



# The BRIDGE

VOLUME L  
NUMBER 6

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 10, 2008

How are you doing with “First Things First?” Remember this is our theme for 2008. How are you doing now that the dust of the New Year has settled and perhaps you’ve broken a resolution or two? We are about to enter the church season of Lent - 40 days preceding Easter (excluding Sundays). What could Lent possibly say to us about this journey of “First Things First?”



From African Colonial History comes a recorded moment that might help us understand how the season of Lent could enhance our journey.

*"In the deep jungles of Africa, a traveler was making a long trip. Native porters had been engaged from a tribe to carry the loads. The first day they marched rapidly and went far. The traveler had high hopes of a speedy journey. But the second morning the tribesmen refused to move. For some strange reason they just sat, as though in deep thought. When he inquired about this strange behavior, the traveler was informed that they had gone too fast the first day, and they were now waiting for their souls to catch up with their bodies."*

That’s what the season of Lent is all about. The hustle-bustle lifestyle is expending all of our passion for genuine life. Our busyness - the day-after-day grind of going through the motions and responding to habits and conforming to worldly standards - has become aimless for many. We’re doing it all more, and enjoying it all less. We’re coming apart at the seams, and we need to sit and think about how we’re going to put ourselves back together again. All else has failed, so why not revisit the life of Jesus and follow his example.

It could be that the most important thing you or I do in 2008 is to allow “for our souls to catch up with our bodies.” May God bless us during Lent - the journey through the cross to the empty tomb.

Thanks for your prayers. As you read this, Sharon and I will be somewhere in Israel leading pilgrims along the steps of Jesus. We are praying for you - our church family - as we revisit the Holy Land.

With Love and Care,

*Please find enclosed an informational brochure on the 2nd Annual Great Day of Service, Saturday, March 29, 2008. Also included is a volunteer registration form. Sign up early so you get your first choice of projects. For more information go to [www.gfumc.com/gds](http://www.gfumc.com/gds).*

## Worship Services

*Worship Services*

Mission Possible: Changing People’s Lives Sermon Series  
Luke 8:42-48, Luke 7:36-50, Mark 15:37-38; 40-41  
8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary  
Rev. Wendy Cordova

*Worship Services*

Esther: 4:8-17  
10:55 a.m. Living Waters Contemporary Worship  
in the Reception Hall  
Rev. Debby Fox



# Heart Screens for Teens

## HELP STOP SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN TEENS

Cost \$58

Saturday, February 23  
at Gainesville First UMC

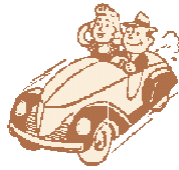
An Echocardiogram is a common type of ultrasound that allows physicians to view the heart during the exam. A technologist will apply a gel to an area of the chest and then take a picture by placing a small probe on the skin. An Echo uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of the heart. This allows the physician to actually look at the structures of the heart as well as to see the blood moving through the heart. Normally, the cost of this echocardiogram can range anywhere from \$900 to \$1500 and is usually not covered by insurance. Find out more information on this program at [ww.heartscreensforteens.com](http://ww.heartscreensforteens.com). Sign up to have your teen tested by calling **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse, or **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341.

## A Ministry Opportunity!

We are searching high and low for individuals and/or families who are willing and available to come one Sunday each 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 13  
11 a.m. in the Reception Hall  
**Myra Harris** will provide a musical program. She will be accompanied by **Ellen Collicott**.

## UMW NEWS

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH CIRCLE

Monday, February 11  
10 a.m. at the home of **Jacque Clements**. Call 770.536.3619 for additional details and directions.



### 2008 MISSION PROJECT

This year the UMW will focus on "Clean Water" as our mission project. The UMCOR Advance #525000, Clean Water and Sanitation, Nicaragua. UMCOR is working with El Porvenir using simple technology and basic materials for community construction of hand-dug wells. Join with us to help our neighbors in Nicaragua have access to clean drinking water. We know how important that is!

*Additional UMW information can be found on page 4.*

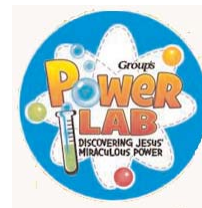
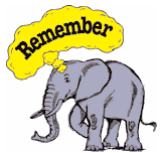
## STUDENT MINISTRY

### THE HARBOR

Join us for an extra-special worship service on **Sunday, February 24**.

The message will be "**Who's the Big Mac Daddy?**"  
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. All three trips are open to students in 6-12 grades. Space is limited for the Spring Break Mission Trip to Ringold, Georgia and to GAP. Adults are needed for each of these trips as well.



### 2008 VBS YOUTH INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

We are now taking applications! As a youth intern, you will work alongside our Vacation Bible School 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**.

## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our first Church Council meeting of 2008 was Sunday, January 27. Wendy Cordova led the Council's Leadership Minute describing Radical Hospitality from the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. She posed the question to each of us: "What can I do to make GFUMC radically hospitable to visitors?" During the meeting, we exchanged ideas of answers to this question.

Dick Valentine, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported a successful 2007 in which we balanced a \$3 million operating budget and installed and paid for an \$875,000 HVAC system. He was happy to report that our Debt Retirement Campaign to pay the approximately \$1.9 million from the previous building campaign was completed. Dick explained the budget process for the short year to end June 30, 2008, noting communication to the congregation would be ongoing.

Jackie Wallace, chair of the Trustees, reported that the Church signage project is progressing and that Trustees are considering parking lot enhancements to accommodate our continued growth. Benjie Hopkins, chair of Staff Parish Relations, noted that the SPR is requesting that all ministerial staff return for another year, and that SPR is continuing its search for a worship leader for Living Waters.

Ron Bracewell, Chair of Church Council



### *Celebration of Women in Ministry* Sunday, February 10

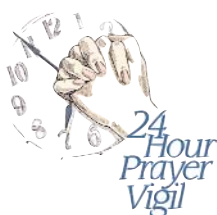
*Transformed to Serve*  
Mission Possible Sermon Series  
8:30 & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary  
Rev. Wendy Cordova

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

This Sunday we will celebrate the ministry of women during all three 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 will honor the babies born in 2007 with a "Baby Gift to Missions." Babies will be recognized during all of our worship services.

### *FIRST THINGS FIRST PRAYER VIGIL 2008*

6 p.m. Friday, February 8 -  
6 p.m. Saturday, February 9



This will be a time of prayer 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.

### COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

*This week at 12 noon*  
Wednesday, February 13  
First Baptist Church of Gainesville  
Rev. Doug Dailey, Grace Episcopal Church

A light lunch will be served following each worship service for a suggested donation of \$3 per person. Loving childcare will be provided for children 5 years of age and younger. Each location features a guest preacher. GFUMC will host the service on Wednesday, February 27.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY

### HEART HEALTHY COOKING

Sunday, February 10

5 - 7 p.m. in the Reception Hall

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. Facilitated by **Karen Rabb**, RDL. Register online at [www.gfumc.com](http://www.gfumc.com) or by calling **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341, ext. 139.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



January was a lively month of learning at the Methodist Marina! Thank you **Couples in Faith Sunday School Class** for sharing your love for Jesus with our children. Couples in Faith challenges other adult Sunday School classes to teach our elementary age children for one month! It was easy! It was fun and the debate of who was blessed more, the adults or children, rages on...Call **Debbie Morris** for details at 770.536.2341, ext. 105.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



### MAC Madness Basketball Tournament

February 19 - March 6

We are looking for people to help with this great upcoming event. Hundreds of children, parents, and coaches will participate in our basketball tournament. Please call **Robert Sapp** or **Pam Spivey** in the Church Office to let us know in which area you can volunteer: **Take up tickets, Concessions, or Score Table.**

# Calendar

FEBRUARY 10 - 17, 2008



### SUNDAY - February 10 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)

### MONDAY - February 11

- 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
- 6:30 Prayer Ministry Team Meeting
- 7:00 Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 7:30 Adult Bells
- 7:30 Adult Basketball

### TUESDAY - February 12

- 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 Pack 16 Blue & Gold Banquet
- 7:00 Stephen Ministry
- 8:00 MLC Band Practice

### WEDNESDAY - February 13

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 4:00 Mime Practice
- 5:00 Family Supper
- 6:00 A Lenten Experience: The Road to Jerusalem
- 6:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Children's Council & Friends
- 6:00 Disciple IV
- 6:00 Islam, Christianity, & Judaism Bible Study
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge
- 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

### THURSDAY - February 14 Valentine's Day

- 9:30 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
- 10:00 MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 4:00 Youth Basketball Practice (until 9 p.m.)
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

### FRIDAY - February 15

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 4:00 Youth Basketball Practice (until 7 p.m.)
- 6:00 Cobb/Durel Wedding Rehearsal

### SATURDAY - February 16

- 12:00 Cobb/Durel Wedding



### SUNDAY - February 17

- 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)
- 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

### Faye Shadburn

770.201.0429

### Katie Tulin

1.800.200.6848

### Sherry Weeks

770.390.4105

*Let these people 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.*



**2nd Annual  
Great Day of Service  
Saturday, March 29, 2008**  
Informational flyer and registration form enclosed. Register beginning Sunday, February 10. Visit the info table in the Gathering Room!



2780 Thompson Bridge Rd.  
Gainesville, GA 30506

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED