



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 18

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 3, 2009



In my study at our home is a wall of books. I'm not always sure why I keep books other than on occasion I refer back to one or two books that I have read along the way. In a reflective moment, I was noticing the kinds of books on those shelves. There is a book there called *Five Cries of Parents* written by Strommen and Strommen. As a parent, I remember having more than FIVE cries along the way; but I remember that book being very helpful in my own parenting as well as in the teaching of parenting courses.

There is another book on my shelf entitled *You Can Get Better or Bitter* by James Moore. It is a good book about choices we make when life becomes very real and not so pleasant. One of my recent favorites is *Good to Great* by Jim Collins. I've learned a lot from Mr. Collins, and I find myself referring back to him on a regular basis. I like John Maxwell so I have several of his books. He was once a Wesleyan Methodist Pastor who has become a respected guru in the area of leadership all across the world. My favorite book of his is *Thinking for a Change*; whether you enjoy the read or not, you have to appreciate the title.

I have several Max Lucado books. Sharon and I especially like *Traveling Light*. We read that book aloud together as our devotional several years back and found it a wonderful experience through Psalm 23. There are other devotional-type books. I have several *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. I even have one entitled *Chicken Soup for the Baseball Fan's Soul*; I really like that one. There are some classics on the shelves such as Oswald Chambers *My Utmost for His Highest* and Roberta Bondi's *Memories of God*. I am presently reading *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. I think it could become a classic. There are many books on prayer and spiritual journey among my shelves. I think that is because I am still trying to figure all that out for my own life.

When I look at the books that surround me while I'm in study, I am reminded that there is so much I still have to learn. There are so many places, known and unknown, where I still have to journey. I am reminded of how important it is to be open-minded and willing to apply myself if I even have the slightest chance of becoming all that God intends for me to become.

What are you feeding your soul and mind these days? Are you journeying forward in faith? How open is your mind? We are given only one life to live. Let's take the time to feed our souls and minds so they can grow in healthy and life-giving ways.

With Love and Care,

P.S. This Sunday we will celebrate our graduating high school seniors. See the insert for names. Congratulations seniors on your accomplishment!

Worship Services



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

"An Invitation to Lay Down"
1 John 3:16-24
8:30 & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary
Dr. Terry Walton
9:30 & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 4/26/2009

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	314
9:30 a.m. Living Waters	125
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	169
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	403
Worship Totals	1,012
Sunday School	378

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in honor of **Elizabeth Lee Hood** and the **2009 graduating seniors**, given by David and Beth Weikel, Maggie, and Bill.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of **Mildred Hughes**.

...to the family and friends of **Mary Cromartie**

...to **Steve Brannon** on the death of his step-mom.

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.

Welcome & Connect Class

Beginning Sunday, May 3
9:45—10:40 a.m. in the GREAT Room



A special introductory four-week class offered specifically for our newer members and visitors. The class is led by our pastors and features a church tour, meet and greet with pastors and leaders, church history as well as the dreams and visions of GFUMC, and what church membership at GFUMC means. For more information, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at wcordova@gfumc.com or 770.536.2341.

This Sunday, May 3

Dreams & Visions for GFUMC
with *Dr. Terry Walton*

Sunday, May 17

Who are we? What do we believe?
with *Rev. Debby Fox*

Sunday, May 10

Church Tour & Meet and Greet
with *Rev. Wendy Cordova*

Sunday, May 24

What does it mean to call
GFUMC your church home?
with *Rev. Tom Jones*



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

Continues through Sunday, 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. Bring your donated items to the church and place them in the bins located in the Gathering Room, outside the GREAT Room, and near the rear entrance to the Sanctuary.

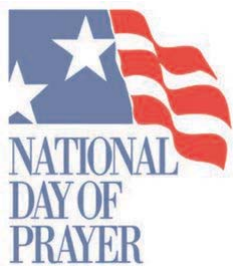
LAKESIDE WORSHIP SERVICES

Begins this 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. Haven't ever been to Lakeside? Dress casually. Bring your lawn chairs 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. If you are on or near the GFUMC campus and want to listen from your boat or vehicle, the service can be heard by radio at FM 90.3. In case of inclement weather, the 8:30 a.m. service will meet in the Sanctuary. *Please note: If you plan to use the dock, please be watchful. With the lake levels still low and fluctuating, caution is necessary.*

THANK YOU! ... We mailed 85 packages to college students! If you know a college student who is home for the summer, remember to tell them about Compel, the new ministry beginning Tuesday, May 5.



Thursday, May 7

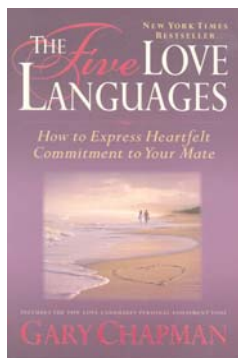
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sanctuary open for prayer

Please come by anytime throughout the day to be in prayer for our nation, for our world, and for our church. Prayer guides will be available.

PARKING UPDATE...

Yes, new parking is coming! Plans have been delayed due to the much needed rain fall. Once the soil test has been approved, we will be moving forward.



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.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

GADABOUTS

Wednesday, May 6

11 a.m. in the Reception Hall



Students from Brenau University will speak about their Spring Break trip to New Orleans, Louisiana.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

Friday, May 15

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary



Congratulations to the 53 Preschool students who will be graduating! Lunch will be served in the GREAT Room following the ceremony. Lunch reservations are required. Call the Preschool Office at 770.534.0409 with any questions.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE RYDC YOUTH

**“FUN DAY” AT THE
REGIONAL YOUTH DETENTION CENTER**

Friday, May 8

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to set up and serve lunch and to spend time talking with the youth. If interested please call **Pastor Wendy Cordova**.



ANNOUNCING A NEW MINISTRY -- 1ST PLACE

Where's the “1st Place” you look for items you just have to have, but they don't have to be new?!

Beginning this May, on the Gainesville First United Methodist Church website you will have the opportunity to post those items you are interested in selling. You will be able to shop online, too. These local, classified ads are intended to help our congregation and visitors to our website, find needed items and a place to advertise things for sale.



Mindy Ferran is leading this new ministry and will be posting sale items each week. Items can remain on the site for four weeks. Submit your sale items online, or use the paper form available in the Church Office. Also, information regarding all sale items will be available on the community bulletin board in the hallway across from the Library.

Make gfumc.com/1stplace your **first place** for classified advertising!

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.

A NEW SONG

MUSIC & MISSION TOUR



The annual Music and Mission Tour taken by the Youth Choir is set for May 29 through June 4.

This year, our Youth Choir will combine with the Youth Choir of First Presbyterian Church and travel south into Florida.

Michael Henry, Director of Music at FPC, and our own Robin Parr will lead the group in concerts and worship services in seven locations, including a pre-tour concert at Lanier Village Estates on Tuesday, May 26.

The trip will take the combined group to Valdosta, Georgia, and St Augustine, North Palm Beach, and Enterprise, Florida. A Homecoming Concert will be presented at GFUMC, at 6 p.m., Sunday, June 7, in the Sanctuary.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support of the Youth Choir and this trip.

**Relay for Life
Team Meeting**
Sunday, May 17
4 p.m. in Room S-12



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.

BLOOD DRIVE

Give the Gift of Life!

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

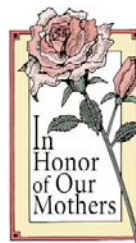


We invite you to help by giving graciously of your time and precious blood. As always the need is great and the gratification instant. Many recipients need transfusions just to be able to carry on with a "normal" life.

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.

Alice Jordan and Sharon Krudener
Blood Drive Coordinators

MOTHER'S DAY
Sunday, May 10



Purchase a corsage or boutonniere from the UMW in honor or memory of your mom. Orders are due by Sunday, May 3. 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**.



A friend of mine, Dennis J. Smock, has a website (dailylivingministries.org) which provides daily devotions. I hope you will find this devotion helpful to guide your prayer as you consider God's "Irresistible Invitation."

Brennan Wood, Stewardship Chair

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.
[Proverbs 18:16 (NIV)]

Exactly what is a gift? Let's take a look at a gift not from the receiving end but from the giving end. Could a gift be a show of admiration and respect from the giver to the recipient? Could it be an outward reflection of the inner feelings toward the recipient? Is it possible that the gift is actually an effort by the giver to present a piece of themselves to the recipient?

There are many reasons that someone will give a gift. There are even selfish reasons that someone will give a gift, but, even with the selfish reasons, is there a possibility that the giver truly does desire to be like the recipient? Even gifts given as practical jokes are rooted in this to some extent. It is a proven psychological fact that people have a tendency to pick on those whom they like or are like themselves in some way. If a gift is truly a reflection of what is in the heart toward the recipient, then a gift shows much more than we probably ever realized. If you fall in love, you give gifts to the one you love as a means of saying how much they mean to you. If you support a certain candidate for political office, you give monetary gifts as a means of supporting their position.

What do you give to God? Gifts to God come in many different forms. When you give of yourself in any way for the kingdom of God, you are expressing your inner thoughts of admiration, love, and respect for who God is and what He has done for you. Are your gifts to God from the heart? Will they usher you into the presence of greatness? It is not the size of the gift, but the intent of the heart. What is your heartfelt intent toward God?

More information about Giving Sunday can be found online at www.gfumc.com.

Calendar

MAY 3 - 10, 2009

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)

MONDAY - May 4

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
11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
4:00 Urban Ministry Tutoring
6:00 Outreach Committee Meeting
6:30 Evangelism Committee Meeting
7:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
7:30 Men's Basketball

TUESDAY - May 5

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
6:00 Believers Band Practice
6:00 Eagle Scout Banquet
7:00 Compel - New College Age Worship!!!
7:00 UMW: Mission Action

WEDNESDAY - May 6

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 - May 7

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
9:30 MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers
2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
6:30 Believers Band - Jazz Band Ensemble
7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - May 8

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
10:00 AOA Aerobics
12:00 RYDC Fun Day
1:00 Prayer Shawls
7:15 Emmaus

SATURDAY - May 9

8:00 Service Saturday (Youth)
10:00 Mother's Day corsage pick-up

SUNDAY - May 10

Mother's Day
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
2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806 Meeting
4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
5:00 The Five Love Languages Study

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:

Thank God for Sunday school teachers & small group leaders



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

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.



BRING HOME A WONDERFUL GIFT THIS SPRING! A Beautiful Herb Bowl

Choose from three options: Culinary Bowl, Tea Time Bowl, or Medicinal Bowl. A limited quantity is available so place your order soon. Proceeds will go to promote the health and welfare of mothers of preschoolers in need. Payment must accompany the order. Make checks to GFUMC (for MOPS). Deadline for orders is Friday, May 8 with a pick-up date of Friday, May 15. Order forms are available in the Church Office during the week or on Sundays in the Gathering Room. Cost: \$30.



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