



The BRIDGE

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NUMBER 26

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE 28, 2009



Life is filled with the unknown. We are percolating along, living our lives, working, and playing, and living then the unexpected happens. And often it can happen in frightening and painful ways. In my case, it came in excruciating headaches and disorientation. It came out of left field and we have yet to discover the place of origination. But after significant medical tests the diagnosis finally came - viral meningitis with probably some encephalitis as well. Wow! If I was going to get sick I chose to do it well. But it is all curable and without permanent damage. Thanks be to God!

But as you might expect, there have been many blessings along the way. It has been confirmed I have a brain - so now we all know. Once again it has been proven that my wife is a saint! I'm telling you that this disease can take hold of you and cause you to behave in ways that would not make your mother proud. Sharon lovingly cared for me when I was not the most lovable husband. She truly has loved me for "better or for worse" these last several weeks.

This staff has stepped up in a big way. Thank them any chance you get for all they do, all the time but especially the spirit in which they serve. I am so proud to be serving God with them. Thanks to all staff but especially the clergy who have covered for me when I couldn't fulfill my responsibilities.

And I thank each of you. I have learned a new appreciation for cards. We received hundreds of "Get Well" cards that made us laugh and cry. Your encouragement was precious to us. The food has been too gracious. Our refrigerator is just not big enough. God has used you in encouraging us; thank you so very much. Being in the hospital was not easy. Yet Northeast Georgia Medical Center cared for us with such compassion and professionalism. We were impressed and are grateful to many nurses, physicians, and servants of all kinds who have such gifts for care giving.

In closing let me say that I have been caused to take a careful look at my life. I have been through a scary experience and am grateful for God's merciful presence. I am humbled by God's instruments of healing, Dr. Sumner and Dr. Cobb who worked with dedicated hearts and minds to solve the puzzle of my struggle. Life is a gift and I am grateful for every day I am given. Thank you for your prayers and for your thoughtful expressions of kindness. All of you are simply the best and I am pleased to be returning for another year as one of your pastors. God bless you all.

With Love and Care,

P.S. All of our pastors have been reappointed to Gainesville First United Methodist Church for another year. Praise God!

Worship Services

"A Powerful God"
Mark 5:21-43
8:30 a.m. Lakeside &
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary
Dr. Terry Walton

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

WHAT'S IN A NAME? SERMON SERIES
"God: I Am"
Exodus 3:13-15
9:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m. Living Waters
Rev. Tom Jones

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 6/21/2009

8:30 a.m. Lakeside	401
9:30 a.m. Living Waters	64
10:55 a.m. Living Waters	86
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary	306
Worship Totals	857
Sunday School	324

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 **Stewart Teaver Jr.** on the death of his grandmother.

...to **Katherine Andrews** on the death of her sister.

WONDERFUL NEWS!

Lori Floyd, Parish Nurse, celebrates that this year's GFUMC Relay for Life team has raised over \$7,600 for the American Cancer Society. Thank you for your support!

HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Tuesday, June 30
6 p.m. at Gainesville First UMC



This children's choir travels to us from Humble Place United Methodist Church in Mukono, Uganda. Dr. Steve Winter reported to the staff that "everyone at Annual Conference was blessed and amazed by their performance" and he highly recommends your attendance. The choir's purpose is to glorify God through music and to raise money for their mission efforts in Uganda. A love offering will be collected for this ministry. Please make checks payable to North Georgia Conference. On the memo line enter "Hope for Africa Children's Choir: Fund #1007." For more information visit <http://hopeforafricachildrenschoir.org>.

We are still looking for people to help provide, cook, or serve dinner to the children's choir, please contact **Margaret Hopkins** at 678.513.1183.



DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Wednesday, July 1
Snow Dogs

Dinner 5 - 6:15 p.m. in the GREAT Room
Showtime 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Hall

Hamburgers and hot dogs and all your favorite fixings are on the menu for the evening.

Children may wear their pajamas and bring pillows and blankets to enjoy the movie comfortably on the floor. This action-packed comedy is fun for the whole family. Rated PG.

Make your reservation online at www.gfumc.com/family_supper or by calling **Mildred Smith** in the Church Office at 770.536.2341, ext. 143. The cost is \$6 per adult / \$3 per child/ \$20 maximum per family.

Showing in August: Lady and The Tramp

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

Thanks to all the adults and youth who served in Vacation Bible School this year. There were more than 100 people who made the Crocodile Dock rock for the more than 300 children who attended. Everyone had a wonderful time and there were many God sightings! The beautiful set and scenery that made our VBS even more fun is being shared with 2 other churches this summer as they "Rock the Dock." More of God's joy for God's people! Look for more pictures in next week's edition of *The Bridge*.



OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

GADABOUTS

Wednesday, July 1

Tom Jones will help us celebrate the 4th of July.



GFUMC TRAVELERS

The Biltmore at Christmas

November 18 - 19, 2009



Join us for a two-day, one-night trip to Asheville, North Carolina, to tour the Biltmore House for the candlelight tour of Christmas lights. Spend the night at the Grove Park Inn and see the national competition of gingerbread houses. Cost is \$339 per person which includes travel by deluxe motor coach, all meals, lodging, and tours. Contact **Jane Lower** at 770.535.8418 for additional information and to reserve your place. A deposit of \$100 is due by August 15. Balance due by October 1.

1ST PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS

List items for sale,
items you need,
and/or upcoming
garage or yard
sales!



GFUMC's 1st Place Classified Ad listing is intended to help our congregation and visitors to our website, buy and/or sell items. Submit your items for sale online, or use the paper form available on the community bulletin board in the hallway across from the Library. Look for the blue ribbon on the GFUMC website! Make www.gfumc.com your **first place** for classified advertising!

Prayer Focus:

Our Country
and Leaders



GDS 2010 FUNRAISER

Save the Date!

Monday, October 5, 2009
*More information coming
soon from the GDS Golf
Tournament committee!*



UPDATE AS OF JUNE 22, 2009

Good news again this week!

Your generosity has enabled us to reach the 2.831 million dollar mark in estimates of giving for God's work at GFUMC! Here is a comparison between last year's and this year's Estimates Of Giving that we have received thus far.

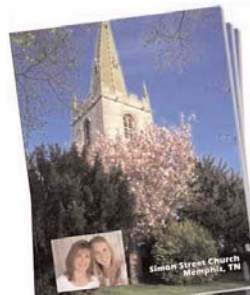
Of the 600 EOG commitments for 2009/2010:

- 111 have decreased in this tough economy, but
- 201 have increased, and
- 116 are new. This is encouraging news!

Thanks for your big-hearted response as we draw toward the close of our fiscal year and Irresistible Invitation Campaign. With your help we will finish both well.

Dr. Steve Winter, Executive Pastor

CHURCH DIRECTORY - SIGN UP ONLINE



Our new pictorial church directory won't be complete without a picture of you. Photography appointments are now being made for a new church directory. Sign up online at www.gfumc.com. Don't have internet access? Don't worry! You may sign up in the Gathering Room before and after worship services.

Available Dates for Photography:

Thursday, July 30 - Monday, August 3

Thursday, August 13 - Monday, August 17

We hope to see you on picture day!

PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY



Let these people know that you are thinking of and praying for them.

Instructions for Prayer Pagers:
Pray! Dial the pager number of the person for whom you have prayed.
You will hear 3 beeps.
Dial 111# and then hang up.

Diana Cindea

Lora Cooley's friend
770.201.0121

Brad Morris

Lee Highsmith's friend
770.201.0626

Faye Shadburn

770.201.0429

Katie Tulin

1.800.225.3412

Margot Mickle

770.201.0320

We have received additional prayer pagers. If you, or someone you know would benefit from this wonderful prayer ministry, please contact **Rev. Wendy Cordova** at 770.536.2341.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WILDERNESS DAY CAMP

July 20 - 24, 2009
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



A camp for rising first through sixth grades designed to help children foster Christian friendships, grow spiritually as a witness for Christ in our world, and teach them responsibility for God's earth – a gift He entrusted to our care. Register on Sunday mornings in the Gathering Room or in the Church Office throughout the week.

Chiggers—For rising first and second grades. Activities include a mission day and trips to American Adventures, Cagle Dairy, Frances Meadows Aquatics Center, and tubing. Cost: \$109.

Crickets—For rising third and fourth grades. Activities include a mission day, an overnight at the Atlanta Zoo, tubing on the river and fun at Frances Meadows Aquatics Center. Cost: \$119.

Beetles—For rising fifth and sixth grades. Activities include a mission day, "Sleeping with the Sharks" at Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and trips to Frances Meadows Aquatics Center and tubing. Cost: \$119.

Registrations are now being accepted!

GFUMC WILL HONOR VETERANS



PATRIOTIC DAY

Sunday, June 28
4 - 7 p.m.

Come enjoy the flotilla, balloon run on the lake, kids' activities, recognition of veterans, and much more! Food will be provided by **The Varsity** for a cost of \$5 per person. Snacks like cotton candy, snow cones, and watermelon will be free!

Bring cupcakes decorated with red, white, or blue icing to honor veterans who are homebound or in assisted living facilities. Please use blue icing to designate that the whole cupcake is sugar-free. Bring all cupcakes to the GFUMC Kitchen on the morning of Patriotic Day.



If you would like to volunteer to deliver cupcakes to veterans, please contact **Michele Bellue** or **Vicki Bailey** at 770.536.2341 or vbailey@gfumc.com. Vicki would like volunteers to have all cupcakes delivered on Monday, June 29.



LIVING WATERS
T-Shirts available for purchase for \$7.00.
Call Wendy Cordova in the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



AT THE MASTER'S FEET:

THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS
Sundays in June and July
10 a.m. in the Adult Lobby
Come early for fellowship, coffee, and donuts at 9:45 a.m.

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

Dr. Steve Winter

A NEW SONG

The adult handbell choir is resting this summer, but before we know it summer will fade and give way to autumn. The handbell choir will kick off the fall back-to-school season with a sight-ring day planned for Saturday, August 22. That lengthy rehearsal will lay the groundwork for the coming year. The bells will once again peal their festive sounds in church in September. Look for the bells to ring in worship each month thereafter through April.

The organ familiarization classes were a great success. Thanks to all of you who signed up and attended a class. If you missed this informative session, see me sometime at church and I can set up other sessions in the future. I am busy working on some grand postludes this summer to be presented in late August and beyond.

I pray that your summer will be refreshing, relaxing, and filled with God's blessings. Enjoy all the musical sounds this season and in the months to come as we continue to worship the Risen Christ and the Pentecost season through music.

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

Calendar

JUNE 28 - JULY 5, 2009

SUNDAY - June 28

Patriotic Day Celebration

- 8:30 Lakeside Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 9:45 At the Master's Feet Combined Class
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Sanctuary Worship
- 4:00 Patriotic Day Celebration (through 7 p.m.)
- 5:00 The Harbor (for youth in grades 6-12)
- 7:00 Church Council

MONDAY - June 29

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 9:15 Aerobics
- 10:15 AOA Aerobics
- 11:45 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 6:30 Fall Festival Planning Committee Mtg.
- 7:00 Troop 16 Scout Meeting
- 7:30 Men's Basketball

TUESDAY - June 30

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 8:30 Intercessory Prayer Group
- 9:00 Christ Centered Yoga
- 9:15 Aerobics
- 9:30 Believers Band Practice
- 11:00 Transforming Discipleship Bible Study
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 6:00 Hope for Africa Children's Choir Concert
- 7:00 Compel - College Age Worship

WEDNESDAY - July 1

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:15 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 5:00 Dog Days of Summer - Supper
- 6:00 Emmaus Prayer Group
- 6:00 Living Waters Bible Study
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge
- 6:15 Accountability Group
- 6:15 PHASES Accountability Groups
- 6:30 Dog Days of Summer - Showtime
- 7:15 Living Waters Rehearsal

THURSDAY - July 2

- 8:00 Fitness Club
- 9:00 Christ Centered Yoga
- 2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, July 3-4

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

SUNDAY - July 5

- 8:30 Lakeside Worship
- 9:30 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 9:45 At the Master's Feet Combined Class
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:55 Living Waters Praise & Worship
- 10:55 Sanctuary Worship
- 5:00 The Harbor (for youth in grades 6-12)
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (for youth in grades 6-12)

NORTH GA ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY DELEGATES REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

As your lay delegates to the 2009 North Georgia Annual Conference, **Wynelle Butts, Jim Perkins, Jean Leslie, Tom Sexton** and I [**Jay Leslie**], came away excited about how our Conference is reaching out to people here at home, as well as internationally, telling the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Under the able leadership of Bishop Mike Watson, the theme *Shalom: Christian Disciples Transforming the World Through Health and Wholeness*, permeated the thinking and actions of all in attendance. The Service of Ordination/Commissioning at Annual Conference was especially inspirational this year, due to a powerful sermon delivered by visiting African Bishop Wandabula. When he and Bishop Watson placed their hands upon the head of each candidate as the ritual was carried out, it was a high and solemn moment rich with emotion for not only the candidates and their families, but for all lay delegates as well.

Annual reports presented to The Conference were detailed and informative. Some of the topics covered were: Action Ministries, Aldersgate Homes, Appalachian Network, Camp Glisson, Interfaith Children's Movement, United Methodist Children's Home, and Simpsonwood. Presentations given by both lay persons and clergy were supported with documentation. The segment devoted to honoring clergy retiring this year was filled with both humor and sadness, as was the segment remembering clergy and or spouses who passed away within the last twelve months.

Morning and evening devotionals, along with strong sermons enhanced by performances by musicians/choirs from various churches within the North Georgia Annual Conference, kept the day and night sessions focused and energized. Should you desire more information about this Conference, visit www.ngumc.org. Speaking for all lay delegates, it was a pleasure and honor to have represented Gainesville First United Methodist Church at the 2009 North Georgia Annual Conference.

-Jay Leslie

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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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 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.



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