



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 5

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 3, 2008

Several years ago, Sharon and I visited my brother and his family in England. While there, we were able to see many places of which, to that point in our lives, we had only remotely visited through books or television. While in London, we were able to see Westminster Abbey. The following words were found inscribed on the tomb of an Anglican Bishop buried there:



"When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change. So I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But it too seemed immovable. As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing my family, those closest to me, but, alas, they would have none of it.

And now, as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: IF I HAD ONLY CHANGED MYSELF FIRST, then by example I would have changed my family. And from their inspiration and encouragement, I would have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even bettered the world."

As we continue this journey into 2008 and approach the season of Lent, it is appropriate to consider the question *"What might need changing in me that would be a gift to my family, friends and, yes, maybe even the world?"* In this year of **"First Things First,"** sometimes the most important place to begin is with oneself. Once we have looked inward then we are better equipped to look outward. Once we have honestly looked in the mirror, then we can look out the window. Once we have become personally vulnerable before God, then we are ready to discern how God can use us for the betterment of God's world.

Let us not wait until our deathbeds to realize the value of self-examination. It would be a shame to live a life that was limited due to lack of self-honesty. May God grant each of us the courage to look into the depths of our souls and see what may need changing. God bless you on your journey.

With Love and Care,

You will find the Lent Insert in this edition of The Bridge. It contains all of our special services including community services, a Bible study, a family activity, the sermon series, Lenten lunches, and the schedule for Easter Sunday. We hope you will join us often during the season of Lent.

Worship Services

"No Pictures, Please"

Matthew 17:1-9

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

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Rev. Tom Jones

"The Gift of Presence"

Matthew 17:1-9

10:55 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Living Waters Contemporary Worship

Rev. Wendy Cordova



Holy Communion will be served during all worship services.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 1/27/08

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary: 306
10:55 a.m. Living Waters: 123
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary: 524
Worship Totals: 953
Sunday School: 667

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving honor of our friends in the **PHASES Sunday School class**, given by Brad and Meredith Pierce.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bianca James Collins was born on January 19, 2008. Proud parents are John and Ashley Collins. A rosebud will be placed on the altar this Sunday in her honor.

Nathan Best Dean was born on January 21, 2008. Proud parents are Jen and Jason Dean. A rosebud will be placed on the altar this Sunday in his honor.

IN THE HOSPITAL

NEGA
Jen Dean
Anna Hensley

Emory
Faith Hall

NOW AT HOME

Haley Bennett
Al Crumley
Anna Gines

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of **Debbie Basco**.

...to **Nancy Norton** and **Dora Jenkins** on the death of Nancy's father, and Dora's brother.

...to the family and friends of **Lawrence Wilson**.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2008 - 2009

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



Tuesday, February 5 - Friday, February 8
Open to Families Currently Enrolled at GFUMC Preschool.

Monday, February 11 - Friday, February 15
Open to Current GFUMC Church Members.

Tuesday, February 19 - Friday, February 22
Open to the Community.

3rd Annual Winterfest

Silent Auction to benefit the GFUMC Preschool

Friday, February 8

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Artwork and performances by the Preschool,
Silent Auction, and Lunch
*Lemon Rosemary Chicken, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
Glazed Carrots, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert.*

Lunch will be catered by Cane Creek Catering
and will be served at 11 a.m.

Cost is \$10. Reservations are required.



There will be a Sneak Preview on **Sunday, February 3** in the Gathering Room. Some of the auction items will be displayed for GFUMC church members to view. Reservations for the event will also be taken at this time.

Preview night is **Wednesday, February 6** for GFUMC church members. Items WILL be available for bidding at preview and include a generator, professional photography packages, semi-precious gems, clothing for adults and children, jewelry, gift certificates to local restaurants, tickets to Fernbank and Stone Mountain Park, savings bonds, trips to Hilton Head and Sky Valley, original artwork, and hand-painted children's furniture. Contact the Preschool at 770.534.0409 for reservations for this event.



FAMILY SUPPER

Wednesday, February 6

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

**Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Ham and Cheese Subs,
Garden Green Salad Bar, Chicken Salad, Shrimp
Tortellini Salad, Fruit and Cottage Cheese, and
Chocolate Jubilee.**

Kid's Meal: Ham & Cheese Subs

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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



2008 VBS YOUTH INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

We are now taking applications! 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 volunteers from the youth and act as a liaison between them 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. Deadline is **Sunday, February 17.**



A Ministry Opportunity!

We are searching high and low for individuals and/or families who are willing and available to come once a month to help make coffee and greet people in the Gathering Room.

To find out more information on getting involved and helping us to create a "welcoming" environment on Sunday mornings, contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341, ext. 135.

OLDER ADULTS



GADABOUTS

Wednesday, February 6

At 11 a.m. we will gather in the Reception Hall for a devotion and announcements, and then move to the Chapel at 11:30 a.m. for the Ash Wednesday service with lunch immediately following.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Lunch at the Oar House in Dahlonega Monday, February 4

Transportation will be provided from the church.
Bring money for lunch!

The Gaither Vocal Band Homecoming Concert Saturday, April 26

The Arena at Gwinnett Center
\$50 per person. The cost includes motorcoach transportation.

Day Trip to Callaway Gardens Monday, May 12

\$35 per person includes a buffet lunch and all tours. Transportation provided from the church.

Caribbean Cruise December 6-13

Come and sail the high seas with your friends from GFUMC.
As low as \$859 per person.

To register or for more information about any of these trips, please contact **Beth Swenson** at 770-536-2341, ext. 139 or bswenson@gfumc.com.

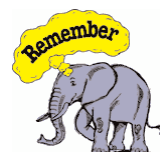
STUDENT MINISTRY



There will be no activities for students on **February 6.**
Please join us for the Ash Wednesday service that evening.



Join us in February as we look at the subject of *Submission*. On **Super Bowl Sunday, February 3,** we'll meet in the Youth Hall as usual for a short worship session, and then travel upstairs to watch the first half of the game. On **Sunday, February 10,** we'll be joining Lila & Mark for Family Feud. *Students (6th-12th grades) are invited to join us on Sundays from 5-7 p.m. in the Youth Hall.*



Registration is now open and the forms are in the Youth Hall and the Church Office for the Spring Break Mission Trip to Ringold, Georgia, GAP: Gainesville Aid Project, and BigStuf Summer Camp in Florida.

UMW NEWS

FIRST MONDAY MORNING CIRCLE

**Monday, February 4
10 a.m. in the Gathering Room**

Please see the article on page 4 about the Celebration of Women in Ministry for additional information on the UMW.

Can you paint? Hammer a nail? Bake cookies? Can you spread mulch? Make crafts with children? Knit? Can you donate food to the Community Food Pantry or shoes for Orphanage Emmanuel?



GFUMC's Great Day of Service has opportunities for everyone! Look for project opportunities on the GDS website after February 10 and on the Registration Form that will be inserted in *The Bridge* dated that same day.

Sign ups for the Great Day of Service begin next Sunday, February 10 and continue through March 9. Register in one of three ways: (1) online at www.gfumc.com/gds (2) by completing a registration form and placing in one of the collection boxes located around the church (3) by visiting the GDS table in the Gathering Room on the Sundays during the registration period.

**Mark your calendar for March 29, 2008:
You won't want to miss this wonderful day of helping hands and giving hearts.**



Celebration of Women in Ministry Sunday, February 10

Transformed to Serve
Mission Possible Sermon Series
8:30 & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary
Rev. Wendy Cordova

For Such a Time as This
10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Worship in the Reception Hall
Rev. Debby Fox

On Sunday, February 10, we will celebrate the ministry of women during all three of our worship services. We will recognize the ministries of United Methodist Women, as well as the many other ministries that are available to and sponsored by women of Gainesville First United Methodist Church.

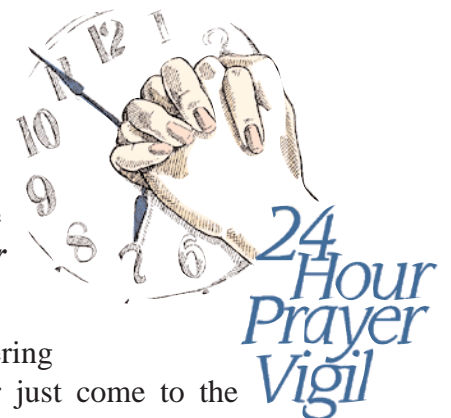
As a part of that celebration the UMW: United Methodist Women will honor the babies born in 2007 with a "Baby Gift to Missions." If you had a baby born in 2007, we want you to take part in this special service. Babies will be recognized during all of our worship services. Please call **Nancy Mote-Ledford** in the Church Office by **Monday, February 4**, to let us know of your attendance.

As we celebrate Women in Ministry **Rev. Wendy Cordova** will preach in the Sanctuary and our Pastor of Christian Education, **Rev. Debby Fox** will preach in Living Waters.

FIRST THINGS FIRST PRAYER VIGIL 2008 Friday, February 8 - Saturday, February 9 6 p.m. - 6 p.m.

A time of prayer for you and for our congregation ... as we reflect on the question: *What would it be like to put first things first in every area of our lives in 2008?*

You can commit to a time slot ahead of time (sign up sheets are in the Gathering Room on Sunday morning or in the Church Office during the week) or just come to the Sanctuary anytime to spend a few moments in prayer and reflection. For more information, call **Rev. Wendy Cordova** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341, ext. 135.



HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY

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.

HEART HEALTHY COOKING

Sunday, February 10
5 - 7 p.m. in the Reception Hall
Facilitated by Karen Rabb, RDLD

Have you resolved to eat a healthier diet this year? This cooking class will offer tasty treats, provide new recipes, and teach you how to convert your favorite recipes into heart-healthier versions. Cost is \$10. Register online at www.gfumc.com or by calling **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341, ext. 139.

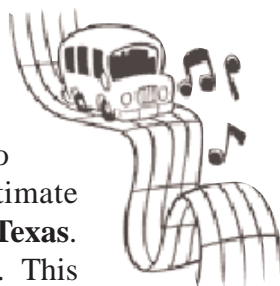
MUSIC & MISSION 2008

The Youth Choir's 2008 Music and Mission Tour is set for **Monday, June 2 - Tuesday, June 11**. The choir and adult team will go southwest with their ultimate destination being **Beaumont, Texas**.

The needs there are great. This part of the country was hit hard by Hurricane Rita in 2006 and is still in need of clean-up work. We anticipate working in a community center in the area hit by this hurricane.

Youth Choir members and others may sign up to go over the next two weeks. There is a limit of 40 youth plus adults. Contact **Sam Marley** for additional information at 770.536.2341, ext. 110.

You can help by keeping this project in your prayer life. If you can help with expenses, please mark checks "Music and Mission Tour." Also, save items to donate to a big Rummage Sale near the end of April. More details to come!



Calendar

FEBRUARY 3 - 10, 2008

SUNDAY - February 3

- 8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 Library open til 11 a.m.
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:55 Kid's Church
- 10:55 Living Waters Contemporary Worship in the Reception Hall
- 10:55 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 GriefShare
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

MONDAY - February 4 *Preschool will be closed.*

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 10:00 First Monday Circle
- 12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 4:00 Bible Club & Tutoring
- 5:30 Youth Basketball Practice (until 7:30)
- 6:30 Disciple II
- 7:30 Adult Bells
- 7:30 Adult Basketball

TUESDAY - February 5 *Election Day*

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study: Job
- 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 9:00)
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 6:30 NHHS Banquet for Cheerleaders
- 7:00 Adult Ministries Council Meeting
- 8:00 MLC Band Practice



WEDNESDAY - February 6 *Ash Wednesday*

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 11:30 Ash Wednesday Service
- 3:00 Bridge
- 4:00 Mime Practice
- 5:00 Family Supper
- 5:00 Winterfest Preview Night for GFUMC Church Members
- 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service
- 7:30 Chancel Choir
- 7:30 Living Waters Praise Team

THURSDAY - February 7

- 9:30 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - February 8

- 8:30 3rd Annual Winterfest to benefit the Preschool
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 1:00 Prayer Shawls
- 5:00 CSI: Christian Scene Investigation, 4th & 5th Grade Retreat leaves for Camp Glisson



- 6:00 24-Hour Prayer Vigil begins
- 7:30 Emmaus

SATURDAY - February 9

- 9:00 Believers Band Practice
- 9:00 HeartSaver CPR Class
- 6:00 24-Hour Prayer Vigil ends



SUNDAY - February 10 *First Sunday in Lent Celebration of Women in Ministry*

- 8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 Library open til 11 a.m.
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:30 Students return from CSI Retreat
- 10:55 Kid's Church
- 10:55 Living Waters Contemporary Worship in the Reception Hall
- 10:55 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 GriefShare
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 5:00 Heart Healthy Cooking Class
- 6:00 *Transitions* Bible Study for Singles
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)



In February 2007, GFUMC gave church members a gift book from Dr. Terry Walton. This soft-cover book is a compilation of Terry's "From the Heart" articles. If you recently joined GFUMC and have not received a copy, or if you would like an additional copy, they will be available in the Gathering Room the next two Sunday mornings for you to pick up.

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.



PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY

Tonya Gore

Angela Burrell's niece
770.201.0867

Don Little

770.390.4021

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.*



**MAC Madness
Basketball Tournament**
Get Ready!!! We'll need YOU!
February 19 - March 6

BALLROOM DANCE

Come, learn the
East Coast Swing
in February!
Thursdays at 7 p.m.
in the Youth Hall.



First United Methodist Church
Published Weekly
Publication No. 934980
Periodical Postage paid at
Gainesville, Georgia

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



2780 Thompson Bridge Rd.
Gainesville, GA 30506