



The BRIDGE

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GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 22, 2009



It was nice being a little boy again. That's how it seemed on my first journey to baseball's spring training. There I was in my Brave's shirt and hat with a baseball and pen in hand seeking autographs. I felt like a little boy again. It was a good feeling. My dad and my two sons made our journey on our 'man-cation' to see the boys of summer playing in the spring. It was an experience full of memories. All these years of being an Atlanta Braves fan and finally we go to Spring Training. It was pure fun.

The overriding question from many has been 'Will the Braves be any good this year?' My response is simply that they will be better than last year. And there is potential for a really good year. I realize that I am the eternal optimist when it comes to the Braves, but all of that aside, I really think they will have a good year. The pitching looks good. Hitting is looking consistent, and the defense is solid. I wish we had one more power hitter, but there is potential that one could arise from the ranks. I am excited about this year. But then so are all baseball fans for their respective teams this time of year.

This Saturday is our Great Day of Service and I am equally excited. We have more than 700 volunteers registered to help with over 60 projects. Many of you have worked extremely hard to prepare for this day. Thanks to each of you for your labor of love on behalf of those who need some help. We will be extending hugs (both figuratively and literally) this Saturday. In the name of Christ, we will be offering grace and hope. We will be planting seeds of encouragement and love. I thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of this community. Thanks especially to Sharon Farkas and Cherry Valentine for their leadership as co-chairs of this year's event. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Thanks to many of you who have purchased a name tag. It is wonderful to be able to call each other by name. It adds to the warmth and hospitality that already exists at GFUMC. Remember to wear your name tag this Saturday as we work serving our Lord together. If you haven't remembered to purchase a name tag, you can do so on Sundays in the Gathering Room or call the Church Office during the week. The more the merrier. Thanks for helping GFUMC be a place of radical hospitality. You are the best!

With Love and Care...Go Braves,

Worship Services



Plantin'
Time

Sermon Series

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

"Walkin' Time"

John 3:14-21

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 3/15/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary 237
9:30 a.m. Living Waters 120
10:55 a.m. Living Waters 156
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary 604
Worship Totals 1,117
Sunday School 527

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Abbott Hayes Sr.**, given by his nieces and nephews.

The flowers in the Narthex are to the glory of God and in loving honor of **Caroline Lily Cooper**, given by Ronnie and Carol Whitmire.

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.

BAPTISM

Caroline Lily Cooper will be baptized this Sunday during the 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary service. Her parents are Scott and Julie Cooper.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of **Joe Botdorf**.

...to **Rev. Quincy Brown** on the death of his father.

...to **Nancy Moore** on the death of her stepfather.



Easter Lilies & Azaleas Order Form

___\$14 potted azalea ___\$3 lilies to decorate Cross

Please Print:

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

The deadline for orders is **Sunday, March 29, 2009**. Payment **MUST** accompany the order. Please do not mail orders! Please bring to the Church Office or place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

OUTREACH VISITATION MINISTRY

On Sunday, March 29, we will recognize the participants in our Outreach Visitation Ministry. Currently over 40 individuals make weekly contact with our members who are homebound or are in assisted living facilities. This weekly touch helps us keep in close contact with those who are not able to attend the ministries and programs provided at the church.



We are grateful for the leadership that **Wanda Hopkins** and **Linda Mulkey** have provided in coordinating the volunteers and the visits. If you are interested in being a part of the Outreach Visitation Team or know of someone who would benefit from an Outreach Visitor please contact **Rev. Tom Jones** at 770.536.2341.



*The official news source for
Georgia United Methodists*

Do you know:

The major issues that will be discussed at General Conference? What happened at the Congress for Evangelism in Savannah? Which Georgia colleges and universities are UM-related? There was a fire at the Children's Home in Decatur? Events happening in North and South Georgia? Clergy appointments at the Annual Conference? Stay informed! All of these issues and more were covered in the Advocate in the last several months. Plus you can read editorials and informative columns by other United Methodists from around the state.

Only \$25 for a one-year print edition. Subscription forms are available in the Church Office. Only \$15 for the online edition at www.wcadvocate.org

EASTER AT GFUMC



WORSHIP ONE HOUR SERVE ONE HOUR

We are seeking folks who would be willing to offer themselves in service for one hour on Easter morning. We need volunteers to help with greeting, hosting, food service, and much, much more!

If you are interested in being a part of the Hospitality Team for Easter Sunday, please contact **Pam Spivey** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341 with your name and the time you would like to serve.

EASTER VISITATION Sunday, April 5

Join with us in our Easter Visitation of members who are homebound or are in assisted living homes.

Come to the Gathering Room between 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. to choose a person to deliver a gift to during the week before Easter.

This can be a special time for you and your family as you help reach out to those in our congregation who are not able to worship with us during the Easter season.

LENT



COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES
12 noon on Wednesdays during Lent & Good Friday
A light lunch will be served following each worship service.
Loving childcare will be provided for infants through children 5 years of age.

**Wednesday, March 25 at
Gainesville First UMC**
Rev. Doug Dailey,
Grace Episcopal Church

**Wednesday, April 8 at St. Paul
United Methodist Church**
(Washington St.)
Dr. Bill Coates, First Baptist Church

**Wednesday, April 1 at
St. Michael Catholic Church**
Rev. Calvin Haney, St. Paul United
Methodist Church (Washington St.)

**Good Friday
April 10 at First Baptist
Church of Gainesville**
Dr. Terry Walton, Gainesville First
United Methodist Church

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5

A dramatic monologue of "Judas Iscariot"
by Dr. Terry Walton at all worship services.



Join us for midday worship services in the Chapel at 12 noon during Holy Week. Lunch will be served in the Reception Hall following the services.

Monday, April 6
Dr. Steve Winter

Tuesday, April 7
Rev. Tom Jones

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 9 at 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Communion/Tenebrae Service



Easter Sunday, April 12

6:30 a.m. Sunrise
Rev. Debby Fox
*Please join us for
a light breakfast
afterward.*

8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
& 10:55 a.m.
Sanctuary
Dr. Terry Walton

9:30 a.m. &
10:55 a.m.
Living Waters
Rev. Wendy Cordova



A NEW SONG

The hymn writer penned words elegantly when he wrote, "Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, Robed in the flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing." We continue our Lenten journey as we focus on our *Beautiful Savior*, Jesus, and his passion and death on the cruel cross.

The Adult Handbell Choir will ring two pieces in both Sanctuary services on Sunday, March 22. The first is a meditative setting of *Beautiful Savior* culminating to a powerful final verse followed by a peaceful ending.

The second piece is a haunting version of *What Wondrous Love is This, Oh My Soul*. The handbells create a unique sound as they paint a grim, stark picture of Christ's sacrifice for all of us. Listen as the bells usher us further into the Lenten season and cause us to reflect on our Lord's horrific suffering and death.

Serving Christ With You,
Keith Jefcoat, Organist and Adult Handbell Director

Fifty Plus

Monday, March 23
6 p.m.
Reception Hall

Our guest speaker will be
Harris Blackwood from
The Times. He is Community
Editor and his columns appear
on Wednesdays and Sundays.
Bring a covered dish and \$1.



Let these
people know
that you are
thinking of
and praying
for them.

Pray!
Dial the pager
number of the
person for
whom you have
prayed. You will
hear 3 beeps.
Dial 111# and
then hang up.

Mike Adcock
770.201.0319

Gail Church
a friend of Lisa Bisson
770.201.1041

PRAYER PAGERS

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

Derick Sykes
a friend of Angela Burrell
1.800.227.9646

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.

STUDENT MINISTRY

If you are a parent of a middle or high school student and you are not receiving weekly email updates please contact David Burchett, Jake Webster, or Nancy Mote at 770.536.2341. We need your email address to ensure you receive the latest news from the student ministry.



www.gfumcyouth.com

Be sure and check out our NEW! Student Ministry website. Let us know what you would like to see on the site and we'll make every effort to get it on there.

Be on the lookout next week for a great local ministry opportunity. The information will be available in the Youth Hall and on the Student Ministry website.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday, March 25
11 a.m. Reception Hall



Gadabouts will meet for a time of fellowship before the Community Lenten service at 12 noon.

Join us for a 7-day trip to **Branson, Missouri** beginning September 21. Cost \$895. A deposit of \$100 will guarantee your reservation.

Call **Jane Lower** at 770.535.8418
if you are interested in this trip!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JOIN OUR SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY TEAM



We are looking for people who: love and accept children just as they are, are motivated, excited, and enthusiastic about being with and learning from these special children, desire one-on-one relationships with children who allow us to be part of their faith journeys, display high energy, creativity, and patience, and who believe special needs children can love God and serve their world, long to share God's own heart and learn how to bring hope and healing to families who feel "left out" at church.

We'll provide the training you need to be effective and comfortable in this ministry. **YOU** provide the love! Call **Debbie Morris** at 770.536.2341.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

If God has gifted you with a love for children and a commercial driver's license, Debbie Morris has a hugely rewarding ministry opportunity for you!!!

This ministry will only take two hours of your time weekly during the school year, unless you fall in love with the precious children and want to spend time playing, praying, and teaching them...though the bus ride alone is quite an adventure. Contact Debbie at 770.536.2341, ext. 105.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER March 25, 2009 5 - 6:15 p.m., GREAT Room

Meatloaf, Whipped Potatoes,
Green Beans, Biscuits, Carrot & Raisin
Salad, Garden Green Salad Bar,
Ambrosia Salad, and Brownies.
Kids Meal: Hot Dogs & Chips



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.

Calendar

MARCH 22 - 29, 2009

SUNDAY - March 22

- 8:30 Sanctuary Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 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 Sanctuary Worship
- 4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 Christian Believer
- 5:00 Congregational Lenten Studies
- 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 - March 23

- 8:00 Career Connection Initiative
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library opens
- 9:00 Methodist Men cooking
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 10:00 UMW Council Meeting
- 11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
- 6:00 50+
- 6:00 Stewardship Committee Meeting
- 6:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 7:30 Men's Basketball

TUESDAY - March 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
- 9:00 Library opens
- 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
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - March 25

- 7:30 Outreach Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library opens
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 12:00 Community Lenten Service at Gainesville
First United Methodist Church
- 3:00 Bridge
- 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper*
- 6:00 Congregational Lenten Studies
- 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 Children's Council Meeting
- 6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
- 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:15 Living Waters Praise Band Rehearsal

*Please Make a Note:

The last Wednesday Night Supper of the 2008-2009 school year will be held on April 1. The Children's Choirs will present "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" on this final evening following supper.

THURSDAY - March 26

- 7:30 Older Adult to the Cherry Blossom Festival
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
- 9:00 Library opens
- 9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 9:30 Christian Believer (Off-site at LVE)
- 9:30 Disciple III
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - March 27

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 10:00 Lenten study for women (Off-site at LVE)

SATURDAY - March 28

SUNDAY - March 29

- 8:30 Sanctuary Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 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 Sanctuary Worship
- 4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 Christian Believer
- 5:00 Congregational Lenten Studies
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 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 23
8 - 9:30 a.m., Adult Lobby
Mock Informational Interviews
Come and practice how to interview a company about **YOUR** job interests.

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:
Children & Adults with Special Needs

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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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.



MEN'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY NEW STUDY BEGINS

A new study of Hebrews begins on Tuesday, March 24. The message of Hebrews focuses on Jesus Christ and His superiority to all heavenly beings and human leaders. Its expansion on faith is critical for contemporary issues today. Come, share in this relevant book of the New Testament. The weekly study meets on Tuesday mornings, 7-8 a.m. in the Reception Hall. Please join us for a light breakfast and a great time fellowship and Bible study.

LISTEN ONLINE!

Sermons are now available at www.gfumc.com/sermons.



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