



# The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI  
NUMBER 7

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

Let's not forget what is happening *this Saturday*, February 14. It is a most important day. To forget is to miss a wonderful occasion that brings joy and celebration to our lives. There has been a lot of preparation that has gone into what *this Saturday* means. Countless dollars have been spent in hopes that *this Saturday* will be meaningful and encouraging. So let's not forget *this Saturday*.



It's hard to believe that *this Saturday* is already here again. It seems like only yesterday that *this Saturday* was here last year. I have always tried to capture what is happening *this Saturday*. It has always felt like an opportunity to get excited and hopeful about what could be. Deep down in my heart I know it could just be another Saturday in the scheme of life, but I am hopeful that this year *this Saturday* will be different. This year I am imagining that *this Saturday* will be unlike any *this Saturday* before.

I guess by now you have figured out what I'm talking about. It has probably seemed obvious to you from the very beginning. *This Saturday*, February 14, is almost equal to the holiest of days on earth for me. What is *this Saturday*? Valentine's Day? Well it is true that *this Saturday* does fall on Valentine's Day. And it is true that Valentine's Day is very important. And it is true that I will celebrate Valentine's Day; BUT that is not what I've been referring to as important for *this Saturday*. You see *this Saturday* is when pitchers and catchers report to spring training. *This Saturday* marks the beginning of what could be a very exciting year of Braves baseball. Let's not forget what is happening *this Saturday*.

Why do I get so excited about baseball and spring training? There are a lot of reasons. First and best is that the Braves are in first place (so is every other team - but that is beside the point). *This Saturday* causes a rise to the top of my heart - hope for the future. This could be the year. This could be the year the Atlanta Braves put another championship team on the field. And it all begins *this Saturday*.

Hope is a wonderful thing. It is something of which we just can't have too much. What gives you hope these days? Focus on hope. You'll be glad you did. And of course I mean to say "Happy Valentine's Day."

Go Braves,

**Don't forget the Prayer Vigil**  
Friday, February 13 - Saturday, February 14  
6 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

## Worship Services

*"Too Big For His Britches"*  
II Kings 5:1-14, Mark 1:40-45  
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 Doctor for Everyone"*  
Luke 5:30-32  
10:55 a.m. Living Waters  
Praise & Worship Service  
Rev. Wendy Cordova

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 2/08/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary . . . . . 385  
10:55 a.m. Living Waters . . . . . 136  
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary . . . . . 636  
**Worship Totals . . . . . 1,157**  
Sunday School . . . . . 633

### FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Bob Miller** and our son **Brian Miller**, and my parents, **Jack and Bess Fraser**, given by Judy Miller.

### BAPTISM

**Gray Attaway Oliver** will be baptized this Sunday during the 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary service. Her parents are Cliff and Brandi Oliver.

### 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 **Wayne and Jere Langford** on the death of their granddaughter.

...to **Allen Montgomery** on the death of his sister in law.

...to **Sheila Nix** on the death of her mother.

### PRAYER PAGERS

If you, or someone you know, checked out a prayer pager and are not currently using it, please return it to the Church Office so we can continue to offer pagers as they are requested. Thank you.

LOVING AND SERVING GOD  
AS WE LOVE AND SERVE ALL PEOPLE



**A COLD HOUSE IS MADE WARM.  
PLAYGROUNDS ARE BUILT.  
CLOTHES ARE MENDED.  
SHOES ARE GIVEN.  
ROOMS ARE TRANSFORMED.  
COOKIES ARE DELIVERED.  
FLOWERS ARE PLANTED.**

**SPIRITS ARE LIFTED. LIVES ARE TOUCHED.  
PEOPLE ARE CHANGED!**

On **Saturday, March 21, 2009**, we take the mission of Christ beyond the walls of our church and serve where we are called.

### BENEFIT CONCERT TO HONOR

**JIMMY CUTRELL**

**Sunday, February 22**

**3 p.m. at Brenau's Pearce Auditorium**



Join us in celebration of Jimmy's life and relationship with music and our community. Performing are the Lanier Chamber Singers; Keith and Pricilla Jefcoat, pianists; Mary Alice Swope, cellist; and Laurin Smith, violinist; along with other talented friends and students. Admission: Love offering. Proceeds to benefit the Jimmy Cutrell Fund. For additional information, contact **Elena Trear** at [elenatrear@charter.net](mailto:elenatrear@charter.net) or 678.935.2082.



**GFUMC  
TRAVELERS  
Branson Trip  
September 21 - 27**

Join the older adults for a 7-day trip to Branson, Missouri. We will see many great shows, 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. Deluxe motorcoach transportation is included. Contact **Jane Lower** at 770.535.8418 for additional information and/or to reserve your place.



### HOMELESS OFFERING

As you know, because of the economic crisis, many people are hurting this year. Your donation this Sunday, February 15, to the **Homeless Offering** supports homeless shelters, feeding programs, domestic violence shelters, and utility and rent assistance ministries. Your money will assist people in our community. Local ministries that have been helped include: Gateway House, Good News at Noon, and My Sister's Place. Envelopes will be provided.

## OLDER ADULTS

### GADABOUTS

Wednesday,  
February 18, 2009

11 a.m. in the  
Reception Hall



Join us for fun and fellowship  
as we play a few games of **Bingo!**

## PRAYER PAGERS

*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

**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.



### RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM MEETING

Wednesday,  
February 18  
4:30 p.m., Room S-12

If you are interested in  
participating in this year's team,  
you are invited to join us! Contact  
**Lori Floyd** at 770.536.2341 for  
more information.

## A NEW SONG - GOD IS OUR VISION & OUR SONG

One of the anthems the Youth Choir is  
working on is entitled, *Be Thou My Vision*. As  
we sing this old classic, but with a modern  
rhythm, we are reminded:

*"Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou  
and Thou only, first in my heart, high King of  
Heaven, my Treasure Thou art."*



Immortal words in a modern time, words that give true purpose and speak of  
eternity. Why should we sing? Because God demands our praise and our  
servitude. Because even when times are tough, our teenagers know that God  
is the true treasure; it is to Him whom we look, especially when humanity  
fails us.

Recently I was asked, "Why should parents encourage their sons and  
daughters to sing in Youth Choir?" Because even when we lose our ability to  
speak, God's strength comes to us in song.

*Robin Parr, Youth Choir Director*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

February 18, 2009

5 - 6:15 p.m., GREAT Room

Island Teriyaki Chicken, Oriental Fried Rice, Spring Vegetable  
Roll, Garden Green Salad Bar, Broccoli Salad, Waldorf Salad,  
and Banana Creme Pie.

*Kid's Meal: Cheese Pizza*



Make your supper reservation while browsing online at [www.gfumc.com/family\\_supper](http://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.



### WELCOME & CONNECT CLASS

Begins Sunday, February 15  
9:45 a.m. in the GREAT Room

A special introductory four-week class offered  
specifically for our newer members and visitors.

The class is offered on Sunday mornings in the GREAT Room from 9:45-  
10:40 a.m. beginning on February 15th. The class is led by our pastors and  
our first session on February 15, will feature our Senior Pastor, Dr. Terry  
Walton, on the **Dreams and Visions** for Gainesville First United  
Methodist Church.

For more information, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at  
770.536.2341 or [wcordova@gfumc.com](mailto:wcordova@gfumc.com).

## PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

### ENROLL NOW!

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



GFUMC Church members: Feb. 17 - 20  
Open Registration (Public): Feb. 23 - 26

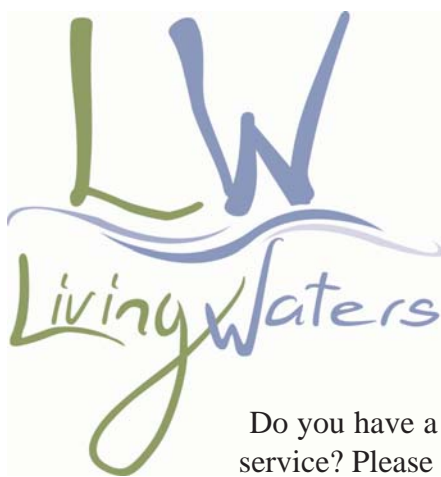
There is a \$70 non-refundable registration fee for all applicants, along with a full month's tuition fee for all Pre-K students (non-refundable).

### WINTERFEST UPDATE

We had a very successful event! We exceeded our budgeted goal of \$11,500. We would like to thank our Preschool Advisory Board members, the Parent Teacher Committee, all of our volunteers, and parents for a job well done! We appreciate so many coming out for this event and supporting our ministry. We hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful display of art and the unique photography of our sweet children.



*Joyce Jones, Preschool Director*



### *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](mailto:wcordova@gfumc.com).

### DOES LIVING WATERS SERVE COMMUNION?

Yes. Holy Communion is served during all worship services on the first Sunday of the month. Ushers direct the congregation toward the altar where they are offered a piece of bread which symbolizes Christ's body. The piece of bread is then dipped into the blessed cup which symbolizes the blood of Christ. Communion is open to all who wish to receive God's grace. Please note that gluten-free bread is available for those with wheat allergies.

### MUSICIANS NEEDED!

Have you been practicing your craft? Is God leading you to share it? Living Waters might be a place where you can "plug in." These musicians are needed: Bass Guitar, Drummer, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, and Male Vocalists.



Contact **Michelle Alexander** at 770.536.2341, ext. 151, or [malexander@gfumc.com](mailto:malexander@gfumc.com) for additional information.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-on-one, Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Seven members of our congregation have participated in more than 50 hours of prescribed training over the past 20 weeks.

This week they will be commissioned in our worship services as Stephen Ministers. Our new Stephen Ministers are: **Jim Carroll, Sally Darden, Anne Dittman, Jaimie Harrison, J.C. Smith, and Tony Walker**. They join Toby Bowdich, Myra Harris, Joyce Hayes, Bruce Johnson, Bruce Jones, Joe Mayfield, Bill Walker, and Jan Winter, who are our existing Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministry Leaders are Barb Mistarz and Jay Leslie. We are grateful for these individuals who have made the commitment to serve as caregivers within the life of our congregation.

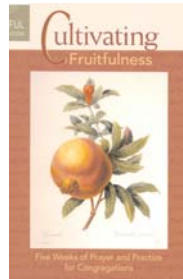
If you would benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister or if you want to know more about this ministry, please contact **Rev. Tom Jones**, Pastor of Congregational Care and Older Adults.



## Ash Wednesday

February 25

11:30 a.m. in the Chapel  
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



**CONGREGATIONAL**  
**5 -WEEK LENTEN STUDY**  
*Three small group opportunities*  
**Sundays, beginning March 1,**  
**5 - 6:15 p.m.,**  
**Wednesdays, beginning March 4,**  
**9 - 10:15 a.m. or 6 - 7:15 p.m.**

Throughout his ministry, Jesus regularly gathered with his friends for times of fellowship, learning, and prayer. During this Lenten season, you are invited to experience this model for Christian discipleship as we read and study the 40-day devotional, *Cultivating Fruitfulness* by Robert Schnase. This study is designed to accompany the Living Waters and Sanctuary sermon series "Plantin' Time."

Sign up beginning Sunday, February 15, for the day and time you would like to be in a small group study. If these times do not fit into your schedule, sign up and indicate when you can meet and we will consider creating additional groups. Cost: \$10. Donations on behalf of other participants welcome.

*The Place Where Everybody  
Knows Your Name...*



With your help, permanent name tags can become a reality at Gainesville First United Methodist Church! Through our mission of *Loving and Serving God as We Love and Serve All People*, the simple act of providing your name can be a life changing event for someone, as it may create a need or want for this individual to be part of a friendly and caring congregation. See the display in the Gathering Room on Sunday.

# Calendar

**FEBRUARY 15 - 22, 2009**

### SUNDAY - February 15

- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 9:45 Welcome & Connect Class
- 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 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
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

### MONDAY - February 16

- Preschool-Closed*
- 8:00 Career Connection Initiative:  
*Job Search Tools*  
more information at [www.gfumc.com](http://www.gfumc.com)
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library open (til 4 p.m.)
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 11:00 UMW: Joy Circle
- 5:30 Basketball Practice
- 6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 7:30 Adult Basketball

### TUESDAY - February 17

- Preschool Registration begins for members of GFUMC*
- 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
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice

NETWORKING - SUPPORT - TRAINING



**Monday, February 16**  
**8 -9:30 a.m., Adult Lobby**  
*Topic: Job Search Tools*

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

### WEDNESDAY - February 18

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library open
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 4:30 Relay for Life Team Meeting
- 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

### THURSDAY - February 19

- 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
- 4:00 Urban Ministry
- 6:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
- 6:30 Lamplighters Meeting
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

### FRIDAY - February 20

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

### SATURDAY - February 21

- 9:00 Emmaus

### SUNDAY - February 22

- Women in Ministry Sunday*
- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 9:45 Welcome & Connect Class
- 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 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
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

# 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 WGG.A.

## Fifty Plus

# 50+

### A Discussion of Economic Trends in 2009

### Monday, February 23

### 6:00 p.m. in the Reception Hall

A covered dish dinner begins at 6 p.m. The discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be led by a panel of experts including: **Al Crumley**, Wachovia Securities, **Frank Norton, Jr.**, The Norton Agency, **Ron Quinn**, Peach State Bank & Trust, and **Barclay Rushton**, Rushton and Company. You may submit your questions by writing and returning them to the front desk of the Church Office. Questions may also be submitted by email to [tjones@gfumc.com](mailto:tjones@gfumc.com) by February 15.



2780 Thompson Bridge Road  
Gainesville, Georgia 30506

## LISTEN ONLINE!

Sanctuary worship services are now available at [www.gfumc.com](http://www.gfumc.com)



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED