



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 16

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 19, 2009

Way back in the old days, when I was in high school, the song “We Are Family” sung by Sister Sledge became one of the most popular songs of the time. Not because it was a great song, but because it was adopted by the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team as its theme song. Willie “Pops” Stargell and the boys rode that song all the way to the 1979 World Series Title. The song would blare over the public address system before the game and several times during the game. The team was like a family of 25 grown men playing a boys’ game with a love and passion for one another and the game.

As I write this I am in New Orleans, Louisiana, with a group of high school students and adults who have given up their spring break to travel south and help in the ongoing relief effort from Hurricane Katrina. I was reminded of that song this week as I watched this group of students act just like a family as they took care of each other both on the work site and in the church where we were housed for the week. But more amazing to me was watching them care for the homeowner and her family as we worked to repair her house.

Our youth and adults went way above and beyond to make sure that the homeowner would be able to proudly call the house her home when we were done. The homeowner was so overwhelmed as she told me about how for the first time in three and a half years she had hope for a home of her own and a future. As we spoke, I kept coming back to Acts 4:32-35 - “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had...” I hope we all take the opportunity to observe everything around us and look for ways to extend the love and grace of our Lord to all of those in need.

Maybe this time it wouldn't be such a bad idea to follow the lead of our teenagers.

Together in Christ,

David Burchett
Director of Student Ministries



P.S. This Sunday we will celebrate Youth Sunday during all worship services. Join us for worship and watch our students grow in ministry.

Worship Services

“We Are Fam-I-Lee”

Acts 4:32-35

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

Rev. David Burchett, Director of Student Ministries

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

“Greatness”

II Corinthians 4:1-18

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

*Living Waters Praise & Worship
Jake Webster, Assistant Director of Student Ministries*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 4/12/2009

6:30 a.m. Sunrise	138
8:00 a.m. Sanctuary	337
9:30 a.m. Living Waters	158
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary	717
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	130
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	729
Worship Totals	2,209

Lenten Lunch (Monday).	49
Lenten Lunch (Tuesday).	60
Holy Thursday	259

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in celebration of the birth of my first great-grandchild

Taliyah Faith Dayton, given by Gertrude Dayton Worthington.

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 family and friends of
Anne Bell.

SPECIAL OFFERING

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

Join with United Methodists worldwide by giving to support humanitarian aid through UMCOR.

For more information on this offering visit www.umcor.org.

GFUMC IS GETTING READY FOR SUMMER...

Join us in packing up the winter woools and pulling out the sunscreen, shorts, and flip flops! The GFUMC summer schedule is ready for your calendars, and we will look forward to seeing you...



Lakeside Worship Services

Lakeside worship begins at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, May 3.

Adult Summer Sunday School

Combined classes begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 7 in the Adult Lobby (Lower level, south wing). All adult classes are invited to participate. More details to be announced.

Summer Sunday School for Children

Our preschool age will be having fun in the Son, learning the stories that Jesus told. Kindergarten through 4th grades will be "Discovering Friends and Learning about Heroes." The fifth grade will continue with their current study.

The Dog Days of Summer

You and your family won't want to miss the newest summer activity at GFUMC! Come on Wednesday evenings, **June 3, July 1, and August 5**, for summer dinners from 5 - 6:15 p.m. and a family-oriented movie showing at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall theater. Movie titles and details coming soon!

Vacation Bible School

June 15 - 19

This annual event for children promises to be a faith adventure to remember. You may begin registering your child on Sunday, May 3 for "Crocodile Dock." See page 3 for more information.

Wilderness Day Camp

July 20-24

This camp is for rising 1st through 6th grade students and offers a fun day of adventure for a child and his/her parent. Mom or dad must accompany their child as a chaperone at least one day of the camp.

Youth Activities

BigStuf Camp, Bible Studies, fun, food, and fellowship are all part of the GFUMC summer youth program. Schedules and events are posted weekly on the youth website and in the youth e-newsletters. Make sure David Burchett and Jake Webster have your email address.

Watch for summer Bible Study opportunities and special times where our church family can get and stay connected this summer!



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.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday, April 22

11 a.m.

in the Reception Hall



Gainesville Police Chief, **Frank Hooper**, will be speaking about the police department of Gainesville.



TO BENEFIT THE YOUTH CHOIR
Saturday, May 2
Begins at 7:30 a.m.

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. Anything from toys and tools, clothes and coolers, books and bikes, glassware and gloves, and more are welcome donations. Items not sold will be donated to Good News at Noon.



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.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Mission Action is selling gold-rimmed porcelain plates with a rendering of Gainesville First United Methodist Church. The cost is \$30. Payment is required at the time order is placed. You may view the plate design and place your orders in the Gathering Room on Sunday morning. For more information, please contact **Wanda Hopkins** at 706.677.0010.

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*.



AS OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS PREPARE FOR EXAMS

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 this **Sunday, April 19**.



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.

RECREATION MINISTRY



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.

STUDENT MINISTRY



The Junior High Mission Team traveled to Brunswick, Georgia 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, come 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

Senior photos for the newsletter insert and the recognition video are due no later than this **Sunday, April 19**. We want to make sure your graduating senior is included! Please give senior photos to Nancy Mote in the Church Office or to David Burchett.



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.



RELAY FOR LIFE MEETING

Sunday, April 19
4 p.m. in Room S-12

Are you, a family member, or friend one of the thousands of individuals impacted by cancer each year? Relay for Life is your opportunity to fight back! 1 in 3 people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime. The funds raised by Relay for Life save lives by funding cancer research, early detection and prevention education, advocacy efforts, and life-affirming patient services. Your involvement will help to save lives. You can register to be a part of the Gainesville First United Methodist Church team by logging on to www.HallRelay.com and signing up to join our team. You CAN make a difference!

For more information, contact **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse at 770.536.2341.

WAVES OF FAITH IS GOING GREEN!



Future editions of the **children's newsletter** will be available online. To be notified by email when the newsletter is ready, send your email address to mbellue@gfumc.com.

If you still want to receive *Waves of Faith* by mail, please call the Church Office at 770-536-2341, and ask for Michele Bellue. You can still pick up a paper copy in the Gathering Room, at the MAC, in the Church Office, or in the Children's Wing.

New Study Opportunity

The Five Love Languages

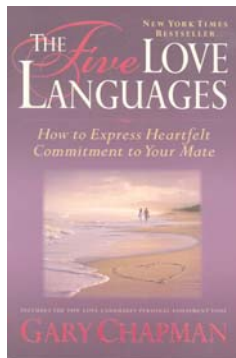
by Gary Chapman

Sundays, May 3 - 31

5 - 6 p.m., in Room S-01

Cost: \$12

Are you looking for a way to more fully understand the unique needs of those for whom you love and care? Learn the five languages of love that can help you express your caring. Facilitated by **Miriam Welling** and **Bill Morrison**.



Calendar

APRIL 19 - 26, 2009

SUNDAY - April 19

College Care Package Goodies Due
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
2:30 Daisy Troop Flower Show
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)

MONDAY - April 20

Preschool Spring Book Fair
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
11:00 UMW: Joy Circle
11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
6:00 Assemble College Care Packages
7:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
7:30 Men's Basketball

TUESDAY - April 21

7:00 Men's Bible Study
8:00 Fitness Club
8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
8:30 Intercosy Prayer Group
9:00 Cardio Pump Aerobics
9:00 Library opens
9:30 Believers Band Practice
10:00 Beth Moore Bible Study
10:00 Mom's Fitness Club
6:00 Believers Band Practice
6:00 Stewardship Small Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY - April 22

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Library opens
11:00 Gadabouts
11:45 Preschool Board Meeting
3:00 Bridge
6:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
6:00 Refresh/Recharge
6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
6:30 Adult Ministry Team Meeting
7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:15 Living Waters Rehearsal

THURSDAY - April 23

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
10:00 Prayer Quilts
7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - April 24

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
10:00 AOA Aerobics

SATURDAY - April 25

2:00 Wedding Shower

SUNDAY - April 26

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
3:30 Believers Band Spring Concert
4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
4:30 Worship Committee Meeting
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.



Prayer Focus:
College
Students -
Final Exams
& Graduates

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

Blood Drive
Thursday May 14
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.



A supervised children's area will be provided once again.

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.



MOTHER'S DAY CORSAGES

Show mom that you care this Mother's Day! Purchase a corsage or boutonniere from the UMW. You may place your order this Sunday in the Gathering Room or by completing the form in the Sunday bulletin and dropping it in the offering plate. All proceeds will go to these UMW mission projects: Community Food Pantry, Cookson Hills Health Clinic, and Dave and Jennifer Cox family in Romania. Every donation is appreciated. Payment must accompany

order. Please make checks payable to **Gainesville First UMW**.



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