



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 13

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 29, 2009



I don't know too many people who enjoy traffic jams. I certainly don't like them. When I'm headed somewhere I like to get there and get on with the task intended. To have to wait in a traffic jam seems like such a waste of time and it can throw off the day's entire schedule. I remember having a funeral several years ago when I got stuck in a traffic jam on my way to the service. They had to delay the memorial service by 30 minutes due to my late arrival. I dislike traffic jams.

This past Saturday, however, I was in a traffic jam that was wonderful. Many of you were there as well. I will call it a "holy traffic jam." As more than 700 of us dispersed ourselves from the church parking lots to serve in the Great Day of Service, traffic was a mess. We waited in line to exit onto Dunlap Drive and then waited on a green light to move onto Thompson Bridge Road. It took us several minutes just to get a few feet away from the church property. But oh how wonderful was the experience of this traffic jam! The church lining up with great enthusiasm to serve in the name of Christ was an image I'll never forget.

It truly was a "holy traffic jam." You were smiling and being gracious as you allowed people the opportunity to "cut" in front of you in the long line of traffic. I mentioned to Sharon as we observed this "holy event" that this was a beautiful sight to see the church moving for Christ to serve the world. This church is alive and well and for that she and I are most grateful. Waiting in line and watching you brought to our hearts a "gratitude moment."

Thank you again for your faithful response to this year's Great Day of Service. There were sore muscles as we worshipped on Sunday, but it was a soreness that brought smiles across the congregation. I pray it will bring a smile into your week and into this Lenten season. I pray that the next time you or I find ourselves in a traffic jam may we remember this "holy traffic jam" and may it bring a smile upon our heart: A smile is much better than a grumpy and impatient spirit.

I hope to see you Sunday at the place where together we create "holy traffic jams."

With Love and Care,

Worship Services



Plantin'
Time

Sermon Series

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

"Blessin' Time"

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

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 3/22/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary 263
9:30 a.m. Living Waters 111
10:55 a.m. Living Waters 165
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary 514
Worship Totals 1,053
Sunday School 580

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving honor of the **Chancel Choir**, given by Dickie Jensen.

BAPTISM

Elizabeth Cullens Miller will be baptized this Sunday during the 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary service. Her parents are Adam and Leslie Miller.

CONGRATULATIONS

Elliot Watson Durel was born on March 10, 2009. Proud parents are Anthony and Elizabeth Durel. A rosebud will be placed on the altar this Sunday in his honor.

IN CELEBRATION OF...

This Sunday we will recognize the participants in our Outreach Visitation Ministry. We are grateful for the leadership that **Wanda Hopkins** and **Linda Mulkey** have provided in coordinating the volunteers and the visits.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to **Becky Martin** on the death of her grandmother.

...to **Betsy Morris** on the death of her mother.

Membership News continues on page 3.



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!

FINANCIAL UPDATE



	2009
February's Giving Goal	\$ 201,764
February's Actual Receipts	\$ 189,817
YTD Giving Goal	\$2,182,781
YTD Actual Receipts	\$2,011,624
YTD Balance	\$(171,157)

Your response in our first fiscal year has been a blessing. Our professional staff and our volunteer program coordinators are doing a great job of monitoring and managing ministry expenses as we continue to see growth in so many areas. As Cooper Embry, Finance Chair, stated in each worship service last Sunday we are moving in the right direction...church attendance is up, the number of small group Bible studies has increased, we began our second worship service in Living Waters, and we have steady numbers in attendance at Wednesday Night Supper fellowship.

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 had hoped they could.

Thank you for prayerfully considering extra giving during these challenging economic days. People are turning to the church in great numbers for help, spiritually and emotionally. Your generous giving helps us to minister to people's needs within our church, our community, and the world.

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

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! Are you willing to serve?

Please contact **Pam Spivey** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341 with your name and the time you would like to serve or complete and return the tear-off in Sunday's bulletin.

EASTER VISITATION TO THE HOMEBOUND

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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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.

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

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

**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



Our Easter hospitality will begin before you ever get to the front doors of the Sanctuary. Satellite parking will be available at Ingles (Thompson Bridge Rd.) for those who graciously will leave on-site parking to our members, neighbors, and friends who need parking closer to the church. Look for the banners indicating the pick-up and delivery sites at both Ingles and at the MAC entrance of the church. There will be continuous shuttle service between the parking lots beginning at 7:30 a.m. The last shuttle to Ingles will run 30 minutes after the conclusion of the 10:55 a.m. worship services.

A NEW SONG - CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

Isaiah 12:2

What a reassuring message for us to hear! God is our stronghold and our sure defense and He will be our Savior. This Sunday, March 29, in both Sanctuary services, the Carol and Festival Choirs (1st-5th grade singers) will join the Chancel Choir to sing *The First Song of Isaiah* composed from this Scripture. I am sure this musical offering will bless the heart of God and our congregation.

Join us on Wednesday, April 1, at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary to hear all the children's choirs (3 years-5th grade) present a musical program of the life and ministry of Christ entitled *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*. This program will officially end the choir season. However, the Carol and Festival Choirs will also present music at both Sanctuary services on Palm Sunday, April 5. A BIG thank you to all the volunteers, singers, and parents that have made this choir season such a blessing! It's been great!!!!

Michelle Alexander, Music Ministry Assistant

PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY



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

Wendy Pittman
770.201.0626

Gail Church
a friend of Lisa Bisson
770.201.1041

Faye Shadburn
770.201.0429

Diana Cindea
a friend of Lora Cooley
770.201.0121

Derick Sykes
a friend of Angela Burrell
1.800.227.9646

Margot Mickle
770.201.0320

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



The Harbor will **NOT** meet on Sunday, April 5, due to spring break and the mission trips. Also, The Harbor will **NOT** meet on Easter Sunday, April 12. The Harbor will resume its regular schedule on Sunday, April 19.

We hope you'll join us for our next Service Saturday on April 18. We'll be headed out to Baker & Glover for some light repair work, priming, and painting. Along with the work, we'll be taking some time to interact with the kids and their families through soccer, Frisbee, and other games. We hope students and parents alike join us in the Youth Hall at 8 a.m. for breakfast and prayer before we head out. We will need adult help for supervision and transportation. Please contact **David Burchett** or **Jake Webster** if you are interested in helping.



A NEW MINISTRY FOR COLLEGE AGE

**Beginning Tuesday, May 5
7 p.m. in the Reception Hall**

Attention all who are college age or have children who are college age. We will be introducing a new midweek worship and small group service on Tuesdays, beginning May 5, at 7 p.m. in the Reception Hall. We invite you to join us for **COMPEL** as we kick off this new ministry for all college age young people.

HELP US TO STAY IN TOUCH

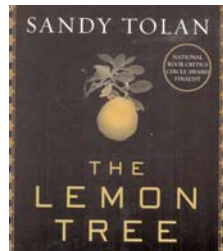
In an effort to better support and minister to the college age young adults of our congregation, we are asking that you take a moment and bring us up to date on your son(s) and daughter(s). We would like to know how to stay in touch and inform them of events that may occur while they are home on breaks and holidays. We would also like to know where we can send them care and prayer packages. Please call the Church Office at 770.536.2341.



What a blessing to see our church family come together on Saturday, March 21, for another **GREAT** Day of Service to our community! Thanks to everyone for your hard work in making this day such a success!

COLLECTION CONVERSATIONS BOOK CLUB

The Lemon Tree
Thursday, April 16
6:30 - 8 p.m.
 Led by **Sally Darden**



This is the tale of a simple act of faith between two young people—one Israeli, one Palestinian—that symbolizes the hope for peace in the Middle East. In 1967, not long after the Six-Day War, three young Arab men ventured into the town of Ramle, in what is now Jewish Israel. They were cousins, on a pilgrimage to see their childhood homes; their families had been driven out of Palestine nearly 20 years earlier. This act of faith in the face of many years of animosity is the starting point for a true story of a remarkable relationship between two families, one Arab, one Jewish, amid the fraught modern history of the region. In a region that seems ever more divided, *The Lemon Tree* is a reminder of all that is at stake, and of all that is still possible.

Two copies are available in the GFUMC Library.

LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

April 1, 2009

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

BBQ Chicken Breast, Corn, Baked Beans, Rolls, Garden Green Salad Bar, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Fresh Melon, and Fruit Cobbler.

Kids Meal: Chicken Tenders



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 29 - APRIL 5, 2009

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 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)

MONDAY - March 30

- 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 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 6:30 Nursery Staff Meeting
- 7:30 Men's Basketball

TUESDAY - March 31

- 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 - April 1

- April Fool's Day*
- 8:00 Fitness Club **This is the last Wednesday night supper until school begins again in the fall. Enjoy the summer!*
 - 9:00 Aerobics
 - 9:00 Library opens
 - 11:00 Gadabouts
 - 12:00 Community Lenten Service at St. Michael Catholic Church
 - 3:00 Bridge
 - 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper*
 - 6:15 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus presented by the Children's Choirs
 - 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY - April 2

- 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
- 2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
- 6:30 Believers Band-Jazz Ensemble
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - April 3

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 10:00 Lenten study for women (Off-site at LVE)
- 6:00 The Beacon Movie Night (Singles 40+)
- 6:30 Boy Scout Council Banquet

SATURDAY - April 4

- 8:00 Youth leave on Spring Break Mission Trips (Middle & High School)

SUNDAY - April 5

- Palm Sunday*
- 8:00 Easter Visitation Gifts in Gathering Room
 - 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

NETWORKING - SUPPORT - TRAINING



Mondays

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.



Check Us Out!!!

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.



Prayer Focus:

Thank God for GFUMC

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 WGGa.

OLDER ADULTS MINISTRY

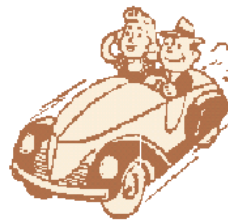
GADABOUTS

Happy April Fool's Day!

Wednesday, April 1

11 a.m. Reception Hall

Dr. Steve Winter will be the guest speaker.



Light Stretching & Chair Aerobics Join us each Wednesday

10:30 - 11 a.m. Reception Hall



2780 Thompson Bridge Road
Gainesville, Georgia 30506

LISTEN ONLINE!

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



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