



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 13

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 30, 2008

What do I say the week after? The week after the Atlanta Braves won the World Series in October of 1995, I felt great joy but was sort of sad that it was all accomplished and over. It was a strange feeling. When each of our children were born, I was thrilled beyond expression. The waiting and anticipating of each of their births brought great joy and excitement. The week after was full of joy, but there was a feeling of “What do I do now?” (Of course, I then discovered the reality of dirty diapers and hungry babies.) What does one say the week after great joy and thrill?



We have been preparing for Resurrection Sunday for quite some time. There were 40 days of Lent with Community Worship Services and special Wednesday Worship during those six weeks. We shared in Holy Week with opportunities every day except Saturday for excellent worship and reflection. And then we shared in a wonderful Easter Sunday together. What does one say the week after Easter Sunday?

I find myself not wanting to say too much. I am more ready to savor the moment than to hinder it with words. As I listened to the *Hallelujah* Chorus three times on Easter Sunday and experienced the thrill of people greeting each other and worshiping together, I found myself full of joy. But now I am struggling with what I should say. What DOES one say the week after Easter Sunday? Maybe this is why it was the wisdom of the early church fathers to structure the 'season' of Easter to be 40 days - Easter Sunday through the day of Jesus' ascension to heaven. They knew, what we now feel, that we would need more time for the resurrection to settle into our souls. It is more than one Sunday can express. As a matter of fact, our theology affirms that **EVERY** Sunday is Easter Sunday. Anytime we worship, we do so because Jesus arose from the dead and lives forevermore.

Therefore, I guess it is best for me not to say too much. Just simply that God loves us so much and wishes for us a resurrection-empowered life. What do I say the week after Easter Sunday? I say ***“Thanks Be to God! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!”***

I look forward to this Saturday for our Great Day of Service. I hope to see you there.

With Love and Care,

Worship Services

Mission Possible:
Changing People's Lives

“Thomas: From Doubt to Belief”

John 20:19-31

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 3/23/2008

6:30 a.m. Sunrise	167
8:00 a.m. Sanctuary	376
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary	834
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	116
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	723
Worship Totals	2,216

<i>Lenten Lunch (Monday)</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Lenten Lunch (Tuesday)</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Walk Through Holy Week</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>Holy Thursday</i>	<i>212</i>
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>258</i>

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to **Linda Chastain** on the death of her mother.

...to the family and friends of **George M. Clark.**

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Recently several “smash-and-grab” thefts from vehicles have occurred at GFUMC and other churches in the vicinity. The Trustees will be looking at the security situation, and in the meantime, we ask that you take extra precaution and not leave valuables in your vehicle while in the church parking lot.

BASIC FIRST AID

Saturday, April 19

9 - 12 noon in the Adult Lobby

Participants will learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of injuries and sudden illness, as well as how to deal with emergencies like bleeding, shock, burns, sprains, allergic reactions, and seizures.

Register by calling the Church Office at 770.536.2341. Cost \$15.



Celebration Sunday & Luncheon

Sunday, March 30

12 noon in the GREAT Room

Celebrate the 2nd Annual Great Day of Service! Enjoy a box lunch with all the fixings, fun, and fellowship.

Don't forget! If you made a reservation for the Great Day of Service Celebration Lunch come to the GREAT Room immediately following the 10:55 a.m. worship services. We will be remembering through testimonies and pictures the lives touched on Saturday.

WE CELEBRATE OUR NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, March 16, these individuals joined the family of Gainesville First United Methodist Church. Please help us to give them a warm welcome!



Please contact the Church Office at 770.536.2341 for new member names and contact information. Thank You.



PRAYER CARDS

Please take a prayer card, which focuses on “GFUMC in Mission,” and pray for the **Youth Mission Trips** to Jamaica and Ringgold, Georgia, which will take place over Spring Break, the week of April 5 - 12. Cards are available on the easels at the entrances to the Narthex and at the MAC area.

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO SAVE A LIFE?

Saturday, April 26

at Gainesville First United Methodist Church

Cost is \$58. For more information on this program visit the website www.heartscreensforteens.com.



STUDENTS

THE HARBOR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

March 30 -- Will Meet
April 6 -- Will Not Meet
Have a safe Spring Break!

ATTENTION: SENIORS!

Just a reminder that you should have received an informational letter regarding Senior Recognition Sunday (May 4) which included information on the luncheon and senior pictures. If you have not received this information, please contact **David Burchett** or **Nancy Mote** immediately at 770.536.2341.

PARENT SHARE NIGHT

Sunday April 20

5 - 6 p.m. in the Reception Hall

All parents are invited to come and hear news of upcoming events, summer schedule, some upcoming changes in the ministry, and ask any questions you may have. You're then encouraged to join us in the Youth Hall as we celebrate our two Spring Break Mission Trips with videos and pictures from the trips and testimonies from the students. We want everyone to celebrate with us!

DEADLINES

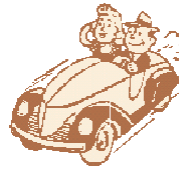
Deadlines for Gainesville Aid Project (GAP) & BigStuf Retreat are rapidly approaching. Please check in the Youth Hall or the Church Office for these forms and deadline dates. No late registrations will be accepted.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

**Wednesday,
April 2**

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Join us as guest speaker **Dr. Sam Rauch** presents a program called *Methodism's Battle Against Slavery*.

UMW CIRCLES



MISSION ACTION

Tuesday, April 1

7 p.m.
in the Gathering Room

A NEW SONG



Bring your donated items for the Youth Choir's Rummage Sale to Room N-110 after March 30. All kinds of items are welcome!

YOUNG ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL & MORE



The ICHTHYS Sunday School Class celebrates a year of meeting and has been working on spreading its wings as it deepens its roots.

This class is for all young adults, college through mid 30's, singles or married couples. They meet each Sunday in the Aerobics Room at the end of the hall near the MAC at 9:45 a.m. for weekly lessons and fellowship and are expanding other social activities as well. Come in and check it out, you are welcome!

NEW TO GFUMC?



GET CONNECTED!

Sundays, April 13, 20, 27
9:45 a.m. in Room S-02

This is 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 to the community and ministries here at GFUMC. This class is offered during the Sunday School hour.

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

SINGLES OVER 40



A new Bible Study for Singles
Sundays, April 6 - May 4
6 - 7 p.m. in Room S-25

The cost of the book *Forty-Sixty* is \$8. Study will be facilitated by **Rev. Debby Fox**. Do you want to make a difference? This study is for you!

COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL



“Come and See”

John 1:39

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

“Come and see” what God can do when we take a risk in faith to act radically, extravagantly, intentionally, and passionately. Join the pastors on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel as they rotate facilitating a study on the book that is creating all the “buzz” around church.

April 13: Radical Hospitality

April 20: Extravagant Generosity

April 27: Intentional Faith Development

May 4: Risk-taking Mission and Service

May 11: Passionate Worship

Hosted by the **Lost and Found Sunday School Class**. Everyone, whether you are part of a Sunday School class or not, is invited to “come and see.”

The following is our February financial report which shows 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.

February	2007	2008
<i>Giving Goal</i>	\$225,536	\$211,199
<i>Actual Receipts</i>	\$178,136	\$168,601
<i>YTD Giving Goal</i>	\$428,565	\$422,264
<i>YTD Actual Receipts</i>	\$374,537	\$358,492
<i>YTD Balance</i>	\$(54,028)	\$(63,772)



Join us for an exciting, exuberant exploration into the topic of “What is Worship?” as seen from a child’s point of view. You might learn something, too!

Children’s Choir Spring Program

Sunday, March 30, 2008

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Walk Through Holy Week

Over 150 GFUMC pilgrims journeyed with Jesus on a Walk Through Holy Week. Beginning in the Chapel with our shouts of *Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!* and the beautiful songs of welcome by the children’s choirs, we followed the donkey and the shepherds with our palms and praises.

We gathered in Bethany to watch a potter at her wheel as Mary anointed Jesus’ feet. We even made our own pots while the smell of Mary’s fragrant ointment filled the room. Thomas, the Disciple, greeted us in the Upper Room where we heard how Jesus took the Passover meal and made it brand new with his presence. We tasted the bread, so we would have nourishment for the rest of our journey.

We prayed that we would be obedient to God in the courtyard, our Garden of Gethsemane. When we arrived back in Jerusalem on Easter morning, we found the empty tomb. To shouts of *Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!* our journey ended. But the journey isn’t over. It is just beginning, as we set our butterflies free to soar we rejoice in the freedom that we have received in Jesus Christ and seek to make this pilgrims’ way our new way of living the resurrection life.

Next year we hope you will join us for this pilgrimage in Jesus’ footsteps. All God’s children are welcome.

FAMILY SUPPER

Wednesday, April 2

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

**Southern Style Chili with Beans,
Baked Potatoes, Cheese Biscuits,
Salad Bar, Potato Bar, Broccoli Salad,
Fresh Seasonal Fruit, and Carrot Cake**

Kid's Meal: Pizza 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.



In Celebration of Earth Day 2008

**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.

Wednesday "Dessert" Menu

Don't forget to save room for dessert! Now that the school schedules are winding down, join us for a menu of different "desserts" on the remaining Wednesday evenings:



**Wednesday, April 2
6 p.m. in the Chapel**

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

Wednesday, April 16 at 6 p.m.

"Learning Together" Facilitated by Rev. Debby Fox

Wednesday, April 2 at 6 p.m.

"Giving Together" Facilitated by Ferrell Singleton

Wednesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Calendar

MARCH 30 - APRIL 6, 2008

SUNDAY - March 30

**Great Day of Service
Celebration Sunday**

- 8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 Combined Sunday School: *Earth Day 2008 & Environmental Ethics*
- 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
- 12:15 GDS Celebration Sunday & Luncheon
- 2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806
- 4:00 GriefShare Support Group
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 6:30 Children's Choirs Spring Program: *An Exhaustive(ING) Exploration into the Topic of What is Worship?*
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

MONDAY - March 31

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 4:00 Bible Club & Tutoring
- 7:00 Nursery Staff Meeting
- 7:30 Adult Basketball
- 7:30 Adult Bells

TUESDAY - April 1

- 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
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 7:00 Mission Action Meeting (UMW)
- 8:00 MLC Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - April 2

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 5:00 Family Supper
- 6:00 Children's Choirs
- 6:00 Children's Council & Friends
- 6:00 Disciple IV
- 6:00 Just Desserts Bible Study: *Earth Day 2008 & Environmental Ethics*
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge
- 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 - April 3

- 9:00 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
- 6:00 COMET Class Game Night
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - April 4

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 4:00 Scouts Annual Council Meeting
- 6:00 Carter/Palmer Wedding Rehearsal
- 6:00 The Beacon Movie Night (Singles 40+)

SATURDAY - April 5

- 9:00 Believers Band Practice
- 9:00 Youth Mission Team to CCCD/Jamaica
- 6:00 Carter/Palmer Wedding

SUNDAY - April 6

- 8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 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
- 4:00 GriefShare Support Group
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 Youth Mission Team to Ringgold, GA
- 6:00 *Forty-Sixty* Bible Study (Singles 40+)

PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY

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



Let these people know that you are thinking of them.

Cameron Bowden

770.201.0263

Tonya Gore

Angela Burrell's niece

770.201.0867

Faye Shadburn

770.201.0429

Katie Tulin

1.800.225.3412

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

During the 40 days of Easter, the **Paschal Candle** stands on the Gospel side of the altar. It is lit for all the Sundays of Easter season. After Ascension Day, the Paschal Candle has its place near the baptismal font and is lit for baptisms. The Paschal Candle symbolizes the connection of our death and resurrection in Holy Baptism with Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. The baptismal candles are lit at the Paschal candle. For funerals, the Paschal Candle can be lighted as a visible sign of the promise that we are united with Christ in death. The Paschal Candle is named after PASCH, the passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord. It represents Christ the light of the world.

Our Paschal Candle is given in honor of **Nell Wiegand** by her children, Mary Beth and Jim Begley and Ginny and Al Crumley, and their families.



2780 Thompson Bridge Rd.
Gainesville, GA 30506

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.



**RADIO
MINISTRY**

UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES?

Listen to the radio broadcast of the 10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship Service on AM 1240 WGGC.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED