



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 9

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 1, 2009



The Beatles recorded a popular song in the 1960s entitled “I Want to Hold Your Hand.” If you are familiar with that song it is already humming in your head. It is one of those tunes that sort of sticks with you once you’ve heard it. That song is on my mind as I write this article for a different reason. Certainly I remember the first time I held Sharon’s hand. It was on our first date when we went to see the movie *Posse* at the Desoto Theatre in Rome, Georgia. I was so nervous. I remember counting down in my head as a way of mustarding up the courage to reach for her hand. After counting down from ten (about three times in a row) I reached and held on. I’ve been holding her hand ever since that day.

But this is not the kind of “hand-holding” I’m thinking of at this time. This past Sunday, I missed being with you at GFUMC. Our family was gathered at John’s Creek UMC in John’s Creek, Georgia, for a very special moment. It was the moment of our granddaughter, Caroline’s baptism. I, along with my dad, and my very best friend in ministry, Dee Shelnett, laid our hands on Caroline’s head and baptized her in the name of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the hand-holding of which I refer. And I don’t mean that my dad, Dee, and I held hands as we baptized her. What happened in the moment of her baptism was that our family joined hands with the Church of Jesus Christ to work together with her parents to raise Caroline in the Christian faith. As a church and as a family, we now hold Caroline’s faith in our hands. We hold her faith until she is able to decide for herself to accept the faith we hold on her behalf. Our family holds hands with the church in anticipation of the day of Caroline opening the gift of faith for herself.

I must admit it was a moving moment for us. But it was a scary one as well because it involved trust. We trust the church to live and love as Jesus would live and love so that Caroline will want to continue to be a part of God’s family. As a family, we hope that we can do so as well. We know we need the church to help us live in ways that will cause Caroline to desire Jesus to live in her heart. We hold hands tightly with great hope of her life always being full of God. I want to hold your hand, and I hope you will want to hold my hand as well.

With Love and Care,



P.S. Holy Communion will be served during all worship services this Sunday.

Worship Services



Plantin’
Time

Sermon Series

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

“Dreamin’ Time”

Romans 15:1-7

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

Dr. Terry Walton

9:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters

Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 2/22/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	294
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	180
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	416
Worship Totals	890
Sunday School	651

FLOWERS

Flowers are a beautiful expression of love and a gift from God. If you would like to have an arrangement of flowers placed in the Sanctuary or Narthex in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend, please contact **Shirley Corders** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341 and forward your check in the amount of \$85 to the Church Office, specifying on your check it is for a flower reservation. In order to secure your special date, please make your reservation as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to **Lucy Henry** on the death of her father.

...to the family and friends of **Susan Law**.

...to the family and friends of **Tony Maggio**.

...to **J. D. Smith** on the death of his mother.

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.



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, 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: this Sunday, March 1.** Help take the mission of Christ beyond the walls of our church and serve where we are called!

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.

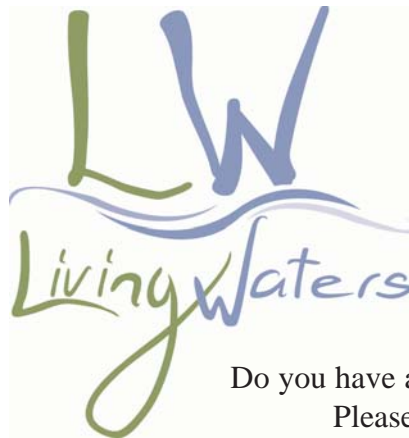
Top off your day of service with a Celebration Sundae at the church on Saturday, March 21 (yum!). More details to come. This will be a "great day" in the life of our church. You do not want to miss it!

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 third session on March 1, will provide the opportunity for you to learn more about who we are, where we came from, and where we are going.

You may come to one or all of the sessions. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341.



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.

Are you looking for a way to get involved in Living Waters?

You are invited to help us begin the new 9:30 a.m. service by committing to three months of worship during this time slot. We believe this will help us create the warm and welcoming atmosphere that we desire for this worship experience. Your presence will make that possible!

Also, do you have experience or want to learn and help with the audio/visual aspects of the worship service? We are looking for several people to help with both services!

OLDER ADULTS



GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
March 4

11 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Happy Kirkpatrick will make a presentation about children's pop-up books.

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.



Mike Adcock
770.201.0319

Gail Church
a friend of Lisa Bisson
770.201.1041

Diana Cindea
a friend of Lora Cooley
770.201.0121

Margot Mickel
770.201.0320

Wendy Pittman
770.201.0626

Faye Shadburn
770.201.0429

Derick Sykes
a friend of Angela Burrell
1.800.227.9646

Katie Tulin
1.800.225.3412

LENT



The fourth season of the Christian year is upon us. Lent is the 40 days, not counting Sundays, before Easter. As Advent is a time of excitement and preparation for the coming of the Messiah, so Lent is a time of reflection and prayer as we prepare for the passion and crucifixion. But we know that Christ's suffering and death ends with the resurrection and eternal life for all true followers.

During the days ahead, we will have many opportunities for worship and study at GFUMC. On Sunday mornings we will have four opportunities for worship: two in the sanctuary, and two in Living Waters. A new 9:30 a.m. worship time begins there this Sunday.

In addition, worship opportunities are available each Wednesday at various community churches. Other times are planned for Holy Week, just before Easter. You will hear Lenten themes reflected in the sermons, prayers, hymns, and special music throughout the season.

On **April 9, Holy Thursday**, there will be a Tenebrae, or Service of Darkness at 8 p.m.

Come to worship and grow in spirit this Lent.

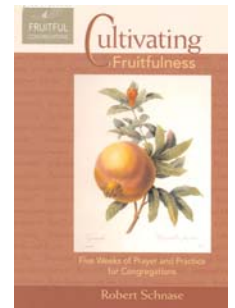


Becoming a Fruitful Congregation through Prayer: **A LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

The guide provides a scripture and prayer suggestion for use in your personal time of devotion. Join your church family in prayer as we seek God's presence and direction during the season of Lent. Guides are provided by the Prayer Ministry Team. Lenten calendars with activities for children and families are now available to pick up. Guides and calendars are in the Narthex, at the MAC entrance, and in the Reception Hall. Please take one per family.

Congregational Lenten Study

Throughout his ministry, Jesus regularly gathered with his friends for times of fellowship, learning, and prayer. Beginning Sunday, March 1, or Wednesday, March 4, and continuing through 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." Cost: \$10. Donations on behalf of other participants welcome.



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.



**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.

RESIDENT OF LANIER VILLAGE ESTATES?

LVE Membership Reception
Tuesday, March 3
3 - 4 p.m. in the Café at LVE

A brief program presented by the pastors will begin at 3:15 p.m. The reception is to honor the members of Gainesville First United Methodist Church who are LVE residents. Residents will have the opportunity to meet and greet the pastors and the administrative staff of Gainesville First UMC.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

March 4, 2009
5 - 6:15 p.m., GREAT Room

Southwest Chicken, Spanish Rice,
Mexican Beans, Tortilla Chips with Dip,
Garden Salad, Pineapple with Cottage
Cheese, and Key Lime Pie.

Kid's Meal: Chicken Tenders and Fries



Make your supper reservation while browsing online at 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.



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.

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. If you have any questions on either of these events, please contact **David Burchett** or **Jake Webster**. Sign up early as space is limited on both of these events.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



FAITH PRINTS

4TH AND 5TH GRADE RETREAT 2009

Discover the Unseen

Thanks to all the parent volunteers and children for a most wonderful time away!

CHILD & BABYSITTING SAFETY CLASS

Saturday, March 14, 2009
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



This class is designed to provide information and skill training for youth, ages 11-15. Learn how to take care of a parents' most prized possession: their child! Find out what every parent wants in a responsible babysitter. Participants receive ASHI Certification card. Pre-registration is required and payment of the \$10 fee will be taken at the door. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 12th. To register, please call **Pam Spivey** at 770.536.2341 ext. 139 or email her at pspivey@gfumc.com. More information can be found online at www.gfumc.com/health_wellness.



MISSION ACTION Tuesday, March 3 7 p.m. Gathering Room

United Methodist Women's Circle Mission Action members and any other interested women are invited to join us for this monthly meeting.

COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES Wednesdays at 12 noon



A light lunch will be served following each worship service for a suggested donation of \$3 per person. Loving childcare will be provided for infants through children 5 years of age. Each service will feature a guest preacher as listed below.

March 4 at Grace Episcopal Church

Rev. Wendy Cordova,
Gainesville First United Methodist Church

March 11 at First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Thad Rudd, St. Michael Catholic Church

March 18 at First Baptist Church of Gainesville

Dr. David McDonald, First Presbyterian Church

March 25 at GFUMC

Rev. Doug Dailey, Grace Episcopal Church

Calendar

MARCH 1 - 8, 2009

SUNDAY - March 1

Registration Deadline - Great Day/Service
8:30 Sanctuary Worship
9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
9:45 Welcome & Connect Class
9:45 Sunday School
10:55 J.A.M. - Jesus and Me (Children's Church)
10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
10:55 Sanctuary 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)

WEDNESDAY - March 4

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Library open
10:00 Columbarium/Memorial Care Team
11:00 Gadabouts
12:00 Community Lenten Service at Grace Episcopal Church
3:00 Bridge
5:00 Wednesday Night Supper
6:00 Congregational Lenten Study
6:00 Conversational Spanish I and II
6:00 The Jesus Challenge
6:00 Lighthouse
6:00 Living Beyond Yourself Women's Group
6:00 Wild at Heart Men's Group
6:00 Youth Bell Choir
6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal

MONDAY - March 2

8:00 Career Connection Initiative
8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
10:00 AOA Aerobics
10:00 First Monday Circle
11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
5:30 GDS Committee Meeting
5:30 MAC Madness
6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
6:30 Evangelism Committee Meeting
6:30 Health & Wellness Meeting
7:00 Boy Scout Training Sessions
7:00 Emmaus

THURSDAY - March 5

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
2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
5:30 MAC Madness
6:30 Believers Band - Jazz
6:30 Collection Conversations Book Club
7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - March 6

Preschool-closed for teacher training.
8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
10:00 AOA Aerobics
10:00 Lenten study for women (LVE)
5:30 MAC Madness
6:00 The Beacon First Friday Night Live

TUESDAY - March 3

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
7:00 SPR Meeting
7:00 UMW: Mission Action

SATURDAY - March 7

9:00 MAC Madness

SUNDAY - March 8

8:30 Sanctuary Worship
9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
9:45 Welcome & Connect Class
9:45 Sunday School
10:55 J.A.M. - Jesus and Me (Children's Church)
10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
10:55 Sanctuary 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)

NETWORKING - SUPPORT - TRAINING



**Monday, March 2
8-9:30 a.m., Adult Lobby**

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. Come dressed as if you are going to work.



Prayer Focus:

Hope for the hopeless

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 WGA.



FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE STUDY

Beginning Sunday, March 1

9:45 a.m. in Room S-25

Relationships are wonderful gifts given to us by God. As we read in the Bible, the most intimate relationship is marriage between a husband and wife. Unfortunately, marriages today are under more pressure and stress than ever before. Join the **G.I.F.T. Sunday School class** (Growing in Faith Together) and get immediate help for your marriage. Contact **Karen Rabb** at 770.534.3004 for more information.

LISTEN ONLINE!

Sanctuary worship services are now available at www.gfumc.com



GAINESVILLE

First

UNITED METHODIST

Church

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