



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 5

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

There is a story that comes from the days of the great British sailing ships. The British warship, The Sparrow, suspected another vessel, The Nancy, of carrying illegal contraband. And so the Sparrow stopped the Nancy off the coast of Haiti. An examination of the Nancy's papers and cargo yielded only circumstantial evidence of wrongdoing. Still this was enough for the captain of the Sparrow to seize the ship and to tow it into Kingston, Jamaica. There the captain and crew of the Nancy were charged with transporting illegal cargo.



Meanwhile, a British frigate, The Abergavenny, happened to be cruising in the same waters. The officer in charge of this ship noticed a school of sharks feeding on the carcass of a young bull. The officer ordered his ship to pull up alongside the dead animal. The sailors succeeded in hooking one of the sharks.

Hauling the shark aboard, they opened it up and discovered in its stomach a bundle of papers. Examination showed that these papers belonged to the seized ship, The Nancy. The captain set sail for Kingston. His boat arrived in port not long after the case of The Nancy came up for trial. Thomas Briggs, an American, the captain of The Nancy, her crew, and even The Nancy's lawyers, were sure the case against The Nancy would be thrown out of court for lack of evidence. Imagine their surprise when they were suddenly confronted with the condemning papers which they had thrown overboard, papers which had been recovered from the belly of a shark. Instead of being acquitted, they were convicted.

The old saying is true, "Be sure your sins will find you out." We can't hide from God, and we can't hide anything from God. And as we are willing to admit such truth in our lives and confess our sins to God, we discover a most merciful, kind, and forgiving God.

What secret sin is haunting your life's closet? Confess it to God, ask for God's forgiveness and rejoice that you are forgiven. *If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins, make a clean breast of them, he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.* (1 John 1:8-9, The Message)

See you Sunday at the "forgiving place."

With Love and Care,

*The 8th Annual MAC Madness Basketball Tournament
is coming to GFUMC February 23 - March 14.
More information inside on page 3.*

Worship Services

"Can I Get a Witness?"

I Corinthians 8:1-13

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*

"Come, Follow Me"

John 2:43-51

10:55 a.m. Living Waters

Praise & Worship Service

Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 1/25/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary 403
10:55 a.m. Living Waters 165
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary 571
Worship Totals 1,139
Sunday School 690

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of
Maurice Fletcher.

...to **Glenn Motes** on the
death of hsi mother.

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity in the special offerings recently collected for the Murphy Harpst Children's Center and Aldersgate Homes, Inc. **\$9,366** was received for Murphy-Harpst and **\$6,621** was received for Aldersgate. Murphy Harpst brings healing and restores hope to children who are emotionally and behaviorally handicapped. Aldersgate strives to make a positive difference in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities.



Karen Rabb yells "SERVE" at the GDS "FUN" Raiser.

GDS BINGO "FUN" RAISER

More than 350 church members attended the Bingo "FUN" Raiser Saturday to help fund Great Day of Service projects. Members of all ages gathered for Johnny's BBQ and a few lucky people walked away with some fun prizes and scrumptious cakes!

Ellen Scott and Jaimie Harrison ("Fun"raiser Co-chairs) wish to thank: Doug Carter (Bingo Caller Extraordinaire), Tharpe Ward and the staff of Johnny's BBQ, the church staff, cake bakers, prize donors, bingo spotters, greeters, and the Great Day of Service committee.

GDS VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Begins Sunday, February 1



We are so excited about beginning our registration for the 3rd Annual Great Day of Service. We have a great variety of projects available to all people regardless of age or ability. Registration forms and additional information on GDS are enclosed. Additional forms and information are available at the information desk in the Gathering Room following all worship services. You may also register online at www.gfumc.com/gds. Come be a part of this rewarding experience!

Sharon Farkas & Cherry Valentine
GDS Co-Chairs



CAREER CONNECTION INITIATIVE

Mondays, beginning February 9
8 - 9:30 a.m., Adult Lobby
Topic: Frugal Finance

GFUMC is offering meaningful assistance to people whose jobs have been negatively impacted by the economic downturn. Through the creative energy and Christian compassion of several church members, a new ministry to provide not only nurture, support, and networking but also focused job search training has been born.

This ministry is available to anyone in our church family or for others with whom congregation members are aware. If you are interested in attending, please feel free to join us each Monday morning. Come dressed as if you are going to work.

The first meeting will deal with how to survive financially while you are looking for a new job, hence **Frugal Finance**. The first meeting will also feature coupon sharing, possible job leads or sources, and connections for additional job or training information.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer to assist in this ministry, contact **Anne Dittman** at 770.531.1633 or anneditman@aol.com, **Carl Liggett** at cliggett1@aol.com, or **Debby Fox** at dfox@gfumc.com.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
February 4, 2009

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Milon Christman will speak about Gainesville's Meals on Wheels program.



GFUMC TRAVELERS
September 21, 2009

Join us for a 7-day trip to Branson, Missouri. We will see many great shows including *The Andy Williams Show*, *Baldknobbers Jamboree*, *Noah*, the musical, at the New Sight and Sound Theatre, the *Shoji Tabuchi Show* and a performance by the famous Russian comedian, Yakov Smirnoff. We will take a fabulous dinner cruise on the "Branson Belle" showboat and stop on the way home in St. Louis where we'll go up the majestic Gateway Arch. The cost is \$895 per person and a deposit of \$100 per person is due by March 15. Please contact **Jane Lower** at 770.535.8418 for information and to reserve your place.

RECREATION



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 or contact **Vicki Bailey** at 770.536.2341 or vbaily@gfumc.com for more info.

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.

DEADLINES FOR MISSION TRIPS THIS WEEK!

The deadline for registration for our middle school mission trip to Brunswick, Georgia, and our high school mission trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, is this Sunday, February 1. We will not be accepting any late registrations for these events.



PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

You should have received a letter recently regarding our Senior Recognition Sunday. If you have not received that letter yet, please contact **David Burchett** or **Nancy Mote** as soon as possible at 770.536.2341.



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.



HEARTSAVER CPR CLASS

Saturday, February 7

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

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.

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.

Frank Barnhill
770.201.0319

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

February 4, 2009

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

BBQ Chicken Breast, Buttered Corn,
Baked Beans, Rolls, Garden Green
Salad Bar, Potato Salad, Coleslaw,
Fresh Melon, and Fruit Cobbler
Kid's Meal: Chicken Tenders



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 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. Soft drinks will be provided. Admission is FREE!

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.

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

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 will be catered by Chick-Fil-A and served at 11 a.m. Reservations for lunch must be made prior to the event. Silent auction bidding will end promptly at 12:30 p.m.

Sneak Peak will be on **Wednesday, February 4** during Wednesday Night Supper beginning at 5 p.m. Bidding will be available 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).



Living Waters Praise & Worship

Two worship experiences
Beginning Sunday, March 1

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

Do you have a question about the new worship service?

Please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341 or wcordova@gfumc.com.

What is available for my child during this new service?

Children can participate in this new worship time in two ways:

- They can come and attend the entire service or...
- They can come for the first 15 minutes of the service until Kids Alive (Children's Moments) and then a volunteer will escort them to their Sunday School Classes.

A NEW SONG

Things are back to a normal schedule after a very busy Christmas season in Chancel Choir. Wednesday rehearsals find the choir beginning to work on music for Lent, and soon the Easter music will be in the rehearsal stack.



We are hoping to "grow" the choir over the next few weeks. We would love to have 100 members! Have you given any thought to joining? Making music is a wonderful way to serve God's people, bringing your offering of time and talent to the worship services.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Choir Room, N-104, and joining is easy. Come this week and give it a try. You'll find a warm welcome and a friendly choir family.

Sam Marley

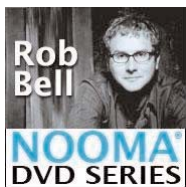
Director of Music Ministries



THANK YOU!

On behalf of the blood recipients and their families we would like to thank the **43 donors** who took time to make this blood drive a success. Also, thank you to the people who worked as volunteers. A successful drive takes both donors and volunteers. Mark your calendars for our next blood drive, **Thursday, May 14, 12:30-5:30 p.m.** We hope to see you then.

Sharon Krudener & Alice Jordan



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

FEBRUARY 1 - 8, 2009

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 Invitation to Genesis
 5:00 Live B.I.G.

WEDNESDAY - February 4

8:00 Fitness Club
 9:00 Aerobics
 9:00 Library open
 11:00 Gadabouts
 3:00 Bridge
 5:00 Sneak Preview of Preschool Winterfest
 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper
 6:00 3D Plan
 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 PHASES Accountability Groups
 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 7:15 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal

MONDAY - February 2

Preschool Closed
 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: First Monday Circle
 4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
 6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
 6:30 Basketball Practice (til 7:30 p.m.)
 7:30 Adult Basketball

THURSDAY - February 5

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
 10:00 Prayer Quilts
 2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
 4:00 Urban Ministry
 6:00 NHHS Banquet
 6:30 Belivers Band (Jazz)
 7:00 Ballroom Dance

TUESDAY - February 3

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 Belivers 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 Belivers Band Practice
 7:00 UMW: Mission Action Meeting

FRIDAY - February 6

8:30 Preschool Winterfest
 9:00 Aerobics
 10:00 AOA Aerobics
 6:00 Beacon-First Friday Night Live

SATURDAY - February 7

9:00 Emmaus
 9:00 Heartsaver CPR

SUNDAY - February 8

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
 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.

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.

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.

MISSION ACTION BAKE SALE

Sunday, February 8
Gathering Room



Profits will be used to fund our mission projects. If you are able to contribute baked goods to assist Mission Action, a United Methodist Women's circle, with this project, sign-up sheets are available in Sunday School classes and in the Church Office. Bring your baked goods to the Gathering Room that morning. Cookbooks will also for sale. Thank you for your support!



**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**
Save the Date!!!
June 15 - 19, 2009



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