



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 15

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 12, 2009



Easter is one of those “traditions” of the church that, if we are not careful, can lose its power and meaning. For those of us who have had the “tradition” of Easter a part of our lives since we can remember, we will have attached many memories. For example, I remember Easter egg hunts and new clothes and women dressed in a wide array of hats and gloves. I remember being so excited about the big Easter egg hunt after worship that I could hardly wait for the “amen” of the benediction. And our custom was that we guys got at least a new shirt and tie and for the women of the family, a new dress and shoes was a certainty. The Easter Bunny always came and we always colored hard boiled eggs and decorated them with a wax pen. I can still smell the vinegar used for coloring the eggs.

While those are precious memories, they run the risk of glossing over the power and meaning of Easter Day. I have heard myself and others bark about the “commercialization” of our religious holidays. I have heard us complain that the world is ruining Christmas and Easter. Well only if we let it happen! And I don’t mean let’s stage a “sit in” at the Christmas tree farm or the hen laying farm. What I mean is that you and I must reach down deep this Easter and pull up the correct focus of the day. What must it have been like the day that “tradition” was born? What must it have been like to approach that empty tomb and to discover the most unexpected happening had occurred? What must it have been like to discover death was not final and that the one that they knew was dead was alive? What must it have been like to discover for the first time in all of time that Jesus is ALIVE!?

Can we see that the power and meaning of Easter Day is just as relevant for our lives as it was for the lives of those early believers? If we can, then this is how “tradition” shakes off the dust and becomes real and engaging for us. My friends, Easter is about hope and possibility and resurrection. It is about our Lord entering this world a second time with a power that far exceeds the smell of hay in a manger. It is about our circumstances never having the final word. It is about life. So let’s live this life we have been given. Let’s live it into our future. Let’s live into what will be, not what could have been. Let’s keep the “tradition” alive. Let’s share it with the world and be glad that the world is a better place because of Easter.

With Love and Care,

*P.S. On Easter Sunday, satellite parking will be available at Ingles beginning at 7 a.m. for those who graciously will leave on-site parking to our members, neighbors, and friends...
More details inside.*

Worship Services

Easter Day
Sunday, April 12, 2009

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

Invite your friends and neighbors to attend one of our Easter services:
6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.,
9:30 a.m., & 10:55 a.m.
More information inside on page 2.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 3/29/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	452
9:30 a.m. Living Waters	65
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	118
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	465
Worship Totals	1100
Sunday School	380
Tell Me the Stories of Jesus . . .	275

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

Patrick Tucker Toms will be baptized this Sunday during the 9:30 a.m. service. His parents are Patrick and Ellen Toms.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to **Jacque Clements**
on the death of her sister.

SPECIAL OFFERING

On Sunday, April 19, we will collect the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. Envelopes will be provided for you to use.

YOUTH MINISTRY SUNDAY

Next Sunday, April 19, we will celebrate Youth Ministry Sunday in all worship services.

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 Easter Sunday. 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 a.m. The last shuttle to Ingles will run 30 minutes after the conclusion of the 10:55 a.m. worship services.

Name Tags

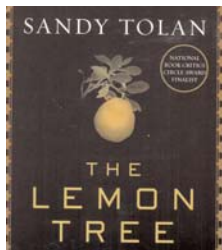
Remember to wear your name tags! Didn't get one? Call the Church Office!

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.

Parking Lot Ushers Still Needed

Many thanks to all who have volunteered! All needs have been filled except parking lot ushers. If you are interested in volunteering in this role or if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Rev. Wendy Cordova at 770.536.2341, ext. 135. Thank you!



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

IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY



JANISSE RAY

Wednesday, April 22

5 p.m. at the Communiversity

Janisse Ray, an environmental activist and poet, is the award-winning author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, a highly praised book that combines elements of ecology and autobiography into a multifaceted work.

BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR

Sunday, April 26

at First Baptist Church



Barbara Brown Taylor will speak at both worship services followed by a lunch (advance tickets \$10) and afternoon dialogue. She will field questions and be available to sell/sign her new book, *An Altar in the World*.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The UMW Mission Action will be selling gold-rimmed porcelain plates with a rendering of Gainesville First United Methodist Church. The cost is \$30. Payment will be required when order is placed.

You may view the plate design and place your orders beginning Easter Sunday, April 12, in the MAC area and continuing on Sunday, April 19, in the Gathering Room. For more information, please contact **Wanda Hopkins** at 706.677.0010.



Girl Scouts
Where Girls Grow Strong

DAISY TROOP FLOWER SHOW

Sunday, April 19

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Adult Lobby

GFUMC's Girl Scout Troop #806 invites the congregation and the community to this event.

DRAGON BOAT CHURCH LEAGUE

First training is Saturday, May 23

Interested in Dragon Boat Racing? The Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club is offering a church league program this spring and summer.

GFUMC's Recreation Ministry would like to form a team for this program. There has been some interest, but we need more participants! Entry fee is approximately \$25 per person and includes a T-shirt. The Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club will provide all coaches, boats, paddles, and lifejackets. Contact **Vicki Bailey** at 770.536.2341, ext. 127 or vbailey@gfumc.com for more information.



A NEW SONG



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

It's once again time for spring cleaning! Your donated items are needed and welcomed to help the Youth Choir's 2009 Parking Lot Sale. Bring your donated items to the Music Suite, Room N-110 for now.

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.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

GADABOUTS

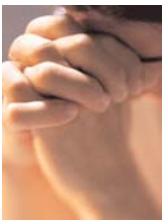
Wednesday, April 15

11 a.m. in the Reception Hall



Rev. Paige Bennett, Chicopee UMC, will host an old-fashioned garden tea talk entitled *A Spring Tea with Jesus*. Dress in your spring attire complete with hats and gloves!

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 Easter Sunday, April 12.



The Senior High Mission Team traveled to New Orleans for Spring Break.

We hope everyone will join us for our "**Missions Celebration**" Sunday, April 19, in the Youth Hall from 5:30-7:00 p.m. If you would like to share snack supper with us, then come on in at 5 p.m. We will show a couple of DVDs of the two mission trips, and hear from the kids about their trips. This evening is for everyone, not just the parents and students who went on the trip! We would love to share with you our experiences in New Orleans and Brunswick.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

If you have not received information regarding Senior Recognition Sunday, please call **David Burchett** or **Nancy Mote** at 770.536.2341. We want to make sure your graduating senior is included!



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.



**ATTENTION:
Cookie Bakers,
Packers, and Deliverers**

I want all of you to know what an impact your work was for Great Day of Service. Just to give a little perspective, last year there were about 3,000 cookies baked for delivery. If we had received that many this year, we would have been able to take care of the police and firemen. Boy, I was crossing my fingers. Come to find out, there were many people mixing, decorating, and baking. You would not believe some of the AMAZING goodies that came in! I think we have some Pros in our midst.

If you haven't already heard, the packing party was a highpoint. These ladies worked on bagging cookies for 5 hours! All were so happy to be there. We just had a GREAT time!

So the results of all that baking...There were 6,000 cookies that were prepared for GDS!!! Can you believe it????!! **TWICE as many as last year!!!!** Told you... if any group can, GFUMC can!!! I just want you to know how much you are appreciated! Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!!

My Best, *Dana Rowe Wilson*

P.S. The abundance of cookies I spoke of were put to VERY good use. We were able to deliver cookies to many local organizations that help children, the elderly and families! The gratitude they expressed is directed to all of you!

CELEBRATION SUNDAE

Thanks to everyone who participated in our first Ice Cream Sundae Celebration. It was great fun and fellowship to enjoy ice cream while sharing many wonderful stories about the day. Mayfield Dairy donated our ice cream and the Georgia Forestry Commission made it possible for each participant to receive a seedling. What a wonderful ending to a GREAT day!



-Karen Jackson, Lydia Ferguson, and Terri Olson

Calendar

APRIL 12 - 19, 2009

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

MONDAY - April 13

- 8:00 Career Connection Initiative
8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
9:00 Library opens
9:00 Methodist Men cooking
10:00 AOA Aerobics
10:00 UMW: First Monday Circle
11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
7:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
7:30 Men's Basketball

TUESDAY - April 14

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
8:00 Fitness Club
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
6:00 Believers Band Practice
7:00 UMW: Mission Action Meeting
7:00 Stephen Ministry
7:00 Troop 16 Committee

WEDNESDAY - April 15

- Tax Day*
8:00 American Cancer Society Meeting
8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Library opens
11:00 Gadabouts
3:00 Bridge
6:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
6:00 Refresh/Recharge
6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY - April 16

- 8:00 Fitness Club
8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
9:00 Library opens
9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
9:30 Christian Believer
9:30 Disciple III
6:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
6:30 Collection Conversation Book Club
7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - April 17

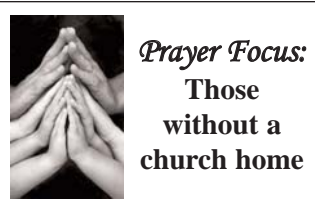
- 8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
10:00 AOA Aerobics
6:00 Hanley/Kudlawiec Rehearsal

SATURDAY - April 18

- 8:00 Youth Service Saturday
10:00 Emmaus
3:00 Girl Scout Troop #806 Meeting
3:00 Hanley/Kudlawiec Wedding

SUNDAY - April 19

- 8:30 Sanctuary Worship
9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
9:45 Sunday School
10:00 Organ Familiarization Sessions
10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
10:55 Sanctuary Worship
1:00 Girl Scout Troop #806 Meeting
4:00 Relay for Life Meeting
4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
5:00 Christian Believer
5:00 Disciple I
5:00 Disciple II
5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)



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.



**RELAY FOR LIFE
TEAM MEETING
Sunday, April 19
4 p.m. in Room S-12**

Register for the GFUMC team! *You CAN make a difference!* For more information, contact **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse, at 770.536.2341.

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.

LISTEN ONLINE!

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



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Packing Day—Monday, April 20

The Prayer Ministry Team will once again be sending care packages to our college students. Members are asked to contribute packets of dry drink mix, flat candy bars (Hershey, Mr. Goodbar, M&M's, etc.) bubble gum, individually wrapped hard candies, granola and/or cereal bars. Bring to the Church Office by **Sunday, April 19.**



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED