



# The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI  
NUMBER 19

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 10, 2009



There is power in doing things together. As a matter of fact, I think we were created to do things together. When we are together it is amazing the strength that can be exerted and mountains that can be moved. For example, a stranded automobile is hard to move with only one person pushing. But you put that automobile in neutral gear with several people pushing and it begins to move. Soon it picks up momentum and is rolling down the road with ease.

There is power in doing things together.

Look at what we were able to do on Great Day of Service. Together, more than 800 of us made a huge difference for Christ in this community. Look at what we did in April. Our giving goal for our 2008/2009 Fiscal Year Ministry Budget for the month of April was \$240,000. We gave \$241,000 for the work of God in this community and world. There is power in doing things together. When we place our generosity together in the hands of God, the result is a powerful experience.

Our *Irresistible Invitation* stewardship emphasis is approaching its' apex we call Giving Sunday, May 17. On this day, we will come together for worship and fellowship as we respond to this invitation to give generously for the cause of Christ in the world. It is going to be an exciting day! As we estimate our generous giving for the next fiscal year of ministry, together we will observe a powerful moment. In these struggling economic times, I really believe together we can participate in a miracle. I personally am hopeful that together we will respond in such a way that the church is able to move forward for Christ and NOT have to take a step back. Together we can make this happen. Our faith together can make the difference. There is power in doing things together.

Together, let's pray about our generous monetary gift for 2009/2010 ministry. Together, let's sacrifice and increase our giving over this current year. Some will want to do this but simply can't. For those of us who can do more, it is important to be generous so that the church continues to grow and flourish. If we will do this, together we will see the joy of the power of God working in and through us. There really is power in doing things together. Thank you for joining with Sharon and me in responding to this *Irresistible Invitation*. We look forward to seeing you each and every Sunday, but especially on May 17.

With Love and Care,

## Worship Services



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

*"An Invitation to Branch Off"*  
John 15:1-8  
8:30 & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary  
Dr. Terry Walton  
9:30 & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters  
Dr. Steve Winter

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### ATTENDANCE 5/3/2009

8:30 a.m. Lakeside . . . . .	411
9:30 a.m. Living Waters . . . . .	64
10:55 a.m. Living Waters . . . . .	130
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary . . . . .	456
<b>Worship Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>1,061</b>
Sunday School . . . . .	604

### FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in memory of **Betty Nivens**, given by Johnny and Cindy Nivens

The flowers in the Narthex are to the glory of God and in honor of **Nell Wiegand**, given by Al, Ginny, Nathan, Will, and Don Crumley, Lauren and Gary Papka, Mary Beth and Jim Begley, & Marinel and Trey Wood.

### BAPTISM

**Lilly Anne Kiley** will be baptized this Sunday at the 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary service. Her parents are Brad and Dayna Kiley.

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of **Agnes Craven**.

...to **Dale Erwin** on the death of his mother.

...to **Ann Phillips** on the death of her sister.

### CONGRATULATIONS

GFUMC team members, **Michelle Alexander, Ruth Bruner**, and **Sheila McCleary** won the Gainesville Alliance for Literacy Spelling Bee!

### 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

Each Sunday through May 24  
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.

### Sunday, May 10

Church Tour & Meet and Greet  
with Rev. Wendy Cordova

### Sunday, May 17

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

### Sunday, May 24

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

## LAKESIDE WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at 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 through September 27. Important information about Lakeside:

- 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 once the service begins.
- In case of inclement weather, the 8:30 a.m. service will meet in the Sanctuary.
- If you plan to use the dock, please be careful. With the lake levels still low and fluctuating, caution is necessary.
- Visit the Lakeside Hospitality table! You will find pencils, information about the church, copies of *The Bridge*, and water, all served by our smiling youth.
- If you are in need of first aid while at Lakeside, please go to the small cabin at the top of the hill for assistance.



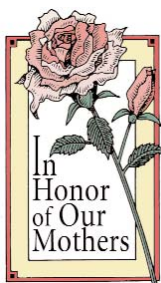
### BRING LAKESIDE INSIDE!

Join us for Living Waters worship every Sunday this summer at 9:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. in our Reception Hall. Wear your flip-flops, bring your coffee, and come worship with us in your casual lakeside attire!! Join us for great music, good fellowship, and worship that is informal, intimate, relevant, and meaningful.



## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

In honor of all GFUMC women, a generous donation will be made to **Aldersgate Homes, Inc.**, which seeks to make a positive difference in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities through education, advocacy, and providing residential alternatives in an affordable, safe, and comfortable environment as they become community participants.



### Mother's Day Reminder

Did you purchase a boutonniere or corsage to wear in honor or memory of your mother?

Remember to pick it up in the Gathering Room either Saturday, May 9, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon or on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, between 8 a.m. and 12 noon. Thank you for your donations!



A new Church Directory will be published this fall. Stay tuned for more information. We will be scheduling several dates in August before students head off to college and some in September too.

## OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

### GADABOUTS

**Wednesday, May 13**  
11 a.m. in the Reception Hall



**Peter Gordon**, Director of Education at the Elachee Nature Science Center, will present an informative program about birds.

## NEW! 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 the following themes: knowing who you are, changing from the inside, listening to the groans, experiencing the God who heals, and discovering community together.

Choose to attend the morning study (11 a.m.-12 noon) or the evening study (6:30-7:30 p.m.). Childcare provided with a reservation. Call the Church Office at 770.536.2341 to register. Led by **Wendy Cordova**. Cost: \$8/book.



### Yard Sale

### COMET Class Yard Sale

**Saturday, May 16**

**7 a.m. - 12 noon**

All proceeds will fund COMET class local missions and missionaries. Find us under the Preschool portico.

## 1ST PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**Try GFUMC's 1st Place Classified Ads!**

[www.gfumc.com](http://www.gfumc.com)

You will be able to view items that people from our congregation are trying to sell as well as have the opportunity to post those items you are interested in selling. 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.

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 [www.gfumc.com](http://www.gfumc.com) 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



**Sing to Him a new song;  
play skillfully on the strings,  
with loud shouts.**

*Psalm 33:3*

This scripture is a wonderful affirmation of all the hard work that the Living Waters Praise Teams put in every week to bring their offering of worship. They faithfully serve our congregation with their gifts. I am very grateful to each musician and technician who serves in Living Waters to make worship possible in two services every Sunday.

I want to express a special thanks to the Harbor Praise Team for its beautiful offering of music on Youth Sunday. The team is made up of Claire Kannapell, Elizabeth Webster, Reese Walker, Seth Black, Jordy Bearden, and Shane Doster. I'm so proud of them and their faithful service to God here at GFUMC.

"We bring an offering of worship to our king. No one on earth deserves the praise that we bring. Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due. Oh Lord, we bring an offering to you." - Paul Baloche

*Michelle Alexander*  
*Music Ministry Assistant*

## NEW COLLEGE AGE MINISTRY



**Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Reception Hall**

Our new midweek worship and small group service began last week. Join us each Tuesday, at 7 p.m. in the Reception Hall.

We invite you to join us for **COMPEL**, a new ministry for all college age young people! Invite your friends to join you for this new worship experience.

## BLOOD DRIVE

**40 Donors Needed**

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



Become a blood donor and give the "Gift of Life." A supervised children's area will be provided. You may sign up in the Gathering Room on Sunday, May 10. We are asking you to give serious consideration in becoming a blood donor and help save lives. We want to especially encourage those of you who have never donated before.

Did you know that only 3% of eligible donors actually donate? Can you imagine if those percentages were raised only slightly? Blood shortages might be eradicated! Recipients are dependant on you!

*Alice Jordan and Sharon Krudener*  
*Blood Drive Coordinators*

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



One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime. The funds raised at Relay 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 GFUMC team by logging on to [www.HallRelay.com](http://www.HallRelay.com) and signing up to join our team.




These thoughts by Bishop Robert Schnase guide us this week as we consider our response to Christ's Irresistible Invitation.

**And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed – keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.**  
*2 Timothy 1:6-7, The Message*

“Ministry in Christ’s name matters. The lives we touch, the work projects we organize, the people we welcome, the dying people with whom we pray, the youth we teach, the communities we build up, the justice we proclaim, the comfort we offer – these change lives, and it is through the prayer and plans and work of pastors and laity in congregations that God transforms the world.

The Christian life matters. Our prayers, worship, study of the Word, being part of community, service and generosity – these are the means through which Christ forms us, and through our changed lives, God seeks to change the world.”

Included in this edition of *The Bridge* is information that was shared with worshipers this past Sunday in all worship services. Cooper and Elizabeth Embry reminded us to regard our giving as a part of spiritual growth, and challenged us to grow one step in our response to God’s blessings. On the stair-step side of the inserted sheet are figures that show the breakdown of our congregation’s giving patterns in the calendar year 2008. Each stair-step indicates the number of giving units in our church for each weekly giving range. On the other side is a chart that helps you compare weekly income and percentage giving. We hope that this information will be helpful as you prayerfully consider this question: “*What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in response to His love for me?*”

 The MAC Madness Basketball Tournament was a great success! Some of the proceeds went towards helping a local middle school baseball league get started. The MAC will be recognized in their programs. Thanks to everyone involved!

Vicki Bailey

# Calendar

**MAY 10 - 17, 2009**

## 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
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Sanctuary Worship
- 2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806 Meeting
- 5:00 The Five Love Languages Study

## MONDAY - May 11

- 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
- 6:30 Congregational Care Council
- 6:30 Health & Wellness Meeting
- 6:30 Prayer Ministry Team Meeting
- 6:30 Recreation Committee
- 7:00 Egypt Trip Planning Meeting
- 7:00 Irresistible Invitation Leadership Dessert
- 7:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting

## TUESDAY - May 12

- 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 Beth Moore Bible Study
- 10:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 12:00 NGMC Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 6:00 Trustees Meeting
- 7:00 Compel - College Age Worship
- 7:00 Stephen Ministry
- 7:00 Troop 16 Committee Meeting



**Prayer Focus:**  
*Irresistible Invitation*  
 Stewardship  
 Campaign

## WEDNESDAY - May 13

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library opens
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 5:30 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
- 6:00 North Hall Soccer Banquet
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge
- 6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
- 7:00 VBS Small Groups
- 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:15 Living Waters Rehearsal

## THURSDAY - May 14

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Library opens
- 9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 12:30 Blood Drive
- 5:30 Finance Meeting

## FRIDAY - May 15

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 11:00 Preschool Graduation & Luncheon
- 12:00 50+ Planning Meeting
- 1:00 Prayer Shawls
- 7:15 Emmaus

## SATURDAY - May 16

- 7:00 COMET Class Yard Sale
- 1:00 Compassionate Hospice

## SUNDAY - May 17

### *Giving Sunday*

- 8:30 Lakeside Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 9:45 Welcome & Connect Class
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Sanctuary Worship
- 11:00 Celebration Lunch, Seating 1
- 12:15 Celebration Lunch, Seating 2
- 4:00 Relay for Life Team Meeting
- 4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Five Love Languages Study
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 5:45 Executive Committee
- 7:00 Church Council
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

NETWORKING - SUPPORT - TRAINING



**Mondays**

**8 - 9:30 a.m., Adult Lobby**

This ministry provides assistance for those people whose jobs have been negatively impacted by the economic downturn and 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.



**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](http://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.



Thanks to all who participated in the fun dance lessons with Jean Hawkins. We will start back in the fall!

*Vicki Bailey*



## Vacation Bible School

*June 15 - 19*

Registrations are now being accepted in the Gathering Room on Sunday mornings or during the week in the Church Office.



## LISTEN ONLINE!

Sermons are now available at [www.gfumc.com/sermons](http://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