



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 17

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 26, 2009

"Irresistible Invitation"...is the theme for our Stewardship Emphasis as we approach Giving Sunday, on May 17, 2009. You will be seeing and hearing all about it between now and then. The invitation to experience and be partners in the love and grace of Jesus Christ is absolutely an "Irresistible Invitation." We invite you to focus on the life-changing results in individual lives that your generosity toward God is making possible.

A sampling of those results is displayed in a wonderful short DVD/video made possible by the talent and bigheartedness of Dirk Mitchell and Trynot Productions. It is provided to give you an idea about how giving to God is transforming lives right here, right now, at Gainesville First United Methodist Church.

That's the whole point! And that is why the invitation is irresistible. As we give our resources to God, lives are transformed, our own as well as others. Giving Sunday is based not on the church's need to receive, but on our need to give to God in response to God's blessings and His love.

Luke's Gospel records: "Give and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (6:38). This reminds us that the life we have always wanted will be found in one way only - in giving. And most important, the "good measure" in the scripture is the effort and sacrifice in the giving that shows our true love for Jesus Christ. Remember to be praying about your giving plans for the year. God will lead us through this decision making process. And of course, He will continue to do amazing things with our gifts.

"Irresistible Invitation"...On Sunday, May 17, we will turn in our Estimate of Giving Cards as an act of worship during the services. Following the services, through the generosity of Tharpe and Judy Ward, there will be a complimentary Johnny's BBQ lunch served for everyone in the GREAT Room! If you attend the early worship service and/or Sunday School, dine at 11:00 a.m. If you attend the later worship service, plan to dine at 12:15 p.m. It's irresistible! Join us as we gather for Johnny's barbecue, friends, family, fellowship, and worship by making our commitments to God. Please accept our invitation.

Ricky Pressley
Church Council Chair

Brennan Wood
Stewardship Chair

P.S. More information on Giving Sunday can be found on page 5.

Worship Services



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

"An Invitation to a Huge Inheritance"
1 John 3:1-7
8:30 & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary
Dr. Steve Winter
9:30 & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Dr. Terry Walton

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 4/19/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	273
9:30 a.m. Living Waters	120
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	172
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	425
Worship Totals	990
Sunday School	530

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.

THANK YOU

I want to express my appreciation to my church family for all of the prayers, calls, cards, and flowers from the altar, after the death of my sister. You are a very caring and loving church who is always there in times of need.

Jacque Clements

COMING UP IN MAY

Sunday, May 3

Lakeside Worship Begins
Recognition of Graduating Seniors

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day
Special Offering will be collected.

Sunday, May 17

Giving Sunday
Celebration Lunch

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost
Confirmation Sunday



Spring Rain Concert

by the Believers Concert Band

Sunday, April 26

3 p.m. in the GREAT Room

Enjoy some easy listening, RAIN music like *Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head*, *Come Rain or Come Shine*, *Singin' In the Rain*, and *Over the Rainbow*, plus music from The Beatles, Johann Strauss, Leroy Anderson, *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, and more! Admission is free.

Preschool Sunday April 26

Please join us as our weekday Preschool classes, three years and older, sing during the 10:55 a.m. Living Waters worship service in the Reception Hall this Sunday. The Preschool children will sing, enjoy the Children's Moment, then they will be invited to go downstairs for a special time of fellowship. Parents are invited to remain in the Reception Hall for remainder of the worship service.



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

April 26 – May 3



The Community Food Pantry is in need of food items to stock its supply pantry. Some of the nonperishable items they are requesting are: beans of any kind, Ramen noodles, grits, oatmeal, and canned meats. Following the worship services on **Sunday, April 26**, brown bags with an attached list of food items will be given out for easy distribution and drop-off. Bags with donated items may be returned to the church and placed in the bins located in the Gathering Room, outside the GREAT Room, and near the rear entrance to the Sanctuary.

LAKESIDE WORSHIP SERVICES

Begins Sunday, May 3

8:30 a.m.

Lakeside worship services are one of GFUMC's most talked about ministries. This unique time of worship in "God's sanctuary without walls" offers a casual atmosphere for all ages. You will experience the presence of God in a unique way at the Lakeside worship service.



Haven't ever been to Lakeside? Dress casually. Bring your lawn chairs, beach towels, or sit on the wooden benches. Come, enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Lakeside worship services will be offered Sundays, May 3 through September 27. In case of inclement weather, the 8:30 a.m. service will meet in the Sanctuary.



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.



Saturday, May 2
Begins at 7:30 a.m.

Clean out the attic, garage, or that room with all the stuff! There's actually less than a week before the **2009 Youth Choir Parking Lot Sale**.

Bring your donated items to Room N-110 in the Music Wing of the church. Large items can be brought on Friday, May 1, and left by the doors near the MAC.

All proceeds from the sale will go toward the 2009 Youth Choir Music and Mission Tour. Our Youth Choir will combine with the choir of First Presbyterian Church on the tour this year. Thank you for your support of the music program and for your donations to the Parking Lot Sale!

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

GADABOUTS

Wednesday, April 29
11 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Join us for BINGO!



GFUMC TRAVELERS

Tuesday, April 28

The GFUMC Travelers will be going to Amicalola Falls for lunch at the lodge and a tour. If you're interested in attending this trip, please contact **Pam Spivey** at 770.536.2341. Cost is \$12 per person.

Fifty Plus

Monday, April 27
6 p.m. in the Reception Hall



Batter up! **Cris Carpenter**, former major leaguer of the St. Louis Cardinals and member of GFUMC will speak about "The Different Levels of Baseball." Please bring \$1 and a covered dish to share.

STUDENT MINISTRY

YOUTH SUNDAY...

Thank you to everyone who made Youth Sunday a wonderful day!

To the bell choir and **Linda Butler**, the youth choir and **Robin Parr**, the praise band, to all the kids who overcame their fear of speaking in front of a crowd, and most of all to the entire congregation for your acceptance, support, and prayers. Thank you!

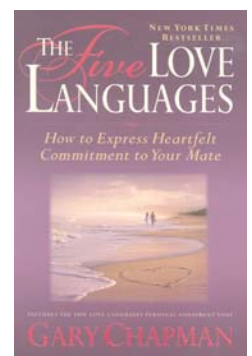


NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITY ON SUNDAYS

The Five Love Languages

by **Gary Chapman**
Sundays, May 3 - 31
5 - 6 p.m., in Room S-01

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**. Cost: \$12



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

Diana Cindea
a friend of Lora Cooley
770.201.0121

Faye Shadburn
770.201.0429

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.

FINANCE REPORT

July 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009



	2009
March's Giving Goal	\$251,930
March's Actual Receipts	\$226,906
YTD Giving Goal	\$2,434,711
YTD Actual Receipts	\$2,238,530
YTD Balance	\$(196,181)

We are now into the final quarter of our first fiscal year. Your response has been a blessing. Our professional staff and our volunteer program coordinators continue to do a great job of monitoring and managing ministry expenses. Actual year-to-date expenses are 75.65% of our fiscal year budget of \$3,114,059. Our actual year-to-date operating receipts is 71.88%, which reflects a slight shortfall. 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 would hope they could. Thank you for prayerfully considering extra giving during these challenging economic days.

Your gifts help the church carry its witness into our community and the world. People are turning to the church in great numbers for help, spiritually and emotionally, during this trying time. Your generous giving helps us to be able to minister to people's needs. If you have questions, please contact **Shirley Brewster** in the Church Office.

NEW COLLEGE AGE MINISTRY



**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.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY COMING

THE WAY OF TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP

The Companions in Christ Series
Tuesdays, June 9 - July 14



What does it mean to be an authentic Christ-follower? Join this small group study and share this exciting pathway of transformation and growth in discipleship. Explore these following themes: knowing who you are, changing from the inside, listening to the groans, experiencing the God who heals, and discovering community together. Led by **Wendy Cordova**. More details coming soon!



MOTHER'S DAY Sunday, May 10

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**.



Questions & Answers

What is Giving Sunday?

Giving Sunday is a program of Christian stewardship based on the need of “the giver to give,” rather than “the need of the church to receive.” Financial faithfulness is one vital area of Christian discipleship. Learning to grow in giving helps us to grow in faith. Developed by church consultant, Herb Miller, this approach has been used by thousands of churches across the United States. Many United Methodist congregations in the North Georgia Conference have used this program with dramatic results.

Do other churches use this program?

Dozens of United Methodist congregations in the North Georgia Conference are using Herb Miller’s New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program.

What about the budget?

We will wait and base the July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010 budget on the final estimate of giving totals from the church membership.



40 Blood Donors Needed!

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, May 14, 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Step out of your comfort zone! Answer the call! We invite you to help by giving graciously of your time and precious blood. As always the need is great and the gratification instant. Many recipients need transfusions just to be able to carry on with a “normal” life. Your cells not only help in emergency situations but also help those receiving chemo, or who have diseases such as sickle cell anemia, and as in our son’s case a bone marrow failure disease. Premature babies often need red cells as well. The need is diverse and one donation has the ability to help as many as three people. Please seriously consider giving “life” especially if you have never donated before! A special thanks to our faithful donors!

Thank you, *Alice Jordan*

Alice Jordan and Sharon Krudener, Coordinators

Calendar

APRIL 26 - MAY 3, 2009

SUNDAY - April 26

Irresistible Invitation Series Begins Preschool Sunday

- 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
- 3:00 Believers Band Spring Rain 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)

MONDAY - April 27

- 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: Board Meeting
- 11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
- 6:00 50+ (Fifty Plus), Cris Carpenter
- 7:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 7:30 Men’s Basketball

TUESDAY - April 28

- 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 Beth Moore Bible Study
- 10:00 Mom’s Fitness Club
- 11:30 Challenged Child Luncheon
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - April 29

- 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
- 7:15 Living Waters Rehearsal

THURSDAY - April 30

- 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
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - May 1

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 6:00 The Beacon Movie Night

SATURDAY - May 2

- 7:30 Youth Choir Parking Lot Sale

SUNDAY - May 3

Recognition of Graduating Seniors Lakeside Worship Begins

Final Day to order Mother’s Day corsages

- 8:30 Lakeside Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 9:45 Welcome & Connect Class
- 10:00 Organ Familiarization Sessions
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Sanctuary Worship
- 12:00 Senior Graduation Luncheon
- 4:00 Pack 16 Meeting
- 4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 Disciple II
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 5:00 The Five Love Languages Study
- 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:
RAIN



**UMW Mission Project
Cookson Hills
Health Resource Center**

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 WGA.



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.

LISTEN ONLINE!

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



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