



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 10

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 16, 2008

"...as I look out across this nation and its condition as we approach an election year where we will select the person to occupy the Presidency of the United States, that our best hope for this nation is in the building of churches - strong churches, responsive churches, churches able and willing to make a difference. Churches that are active and acting, churches that are reaching deep within to replenish the springs of their spiritual heart and reaching out to lift the fallen, bind the broken, set free those who are deprived - churches that are making a difference!"



I say to you in all humility and gratitude, this is one of those churches. This is a church that not only believes in something, but is prepared to continue to act upon those beliefs, and that is a point at which I want to stroke you. I do not know of a church anywhere that has responded to more challenges and made more changes with winsomeness and warm-heartedness, and constantly reaches out to do more than this church. And it is precisely because of what we have accomplished that God continues to open wider and wider doors to us..."

The above words were spoken by Dr. W. Frank Harrington to the congregation of Peachtree Presbyterian Church on October 25, 1992. The sermon that day was "When We Stand on the Banks of Tomorrow!" A friend gave me a copy of this sermon a few years ago, because it had meant so much to her at that time. I found it in a stack of papers on my study desk at home and read it once again. I thought how very much I agree with Dr. Harrington. "Our best hope for this nation is in the building of churches-strong churches, responsive churches, churches able and willing to make a difference."

God is doing great and wonderful things at GFUMC. We are growing to be an even stronger church as we are opening up to God's wishes for us as the Body of Christ for this part of God's world. And Luke's Gospel is true that "those who are faithful in little will be faithful in much." So thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your excitement about God's journey for us as God's people. God IS opening wider and wider doors to us because of our willingness to be faithful. See you Sunday.

With Love and Care,

Worship Services

Mission Possible:

Changing People's Lives

"Malchus: From Agony to Ecstasy"

Matthew 26:36-56

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. Tom Jones

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 3/9/2008

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary 250
 10:55 a.m. Living Waters 116
 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary 658
Worship Totals 1,024
 Sunday School 530

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving honor of

Elizabeth Ashford Romberg on her 95th birthday, given by Caroline and Hal Silcox.

The flowers in the Narthex are to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband,

William Hammond Johnson Jr., given by Mrs. William Hammond Johnson Jr. (Elizabeth).

Also in honor of

Mary Katherine Gainey and Patrick Frees on the occasion of their wedding.

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 **Mark Alexander** on the death of his father.

...to **Bob Folsom** on the death of his father.

Membership News continues on page 3.

Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008

Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, is the Sunday before Easter. On this day we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem near the end of a public ministry spent almost entirely outside Israel's capital city. When Jesus entered the city with his entourage, people laid palm branches on the road before him and greeted him as the long-awaited Messiah, shouting, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"



On Palm Sunday, March 16, the children of Gainesville First UMC will recreate Jesus' triumphant entry at the beginning of each of the three worship services. We invite all children to participate in the procession of the palms. If you would like for your child to participate, please follow the instructions which are online at www.gfumc.com or call the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

Also, please see *The Bridge* insert for the Holy Week and Easter Sunday schedule.

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY March 16, 2008



This Sunday, we welcome those who have been visiting Gainesville First UMC and wish to make this their church home. See page 3 for information on our Get Connected! Class and find out how you can get involved at GFUMC! If you have been visiting and would like to join, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341, ext. 135.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Palm Sunday, March 16 7 p.m. in the Reception Hall



At the completion of the Church Council Meeting, there will be a **Called Charge Conference** to receive a recommendation from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee regarding Paul Arnold's Candidacy for Ministry.



OPEN HOUSE FOR Reed & Kim Skinner

Saturday, March 22
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

at the home of Wes & Laura Head

Reed, Kim, Cassidy, Hannah, and Corban will be missed! The Skinners will be leaving soon for full-time ministry at Orphanage Emmanuel in Honduras. Please join us in the celebration at 3080 Stillwater Drive, Gainesville, Georgia. RSVP to **Laura Head** at 770.531.0380 by Wednesday, March 19.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Elijah Tate Owens was born on March 4, 2008. Proud parents are Rob and Holli Owens. A rosebud will be placed on the altar this Sunday in his honor.

SPECIAL OFFERING



A special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing** will be received on Palm Sunday, March 16. Join with United Methodists worldwide by giving to support humanitarian aid through UMCOR. For more information on this offering visit www.umcor.org.

UMW CIRCLES



JOY CIRCLE
Monday, March 17
11 a.m. in Room S-12

PRAYER CARDS



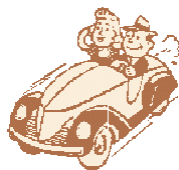
Please take a prayer card, which focuses on **"GFUMC in Mission,"** and pray for the **Great Day of Service, Saturday, March 29** and the **Youth Mission Trips** to Jamaica and Ringgold, Georgia, which will take place over Spring Break. Cards are available on the easels in the Gathering Room and at the MAC entrance.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
March 19

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Jeff Thompson, the Chaplain at NEGMC, will be our guest speaker.

GAITHER HOMECOMING TOUR 2008

Saturday, April 26

6 p.m. at Gwinnett Center

The cost is \$50 per person and includes transportation. Contact **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341, ext. 139 to sign up!

CALLAWAY GARDENS

Monday, May 12

\$35/person

Includes a buffet lunch, tour, and transportation from Gainesville First UMC. Contact **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341, ext. 139 to sign up!

IN CELEBRATION OF



Combined Sunday School
Sunday March 30
9:45 a.m. in the Chapel

Dr. Sam Rauch and **Frank Armstrong** will discuss Dr. Holmes Rolston's environmental ethics. Dr. Rolston is a noted environmental theologian and philosopher from Colorado State University, who will be participating in an interfaith worship service on Sunday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at GFUMC.

WELCOME TO GFUMC



GET CONNECTED!

April 13 - 27

9:45 a.m. on Sundays

A three-week introduction to the church, offered to visitors and new members who want to learn a little more about our church and United Methodism. Join us for one or all sessions not only to learn more about the church, but to meet others like yourself who may be new to our congregation! Our hope is that this will also help you to find ways you can "connect" and "plug in" to the community and the ministries here at GFUMC. This class is offered at 9:45 a.m., during the Sunday School hour.

Sunday, April 13

*Church Tour &
Meet and Greet*

Sunday, April 20

*Who are we?
What do we believe?*

Sunday, April 27

*What does "church
membership" mean?*

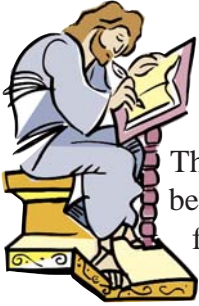
For more information or if you have questions, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** by phone at 770.536.2341, ext. 135 or by email at wcordova@gfumc.com.

NEW MEN'S BIBLE STUDY TOPIC STARTS THIS WEEK!

Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Gospel of Matthew

Begins Tuesday, March 18, 7 - 8 a.m. in the Reception Hall



The Gospel of Matthew is placed first in the New Testament, not because it was written first, but because of the importance given to this Gospel in the life of the church. Most people, if they are fortunate, know at least one person they can count on for moral consistency and integrity. They turn to this person in times of trouble and questioning. Throughout the centuries, Matthew's Gospel has been such a stable friend to the church. This 10-week study is facilitated by **Dr. Terry Walton**. There is no cost to attend. The Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study is ongoing. New members are welcome to join at any time!

Register online at www.gfumc.com or by calling the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

HELPING HANDS NEEDED

Can you help us create a more
"welcoming" environment on
Sunday mornings?



This is not our church ... it belongs to God! It is our hope that every person who ever enters our doors will experience the presence and love of God. For whatever reason they come to GFUMC, be it for worship, MAC Madness, or to buy a pumpkin! It is our privilege and responsibility to help them experience God when they come...can you help us make that possible?

We need volunteers; we need many hands to make it happen! There is a bulletin board outside the Church Office with additional information and a sign-up sheet! Please check it out and see how you can help us be a place of "radical hospitality."

We currently have needs in our **Welcome Ministry**:

- Bus Driver
- Golf Cart Driver
- Hospitality
- First Friends
- First Time Visitors

Communion Stewards Needed



Holy Communion is served during all services on the first Sunday of each month. Can you help with the set-up of Communion during the worship services 2 or 3 times per year? Contact **Dick Rightmyer** at 678.936.5937 to get involved!

Are you in college or college-aged?

Check out **ICHTHYS Sunday School** class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room S-142.



CHECK IT OUT New Library Hours!

Daytime

Sunday

9:45 - 11 a.m.

Monday – Thursday

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Evening

Wednesday

5 - 7 p.m.

LOST & FOUND

The Lost and Found bin seems to have a life of its own, and grows new arms and legs at a pace beyond its zone. Help us by checking the lot for items you lost and forgot. At the end of each month we'll clean out by donating remains to charities about.

The Lost and Found is located in the Work Room outside the Church Office. Items currently in the bin include jackets, children's bags, Bibles, and a sleeping bag.



FAMILY SUPPER

Wednesday, March 19

5 - 6:30 p.m. in the GREAT Room



**Broccoli Cheddar Soup,
Ham & Cheese Subs,
Shrimp Tortellini Salad,
Chicken Salad, Garden Green Salad Bar,
Fruit & Cottage Cheese, Chocolate Jubilee.**

Kid's Meal: Ham & Cheese Subs and Chips.

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.

HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY



BLOOD DRIVE Wednesday, March 19 2:30 - 7:30 p.m.

A pint of blood can help save 3 - 4 lives. Anyone who is 17 years or older and weighs at least 110 pounds can donate if there are no medical or travel restrictions. Look for the LifeSouth Bloodmobile! Sign up by calling the Church Office.

Wednesday Dessert Menu March 26 - April 30

dessert (n.) *A usually sweet course or dish, as of fruit, ice cream, or pastry, served at the end of a meal.*



Don't forget to save room for dessert! You have enjoyed a smorgasboard of Bible studies since school began in August. Now that the school schedules are winding down, join us for a menu of five different desserts on Wednesday evenings:

"Spanish: Everything You Want to Know, But Are Afraid to Ask" Facilitated by Maria Wold

"Growing Together : Celebrating Earth Day 2008"
Facilitated by Dr. Sam Rauch & Frank Armstrong

"Learning Together" Facilitated by Rev. Debby Fox

"Giving Together" Facilitated by Ferrell Singleton

"Singing & Ringing Together" Presented by the Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, & Keith Jefcoat

Calendar

MARCH 16 - 23, 2008



SUNDAY - March 16

Palm Sunday

Membership Sunday

- 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
- 3:15 Cub Scout Meeting
- 4:00 GriefShare Support Group
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 6:00 Children's Council Meeting
- 7:00 Church Council Meeting
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

MONDAY - March 17

- 8:00 Teaching Parish
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 11:00 Joy Circle Meeting (UMW)
- 12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 12:00 Lenten Lunch
- 4:00 Bible Club & Tutoring
- 6:30 Disciple II
- 6:30 Emmaus
- 7:30 Adult Bells
- 7:30 Basketball

TUESDAY - March 18

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study: *Gospel of Matthew*
- 8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
- 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Group
- 9:30 Believers Band Practice
- 10:00 *Effective Parenting* Bible Study
- 10:00 *Living A Purpose-Full Life* Bible Study
- 10:00 *Loving Well* Bible Study
- 12:00 Lenten Lunch
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 7:00 Adult Ministries Team
- 8:00 MLC Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - March 19

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 2:30 Blood Drive
- 3:00 Bridge
- 5:00 Family Supper
- 6:00 Disciple IV
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge
- 6:00 Walk Through Holy Week
- 6:00 Youth Bells
- 6:15 Youth Bible Studies
- 6:30 Living Waters Praise Team
- 6:45 Children's Bible Studies
- 7:00 Chancel Choir

THURSDAY - March 20

Holy Thursday

- 9:30 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance
- 7:00 Holy Thursday Worship Service

FRIDAY - March 21

Good Friday

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 12:00 Good Friday Community Worship Service



SUNDAY - March 23

Easter Sunday

- 6:30 Sunrise Worship in the Reception Hall
- 8:00 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:55 Kid's Church
- 10:55 Living Waters Contemporary Worship in the Reception Hall
- 10:55 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

There will be no evening activities on Easter Sunday. Enjoy spending time with your family and friends as you celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

STUDENT MINISTRY



During **The Harbor** on **Sunday, March 16**, students will be visiting **Who Wants to Be A Millionaire** with some chances to win some great stuff! We will also look at the question **"How Holy is the Homey?"** This series will conclude on **Sunday, March 30**.

Registration is still open for the **GAP** and **BigStuf** summer events. Forms are in the Youth Hall and the Church Office. Register soon to get your spot!!!

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

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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.



PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY

Let these people know that you are thinking of them.

Cameron Bowden
770.201.0263

Faye Shadburn
770.201.0429

Tonya Gore
Angela Burrell's niece
770.201.0867

Katie Tulin
1.800.225.3412



Pray! Dial the phone number for the person you prayed for. (You will hear 3 beeps.) Dial 111# & hang up.



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