



# The BRIDGE

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NUMBER 8

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22, 2009



They say (whoever “they” are) that “practice makes perfect.” And I am learning the hard way that “they” must be correct. I haven’t played a round of golf since early November. I went the other day for a golf lesson. I won the lesson several years ago as a reward (?) for finishing last in a golf tournament; obviously I hadn’t been practicing before that tournament. Anyway, back to the golf lesson. It was terrible. And what was even worse, it was video taped for my “learning pleasure.” I have to get out and practice! I don’t ever expect to be perfect, but I sure hope I can improve. If I don’t, I will have a great bargain on the sale of some golf clubs.

I remember my mother insisting that my sister and I practice our piano. Oh, how I hated that period of practice, up the scale and down the scale, over and over again. I don’t recall if she ever said “Practice makes perfect” (she probably didn’t after hearing my practice). But she certainly believed in the discipline of practice.

Have you ever thought of worship as practice? I think it could be thought of this way. Certainly, we are sharing in the most important hour of the week with other people when we worship God. But practice? I think it could be. When we worship God, we are practicing our faith. We are practicing heaven. We are practicing communal conversation with God. And the more we practice, the more the discipline of practice turns into joy.

This year we are focusing as a congregation on “Passionate Worship.” We are emphasizing the practice of worship. I encourage us all to practice worship even when it is hard to get there. Remember that being present for the practice of worship will help the rest of your week to flow in rhythm with God. Practice makes perfect. The sermon will never be perfect. And maybe the praise team or choir will miss a note or two. We may miss a phrase in the Apostles’ Creed. But it is the “practice” of worship that causes God to be perfectly pleased with us.

So let’s practice and see what happens. See you there!

Fore!



*Didn’t get to hear the message on Sunday morning?  
Or, would you like to listen to the message again?  
GFUMC is now uploading the sermons preached in the  
Sanctuary to our website. Go to [www.gfumc.com](http://www.gfumc.com),  
and click on the link from our homepage.*

## Worship Services

*“The Other Disciples”*

1 Peter 2:9-10

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

Rev. Debby Fox

10:55 a.m. Living Waters

Rev. Wendy Cordova

*Loving and Serving God as  
We Love and Serve All People*

*This Sunday we will  
celebrate Women in Ministry  
Sunday during all  
worship services.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 2/08/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary . . . . .	294
10:55 a.m. Living Waters . . . . .	254
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary . . . . .	512
<b>Worship Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>1,060</b>
Sunday School . . . . .	437

### 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 **Marcia Price** on the death of her father.



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

We celebrate **Ted Dittman** as a newly commissioned Stephen Minister. This past Sunday we commissioned seven new Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministry is confidential, one-on-one, Christian care for individuals experiencing difficulties in their lives.

If you find yourself in need of a Stephen Minister, contact **Rev. Tom Jones** at 770.536.2341 or [tjones@gfumc.com](mailto:tjones@gfumc.com).

## 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. Jimmy will be the guest of honor.

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.

### DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP TO PARTICIPATE IS APPROACHING!



If you have not signed up for the 3rd annual Great Day of Service, go to [www.gfumc.com](http://www.gfumc.com), click on GDS, then fill out the volunteer form and submit online. Forms are also available in the Gathering Room, at the MAC entrance, or the Church Office. **Registration Deadline: Sunday, March 1.** More than 200 volunteers have signed up thus far, but we need many more!

*Are you wondering how you might serve?* Sign up to bake cookies for firefighters (they will love it!). Join CASA at Skate Country and help foster families to network (skating not required!). Help build a wheelchair ramp at Chicopee United Methodist Church or a playground at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. And there are many more!

Also, if you have last year's t-shirt, please wear it again this year. If you need a new one, we are happy to supply. Just indicate on your volunteer form.

Top off your day of service with a Celebration Sundae at the church on Saturday, March 21 (yum!). More details to come. This will be a "great day" in the life of our church. You do not want to miss it!

### WELCOME & CONNECT CLASS

**Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the GREAT Room**



The class is offered on Sunday mornings in the GREAT Room from 9:45-10:40 a.m. The second session on February 22, will feature a tour of the church facility and meet and greet session with pastors, staff, and leaders. For more information, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341 or [wcordova@gfumc.com](mailto:wcordova@gfumc.com). You may come to one or all of the sessions. Class is open to everyone.

## OLDER ADULTS

### GADABOUTS

Wednesday,  
February 25, 2009

11 a.m. in the  
Reception Hall



We will attend the Ash Wednesday service at 12 noon in the Chapel with lunch to follow.

## 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.*



#### Derick Sykes

a friend of Angela Burrell  
1.800.227.9646

#### 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

#### Wendy Pittman

770.201.0626

#### 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.

### PLEASE NOTE

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.

## A NEW SONG

During the coming months, organ familiarization sessions are offered on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 a.m. Church members, friends, and guests are all invited. Sunday School class presidents please contact me to secure a Sunday for your class.

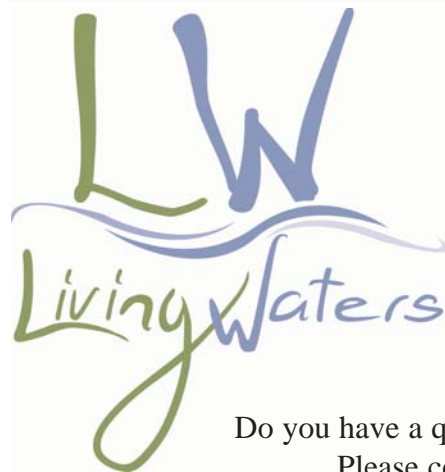


Throughout the ages, pipe organs have stirred, comforted, and inspired people of faith everywhere. Each Sunday, the organ lifts us with the great hymns, supports the singers in the great anthems of choral literature, and brings us to the height of worship and praise through the rendering of the historic *Gloria Patri* and *Doxology*. Organ music can also bring comfort in the darkest times, lead us to the cross during the Lenten season, and bring us triumphant joy on Easter morning.

A paraphrase of Psalm 150 from The Message says that we are to Praise God in His holy house of worship and under the open skies. Praise Him for his acts of power, magnificent greatness; Praise Him with a trumpet blast, strumming of soft strings, castanets and dance, banjo and flute, cymbals and drums, fiddles and mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah!

Serving Christ With You,  
*Keith Jefcoat*

Organist and Adult Handbell Director  
kjefcoat@brenau.edu; 678-859-9319



*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 about adult Sunday School? Won't this new service draw people away from Sunday School?**

It is our hope that this new worship service will appeal to folks who are not currently involved or participating in a Sunday School Class. For many folks today, Christian Education takes place on a different day of the week than Sunday mornings; such as Bible studies and/or small groups for men, women, and adults, and Wednesday Night School. For many families the 9:30 a.m. time slot will provide them a more convenient time for worship.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS



### 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.

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).

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

February 25, 2009

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

Beef Roast, Baked Potato, Seasoned Baby Carrots, Biscuits, Pasta Salad, Garden Green Salad Bar, Sliced Peaches with Cottage Cheese, and Double Chocolate Cake. *Kid's Meal: Hamburgers*



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.



### BEACON SUNDAY MORNING GATHERING

Begins Sunday, March 1  
9:45 - 10:30 a.m. in Adult Lobby

All single adults 40+ are invited for fellowship, a devotion, and prayer each Sunday morning. Contact **Miriam Welling** for more information at 770.535.9128.

### PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Did you know that GFUMC has a prayer ministry team?



The prayer ministry team offers several ongoing ministries, opportunities and events to help us achieve our purpose and goals. These include prayer pagers, the prayer room, an intercessory prayer group, prayer cards, educational and special events. If you would like to learn more or get involved in these wonderful ministries, please contact **Pastor Wendy Cordova** or prayer ministries chair persons, **Trey Wilson** or **Susan Wright**.

## RECREATION MINISTRY

### LIKE TO DANCE?

Join instructor, Jean Hawkins, for the Two-step taught during the month of March. Class meets on Thursday evenings from 7 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Hall. Cost: \$30 per couple.



## STUDENT MINISTRY

### BIGSTUF & GAP

Registration is now open for these two events. Registration forms are available in the Church Office, Youth Hall, and the information center outside of the Youth Hall. BigStuf will be July 10-14, and the two sessions of GAP are June 10-14 and June 24-28. Sign up early as space is limited on both of these events.

### SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY, MAY 3

You should receive information on the lunch and all the festivities in mid-March. If you do not have an introductory letter already, please contact **David Burchett** ASAP at 770.536.2341, ext 115.

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and students who made our first Get Connected weekend a success. There are too many to list individually here, but you know who you are.

### COLLECTION

### CONVERSATIONS

Thursday, March 5  
6:30 - 8 p.m., Library  
Led by Nancy Story



A compelling portrait of the problems associated with old age, narrated by Hagar Shipley, a crotchety old woman who takes up smoking cigarettes at age 90, the book chronicles her spiritual journey and her struggles with family members as she approaches death. Through Hagar's reflective sifting through the layers of her own life, Laurence offers readers innumerable insights into the dangers of pride and the consequences of alienation. Books are available in the Library (2 copies) and for purchase from Books-A-Million, Gainesville.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

	<u>2009</u>
January's Giving Goal	\$219,539
January's Actual Receipts	\$181,601
YTD Giving Goal	\$1,981,017
YTD Actual Receipts	\$1,821,807
YTD Balance	\$( 159,210)



We are well into our new fiscal year, July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009. Your response in these past months has been a blessing. Our professional staff and our volunteer program coordinators are doing a great job of monitoring and managing ministry expenses. Actual year to date expenses are 59.43% of our fiscal year budget of \$3,114,059. Our actual year to date operating receipts is 58.50%, which reflects a slight shortfall. If you are in a position to give a little more for ongoing ministry, we thank you for doing so. This helps balance those who cannot give as they would hope they could. Thank you for prayerfully considering extra giving during these challenging economic days.

Your gifts help the church carry its witness into our community and the world. People are turning to the church in great numbers for help, spiritually and emotionally, during this trying time. Your generous giving helps us to be able to minister to people's needs.

If you have questions, please contact **Shirley Brewster** in the Church Office.

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

With your help, permanent name tags can become a reality at GFUMC!



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.

Order your name tag today!

## Calendar

### FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 1, 2009

#### 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)

#### MONDAY - February 23

*Preschool Registration begins for public*  
 8:00 Career Connection Initiative  
 8:00 Fitness Club  
 9:00 Aerobics  
 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking  
 10:00 AOA Aerobics  
 10:00 UMW Board Meeting  
 11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group  
 4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring  
 5:30 Great Day of Service Team Leader Mtg.  
 5:30 MAC Madness  
 6:00 50+  
 6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting  
 7:00 Boy Scout Training Sessions

#### TUESDAY - February 24

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  
 9:30 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  
 5:30 MAC Madness  
 6:00 Believers Band Practice  
 6:30 Blue & Gold Banquet

NETWORKING - SUPPORT - TRAINING



**Monday, February 23**  
**8 -9:30 a.m., Adult Lobby**  
*Topic: Effective Job Searches*

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 25

*Ash Wednesday*  
 8:00 Fitness Club  
 9:00 Aerobics  
 9:00 Library open  
 11:00 Gadabouts  
 12:00 Ash Wednesday service  
 3:00 Bridge  
 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper  
 6:30 Ash Wednesday service  
 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 7:30 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal

#### THURSDAY - February 26

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  
 5:30 Endowment Trust Meeting  
 5:30 MAC Madness  
 7:00 Ballroom Dance

#### FRIDAY - February 27

*Please note: Preschool is closed.*  
 8:00 Fitness Club  
 9:00 Aerobics  
 10:00 AOA Aerobics  
 10:00 Lenten study for women (LVE)  
 5:00 Confirmation Retreat  
 5:30 MAC Madness

#### SATURDAY - February 28

9:00 MAC Madness  
 9:00 Organ Familiarization Session

#### SUNDAY - March 1

*Registration Deadline for  
Great Day of Service*  
 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  
 4:30 Worship Committee Meeting  
 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

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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 WGA.

## Fifty Plus

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. Sponsored by *Fifty Plus*. All are invited to attend!

## LISTEN ONLINE!

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



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