



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 19

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 11, 2008

Every day pressures are real! There are good days and there are bad days. We all have our share of both. Someone once said, "You have to take the bad with the good!" If that is so, then how is it accomplished? I prefer to have a good day every day, don't you? But that is not very realistic. How can we handle everyday pressures that feel really claustrophobic on the bad days? Bad days have a way of helping the pressures of life crowd in on us and cause the bad to feel worse. What do we do? If joy is to be a fruit of the Spirit of Christ in our lives, then how is it to be experienced when days of challenge come our way?



Dr. Tom Carruth was an influence in my life as an adolescent. He was the Director of Spiritual Life at Asbury Seminary for many years. I came to know him through Camp Meeting experiences at Mt. Zion Camp Ground in Griffin, Georgia. Dr. Carruth had two basic sermons that he preached in a variety of ways. His two sermons were "Love" and "Prayer." That was it. I remember his emphasis entitled "100 Days of Love" where he asked people to focus on God's love and loving others for 100 days straight. If you would do so, he claimed your life would be changed. I also remember his emphasis entitled "40 Days of Prayer." He had the audacity to claim that if you would seriously pray for someone or any decision or concern for forty days, that you would discover God's power for your life in unimaginable ways.

I think Dr. Carruth was trying to help people realize the power and importance of that which receives our attention. The answer to life's pressures is not really complicated, it is simply a matter of focus. Jesus said it when he said, "Come to me, all of you who labor and are heaven laden...and I will give you rest."

Is it possible that the real, everyday pressures of life are of interest to our God? Is it really true that God is simply waiting on us to turn toward heaven and offer our challenges into the hands of our Creator? If I trust God with my bad days, will I discover that the "joy of the Lord really is my strength?" Was the Apostle Paul correct when he proclaimed to God that when he was weak, God was all the stronger? Yes!

Focus, my friends, focus, that is our answer.

With Love and Care,

Worship Services

"The Answer Is In the Heart"

John 7:37-39
8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m.
Traditional Services
Dr. Terry Walton



"One Spirit, One Body, Many Gifts"

1 Corinthians 12:3-13
10:55 a.m.
Contemporary Service
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 5/4/2008

8:30 a.m. Lakeside	489
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	102
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	503
Worship Totals	1,094
Sunday School	517
Bells, Pipes, & Voices	169

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Lewis Atwater Langston**, given by Mom, Dad, Tom, J. J., Grace, Mae, Frances, Andy, and Drew.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Caroline Elyse Mathes was born May 1, 2008. Proud parents are Alexander and Jennifer Brinson Mathes.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

...to **Holt Harrison** on the death of his mother.

SPECIAL OFFERING

This Sunday, a special offering will be received for Wesley Woods. Wesley Woods serves older adults in their most vital needs: health, home, and community. As the largest provider of geriatric health services in Georgia, they serve nearly 150,000 Georgia seniors a year. Be a good shepherd. Please support the Mother's Day Offering.

Combined Sunday School *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

Sunday, May 11

Passionate Worship facilitated by **Rev. Wendy Cordova**



Join us for the last topic of the book by Robert Schnase this Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel. 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.



MOTHER'S DAY CORSAGES REMINDER

Please pick up your pre-ordered corsages on
Saturday, May 10 ~ 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Sunday, May 11 ~ 8 a.m. - 12 noon

This Sunday, May 11, the following students will stand before the congregation and profess their faith in Jesus. Please welcome them into the congregation as members of Gainesville First United Methodist Church.



Andrew Bagwell, Madison Baldwin, Jackson Bishop, Jake Carter, Lauren Carter, Elizabeth Coleman, Jack Cumiskey, Caroline Dickey, Amber Folger, Anastasia Haack, Daniel Harben, Madeline Harr, Sara Hayes, Maggie Hopkins, Braz Jackson, Nathan Jones, Sam Jones, Lawson King, Anna Lothridge, Andrew Martin, Kristin Martin, Mary Martin, Jamie Mattick, Morgan Mercer, Cheryl Morris, Mary Alden Powell, Kevin Rabb, Christian Reinhardt, Anna Rogers, Bennett Smith, Anna Kathryn Yarger, Harrison Yarger, and Rachel Yarger.



Included in this edition of *The Bridge* is information that was shared with worshippers this past Sunday in all three worship services. Jody Cooley reminded us to regard our giving as a part of spiritual growth, and he 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 2007. 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?"



Did you know? The Lakeside worship service can also be received on FM 90.3 for those who may find accessibility difficult or for those who would like to listen on board their boat. Please note: This is a low-power transmission and can only be received on or very close to the church property during the 8:30 a.m. service.

A NEW SONG



Twenty two Sundays of worship at the beautiful, outdoor Lakeside Amphitheater began this past Sunday! The area has been landscaped and terraced for better access and the sound system has been improved.

Music for the 2008 season will include choirs, soloists, the Sunday Bluegrass Band, and, of course, the Believers Band. There might even be a surprise or two as we progress through the summer.

What a wonderful opportunity for GFUMC members and friends to come to worship our Lord in this beautiful outdoor setting. Invite a friend or two to come with you.

Lakeside worship will continue through the month of September.

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



RYDC Fun Day
Thursday, May 22
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Regional Youth Detention Center will be having their annual "Fun Day" for the youth. We need people to help with games and serve food. If interested, contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341, ext. 135.

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS
Wednesday,
May 14

11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Eddie Staub, Executive Director of Eagle Ranch will be our guest. *A planning meeting will follow!*

50+

Monday, May 19

Rev. Jim Thompson will speak about the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. Please note that due to Memorial Day, 50+ will meet one week earlier this month!

UMW CIRCLE MEETING



SPIRITUAL GROWTH
Monday, May 12
10 a.m. at the home of
JoAnn Spruill

FAMILY SUPPER

Our Wednesday evening meals will resume on **August 13**. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



STUDENTS



The Harbor will not meet on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11**.

Moms, have a great day, and students, make sure your moms enjoy their special day.



**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.

PRAYER CARDS



Prayer cards are available in Sunday School classes and on easels with suggested prayers for the "Searching for Buried Treasure" stewardship emphasis.

Please take a card and be blessed as God's church prayerfully prepares for His 2008-2009 ministry.

TWO NEW SUMMER BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN WEDNESDAY, MAY 28



Quaker Summer

by Lisa Samson

Begins Wednesday, May 28

6:30 p.m. in Room S-12

Refresh/Recharge is an ongoing Bible study for women with new topics and/or books throughout the year. Join **Lee Highsmith** and **Kay Walker** this summer for a book study on the Women of Faith Novel of the Year. Cost: \$13.

The Book of Judges: Unlikely Leaders...Unbelievable Power

by Dr. David Jeremiah

Begins Wednesday, May 28

9 - 11 a.m. in the Library



This will be an easy summer read and study for both men and women with little outside preparation required. Facilitated by **Judith Caillier**. There is no cost to attend this 15-week study.

Register online at www.gfumc.com/bible_studies or call the Church Office at 770.536.2341.



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.



RELAY FOR LIFE 2008

Friday, May 30 - Saturday, May 31

7 p.m. - 7 a.m.

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**, Parish Nurse, 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.

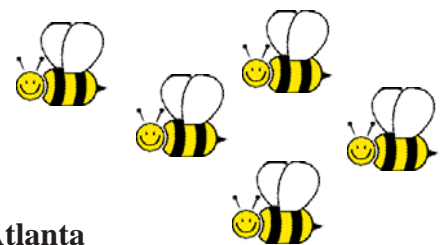
YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THE BUZZ...

GFUMC HAS AN URBAN MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN!

Here's your chance to meet our children and experience the adventure!

Skate Party
Monday, May 12
5-7 p.m.

Zoo Atlanta
Friday, June 6



For more information, call **Debbie Morris** at 770.536.2341 ext. 105. Who knows? You may decide one day is not enough! If so, join us each week as God uses you to make a difference in the life of a child.



Thank you for your support for the Believers Band Spring Concert entitled "Goosebumps Guaranteed." A large, enthusiastic crowd was in attendance. Your unconditional support and positive comments have helped the band grow musically and in membership. Where else but at GFUMC? We will try to continually improve and be of service to this great church. Thank you again!

Richard L. Petty, Director

PERSONAL PROTECTION & SAFETY CLASS

**Sunday, June 1
5 - 7 p.m. in Room S-14**

This two hour class will teach you ways that you can be safer in your home, in your car, and in public places. Sign up by calling the Church Office at 770.536.2341. There is no cost to attend. Facilitated by **David Squires**.



HABITAT HOUSE

Skilled and unskilled carpenters are needed for **Saturday, May 17 and 24, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Volunteers are also needed on **Tuesday and Thursday** of each week beginning at **9 a.m.** The new Habitat build location is 1020 Cooley Drive. Please call **Sharon Krudener** at 678.450.9724 if you are available for these dates and times. The photo above was taken the day of the groundbreaking ceremony.

Calendar

MAY 11 - 18, 2008

SUNDAY - May 11

Pentecost Sunday
Mother's Day
Recognition of Confirmands
8:00 Mother's Day corsages available for pick-up until 12 noon
8:30 Lakeside Worship
9:45 Combined Sunday School: *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*
9:45 Confirmation Brunch
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
5:00 Disciple I

MONDAY - May 12

8:45 Older Adult Day Trip to Callaway Gardens
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
5:00 Skate Party
6:30 Disciple II
6:30 Giving Sunday Leadership Dinner
6:30 Prayer Ministry Team Meeting
7:00 Men's Emmaus Reunion Group

TUESDAY - May 13

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
6:00 Believers Band Practice
6:00 Trustees Meeting
6:30 NHHS Soccer Banquet
7:00 Conversational Spanish
7:00 Stephen Ministry
8:00 MLC Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - May 14

9:00 Aerobics
10:00 Believers Band Trip
11:00 Gadabouts
3:00 Bridge
6:00 Conversational Spanish
6:15 Phases Men's Accountability Group
6:15 Phases Women - Friends in Faith
6:30 Living Waters Worship Team
6:30 Refresh/Recharge
7:00 Chancel Choir

THURSDAY - May 15

8:00 Nursery Worker Training Retreat
10:00 Prayer Quilts
2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
3:00 Lakeview Academy Graduation Rehearsal
5:30 Finance Meeting

FRIDAY - May 16

9:00 Aerobics
10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
11:00 Preschool Graduation

SATURDAY - May 17

5:00 Lakeview Academy Graduation

SUNDAY - May 18

8:30 Lakeside Worship
9:45 Sunday School
10:55 Kid's Church
10:55 Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary
11:00 Celebration Lunch (First seating)
12:00 Celebration Lunch (Second seating)
4:00 Youth Choir
5:00 Disciple I
5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
6:00 Children's Council
7:00 Church Council Meeting
7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**Sunday, May 18
7 p.m. in the Gathering Room**



**It's Atomicalicious!
June 16 - 20**

Vacation Bible School
Registration has begun!

Forms are in the Gathering Room, Church Office, and online at www.gfumc.com.

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

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Website: www.gfumc.com • Preschool Phone: 770.534.0409



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

In honor of all GFUMC women, a generous donation has been 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 normalizing environment as they become community participants.



2780 Thompson Bridge Rd.
Gainesville, GA 30506

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 WGGC.



Library Hours

Sunday 9:45 - 11 a.m.

Monday – Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday 5 - 7 p.m.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED