



The BRIDGE

VOLUME LI
NUMBER 21

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 24, 2009



You folks are the best! It is too early to tell what our total Estimate of Giving will be. We are now in our follow-up phase and hope to receive Estimate of Giving cards from those who could not be present on Giving Sunday. Regardless of the final total, I must write to you that "you folks are the best!" Your spirit is what carries the day. Your spirit of care and concern for the cause of Christ through this church is a witness to me. Your spirit of love and kindness for each other is a blessing too great to express. Your spirit of joy and expectation lifts my spirit as I seek to serve among you.

I watched you this past Sunday as you came in great numbers to worship. I watched you as you came with great determination even though you knew this would be the Sunday that commitment was going to be invited. I watched you as you gathered at Lakeside and in the Reception Hall and in the Sanctuary to worship the God who loves the world so. I watched you as you shared a meal around the table during two hours of fellowship. I watched you, and I was blessed by what I saw.

Little children paid attention. Youth paid attention. Couples paid attention. Singles paid attention. Seniors paid attention. Families paid attention. And then you responded. You came with such eagerness in your spirit. You came with such reverence in your walk. You came with such dedication in your heart. God paid attention to you and God was blessed by you. Isn't it an unbelievable thought to consider that we could participate in giving God a blessing?

Several years ago, a well known leader of our nation visited me in my office. He was running for another public office and was visiting with pastors individually for prayer and support. In that conversation he said to me, "Terry, the world is hungry for leaders who will stand tall in faith. The world is looking for leaders who will trust God and live out that trust in relevant ways. The world is looking for leaders of integrity who say what they believe and believe what they say." I think he is correct. Gainesville First United Methodist Church, you are such a leader in this community and world. It is my joy to serve as one of your pastors. You folks are the best!

With Love and Care,

Worship Services



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

"An Invitation to Be a Blessing"
Luke 24:44-53
8:30 & 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary
Dr. Terry Walton
9:30 & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 5/17/2009

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 8:30 a.m. Lakeside | 455 |
| 9:30 a.m. Living Waters | 66 |
| 10:55 a.m. Living Waters | 137 |
| 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary | 457 |
| Worship Totals | 1,115 |
| Sunday School | 626 |

BAPTISM

James Harris Wood and **Mary Catherine Wood** will be baptized this Sunday at 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary service. Parents are Ryan and Liz Wood.

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.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY
...to the friends and family of **Iris Burch**.

...to **Joyce Marks** on the death of her mother.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the **37** blood donors who took time to give the "gift of life." The need is constant. The next blood drive will be Thursday, August 13.

Welcome & Connect Class

Final Week - Sunday, May 24

9:45—10:40 a.m. in the GREAT Room

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



DRAGONBOAT RACE

Next practice - Saturday, June 13

Next race - Saturday, June 20

at the Lake Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club

Interested? Contact **Vicki Bailey** at 770.536.2341 or vbailey@gfumc.com.



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.



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!

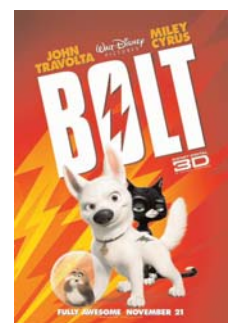
Wednesday, June 3 - "Bolt"

Family Dinner 5 - 6:15 p.m. in the GREAT Room

Turkey and ham sandwiches, chips, pasta salad, potato salad, fruit salad, and an 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**. Call 770.536.2341 to make your reservation.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15 - 19

8:45 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

Kindergarten - 5th grades

Register in the Gathering Room on Sunday mornings, in the Church Office during the week, and online anytime at www.gfumc.com!

We want ALL children to fully participate in church activities.

If your child experiences challenges in group settings, and you believe a special buddy for your child during VBS would be helpful, call **Debbie Morris** at 770-536-2341 to make arrangements.

Fifty Plus



LOW COUNTRY BOIL & CRYSTAL RIVER BLUEGRASS GOSPEL BAND

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.

Sponsored by Fifty Plus.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

GADABOUTS

Wednesday, May 27

Margery Johnson will present the renovations made on the Longstreet house in Gainesville.



NEW! SUMMER BIBLE STUDIES

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? 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.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7 a.m. in the Reception Hall



Join Dr. Terry Walton to explore the life lessons that await men who are seeking to follow God's leading today as they begin a study of Old Testament books of Esther and Ruth. The new study begins, Tuesday, June 2 and continues through August; however, the Men's Bible Study will not meet during the month of July. A light breakfast is served. No cost to attend. Ends at 8 a.m.

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!



A NEW SONG



As Youth Choir comes to a close, I find myself reliving and reassessing this past year. My first thoughts are of Christmas. Jimmy Cutrell had a vision of what the GFUMC Youth Choir could become last year, and I truly believe this vision was realized. I'm already planning next year's Youth Choir Christmas Concert! Combining our efforts with First Presbyterian was also a part of Jimmy's vision. With the addition of Tom Barnes, I would now like to expand that vision and have the Youth Choir singing with and at other area churches. I was reminded recently that the Church isn't the building; it's the people. Let's take the people, i.e. Youth Choir, to the community.

Another bitter-sweet reflection comes as I say goodbye to my three seniors, Alana Franklin, Michael Mullins, and Michael Parr. Emotion overtakes me here as I struggle for words that express the pride, gratitude, and love I have for these three young adults. Alana, Michael, and Michael have given of their time and their talents to our church, but more importantly to God. All three of them have been instrumental in the success of our Youth Choir; their beautiful voices and spirits will be tremendously missed. Our prayers go with you and hope that the songs you've learned in Youth Choir continue to be the music of your hearts.

Next Year: What will it hold? What will God call us to do? Who will we witness to in His name? Next Year! The music is waiting to be composed! I invite anyone who is between the grades of six through 12 to come be a part of Youth Choir as we seek to answer these questions. A willingness to sing and learn with enthusiasm is really all that is needed! You may not have a great voice, but when you use it for God you'll be amazed at what He can do! Come be a part of the music!

Robin Parr, Youth Choir Director

NEW COLLEGE MINISTRIES



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.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Our new college Sunday school will begin meeting on Sunday, May 31. We will meet in Room S-37. Leading the class this summer will be **Jeff Black**, **Butch Bennett**, and **David Burchett**. We're looking forward to a great summer with all of our college-age young people.

STUDENT MINISTRY

THE HARBOR

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, The Harbor will not meet on Sunday, May 24. The Harbor will resume on Sunday, May 31, from 5 - 7 p.m. as normal.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Confirmation Sunday is May 31. If you have not made reservations for the brunch, please call the Church Office at 770.536.2341. Thank you!

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.

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**.

COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



AT THE MASTER'S FEET: THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Sundays, beginning June 7
10 a.m. Adult Lobby

Come early for fellowship,
coffee, and donuts at 9:45 a.m.

June 7

On the Road
Luke 24:13-35
Debby Fox

June 14

Seize the Day
Matthew 6:11, John 9
Jack Carrington

June 21

Doubting Thomases
John 20:24-31
Nancy Perkins

June 28

*The Trouble with
Forgiveness*
John 8:1-11, John 5:1-15
David Lee

July 5

Through the Roof
Mark 2:1-12
Terry Walton

July 12

*Value Investing with
Jesus Christ,
Registered and Licensed
Investment Advisor*
Matthew 13:44-46,
Matthew 6:33
Jody & Lora Cooley

July 19

Try It Like This...
Matthew 6:5-10
Mark Alexander

July 26

Get Out of the Boat!
Matthew 14:22-23
Miriam Welling

Calendar

MAY 24 - 31, 2009

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

MONDAY - May 25

Memorial Day

Church and Church Office closed
If you have a pastoral need while the Church Office is closed, please call 770.536.2341 and follow the prompts for an emergency.

TUESDAY - May 26

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 Mom's Fitness Club
6:00 Believers Band Practice
7:00 Compel - College Age Worship



*Prayer
Focus:*
High School
Graduates

WEDNESDAY - May 27

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
9:00 Library opens
11:00 Gadabouts
11:00 Preschool Advisory Board
3:00 Bridge
6:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
6:00 Refresh/Recharge
6:15 Accountability Group
6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:15 Living Waters Rehearsal

THURSDAY - May 28

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Library opens
9:00 Mom's Fitness Club
10:00 Prayer Quilts
6:30 Recreation Meeting

FRIDAY - May 29

8:00 Fitness Club
9:00 Aerobics
10:00 AOA Aerobics

SATURDAY - May 30

SUNDAY - May 31

8:30 Lakeside Worship
9:30 Confirmation Brunch
9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
9:45 Sunday School
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
5:00 The Harbor
5:00 Older Adult Trip
7:00 MSL (Methodist Sports League)

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.



PATRIOTIC DAY

Sunday, June 28
4 - 7 p.m.

Patriotic Day is on the way! Come and enjoy the flotilla, scavenger hunt on the lake, kid's activities, recognition of veterans, and much more. Look for more details to come later. Food will be provided by **The Varsity** for a cost of \$5 per person.

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.



RELAY FOR LIFE June 5 - June 6, 2009 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. at Road Atlanta

Relay for Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that empowers everyone to help fight cancer by raising money and awareness to support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission. It's not too late to be a part of the GFUMC team. One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. This is your opportunity to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember those who lost the fight, and fight back against this deadly disease. For more information, contact **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse.

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