



# The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI  
NUMBER 14

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 5, 2009



Have you ever heard the phrase “When you shuck it down to the cob?” While I don’t know for sure, I think this has to be an old farmer’s saying that refers to an ear of corn. It is a phrase that means “getting to the point” or “getting at the heart of an issue.” It is a phrase that is in the same family of phrases as “Quit beating around the bush.” It is a phrase that requires us to move through the peripheral stuff right to the center, so that we can experience something in its purest form.

I am looking forward to the Gwinnett Braves first season. They are the AAA affiliate baseball club of the Atlanta Braves. This minor league baseball club is moving into our area from Richmond, Virginia. I’ve been to a few minor league baseball games. They are truly fun. They are baseball in a purer form. While I still enjoy a major league game at Turner Field, a minor league game still has the feel of men playing a boy’s game. Yes, there will be a few more errors and mistakes, but it is baseball in its purest form.

We are approaching Palm/Passion Sunday and Holy Week. We are entering a season in which we “shuck the faith down to the cob.” It is a time when we “get right to the point” of the Christian creed. It is a week when we are “getting at the very heart of the matter” of God’s love for this world. We will not be “beating around the bush” about the extreme sacrifice Jesus has given for us all. It is in this week where we remember and thus experience one more time the purest example of divine love and grace.

As we journey together in various worship experiences with various focuses, I pray God will lift us and carry us to the place of triumph, sacrifice, pain, death, and eventually resurrection. This is a time that is more than just a variety of worship services to attend. This is a time that is more than just creative approaches to worshipping God. This is a time when we “shuck the faith right down to the cob.” *We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us.* (1 John 3:16a)

I’ll look forward to seeing you during Holy Week.

With Love and Care,

### *Procession of the Palms*

If you would like your child to participate in the palm processional this Sunday, April 5, please make note of the following information: Show your child where you will be sitting during the service and then bring your child to the Gathering Room to await the processional. If your child is singing in the choir, the choir is part of the processional, and the choir director will make sure your child is involved. A child three years of age or younger must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling throughout the processional.

## Worship Services



Palm  
Sunday

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

“Judas Iscariot”  
8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters  
Dr. Terry Walton

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### ATTENDANCE 3/29/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary . . . . .	269
9:30 a.m. Living Waters . . . . .	118
10:55 a.m. Living Waters . . . . .	140
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary . . . . .	508
<b>Worship Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>1,035</b>
Sunday School . . . . .	626
Community Lenten Service . . .	198

### FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Dr. P. K. Dixon Jr.**, given by his family.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**Joseph Pearce Lawson** was born on March 27, 2009. Proud parents are Jay and Iris Lawson.

### 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.

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to **David P. Day** on the death of his mother.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Mack Vinton** who was awarded Jaycee's "Young Man of the Year."



### PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5

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

### EASTER HOMEBOUND VISITATION

Join with us in our Easter visitation of members who are homebound or are in assisted living homes. Come to the Gathering Room on **Palm Sunday, April 5**, 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.



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 for a suggested donation of \$3.

**Monday, April 6**  
Dr. Steve Winter

**Tuesday, April 7**  
Rev. Tom Jones

### COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE

**Wednesday, April 8**  
**12 noon at St. Paul UMC (Washington St.)**  
Dr. Bill Coates, First Baptist Church



### HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

**April 9**

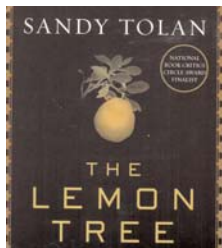
8 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A tenebrae service with Holy Communion, Scripture reading, and music. We will start in light and end in darkness as we move toward the somberness of Good Friday.

### Good Friday, April 10

**12 noon at First Baptist Church of Gainesville**  
Dr. Terry Walton, GFUMC





### COLLECTION CONVERSATIONS

#### BOOK CLUB

*The Lemon Tree*

Thursday, April 16

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Led by **Sally Darden**

Two copies are available  
in the GFUMC Library.



Get ready for a rocking  
time at Crocodile Dock  
Vacation Bible School!

**June 15 - 19**

Hang out with kids and shine  
God's light! Find out how you  
can serve in this wonderful  
ministry. Call **Meredith Pierce**  
at 770.532.8479.

WESLEYAN CHRISTIAN  
**ADVOCATE**

*The official news source for  
Georgia United Methodists*

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](http://www.wcadvocate.org)

## *Easter Sunday, April 12*

6:30 a.m.

Sunrise Worship in the Reception Hall

Rev. Debby Fox

*Please join us for a light breakfast after the service.*

8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,  
& 10:55 a.m.

Sanctuary Worship

Dr. Terry Walton

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

Living Waters

Praise & Worship

in the Reception Hall

Rev. Wendy Cordova



### **RADICAL HOSPITALITY ON EASTER SUNDAY**

On Easter Sunday we are expecting to welcome many church members, friends, visitors, and guests to our campus. Help us extend an offering of radical hospitality in these ways...

#### **Coffee, Juice, & Donuts**

Weather permitting, we will be offering coffee, juice, and doughnuts in our beautiful courtyard on Palm and Easter Sundays. Please join us and be intentional about welcoming and greeting all people. Rain location: GREAT Room.

#### **Parking**

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.

#### **Name Tags**

Remember to wear your name tags! Didn't get one? Call the Church Office!

#### **Nursery & Children**

Loving childcare is offered during all worship services for infants—2 years. Loving childcare and special Easter lessons will be provided for children up to kindergarten age during the 9:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. services. They will report to their usual Sunday School rooms.

#### **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, driving shuttles and golf carts, 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.

## A NEW SONG



### YOUTH CHOIR PARKING LOT SALE Saturday, May 2 Begins at 7:30 a.m.

Bring your donated items! It's once again time for spring cleaning, cleaning out the garage, and rummaging out the attic! Your donated items are needed and welcomed to help the Youth Choir's 2009 Parking Lot Sale.

Anything from toys and tools, clothes and coolers, books and bikes, glassware and gloves, and more are welcomed donations.

The sale will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end in the early afternoon. Items not sold will be donated to Good News at Noon.

Bring your donated items to the Music Suite, Room N-110 for now. Watch for other drop-off locations in weeks to come. Thanks to the generous support of the members of GFUMC, the Youth Choir will be able to go on the Music and Mission Tour, May 29 - June 4, this year.

## 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.



### AN EXCITING NEW MINISTRY FOR COLLEGE AGE

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

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 **Pam Spivey** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341.



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GREAT DAY!

On Saturday, March 21, our church family joined together on a GREAT spring day to help individuals and agencies in our community. Approximately 800 people spread throughout the community to build, repair, paint, clean, and enjoy fellowship with agencies, churches, and people of Hall County. All of this was possible because of your dedication and willingness to donate your time for the needs of others. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful and caring congregation. We would especially like to thank our steering committee for their many hours of hard work:

**Kristine Alexander, Susan Bracewell, Valerie Butts, Susan Daniell, Lydia Ferguson, Leslie Fowler, Anna Gines, Jill Haack, Jaimie Harrison, Heather Hayes, Anna Jacobs, Karen Jackson, Karen McHugh, Leslie Miller, Chris Parks, Kim Powell, Jennifer Puryear, Ed Rigel, Stephanie Sartain, Ellen Scott, Ricky Smith, Dancy Wynne, and ALL team leaders!**

Also, we should all be very thankful for such a wonderful and caring church staff and leadership. We would like to thank **Shirley Corders, staff liason, Shirley Brewster, Stan Bearden, Allen Eades, Laura Haynes, Mildred Smith,** and the entire church staff. Job well done!

*Sharon Jackson Cherry Valentine*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

What a wonderful year we have had enjoying a mid-week meal together before we went to one of the variety of class offerings available each mini-mester. Conversations around the dinner tables have been lively, and classes well attended. We have met new friends and reconnected with old ones. It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of our time together for this season.



Though it may seem early, we are already planning for the fall – See you again on **Wednesday, August 12,** for Fall Kick-Off. It will be here before you know it!

# Calendar

## APRIL 5 - 12, 2009

### SUNDAY - April 5

- Palm Sunday*
- Youth Mission Trips*
- 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

### MONDAY - April 6

- 8:00 Career Connection Initiative
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Library opens
- 9:00 Methodist Men cooking
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 10:00 UMW: First Monday Circle
- 11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 12:00 Lenten Service & Lunch
- 7:00 Emmaus
- :00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 7:30 Men's Basketball

### TUESDAY - April 7

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Intercessory Prayer Group
- 9:00 Library opens
- 9:30 Believers Band Practice
- 10:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 12:00 Lenten Service & Lunch
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 7:00 UMW: Mission Action Meeting

### WEDNESDAY - April 8

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Library opens
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 12:00 Community Lenten Service at St. Paul UMC
- 3:00 Bridge
- 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY - April 9

- Holy Thursday*
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Library opens
- 9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 9:30 Disciple III
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance
- 8:00 Holy Thursday Worship Service

### FRIDAY - April 10

- Good Friday*
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 1:00 Prayer Shawls

### SUNDAY - April 12

- Easter Sunday*
- 6:30 Sunrise Worship
- 8:00 Sanctuary Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 9:30 Sanctuary Worship
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Sanctuary Worship



**Prayer Focus:  
Youth  
Mission Trips**

(Groups depart on Sunday, April 5.)



### CHECK US OUT!!!

[www.gfumcyouth.com](http://www.gfumcyouth.com)

I hope you've had the chance to check out our new student ministry website.

If not, take a few minutes and discover the newest addition to our website and student ministry. It's always a work in progress so let us know what you would like to see on the site.

Also, if you are a parent of a middle or high school student and are not receiving our weekly email updates, we need your email address. Please contact David Burchett or Jake Webster to get on the email list.

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.

# 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 WGG.



## LISTEN ONLINE!

Sermons are now available at [www.gfumc.com/sermons](http://www.gfumc.com/sermons).

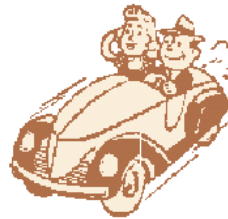
## OLDER ADULTS MINISTRY

### GADABOUTS

Wednesday, April 8

11 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Rev. Tom Jones will talk about Easter traditions.



## Light Stretching & Chair Aerobics Join us each Wednesday

10:30 - 11 a.m. Reception Hall



2780 Thompson Bridge Road  
Gainesville, Georgia 30506

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED