



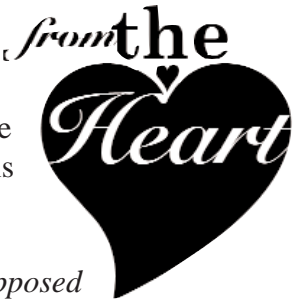
The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 8

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 24, 2008

Steve did such a good job on last week's *Bridge* front page by helping us prepare for the 2008 Braves baseball season. His article got me thinking about a great baseball story involving Yogi Berra, the well-known catcher for the New York Yankees, and Hank Aaron, who at that time played for the Milwaukee Braves. The teams were playing in the World Series, and as usual Yogi was keeping up the chatter, intended to encourage his teammates while distracting the Milwaukee batters.



As Aaron came to the plate, Yogi said, "*Henry, you're holding the bat wrong. You're supposed to hold it so you can read the trademark.*" Aaron looked at him but didn't say a word. When the next pitch came, Aaron hit the ball into the left field bleachers for a homerun. After rounding the bases and touching home plate, Hank Aaron looked at Yogi Berra and said: "*I didn't come up here to read.*"

I enjoyed the role of catcher in my baseball days. I delighted in attempting to distract the batter while he was attempting to focus on the next pitch from the pitcher. Occasionally, a batter would yell back at me, "*Shut up Walton. You're getting on my nerves.*" It was at that moment in time that I realized I had accomplished my mission. I had achieved the goal of getting the batter to think of other things rather than the main focus of hitting the ball. It gave our team an edge, even if only slight.

In the book *Wisdom*, Mark Evans comments on life by saying, "*To be successful in life, you've got to know why you are standing at the plate.*" I think he is correct, and I would add that it is important not to become distracted by those voices who keep trying to tell you all that is wrong with you and the way you do things. Sometimes I think evil's greatest weapon is 'distraction.' May your week be filled with less distractions and more solid hits for living. See you Sunday. Play ball!

With Love and Care,

On **Sunday, February 24**, GFUMC will receive a special offering for the **North Georgia United Methodist Housing and Homeless Council**. When you support the Homeless Offering, your money goes to homeless shelters, feeding programs, domestic violence shelters, utility and rent assistance ministries, and programs that help prevent homelessness or help homeless persons learn skills. Envelopes will be provided for your use.

Worship Services

Mission Possible:
Changing People's Lives

a@NGUHO|GM 3 |GM|Ra|MRc
John 4:5-42
8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m. Traditional Services in the Sanctuary
10:55 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Reception Hall
Dr. Terry Walton and Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 2/17/08

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary: 272
10:55 a.m. Living Waters: 101
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary: 537
Worship Totals: 910
Sunday School: 516

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Evan King's birthday**, given by David, Stacy, Lawson, and Sydney King.

BAPTISM

Mackay Ayers Vinton will be baptized during 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary worship service. Her parents are Mack and Staci Vinton.

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 in the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of **Mary Frances Horning**.

NEW TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY



Loving Well by Beth Moore
Begins Tuesday, March 5
10 a.m. in Room S-13/15
Facilitated by **Ginny Crumley**

Some people are a joy to love, some are difficult to love, and we all have to deal with some people who are humanly impossible to love. In all those relationships, one truth endures: We will never be able to love others until we have been loved well. And only God can ultimately give us the complete love we so desperately need. This is a four-week study. Cost is \$10. Register online or by calling the Church Office.

JOIN US DURING THE SEASON OF LENT



This week at 12 noon
Wednesday, February 27
Gainesville First UMC
Dr. David McDonald,
First Presbyterian 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.

Experience the True Miracle of Easter *Walk Through Holy Week*

Wednesday, March 19

6—7:30 p.m., begins in the Chapel

A multi-generational event featuring our children's choirs, Mary Magdalene, Jesus, and a special four-legged friend.



DAY OF DISCERNMENT



God's call for the future of Gainesville *First United Methodist Church*

Do you have ideas? The members of Gainesville First UMC are invited to join the Discernment Team on **Saturday, March 1** from **8:30 - 11:30 a.m.** in the GREAT Room for round-table discussion.

The Discernment Team has been meeting with Sunday school classes and now wants to meet with the larger church. A nursery will be provided for children 5 years and younger. Please register by calling the Church Office so we can plan for the day's activities.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2 - 3:15 p.m. in Room S-12

Do you suffer from Fibromyalgia? A Fibromyalgia Support Group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at GFUMC. For more information, contact **Cathy Squires** at 678.464.2090 or **Anna Butler** at 770.531.0861.

MUSIC & MISSION TOUR



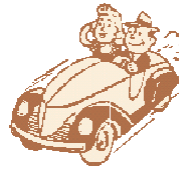
CHANGES ANNOUNCED...

Plans for the 2008 Music and Mission trip have been altered. Members of the Youth Choir will add a musical element to the mission trip to Jamaica during Spring Break this April. They will be led by **Robin Parr** and will prepare a special musical presentation for the trip. Thanks to **David Burchett** for helping make this possible at this late date.

Watch future issues of *The Bridge* for information on how you can help support future Music and Mission trips. A part of this will be the chance to contribute to the Youth Choir Rummage Sale in late April.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS Wednesday, February 27 11 a.m. in the Reception Hall



We will gather for a devotion and announcements, and then attend the Community Lenten Service at 12 noon with lunch following.



50+

Monday, February 25 6 p.m. in the Reception Hall

Michael Lipina, Chief Park Ranger, with the Corp of Engineers will be our guest speaker. Bring a covered dish to share.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The 3rd Annual
WinterFest
sponsored by the
Preschool was a
success - Hallelujah!



We would like to thank all the dedicated parents, grandparents, preschool and church staff, church members and community sponsors that graciously helped make this possible. Our goal of \$ 17,500 was met and then some - what a blessing.

In focusing our time and effort on one major fundraiser, it enables the preschool to provide the continued quality care of its students and families. The proceeds raised will be used for continuing education opportunities for our staff and students, classroom supplies, educational equipment and keeping down tuition costs.

YOUNG ADULTS

In College or College-age?

We'd like to encourage you to attend and check out **ICHTHYS Sunday School** class on Sunday mornings in Room S-142 at 9:45 a.m.



Mission Trip

We are really excited to be offering a mission trip to the **Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf** in Jamaica the week of August 2-9, 2008. For more information, please contact **David Burchett** or **Zach Propes**.

AT THE MAC



The tournament has begun! Come out and watch youth basketball at its finest and support this great outreach event to the community! Tickets are only \$1 per student and \$2 per adult. Your donation goes to mission projects. Check the church calendar for the times games begin each day.



CHRIST CENTERED YOGA

New session beginning
Tuesday, February 26
8:30-9:50 a.m. in the Reception
Hall. Instructor: **Becky Martin**,
R.Y.T. Cost: \$60 in advance,
or \$12/session at the door.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE . . . PRACTICING HOSPITALITY



“Hospitality is a mark of Christian discipleship and demonstrates the gracious love of Christ. By practicing hospitality, we show people that God in Christ values them and loves them...”

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

Our 2nd annual Great Day of Service offers several opportunities to demonstrate hospitality to people of all ages. These opportunities include everything from visits to residents of assisted living facilities, serving ice cream and home-baked cookies, and offering music and activities to a Skate Country party for local children in foster care followed by lunch at the church.

At Jones Elementary School, GDS volunteers will organize refreshments and games for children and their families. Similarly, at Baker-Glover Mobile Home Park, one team of volunteers will lead clean-up and will offer games and serve a hot dog lunch while a second team prepares a playground area and installs playground equipment.

At J & J Foods, members of GFUMC will have a community hospitality table and will greet shoppers with refreshments and information about our church. Other volunteers will lead the day camp for special needs children at Sunrise Camp.

While some GDS volunteers deliver home-baked cookies to fire and police stations, others will be delivering a special treat, a Chick-Fil-A meal to Meals on Wheels clients. Most of these activities - V1 through V8 on the GDS Registration Form - are especially good choices for families with smaller children.

Will you choose one of these ways to practice hospitality on Great Day of Service? Registration forms are available on the information tables in the Narthex and at the MAC entrance and at the GDS information table in the Gathering Room each Sunday through March 9 when registration ends. You may also register online or get more information about Great Day of Service at www.gfumc.com/gds.

*EVERYONE
WANTS TO GIVE*

___ \$14 potted azalea

___ \$3 lilies to decorate Cross



(Please print.)

In memory of: _____

In honor: _____

Given by: _____

The deadline for orders is **Monday, March 3, 2008**. Payment **MUST** accompany the order. Please do not mail orders, instead bring to the Church Office or place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Thank you.



We would like to show our appreciation to the Physicians, Dentists, Psychiatrists, and Counselors who call GFUMC their church home by inviting you to a

Celebration of Healing Ministries Lunch

**Sunday, March 2, 2008
12:30 p.m. in the GREAT Room**

Please **R.S.V.P. by Friday, February 22**, by calling Jackie Powers in the Church Office at 770.536.2341, ext. 102.

FAMILY SUPPER
Wednesday, February 27
 5 - 6:30 p.m.
 in the GREAT Room



**BBQ Chicken Breast, Seasoned Baked Beans,
 French Fries, Dinner Rolls,
 Spring Green Salad Bar, Mixed Fresh Fruit
 Bowl with Cottage Cheese, Coleslaw,
 Potato Salad, and Assorted Desserts.**

No separate Kid's Meal this week.

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.

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

Beginning in this edition of *The Bridge*, there will be a financial report once per month so we all can see how we as a church are doing financially compared to the same time last year. This information is based on the month's "Giving Goal" computation that the Finance Committee implemented two years ago. To arrive at this figure, we have taken the last three years of receipts and calculated an average of expectation to that year's budget. That average is then applied to this year's budget for that month. This will become the month's "Giving Goal."

Churches do not receive, nor do they spend, in equal 1/12 increments (an equal amount each month of the year). Therefore, we have looked to a three-year trend to give us realistic expectation of gifts for each month. There will also be a "Year to Date" running expectation based on those trends. If you have questions, please contact **Shirley Brewster** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341, ext. 117.

January	2007	2008
<i>Giving Goal</i>	\$203,029	\$211,065
<i>Actual Receipts</i>	\$196,401	\$189,458
<i>YTD Giving Goal</i>	\$203,029	\$211,065
<i>YTD Actual Receipts</i>	\$196,401	\$189,458
<i>YTD Balance</i>	(\$ 6,628)	(\$21,608)



Calendar

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 2, 2008



SUNDAY - February 24

- 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
- 2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806
- 3:15 Cub Scout Meeting
- 4:00 GriefShare Support Group
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 6:00 Transitions Bible Study for Singles
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

MONDAY - February 25

- 8:00 Teaching Parish
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 10:00 UMW Board Meeting
- 12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 4:00 Bible Club & Tutoring
- 5:30 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament
- 6:00 50+
- 6:30 Disciple II
- 7:00 Highlands Church Bible Study
- 7:00 Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 7:30 Adult Bells

TUESDAY - February 26

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 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
- 5:30 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 8:00 MLC Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - February 27

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 11:30 Preschool Board Meeting
- 12:00 Community Lenten Service at GFUMC
- 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 Refresh/Recharge
- 6:00 Youth Bells
- 6:15 Youth Bible Studies
- 6:30 Living Waters Praise Team
- 6:30 Men's Bible Study
- 6:45 Children's Bible Studies
- 7:00 Chancel Choir

THURSDAY - February 28

- 9:30 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 5:30 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament
- 6:00 Outreach Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - February 29

- Preschool will be closed.*
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 5:00 Pinewood Derby Weigh In
- 5:30 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament

SATURDAY - March 1

- 8:30 Day of Discernment
- 9:00 Believers Band
- 2:00 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament
- 4:00 Pinewood Derby

SUNDAY - March 2

- 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
- 12:30 Healing Ministries Luncheon
- 4:00 GriefShare Support Group
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)



Do you lead or teach a Sunday school class? Thank you for helping us grow!

You are invited to the **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** on **Sunday, March 9, 12:15 p.m.** in the GREAT Room. RSVP by Wednesday, February 27. Childcare and lunch provided by reservations for children ages 0-10. Children over 10 are invited to join us for lunch and will be counted as an adult. Speaker will be **Rev. Debby Fox**, Pastor of Christian Education.

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



Cameron Bowden
770.201.0263

Tonya Gore
Angela Burrell's niece
770.201.0867

Don Little
770.390.4021

Faye Shadburn
770.201.0429

NEW PAGER #
Katie Tulin
1.800.225.3412

*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.*

WESLEYAN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

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**Stay informed! Fill out the
tear off in the Sunday bulletin!**



2780 Thompson Bridge Rd.
Gainesville, GA 30506

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

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