



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 20

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 17, 2009



There are certain days in our lives that are 'BIG DAYS.' Birthdays are 'BIG DAYS.' I love the recent American Cancer Society advertisement which suggests that due to their research to eradicate cancer more birthdays are able to be celebrated. Anniversaries are 'BIG DAYS.' Anniversaries of marriages are a special time of celebration. In a few days Sharon and I will celebrate the anniversary of our first date thirty-four years ago. Anniversaries of sobriety are important for those struggling with addiction. Anniversaries are 'BIG DAYS'.

Graduations are 'BIG DAYS.' During this time of the year we celebrate all kinds of graduations, from pre-school to high school to college. The hard work of study produces the great dividend of Graduation. First Days are 'BIG DAYS.' The first day of a new job is a 'BIG DAY.' The first day I could drive an automobile by myself was a 'BIG DAY.' First dates are 'BIG DAYS.' Her name was Virginia Thomas and she was my first 'official date as a teenager. That anyone would go out with me was a 'BIG DEAL' which made the day a 'BIG DAY.'

The birth of children and grandchildren are certainly 'BIG DAYS.' We remember them, each and every one, as if they were just yesterday. Baptisms are 'BIG DAYS.' And so are confirmations. We will enjoy that 'BIG DAY' once again here at GFUMC on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Whenever and however a person comes to accept God's love for themselves is a 'BIG DAY. Some call it their conversion. Others refer to the moment as the day they were saved. Others simply identify it as the day they "asked Jesus into their heart." However one labels the experience, without a doubt it is a 'BIG DAY.'

And then there are 'BIG DAYS' that become days shared with other's 'BIG DAYS.' I call them 'Jubilee Days.' These are days that are big for the community of faith. We have several of these each year. Easter is a 'BIG DAY.' Christmas, Pentecost, All Saints Days are all 'BIG DAYS' for the community of faith.

This Sunday is a 'BIG DAY.' We've been anticipating it for several weeks and it has finally arrived. We call it 'Giving Sunday' and it is a 'BIG DAY.' Worship and then a meal together will encourage soul and body. The fellowship of this 'BIG DAY' will be second to none. I'm looking forward to this 'BIG DAY' and I know you are as well. Between now and then enjoy everyday as if it were the 'BIGGEST DAY' of your life. Each day is a precious gift. See you Sunday - it will be a 'BIG DAY.'

With Love and Care,

Worship Services



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

"An Invitation to Friendship"
John 15: 9-17
8:30 & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary
Dr. Terry Walton
9:30 & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 5/10/2009

8:30 a.m. Lakeside	399
9:30 a.m. Living Waters	67
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	156
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	484
Worship Totals	1106
Sunday School	469

FLOWERS

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

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Caroline Ali Short was born on April 22, 2009. Proud parents are Dana and Lisa Short. A rosebud will be placed on the altar in her honor this Sunday.

THANK YOU

Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering totaled \$2,348. Thank you for your generosity.

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. For more information, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at wcordova@gfumc.com or 770.536.2341.



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



Sail away on the USS Storyteller with a good book this summer. Before the last suitcase is packed, check out the GFUMC Library for vacation reading fun!



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 as well.



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.

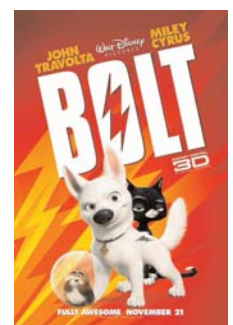
THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Wednesdays, June 3, July 1, and August 5
Spend a few evenings cooling off with
GFUMC's Family Movie Night!

Wednesday, June 3 - "Bolt"

Family Dinner 5 - 6:15 p.m. in the GREAT Room
Turkey sandwich, Ham sandwich, lettuce & tomato tray,
chips, salad bar – pasta salad, potato salad, fruit salad,
assortment of cookies.

\$6 per adult / \$3 Children/ \$20 Maximum Family



Showtime begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall

Children may wear their pjs and bring their pillows and blankets to watch the movie comfortably on the floor. Other movies in the lineup are **Snow Dogs** and **Lady and The Tramp**.

Fifty Plus

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Monday, May 18
6 p.m. in the Reception Hall

Representative **Doug Collins** will tell his story of his recent tour of duty in Iraq as a chaplain with the Air Force Reserve.



LOW COUNTRY BOIL & BLUEGRASS MUSIC

Monday, June 22, 2009
6 – 7:30 p.m., Reception Hall
Tickets are \$6 each and may be purchased from **Pam Spivey** in the Church Office.



Relay for Life Team Meeting

This Sunday, May 17
4 p.m. in Room S-12

You can make a difference! Funds raised from Relay help to 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 and signing up to join our team.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

GADABOUTS

Wednesday, May 20

11 a.m. in the Reception Hall

Join us for **BINGO** and the mid-year planning meeting.



NEW! SUMMER BIBLE STUDY COMING

THE WAY OF TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP

The Companions in Christ Series

Tuesdays, June 9 - July 14 - Room S-01



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.



Sunday, May 17

Join us for worship and the celebration luncheon. Pray for our church and our response to God's blessings.

1ST PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS

Looking for a refrigerator? Living room furniture?

Have you checked out

GFUMC's 1st Place Classified Ads?

www.gfumc.com

View items that people from our congregation are trying to sell. You also 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 is now available on the community bulletin board in the hallway across from the Library. Look for the blue ribbon! Make 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

Most all denominations have a wonderful hymn heritage and Methodists are certainly no exception.



Charles Wesley, Methodism's most famous and prolific hymn writer, penned some of the most profound poems ever set to music. Just a few of his 6,000 hymns include *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*, and *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*.

Watch for these and other timeless hymns in each Sunday's bulletin. In the hymnal, you will notice the text writer on the left side and the music composer on the right. Certain hymns address the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit and often times all three. Numerous hymns describe the glorious birth of Christ, crucifixion agony, or resurrection triumph. Others describe the comfort and sustaining power of the Holy Spirit or the promise of eternal heavenly life.

Our hymns are rich in theology and contain a wealth of scripture and scripture related themes. As the pipe organ stirs and lifts you, sing heartily and sincerely for God's glory and praise.

Serving Christ With You,
Keith Jefcoat
Principal Organist and Adult Handbell Director

NEW COLLEGE AGE MINISTRY



Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Reception Hall

If you are college age or have a college-age child, then you really need to check out **Compel**, our new worship service for young adults. Come and experience great fellowship, live music, relevant teaching, and small groups.

STUDENT MINISTRY



END OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 17, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

We will have food, fellowship, great live worship music, and inflatable games. Invite your friends!



GWINNETT BRAVES

Friday, May 22

Looking for a great night of fun and baseball?

Join us to watch the new minor league team, The Gwinnett Braves as they take on the Toledo Mud Hens. Look for forms in the youth hall and front office to get registered.

Cost is only \$5 per person.

DEADLINES

Sunday, May 17 is the deadline to sign up for BigStuf summer camp. Registration forms are available inside and outside the Youth Hall, in the Church Office, or on the parents page of the youth website at www.gfumcyouth.com. Please turn these in on time as any forms turned in after the deadline will be placed on a waiting list.

HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY



PERSONAL PROTECTION & SAFETY CLASS Sundays, June 7 and June 14 5 - 7 p.m. in Room S-14

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

RECREATION MINISTRY



SUMMER AEROBICS

Need a good workout?

Join us for summer aerobics.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in Room S-142

Fees are \$30 per month or \$7 walk up fee.

Childcare is available.



DRAGONBOAT RACE

Saturday, May 23

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at the Lake Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club

Come out and support our team for our first dragonboat race. We hope to see you there!

Calendar

MAY 17 - 24, 2009

SUNDAY - May 17

Giving Sunday

- 8:30 Lakeside Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 9:45 VBS Small Group
- 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
- 3:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00 Relay for Life Team Meeting
- 5:00 Christian Believer
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 Disciple II
- 5:00 The Five Love Languages Study
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 5:45 Executive Committee
- 7:00 Church Council

MONDAY - May 18

- 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
- 11:00 UMW: Joy Circle
- 11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 6:00 50+ Covered Dish
- 6:30 Nursery Staff Meeting
- 7:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting

TUESDAY - May 19

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Getting Older & Better Workshop
- 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
- 10:00 UMW Board Meeting
- 11:30 GFUMC Employee Health & Fitness Luncheon
- 11:30 Women's Ministry Planning Meeting
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 7:00 Compel - College Age Worship

WEDNESDAY - May 20

- 7:30 Outreach Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Preschool Post-planning
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Library opens
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 11:30 Preschool Teachers' Luncheon
- 3:00 Bridge
- 6:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge
- 6:15 Accountability Group
- 6:15 Children's Council Meeting
- 6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
- 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:15 Living Waters Rehearsal

THURSDAY - May 21

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Library opens
- 9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
- 6:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
- 6:30 Lamplighters Meeting

FRIDAY - May 22

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 AOA Aerobics
- 12:00 Wheeler/Schokey Rehearsal
- 5:00 Youth to Gwinnett Braves game

SATURDAY - May 23

- 2:00 Wheeler/Schokey Wedding

SUNDAY - May 24

- 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
- 4:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 Disciple II
- 5:00 The Five Love Languages Study

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.



Prayer Focus:

Armed Service
Men, Women,
& Veterans



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 WGGa.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, May 17
 7 p.m. in the Gathering Room

Vacation Bible School

June 15 - 19

Registrations are now being accepted in the Gathering Room on Sunday mornings, during the week in the Church Office, or online at gfumc.com.



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