



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 17

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 27, 2008

Giving Sunday is on Sunday, May 18, this year. Why in May you ask? You may recall that the Church changed its budgeting from a calendar year to a fiscal year. The fiscal year begins July 1st. Therefore, pledges you make in May will be used for the Church's ministry during the period beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009. This shifts November and December, our two biggest contribution months, into the middle of the budget year enabling the finance committee to better manage finances.



So, we have a change in when we give, but not why we give. There are many perspectives on giving; one is practical. With over 3,000 members and far reaching programming, the Church serves our needs everyday. A member may view it as his or her opportunity to provide financial support to meet these needs.

Another giving perspective could be a motivation to fund outreach and missions. A member may wish to support missions such as Keith and April Cox's mission in Jamaica, Reed and Kim Skinner's Honduras mission, and other worldwide missions sponsored by our church. Likewise, a member may desire to provide funds for a variety of outreach needs in the local community. In 2007 alone, Gainesville First United Methodist Church provided over \$625,000 in local and worldwide outreach.

But perhaps the most significant perspective focuses on our need to give. It is not the Church's need to receive or our obligations or motivations, but rather, it is our spiritual need to deepen our relationship with God. Our God is an awesome, giving God. When we give to His purpose, our faith is strengthened. *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be."* Luke 12:34

Please prayerfully consider your financial contribution and make plans to attend one of the worship services on Giving Sunday, May 18. Together, we serve a loving, benevolent God by our prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

Ron Bracewell
Church Council Chairperson

P.S. Please see the insert in this week's Bridge for Questions & Answers about Giving Sunday.

Worship Services

"A Foolish Barn Raising"

Luke 12:13-21
8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m.
Traditional Services
Dr. Terry Walton

Lakeside Worship Services

Begin next Sunday, May 4
8:30 a.m.

"I Am Coming"

Promises to Live By Sermon Series
John 14:15-21
10:55 a.m. Contemporary Service
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 4/20/2008

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	309
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	108
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	558
Worship Totals	975
Sunday School	642

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 in the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

IMPORTANT DATES!

Sunday, May 4

Senior Graduation Recognition & Lakeside Services begin

Sunday, May 11

Pentecost Sunday

Confirmation Recognition & Mother's Day

Sunday, May 18

Giving Sunday

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

GROUNDBREAKING

Sunday, April 27

4 p.m. at 1021 Cooley Drive

Volunteer applications are available in the Gathering Room, Church Office, and online at www.gfumc.com through April 27. For more information on this project, call **Sharon Krudener** at 678.450.9724.



Combined Sunday School

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

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. Come, join us!

April 27: Intentional Faith Development, Rev. Debby Fox

May 4: Risk-taking Mission and Service, Rev. Tom Jones

May 11: Passionate Worship, Rev. Wendy Cordova

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. DVD copies of the series will be made available to individuals and groups. Please contact **Laura Haynes** at 770.536.2341, ext. 137 to request your copy. There is no charge for the DVD copies.



LAKESIDE WORSHIP

Begins Sunday, May 4 at 8:30 a.m.

We will be offering outdoor worship services at our Lakeside Sanctuary each Sunday morning, May 4 through September 28. 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 casual. Bring your lawn chairs, beach towels, or sit on the wooden benches. Come, enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.

GOOSEBUMPS GUARANTEED!

Believers Band Spring Concert

Sunday, April 27

3 p.m. in the GREAT Room



Music from *Fiddler On The Roof*, *The Music Man*, *Star Wars / Raiders March*, *The Syncopated Clock*, *Picture At An Exhibition*, two Dixieland numbers, songs from Scotland, Ireland, England, and more. **Free Admission!**



MOTHER'S DAY CORSAGES

Show mom that you care this Mother's Day! Purchase a corsage or boutonniere from the UMW. Orders will be accepted through **Sunday, May 4**. You may place your order on Sundays in the Gathering Room. Order forms are also available in the Sunday Bulletin or in the Church Office. All proceeds will go to missions. Every donation is appreciated. Please make checks payable to **Gainesville First United Methodist Women**.

A NEW SONG

BELLS, PIPES, & VOICES

A Musical Celebration

Wednesday, April 30 - 6:30 p.m.

Come at 5 p.m. on April 30 and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Michael (*Call the Church Office to make dinner reservations by Monday, April 28*), and then settle in for a time of great music!

The Adult Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and organist, **Keith Jefcoat**, will present a combined concert at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will bring the 2007-08 year of Wednesday evening activities to an exciting conclusion.

Our outstanding bell choir will ring some of their favorite pieces as well as a couple of new selections. The Chancel Choir will sing four spirituals including *Give Me Jesus* and *Elijah Rock*.

The organ console will be front and center, so everyone can watch as Keith plays the 41 rank Reuter pipe organ.

PRAYER PAGERS



Let these people know that you are thinking of them.

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

Tonya Gore

Angela Burrell's niece
770.201.0867

Faye Shadburn

770.201.0429

Katie Tulin

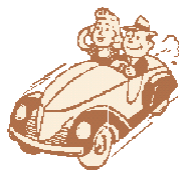
1.800.225.3412

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS

Wednesday,
April 30

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



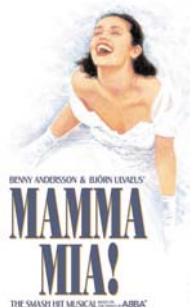
The children from the **GFUMC Prechool** will entertain us with music!

50+

Monday, April 28
6 p.m. in the
Reception Hall



Bring \$1 plus your favorite covered dish to share. **Keith Jefcoat** will be our guest for the evening. Keith is the organist at GFUMC and is the Director of Preparatory Music, Inc. at Brenau University.



At the Fabulous Fox Theatre!!!

Saturday, June 14

The cost is \$57 per person.

Transportation is provided.

Call **Beth** at 770.536.2341,
ext. 139 for more information!

AT THE "MAC"

MAY DAY DANCE

Thursday, May 1

7 p.m. in the **GREAT Room**

Light refreshments and music by a DJ and the live swing band, Sentimental Journey, an ensemble of the Believers Band. Admission is \$2. Sponsored by the "MAC."

STUDENTS



LOCAL MISSIONS

SUPER SERVICE SATURDAY

Saturday, May 3

Begins at 8 a.m.

Join us for a day of local service and mission. We will head out into the community after meeting in the Youth Hall for breakfast. We need adult help and an approximate number of students and adults who will be participating. Please sign up in the Youth Hall, so we can get an accurate head count!



END OF SCHOOL

CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 18

We'll have inflatable games, great guest worship leaders, and **Spencer Arnold** will be our guest speaker. We'd also like to invite all college students for a Harbor homecoming that night.

BIGSTUF DEADLINE

Registration is coming to a close. Please get your registration in by **Sunday, May 4**. No late registrations will be accepted.

UMW NEWS



BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 28

10 a.m. in Room S-06



AARP DRIVING CLASS

Tuesday, May 13
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
in the Gathering Room

Three reasons to take the AARP Driving Class: Tune up your driving skills. Drive more safely. Get an insurance discount.

Though geared for drivers age 50 and older, the course is open to people of any age. AARP membership is not required to attend. There is no final test to pass. Call **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341, ext. 139 to register. Bring your lunch and a pen or pencil. The course fee is only \$10.



PRAYER CARDS

Sunday, May 4
Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 11
Confirmation Recognition

The Prayer Ministry Team encourages you to take a card from an easel or Sunday school class and pray specifically for the names on the card. Acknowledge the graduating seniors' achievement and your prayers for them. Let the confirmands know of your encouragement as they continue their spiritual walk.

RELAY FOR LIFE 2008

7 p.m. Friday, May 30 - 7 a.m. Saturday, May 31

GFUMC will have a team in this year's Relay for Life. The theme this year is **Team Up for a Cure**. If you want to be on the team, please contact Lori Floyd at 770.536.2341, ext. 144 or lfloyd@gfumc.com. If you're not on the team that walks at the event, there will be other opportunities for you to help us raise money, make donations, and purchase luminaries in honor or in memory of loved ones who have faced cancer. Watch future issues of *The Bridge* for more information.



Women's Ministry Survey!

Women of GFUMC: We want to hear from you! Take the GFUMC Spring 2008 Women's Ministry Survey!

Please take a few minutes and let us know how you would like to see the women's ministry expand in the future. Share your ideas and passions. Volunteer to be a part of this growing ministry to the women of our congregation and community. You may complete the survey online at www.gfumc.com/women or copies of the survey are also available in the Church Office and in current women's Bible study classes.



FOOD DRIVE

**COMMUNITY FOOD
PANTRY DRIVE**
May 11 - 18

Did you know? 25 million Americans receive food from an emergency food program each year, including nine million children and three million seniors.

Non-perishable items needed: canned meats, fruits, and vegetables, pasta, peanut butter, rice, crackers etc. Place donations in the boxes in the Gathering Room, the MAC entrance, and in the hall behind the Sanctuary.



VBS EXPLOSION!

Monday, June 16 - Friday, June 20, 2008
Adults and youth volunteers are still needed.
Sign up in the Gathering Room
on Sunday mornings.

FAMILY SUPPER

Wednesday, April 30

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

**Baked Lasagna, Garlic Bread,
Antipasto Salad, Garden Green
Salad Bar, Asparagus Salad,
Waldorf Salad, and Fresh Baked Cookies.**



Kid's Meal: Pizza.

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.

Calendar

APRIL 27 - MAY 4, 2008

SUNDAY - April 27

8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
9:45 Combined Sunday School: *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*
9:45 Get Connected! Class
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
2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806
3:00 Believers Band Spring Concert
4:00 GriefShare Support Group
4:00 Youth Choir
5:00 Disciple I
5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
6:00 *Forty-Sixty Bible Study* (Singles 40+)
6:00 *Walking in God's Promises - Sarah*
Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY - April 30

9:00 Aerobics
11:00 Gadabouts
3:00 Bridge
5:00 Family Supper
6:00 Refresh/Recharge
6:15 Youth Bible Studies
6:30 Bells, Pipes, and Voices Concert
6:30 Living Waters Worship Team
7:30 Chancel Choir

THURSDAY - May 1

National Day of Prayer
10:00 Prayer Quilts
2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
5:00 Choir Trip
7:00 May Day Dance

FRIDAY - May 2

9:00 Aerobics
10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
6:00 The Beacon Movie Night (Singles 40+)

SATURDAY - May 3

9:00 Believers Band Practice

SUNDAY - May 4

8:30 Lakeside Worship
9:45 Combined Sunday School: *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*
9:45 Get Connected! Class
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
12:00 Senior Recognition Luncheon
4:00 Youth Choir
4:30 Worship Committee
5:00 Disciple I
5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
6:00 *Forty-Sixty Bible Study* (Singles 40+)
6:00 *Walking in God's Promises - Sarah*
Women's Bible Study
7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

MONDAY - April 28

9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
10:00 UMW Board Meeting
12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
6:00 50+
6:30 Disciple II
6:30 Health & Wellness Meeting
7:00 Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
7:30 Adult Basketball
7:30 Adult Bells

TUESDAY - April 29

7:00 Men's Bible Study
8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
9:00 Intercessory Prayer Group
9:30 Believers Band Practice
10:00 *Effective Parenting* Women's Study
10:00 *God at Your Wits' End* Women's Study
10:00 *Living a Purpose-Full Life* Women's Study
6:00 Believers Band Practice
8:00 MLC Band Practice



The following is our March 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.

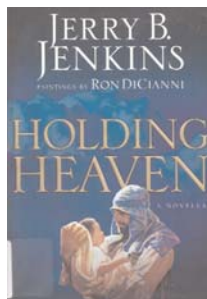
To arrive at this figure, we have taken the last three years of receipts and calculated an average expectation to that year's budget. That average is then applied to this year's budget for that month. This will become the month's "Giving Goal." Churches do not receive, nor do they spend, in equal 1/12 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.

	2007	2008
March's Giving Goal	\$239,310	\$242,086
March's Actual Receipts	\$207,094	\$246,839
YTD Giving Goal	\$667,875	\$664,360
YTD Actual Receipts	\$581,631	\$604,180
YTD Balance	(\$86,244)	(\$60,180)

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Holding Heaven

by Jerry B. Jenkins



Holding Heaven offers a fresh perspective on the mysteries of the Incarnation - what it must have been like for the Son of God to walk this earth as a man, and for Joseph to raise this son he knew belonged first to Heaven. As you turn these pages, you will relish Jenkins' fresh telling of this beloved relationship. And when you savor the poignancy of the love that linked this father and son, you will be filled with a renewed appreciation for all that your heavenly Father has done for you through His one and only Son, Jesus. Jerry B. Jenkins is the author of more than 150 books including the phenomenal *Left Behind* series.

*Don't take a vacation from
Sunday School this summer!*

*Join the
"Boys and Girls of Summer"
for One Room Sunday School
beginning Sunday, June 1.*



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

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 WGGA.



Library Hours

Sunday 9:45 - 11 a.m.

Monday – Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday 5 - 7 p.m.



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 1
7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The congregation and community are invited to come and pray in either the Chapel or Sanctuary at GFUMC. A prayer guide will be available for anyone who wishes to use it. Spend some quality time with our Creator!



2780 Thompson Bridge Rd.
Gainesville, GA 30506

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED