
January 28, 2009

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



BINGO!!!

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.

RECREATION



DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM

Anyone interested in kayaking?

A church league is forming this spring and we would like to be a part of this new recreational opportunity. For more information, call **Vicki Bailey**, Interim Director of Recreation, at 770.536.2341.



MAC MADNESS

February 23 - March 14

Volunteers are needed for tickets, concessions, score tables, books, and announcing. Sign-up sheets will be in the Gathering Room for the next few Sundays.

STUDENT MINISTRY



The Harbor will not meet on **Sunday, February 1**, due to the "Get Connected" Weekend. Join us again on Sunday, February 8, from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT...

Time is running out to register for all of the following events: Get Connected Weekend, Confirmation Retreat, Middle School Spring Break Mission Trip, and High School Spring Break Mission Trip.



Forms for all of these events are available in the Youth Hall, in the hallway outside the Youth Hall, and in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact **David Burchett** or **Jake Webster**. We will not be accepting any late registrations for any of these events.



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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Board Meeting

Monday, January 26

10 a.m. in the Gathering Room

For more information on the UMW, please contact Marcia Price at 770.531.4411. UMW is open to all women.



PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY

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

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

New!
Frank Barnhill
770.201.0319

New!
Diana Cindea
a friend of
Lora Cooley
770.201.0121

Faye Shadburn
770.201.0429

Gail Church
a friend of
Lisa Bisson
770.201.1041

Margot Mickle
770.201.0320

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

January 28, 2009

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

Vegetable Soup, Hot Ham & Cheese Subs,
Shrimp Tortellini Salad, Garden Green
Salad Bar, Fruit & Cottage Cheese, and
Assorted Fresh Baked Cookies

Kid's Meal: Ham & Cheese Sandwiches



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.



VALENTINE'S DANCE

Tuesday, February 10

Doors open at 6 p.m.
Dance begins at 7 p.m.
in the GREAT Room

You are invited to bring your own dinner and eat together with friends before the dancing begins. Seating for dinner is open with unreserved tables of eight. Parties of less than eight may make themselves at home as they choose. Feel free to bring your own table decorations but they are not required. Soft drinks will be provided.

The dance will conclude by 9 p.m. The dress is casual. The Believers Band's Sentimental Journey Jazz and Swing Band will play for your dancing and listening enjoyment. We will feature the music of the Big Band era along with some country songs, rock 'n' roll and torch songs sung by Kari Martin, our vocalist. I am sure you have danced to all these songs before: *Can I Have This Dance, Can't Help Falling In Love, The Swingin' Shepherd Blues, Sentimental Journey, My Girl, Crazy* and many more.

Come enjoy a relaxing time with our church family and have fun with the Sentimental Journey Jazz and Swing Band.

3RD ANNUAL
GREAT DAY OF SERVICE
Saturday, March 21

Volunteer Registration will
begin Sunday, February 1.



PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

4TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST

Friday, February 6
GREAT Room



Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. Preschool classes will be performing throughout the morning. Student artwork and photos of students will be available for purchase. Lunch, catered by Chick-Fil-A, will be served at 11 a.m. Reservations for lunch must be made prior to the event. Silent auction bidding will end at 12:30 p.m.

Sneak Peak will be on **Wednesday, February 4** during Wednesday Night Supper beginning at 5 p.m. You may begin bidding during the Sneak Peak! Auction items will include handmade class projects, several small trips, paintings, furniture, gift certificates, and more!

All proceeds benefit the GFUMC Preschool. All are invited to attend. Call the Preschool Office at 770.534.0409 with questions.

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).



NEW CLASS HAS FORMED!

For Young Married Couples!

Join us on Sunday, January 25, as we begin a new lesson based on Max Lucado's book *3:16*. A chili social will also be held that night at the home of Frank & Nancy Norton to welcome new members and visit with current members. This is a great time if you are interested in joining a new class! The Journey meets at **9:45 a.m.** in **Room N-30**. Please contact **Holly Owens** at 678-316-0117 or greenstcir915@hotmail.com for more info.

A NEW SONG



January continues our celebration of Christ's birth, the visitation of the Magi and the Baptism of Jesus. The handbell choir will ring again on Sunday, January 25. The prelude is Cynthia Dobrinski's *Rondo Passacaglia* which features treble bells stating a brisk, waltz

theme over a repeated bass pattern. The offertory is a stunning arrangement of *Morning Has Broken* by Anna Laura Page.

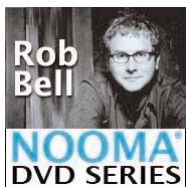
You may or may not have noticed in years past that the organ and handbell music in church turns a bit more somber during the months of February and March in the season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday. We reflect on Jesus' last days here on earth leading up to His horrific crucifixion on Good Friday.

The organ and handbell preludes, offertories, and even the postludes to an extent, create a mood and atmosphere of deep sorrow and reflection. Minor keys, heavy pedal stops, and dark keyboard registrations are among the music tools used to enhance the sound of this season.

Handbell CDs are still available in the Church Office. You may also pick up a copy in the Gathering Room on the Sundays when the bell choir rings in church.

Serving Christ With You,
Keith Jefcoat

Organist and Adult Handbell Choir



YOU ARE INVITED...
Sunday, February 1
9:45 a.m. in Room S-06

The New Bridge Sunday School class invites you to join them in a new adventure in learning and growing together for the new year. They will begin the series, *NOOMA: Changing the Way We Experience Spirituality*. NOOMA is a new format of 10-14 minute short films that seek to connect real truth with real life. After the DVD presentation, class participants are invited to interact, question, and draw out the Biblical references. There is room for you at this learning table. Contact **Holt Harrison** or **Ricky Presley** if you have questions.

Calendar

JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 1, 2009

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
12:00 Relay for Life Meeting
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

MONDAY - January 26

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Library open (til 4 p.m.)
9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
10:00 AOA Aerobics
10:00 UMW Board Meeting
4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
5:30 Basketball Practice (til 7:30 p.m.)
6:00 50+
6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
6:30 Nursery Staff Meeting
7:30 Adult Basketball

TUESDAY - January 27

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 (til 4 p.m.)
9:30 Believers Band Practice
10:00 Mom's Fitness Club
10:00 The Amazing Collection
10:00 Better Than My Dreams
10:00 Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman
10:00 The Love Dare
10:00 One on One Discipleship
6:00 Believers Band Practice
6:30 Stephen Minister Training
7:00 Pack 16 Meetings

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; and/or

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

Thank you.

WEDNESDAY - January 28

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Library open
9:15 Preschool Board Meeting
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
6:15 Children's Council Meeting
7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:15 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY - January 29

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
4:00 Urban Ministry
7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - January 30

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
10:00 AOA Aerobics
5:00 Get Connected Weekend (Youth)

SATURDAY - January 31

Get Connected Weekend (Youth)

SUNDAY - February 1

Great Day of Service-Registration Begins

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 GriefShare
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 |

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.



UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES?

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



Living Waters Praise & Worship

Beginning Sunday, March 1
Two worship experiences

9:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m.
Reception Hall

FAITH PRINTS

RETREAT

4th & 5th Grades

February 13 – 15



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



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