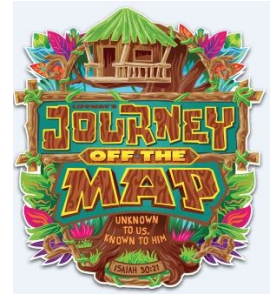




The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

Sharing God's Love Through Action
One Person at a Time



June 2015

Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

From the Pastor's Desk

Last week I was asked the name of a couple from our congregation. I could not pull the names up from the person's description, so we went to the pictorial directory. I knew who it was as soon as they were pointed out, but the verbal description was too vague for me to put names with it. I wonder how many times our faith is much like that – too vague to really be identified by others. Do you know what you believe and why? Can you clearly tell others what faith in Jesus Christ looks like? Would they ask you if they wanted to know? Many times questions are not asked until the other party knows we are in this Christian walk for the long haul.

After identifying the couple I continued looking through the directory and noticed that 20 to 25 percent of the people pictured were no longer attending this church on a regular basis or had moved. This is not really an alarming number in today's mobile society, but what was alarming to me was the number of people that I knew no longer attended any church service. Reflecting on this, I realize many things contribute to why these people have dropped out of church, but I wonder if one of the main reasons is attitude? In the society we live in we expect and want immediate results and gratification. We think everything is a race to see how fast we can attain something and how much we can keep. Does that thinking creep into our Christian life? Do we also race to obtain knowledge of the scriptures, wisdom of the Bible and the attributes of Jesus in our life? If we don't see immediate results, do we give up or think we made a wrong decision?

We seem to have forgotten that the Christian life we were called to be a part of is not a race like NASCAR's Daytona 500 or the Olympic 50-meter dash, but an endurance race that lasts a lifetime. In endurance races there are times when you may feel good as well as times you feel terrible. There may be quick bursts of speed where you go all out, but there are also many times when you are literally crawling along the course. The same holds true for our Christian walk; there are ups and downs and many times of boring, laborious work. Paul tells his protégé Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:16:

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Continued on the next page . . .

Persevere means to keep on, even when we don't feel like it; to slog on through the mud, the heat, the rain, the sorrow and whatever else may come against us. We often talk about God being about true love (1 Corinthians 13:7):

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Does this mean that those who leave the church, who cease to practice their faith have fallen out of love with Jesus? The writer of Hebrews admonished his listeners to hang on to their faith until the end with these words (Hebrews 10:36):

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

So in this time of summer, when church attendance is low, when we are feeling tired and worn out, or at other times when you just feel like giving up, remember the Christian walk is sometimes like the Nike slogan – JUST DO IT, or as they said in the 70's, JUST KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON. Our faith is not a race in the sense of how fast can we go, but a race to the finish. Even if we move like a tortoise, we can and will reach the end victorious – if we don't quit along the way.

Pastor Steve

Our Mottos

Many individuals and organizations have mottos (a short sentence or phrase that expresses a rule guiding the behavior of a particular person or group) around which they rally. For example, ***Ut Prosim***, Latin for "That I May Serve," is the motto of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech).

The real translation of *Ut Prosim* goes from the lips to the heart, and then to the hands — from words to deeds. These deeds of service for others and to others always contribute to the betterment of individuals, families, and communities around the world.

As Methodists, we are to take our motto of **"to make disciples of Jesus Christ"** to heart. Serving our Lord and Savior, and thereby society, certainly encompasses everything which is embodied within *Ut Prosim*.

Dwight Kitchens

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Church Calendar of Events for June

Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 Every Sunday!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
6/1	ALBOH Preschool Graduation Trustees Meeting	(FLC) (S) (A)	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
6/2	Heart to Heart UMW	Butterfly Bistro	11:30 am
6/4	VBS Planning Meeting ALBOH Board Meeting	(FLC) (FLC)	10:30 am 6:30 pm
6/8	SPPRC Meeting	(FLC)	7:00 pm
6/12	Festival Events Coordination Mtg	(FLC)	10:00 am
6/10 – 6/13	Florida Annual Conference	Daytona Beach	
6/14	Blood Drive Harvest Sunday	In front of church (S)	9:00 am 10:00 am
6/15 – 6/19	Vacation Bible School (VBS)	(FLC)	9:30 am - noon
6/15	Finance Committee Meeting	(FLC)	7:00 pm
6/21	Father's Day Celebration	(FLC)	Noon
6/21 - 6/27	Youth Mission Trip to Tennessee		
6/24	Life Line Screening	(FLC)	8:30 am
6/27	ALBOH Painting Preschool	(FLC)	8:30 am

Abbreviations: FLC — Family Life Center, usually classrooms 1 & 2

S — Sanctuary

A — Church Office

Marina's Corner

"Never to suffer would never to have been blessed."

Edgar Allan Poe

Festival Events Coordination Meeting, June 12th, 10:00 am, FLC. Fall and winter are coming up fast. We will be needing **volunteers** for the events and ideas for games and activities for the children. Contact the office for further information, 863-858-5431.

Harvest Sunday is June 14th. The **2nd Sunday of each month** is Harvest Sunday, at which donations for the food pantry are made. Please bring your donations to the office or place them at the altar on June 14th. Our Food Pantry is a great success because of your generous donations. The list of items needed is on the next page.

You can bring your donated items to the office at any time during office hours (9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday), or bring your bags to the altar on Harvest Sunday. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate with a notation "Food Pantry".

Food Pantry Report. Our Food Pantry has been a huge success and it could not be a success without you. For 2015, as of May 21st, we have assisted 250 families with groceries and baked goods. We have also handed out 31 additional bags of baked goods. This is a total of **281 families** that we have helped. The baked goods have also been distributed to Hope House, Sterling House, Talbot House and a few other individual families outside of our area.

The 2nd Sunday of Every Month Is Harvest Sunday

Food Pantry Needs

Please print this page and post it where you keep your grocery list.

FOODSTUFFS

Spaghetti Sauce
Pastas – Spaghetti, Noodles, etc.
Hamburger Helper or Tuna Helper
Dry Soups – Ramen Noodles
Canned Soups
Canned Ravioli or Spaghetti
Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Vegetables
Peanut Butter
Jelly or Preserves
Canned Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
Canned Meats (Ham, Spam, Potted Meat, Vienna Sausages)
Canned Fruits
Frozen Ground Beef

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Toilet Paper
Diapers (Sizes 1 to 4)
Baby Wipes
Toothbrushes
Travel-sized: Toothpaste,
Soaps, Shampoos, Deodorants



Summary of May News

National Day of Prayer, May 7th

Lake Gibson UMC members participated in two events to celebrate the National Day of Prayer, a prayer service in our sanctuary at 7:00 pm and the Lakeland Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

The Citrus Center Kiwanis Club in Lakeland hosted the 18th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in conjunction with the World Day of Prayer. The featured speaker was Norris Burkes, Chaplain, retired, from the California Air National Guard. You may be familiar with his name from the syndicated column published every Sunday in *The Ledger*.

Joining Pastor Steve at the LGUMC-sponsored table were Dr. Monroe, our District Superintendent; Pat and Joe Moon; Debbie Moore; Sue and Don Heishman, and Dwight Kitchens.

Mothers' Day Celebration

On Saturday, May 9th, the United Methodist Men (UMM) treated all ladies with a special luncheon of a choice of garden salad or chicken Caesar salad, fresh strawberries and watermelon and assorted fancy cheesecakes for dessert. Glass plates, silverware and tablecloths, along with excellent food, made the event even more special. In addition to preparing the meal, the gentlemen served it and waited on our every need while attempting to maintain dignified, straight faces. It was a very good meal and lots of fun.

For entertainment we had singer and ventriloquist Brent Vernon and his sidekick, Sam. Sam shared with us how he had once been stolen. Brent sang and witnessed during the presentation. After the show Brent signed children's books that he wrote and illustrated.

The Sunday Mother's Day service was a hoot! The Men's Ensemble sang M-O-T-H-E-R twice, with Bob Herrick in the lead while Bill Sadwick, Dave Hess and Dwight Kitchens gestured (?) the letters (a la YMCA) and tried not to break up. The congregation gave the group a well-deserved standing ovation. It certainly started the worship service off energetically. Pastor Steve departed for the May theme (What God Has Done for Us), to talk about Ruth and Naomi as examples of motherly love and familial devotion. After the service every lady received a carnation at the door.

Change the World Weekend, 16 - 17 May

On Saturday, May 16th, LGUMC volunteers changed a little part of our world by sprucing up the building and playground of A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center. Painters included Lisa and Jerry Bacon, Fred Fredrikson, Joe Moon, John Bernat, Karen Acor, Sharon Ruth, Sarah Schiemann, and Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens. The team laboring without air conditioning included Debbie Moore, Pastor Steve, Gary Patterson and Tom Burns.

Summary of May News, Continued

May 31st, So Many Celebrations and So Little Time!

This year the last day of May is also a 5th Sunday, traditionally a time for special offerings to youth (the Florida United Methodist Children's Home and our own Youth fellowship). It is also a UMC Special Sunday with offering, Peace with Justice Sunday, which was described in the May issue of *The Good News (TGN)*.

For many of the Lake Gibson UMC families, May 31st carries a special importance, in that we honor and say farewell to our graduating high school and college seniors. These young men and women have greatly enriched life at LGUMC and will be deeply missed. As members of Lee Mueller's Rooted Student Ministry they have provided so much service and interaction with us "oldsters" over the years that our hearts will miss a few pieces as they leave.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Lake Gibson High School Graduates

Jarica Lee Arnett - graduated with high honors, earning a 4.5 GPA. During high school Jarica was a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and held the office of President, was Secretary for the National Honor Society, and was a member of the volleyball team, Lionettes, Green Team, National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), and Tribal Council. She also volunteered at the SPCA, was a soccer coach and a member of our Lake Gibson UMC Dance Group. Jarica has been recognized as a Superintendent's Scholar, and earned awards from the Business Academy, volleyball team, and for her GPA. She was a finalist for The Ledger's Silver Garland Award, and is a published author of [What Are We?](#) (\$8.99 and free shipping on Amazon). Jarica is certified in Finance and Economics, Microsoft (MS) Word, and MS PowerPoint. She plans to continue her education studying Business Management - Hospitality at Polk State College, then transferring to the University of Central Florida. Her goals are to graduate-√, attend college, keep her family a priority, adoption, and own a wedding planning business. Jarica is the daughter of Ed and Cyndee Arnett.

Favorite Bible Verse: "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown." Revelation 2:10

Summary of May News, Continued

Lake Gibson High School Graduates, Continued

Tre`Darius Marquise Davidson - During high school Tre was involved with the tennis team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), our Youth group leadership, and JROTC. In JROTC he earned the ranks of Squad Leader, Platoon Leader, and Company Commander. Tre was also the Raiders Commander. Tre has joined the Army and has a ship-out date to Fort Benning, GA of June 23rd. After Basic Training, he will go to Fort Lee, VA to be trained in 91 Gulf (91G) Fire Control Unit Repair. Tre is the son of David and Sherry Davidson. **Thank you for choosing to serve our country!**

Favorite Bible Verse: "Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left. She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying. Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly. By wisdom the Lord founded the earth; by understanding he created the heavens. By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky." Proverbs 3:13-20

Jeremy Draven Kyser - graduated with honors, earning a 3.6 GPA. During high school Jeremy earned Adobe Certifications in Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator 1. He also was certified in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Jeremy was involved with Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), where he achieved second place in FBLA Districts; the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and was a member of the wrestling team and our Youth group leadership. Jeremy plans to attend Southeastern University with a career goal of teacher and graphic designer. Jeremy is the son of Douglas Kyser and Shannon Allen.

Favorite Bible Verse: "For I am unashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Romans 1:16

Summary of May News, Continued

Lake Gibson High School and Traviss Career Center Graduates

Reginald Jermain Laster - graduated from Lake Gibson as well as Traviss Career Center with a Certification in Automotive 1. During high school Reggie was involved in marching band and earned medals in district and state with the concert band. Reggie feels getting through this school year despite the hardships he and his family have faced is a major accomplishment. He plans to return to Traviss next year and continue advancing his Automotive Certification. Reggie's goal is to join the Air Force and learn Aviation. Reggie is the son of Josephine Bozeman.

Toni Mishelle Serrata - graduated from Lake Gibson as well as Traviss Career Center, where she earned a Medical Assistant Certificate. During high school Toni was involved with Future Farmers of America (FFA) and was a member of the volleyball team. She was recognized four times for honor roll, three times for GPA, and earned a sports recognition award. Toni plans to continue her education at Traviss in the Medical Assisting field and then join the medical profession. Toni is the mom of Aysa and the partner of Raawban Broussard.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13.

College Graduate, University of South Florida

Gage Benjamin Mueller - graduated from the University of South Florida in December 2014, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering. His most interesting experience during school was to build a C MOS VLSI computer chip that senses temperature. Gage is employed at the Publix Corporate Offices as an Information Systems Network Support Analyst. He looks forward to advancing his career in Information Systems.

Favorite Bible Verse: "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Proverbs 12:18

Special June Events

2015 Florida Annual Conference

The 2015 Florida Annual Conference will be held June 10th thru 13th at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach. (Delegates will register the afternoon of June 9th.) This year's theme is "Next Generations", with the subtitle "together in the baptismal waters". Some of the highlights include electing delegates to the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon, and delegates to the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Keynote speaker for the Annual Conference will be Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding and senior minister of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Under his leadership this church has grown to over 18,000 adults and children. Today the church is the largest United Methodist Church in the United States, with an average weekly attendance of 8,600.

Rev. Hamilton has a particular calling to enable our denomination to reach future generations with the saving power of Jesus Christ. He will speak three different times during the conference. The first time will be at 7:00 pm on June 11th, during an evening of music and inspiration; and twice on June 12th, during the morning and afternoon Plenary Sessions – 8:30 to 10:30 am and 1:30 to 5:00 pm.

The Annual Conference Schedule and additional information are available on-line at www.flumc.org/annualconference2015. Anyone is welcome to attend the conference as a guest. The sessions will be held at the Performing Arts Center at Bethune-Cookman University, which is located at 698 West International Speedway Blvd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114.

Rosanne Stafford, Lay Member

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held June 15th through June 19th from 9 a.m. to noon. The theme is "Journey Off the Map". You will go to uncharted territory where you will begin to understand that obedience to God can lead you beyond the expected. So, toss the map, stick close to your guide, and prepare to listen for God's direction in this journey that is unknown to us, but known by Him. VBS is open to all children between pre-K and 5th grade. Please join us at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church.

Volunteers are needed to sign the children in at the start of the day and out at noon. We also need Guides to take the children from class to class. What a wonderful way to make use of your mornings, and get to know the children in our neighborhood. If you are interested, please call Rosita Stafford at 863-899-9286.

Rosita Stafford

Special June Events, Continued

Exciting Class Starting June 17th; Sign Up by June 16th!

United Methodism 101

June 17th to July 29th

Get to know the United Methodist Church through this 6-week online course. New and “old” church members alike can dive into the church’s **history, structure, beliefs** and more.

Registration is open until June 16th. “Seating” is limited. Sign up today!

Learn more at <https://umctraining.org/course/206>

Register now at <https://umctraining.org/browse?partner=0&category=20&course=8&sort>

Father’s Day, June 21st

A Man's Feast in the FLC will follow our Morning Worship service. In the manner of karaoke, we need ladies to come sing to the men at this event. It is the privilege of wife, mother, daughter, niece, granddaughter, etc., to sing a song of respect for the meaningful male in your life!

Please contact our Music Department if you need assistance or ideas about this opportunity. We have karaoke songs to use, or we can accompany on piano or use CDs. Possibilities are GREAT! You can text or call Glenda at 863-307-1261, with song information or any questions you may have. Thank you all for participating!!!

Youth Mission Trip

July 21st to 27th, 2015

Please see the Rooted Student Ministry section under Our Departments, page 21, for more information.

Help Wanted

Vacation Bible School: Volunteers are needed from 9:00 am to noon, June 15 - 19 to sign the children in at the start of the day and out at noon. We also need guides to take the children from class to class. Call Rosita Stafford 863-899-2863. Planning meeting June 4, 10:00 am in FLC.

Veterans' Information for Bulletin Board: If you or someone in your family is serving, or has served in the military, please provide their first and last names to Debbie Moore (361-746-2021) or Pat Moon (863-858-6883). You can e-mail Pat at patricia.moon@verizon.net.

Volunteer Nursery Workers during Services: The church provides nursery service for children aged toddler to 6 years during both services. We have hired Danielle Woodworth as a nursery worker, but our child protection policy requires a second adult to be in the nursery. We have a few volunteers, but need more, particularly for the 10:30 am service. Please contact Sarah Schiemann at 863-815-4340 to volunteer.

Sunday Breakfast Cooks: We need some new cooks in the kitchen! For 3 1/2 months during the summer, we will be cooking pancakes, eggs and all the trimmings. Some of the team members who have worked on this the last two years will be away from July to mid-October, creating "job opportunities". Please let Debbie Moore know if you can volunteer.

Future Events

Single Service at 10:00 am: Starting on May 24th, we will have one combined worship service. Adult Sunday School will begin at 9:00 am. We will resume holding two services on September 20th.



Summer Breakfast Fund-raisers: Starting in June we will be serving full breakfasts at 8:00 am in the FLC. In addition to being a venue for fellowship, the breakfast's free-will offerings will be used to purchase a modern, energy efficient stove.

This will replace the industrial stove installed in 1979 when the FLC was built. We may also need to fund improvements in the kitchen's wiring to prevent blown circuit breakers and allow a better layout of coffee makers, broilers and Crock-Pots.



Independence Day Celebration: We will be celebrating the 4th of July on Sunday, July 5th, with singer Letra Davis sharing her talent in the morning. We'll continue celebrating with a special lunch after the service.

Fall Craft Sale

In the May issue of The Good News, I asked if there is interest in holding a Fall Craft Sale. Only two ladies, Dorothy Gabor and Barbara Allen-Coil, stepped forward to volunteer to help organize the craft sale. Regrettably, that's not enough woman-power to make holding a craft sale feasible this year.

Phyllis Kitchens

Finance and Related Topics

Where We Stand at 4 Months into the Year

You may remember that in February we paid our entire Property and Liability Insurance premium to take advantage of a discount and anticipated future reimbursement. Therefore, many members pre-paid their pledges to help us accomplish this goal.

With a **third** of the year finished, we are **slightly behind (\$14,459)** from where we would hope to be at this point. By necessity, a number of our proposed projects will be delayed until we feel more confident that they can be financed.

Table 1

Three-year Congregational Giving Profile (CGP) Template: Monthly Version

Data Entry

Current Year 2015

Current Budget \$321,952

Month	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2015
January	\$21,095	\$19,259	\$19,500	\$59,854	\$19,951	\$19,951	\$22,306
February	\$32,461	\$18,886	\$22,240	\$73,587	\$24,529	\$44,480	\$26,282
March	\$19,047	\$22,891	\$25,371	\$67,309	\$22,436	\$66,917	\$31,316
April	\$23,789	\$18,495	\$17,766	\$60,050	\$20,017	\$86,933	\$22,325
May	\$19,095	\$16,299	\$17,040	\$52,434	\$17,478	\$104,411	
June	\$17,955	\$19,238	\$22,282	\$59,475	\$19,825	\$124,236	
July	\$20,480	\$18,339	\$18,388	\$57,207	\$19,069	\$143,305	
August	\$17,942	\$15,918	\$17,351	\$51,211	\$17,070	\$160,376	
September	\$21,920	\$21,026	\$15,861	\$58,807	\$19,602	\$179,978	
October	\$17,834	\$18,241	\$18,541	\$54,616	\$18,205	\$198,183	
November	\$18,575	\$19,000	\$19,077	\$56,652	\$18,884	\$217,067	
December	\$21,473	\$23,478	\$23,415	\$68,366	\$22,789	\$239,856	
Total	\$251,666	\$231,070	\$236,832	\$719,568	\$239,856	\$239,856	\$102,229

Continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued
Where We Stand at 4 Months into the Year,
Continued

Table 2

Monthly Budget Monitoring Based on CGP Goals

Current Year **2015**
Current Budget **\$321,952**

Month	% Needed Monthly	\$ Needed Monthly	Received Monthly	% Needed Cumulative	\$ Needed Cumulative	Received Cumulative	Status Ahead or (Behind)	% Ahead or (Behind)
January	8.32%	\$26,780	\$22,306	8.32%	\$26,780	\$22,306	(\$4,474)	-16.71%
February	10.23%	\$32,925	\$26,282	18.54%	\$59,705	\$48,588	(\$11,117)	-18.62%
March	9.35%	\$30,116	\$31,316	27.90%	\$89,820	\$79,904	(\$9,916)	-11.04%
April	8.35%	\$26,868	\$22,325	36.24%	\$116,688	\$102,229	(\$14,459)	-12.39%
May	7.29%	\$23,460	\$0	43.53%	\$140,148	\$102,229	(\$37,919)	
June	8.27%	\$26,611	\$0	51.80%	\$166,759	\$102,229	(\$64,530)	
July	7.95%	\$25,596	\$0	59.75%	\$192,355	\$102,229	(\$90,126)	
August	7.12%	\$22,913	\$0	66.86%	\$215,268	\$102,229	(\$113,039)	
September	8.17%	\$26,312	\$0	75.04%	\$241,579	\$102,229	(\$139,350)	
October	7.59%	\$24,437	\$0	82.63%	\$266,016	\$102,229	(\$163,787)	
November	7.87%	\$25,347	\$0	90.50%	\$291,363	\$102,229	(\$189,134)	
December	9.50%	\$30,589	\$0	100.00%	\$321,952	\$102,229	(\$219,723)	

Totals **\$321,952**

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Chair

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

District Connexions Leadership Training: Stewardship

Saturday, April 25th was a beautiful day. Pastor Steve Polk, John Bernat, Mike Stafford and Dwight Kitchens arose early for a trip to St. James UMC in Tampa. It was an opportunity to join others from the South Central District for a leadership training session on Stewardship.

The keynote speaker, the Rev. Matthew Hartsfield of Van Dyke UMC, reinforced some interesting perceptions about stewardship. As we've heard before, he discussed attitudes many of us hold towards giving. I'll recap some as a means of getting to the heart of the message.

Some give from:

1. **Fear** – giving so we can get to heaven
2. **Obligation or Duty** - "The faithful have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities"
3. **Give to get a blessing** - a Christian religious doctrine that financial blessing is the will of God for Christians, and that faith, positive speech, and donations to Christian ministries will increase one's material wealth.
4. **Giving to a vision** – based on the ability to articulate the vision to the congregation.
5. **Giving out of a joyful response to Grace** - We are stewards of God's grace and bounty, called to seek and to serve. Cheerful and generous giving is a response to the Gospel. It flows from the power of the Holy Spirit within a believer. The spirit of giving in the New Testament is that of overwhelming gratitude and generosity. It is done from the heart in response for all that God has done to accomplish our salvation.

Sermons which emphasize Christ's love and sacrifice tend to focus on the Gospel. This results in cheerful living and cheerful giving. We need something more powerful than the Law (Old Testament tithing). We need a spring of living water which will flow within us producing joy, power, and the desire to "love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

We often hear these verses from Pastor Steve:

¹⁹ I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God. ²⁰ Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; ²¹ glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen. Ephesians 3:19-21, Common English Bible (CEB)

As we develop as Christians, extraordinary generosity will occur as we truly permit God to work through us.

Dwight Kitchens

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

How Generous Can We Be?

When we became United Methodists, each of us answered “I will” to the following question:

“As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?”

While not all gifts are financial, I’d like to focus on money for this article. Our 2015 budget represents a **bold commitment** to spend the first 10% of our offerings to reach out beyond our walls – embodying the exciting new LGUMC mission statement: ***Sharing God’s Love through Action***. To clarify, that 10% will come off the top of the general (non-designated) offerings each month.

This is a challenging commitment to becoming more active disciples of Christ, but it is one that carries a lot of risk. It could result in our not having money enough to pay salaries, apportionments, utilities or other recurring expenses during some months. Our lean period is usually during the summer when our winter visitors and a lot of other Floridians migrate north to visit families and friends, tour interesting locations or hang out wherever the temperature and humidity are more moderate than here.

For this reason, we must conscientiously reassess how much money each of us is donating to this church. The best way to support LGUMC financially is to contribute regularly each week or month, and to reach a little deeper into our pockets. A commitment to tithe to Lake Gibson United Methodist Church is a serious undertaking that must be approached after prayer and family discussion. **As a denomination, United Methodists contribute about 2.5% of their income to the church, well below the 10% which the Bible instructs.**

Take a look at the table provided below and see where your current weekly or monthly gift to God falls. If your family situation permits, consider stepping up one or two percentage points for the rest of this year and see if you can live within the remainder. If you attend Lake Gibson as a winter visitor, and are donating to your home church elsewhere, why not increase your gifts when you attend here?

Continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

How Generous Can We Be?, Continued

Take a look at the table provided below and see where your current weekly or monthly gift to God falls. If your family situation permits, consider stepping up one or two percentage points for the rest of this year and see if you can live within the remainder. If you attend Lake Gibson as a winter visitor, and are donating to your home church elsewhere, why not increase your gifts when you attend here?

Phyllis Kitchens

Tithe Chart

% Tithed	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	12%
Monthly Income									
\$400.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$28.00	\$32.00	\$36.00	\$40.00	\$48.00
\$500.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$60.00
\$600.00	\$18.00	\$24.00	\$30.00	\$36.00	\$42.00	\$48.00	\$54.00	\$60.00	\$72.00
\$700.00	\$21.00	\$28.00	\$35.00	\$42.00	\$49.00	\$56.00	\$63.00	\$70.00	\$84.00
\$800.00	\$24.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$48.00	\$56.00	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$80.00	\$96.00
\$900.00	\$27.00	\$36.00	\$45.00	\$54.00	\$63.00	\$72.00	\$81.00	\$90.00	\$108.00
\$1,000.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$120.00
\$1,500.00	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$90.00	\$105.00	\$120.00	\$135.00	\$150.00	\$180.00
\$2,000.00	\$60.00	\$80.00	\$100.00	\$120.00	\$140.00	\$160.00	\$180.00	\$200.00	\$240.00
\$2,500.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$225.00	\$250.00	\$300.00
\$3,000.00	\$90.00	\$120.00	\$150.00	\$180.00	\$210.00	\$240.00	\$270.00	\$300.00	\$360.00
\$3,500.00	\$105.00	\$140.00	\$175.00	\$210.00	\$245.00	\$280.00	\$315.00	\$350.00	\$420.00
\$4,000.00	\$120.00	\$160.00	\$200.00	\$240.00	\$280.00	\$320.00	\$360.00	\$400.00	\$480.00
\$4,500.00	\$135.00	\$180.00	\$225.00	\$270.00	\$315.00	\$360.00	\$405.00	\$450.00	\$540.00
\$5,000.00	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$600.00
\$5,500.00	\$165.00	\$220.00	\$275.00	\$330.00	\$385.00	\$440.00	\$495.00	\$550.00	\$660.00
\$6,000.00	\$180.00	\$240.00	\$300.00	\$360.00	\$420.00	\$480.00	\$540.00	\$600.00	\$720.00
\$8,000.00	\$240.00	\$320.00	\$400.00	\$480.00	\$560.00	\$640.00	\$720.00	\$800.00	\$960.00
\$10,000.00	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$700.00	\$800.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
\$12,000.00	\$360.00	\$480.00	\$600.00	\$720.00	\$840.00	\$960.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,440.00

.Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Why Wills Are Important, Part 1 (Part 2 will be in July)

A simple notation in your will is all that is necessary to leave a lasting legacy, a timeless gift. Through your will, you can be sure the assets you worked a lifetime to acquire are used to help our church, an organization that has been meaningful to you and your family. Gifts of this nature can include a designated monetary amount, a portion of an estate, or other property of value.

Have you remembered your church in your will? Noting a bequest in your will doesn't have to be complicated. A simple revision to an existing will allows you to express your faith in God and the future ministry of your church. Contact Lake Gibson UMC for more information.

Catch the timeless vision! As good Christian stewards, it is important for us to provide for our church not only now, but in the future. What is your vision for future ministry, and how could remembering our church in your will help make those dreams come true?

Did you know that dying without a will, called dying intestate, gives the state the authority to make decisions concerning the distribution of your estate without regard to your wishes? If you were planning on remembering Lake Gibson UMC in your will, the time to act is now. *It is never too early to write a will, but it can be too late.*

Remember, if you have no will, state laws will determine who will inherit your property at your death. State laws do not include your church or any other charity as a beneficiary.

Consider naming your church as a beneficiary in your will. The gift could be a set dollar amount; a percentage of your estate; the remainders after other gifts have been made; or a gift of that part of the estate left if designated heirs are deceased.

Giving to your church through your will is a good way to continue your support of your church beyond your lifetime. When your estate plan is prepared, consider including plans for a gift to your church.

Did you know that the laws of the state where you are living at the time of your death will determine how your estate is settled if you have no will of your own? These laws might not leave your property to the people you want to receive it. And, these laws definitely don't leave any gift to your church or any other charity. Wouldn't you rather make these decisions yourself?

How long has it been since you updated your will? Does it still express your wishes? Does it leave a gift to your church to carry on its ministry after your death?

You can share your faith beyond your lifetime by careful estate planning, which includes remembering your church in your will. During your lifetime you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through your church after your death.

Part 2 of this 2-part series will continue in the July TGN.

Our Departments

Lay Leader's Corner

TITHING -- WHAT IS IT?

Tithing is a Biblical principle established in the Hebrew Torah way back in Genesis. There are many examples given, going back to Abraham giving a tithe to Melchizedek. But even more so when Jacob's son, Isaac, gave this promise to God in Gen 28:22 "And of all that You give me I will surely give one-tenth to you." The Old Testament guideline for giving was a tithe -- or one-tenth -- of total property. A tenth of possessions such as animals, grains, etc. (the best tenth of the "first fruits"), was to be set aside and offered to God in thanks for the blessings He has given His followers.

Today, the tithing tradition remains an important part of church life for many Christians. Tithing symbolizes and helps express your commitment to Christ and the Church. A regular plan for giving can help enrich your life and accomplish Lake Gibson UMC's mission. We know that everything we have comes as a gift from God. To show our faith and thanksgiving, we can return a part of God's gifts to us to help the Church carry out its work. As you all know, the leadership of our church has committed to using our "first fruits" (10%) of the Church's income for Missions beyond the borders of our complex. For some, this is a new experience, but it is well within our capability if the congregation also is as committed as the leadership.

When God prompts us to serve, it is easy to focus on our resources instead of His. It's easy to list our lack of resources as an excuse, but then we miss opportunities to participate in the joy of giving because we are focused on protecting what we have. We also miss God's gifts to us because we are focused on our lack. The first step to living with a giving heart is to embrace the truth of God's generosity. When we believe in God's goodness and His love for us, we find the freedom to receive and release His gifts. As the Psalmist reminds us in 145:16, "You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."

As you know, the summer months are ahead of us, and it is a time when all ministries and churches experience a reduction in giving. Let me suggest to you, that if you have never tried tithing, now would be an excellent time to test and see if God is true to His word when He states very clearly in Malachi 3:10, "...And try me now in this, says the LORD of Hosts. If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." I know that tithing is a very personal decision, but take it from one who has been there: Try it, you'll like it!

Here are seven reasons why tithing is important for every one of us. When we tithe: (David Jeremiah's Study Bible, page 1274)

1. We put God first.
2. We prove God's promise.
3. We profit from God's provision.
4. We praise God's name.

Our Departments, Continued

Lay Leader's Corner, Continued

TITHING -- WHAT IS IT?, Continued

5. We personalize God's Word.
6. We practice godliness.
7. We participate in God's work.

As Paul so aptly reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:6-7.

John Bernat

Rooted Student Ministry

The Lake Gibson Youth Ministry is super-busy getting ready for graduation and the summer mission trip to Copperhill, TN (Gatlinburg area). We will load the van Saturday, June 20th and depart on Sunday. The trip runs from June 21st to 27th, and allows time for touristy activities after the work is completed. The trip is described in the April edition of *The Good News*. If you want to learn more about it, go to the web site www.TeamEffort.org.

The youth and leaders have worked hard to raise the money necessary for this trip, starting early in the year with sales of Super Bowl subs, lots of hard work by the "Odd Jobs by Odd People" crews, and generous donations from the congregation. We thank everyone for their support, including on May 31st's 5th Sunday offering.

The other recent major activity is preparing a jaw-dropping, ear-popping multimedia program to honor our graduates on Sunday, May 31st.

Phyllis Kitchens

Our Departments, Continued

A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center

The preschool would like to thank all those who volunteered on May 16th. With your help, the Toddler Room and the Hallway got a fresh coat of paint, and the playground received a much needed raking and removal of old mulch.

Thanks A Bunch!!

=====

Calling All Painters...

Do you enjoy painting?

The preschool is in need of "a few good painters" to help with the next phase of painting the classrooms.

If this you, please make your calendars for

June 27th at 8:30 am.

We'll provide the equipment and paint.

..

The painting and playground improvements are part of our effort to enhance our facility for certification under the Florida League of Christian Schools (FLOCS).

Lisa Bacon, Director of A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Our Departments, Continued

Music Department

The Music Department is taking a well-deserved break. The next major music events are the ladies' karaoke-style singing to their men at the Father's Day luncheon and Letra Davis's concert in church on July 5th.

Adult Sunday School Classes

(No article on The Friendship class this month.)

The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL LESSON ANNUAL

(While Eric Hines is recovering from surgery, Joe Moon will lead the class.)

FOURTH QUARTER

JUNE 7, 2015 TO AUGUST 30, 2015

GOD'S PROPHETS DEMAND JUSTICE

UNIT 1

JUNE 1, 2105 TO JUNE 28, 2105

AMOS RAILS AGAINST INJUSTICE

I. June 7, 2015 - Judgement on Israel and Judah

A. Amos 2:4-8

2. June 14, 2015 - God Is Not Fooled

A. Amos 5:14-15, 18-27

3. June 21, 2015 - Rebuked for Selfishness

A. Amos 6:4-8, 11-14

4. June 28, 015 - God Will Never Forget

A. Amos 8:1-6, 9-10

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

FLC ROOM 1 & 2

9:00 AM TO 9:45 AM

Focus on Ministries

Mission Moments

With the setting aside of the first 10% of our contributions to Mission and Outreach projects, it seemed appropriate to keep you abreast of our progress. The first \$1,000 of our pledge to the **Florida United Methodist Children's Home** has been sent, as has the full \$500 pledge to **Imagine No Malaria**. Funds have also been expended for the **Food Pantry**, **Love in Action**, and the community **Spring Fling**.

Of particular note is the **new computer and equipment sent to Pastor Manuel Barban** in Cuba. The need was identified last year during LGUMC's mission trip made to our sister church, Quesada. We recently supplied a new laptop computer, to include accessories (computer backpack, mouse, second battery, second power adapter, and locking cable) to the Cuban District Superintendent for hand delivery. Additionally, Microsoft Office and the Spanish language add-on were licensed under LGUMC and installed for their use. We hope that many wonderful sermons are developed using this new tool.

Dwight Kitchens

United Methodist Men (UMM)

A BIG THANK -YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL MOTHERS' DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON!

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The Unit Meeting was held on May 11th with Cindy Webb speaking on the Guardian ad Litem program and other initiatives. Starting in June the Heart to Heart Circle is meeting at various restaurants until fall. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 2nd, 11:30 am at the Butterfly Bistro in Lakeland. All ladies are invited to attend. Please call Ruth Zona at 863-859-5967.

To support the **UMW's Visitation Program**, our church has purchased seven compact disc players (five with head phones and two with speakers). Don Heishman will issue the players to UMW members who visit people on the shut-in list upon request. We bought the head-phone equipped players for use by those who are in assisted living or hospitals, so the sound would not disturb people nearby. The players with speakers are suitable for in-home use.

All of Pastor Steve's sermons and church bulletins since April 2011 are available on the website, www.LakeGibsonUMC.com, under the heading **Our Ministries, Recorded Sermons & Music**. We are now recording the sermons on read-only compact discs (CD-R). These are available for anyone to pick up after the service. You are welcome to take a CD for your own use, or deliver it to a neighbor, shut-in or hospitalized friend.

This is a new effort and the procedures are still being developed for making and distributing the CDs. We will keep you informed of the process as it evolves.

Dwight Kitchens

Prayer Ministry

Praying for Others

We all need prayers from time to time and most likely a prayer for a miracle from God. Praying for others affects, us since one of our congregation requested prayer for an individual out of love and caring. We as a congregation are asked to support one another; even if we don't know the person who is in need of prayer or the situation. A powerful inspiration to praying for others is reflected by a song written by Ty Lacy and Steve Siler, "Not too Far from Here":

"Somebody's down to their last dime
Somebody is running out of time
Not too far from here
Somebody's got nowhere else to go
Somebody needs a little hope
Not too far from here
And I may not know their name
But I'm praying just the same
That you'll use me, Lord
To wipe away the tears
'Cause somebody's crying
Not too far from here"
"Now I'm letting down my guard
And I'm opening my heart
Help me speak Your love
To every needful ear
Not too far from here"

We can all be prayer warriors either by being on one of our prayer ministry's teams or by taking the prayer journal that is in our bulletin each week home, and praying during the week for these individuals in need. We can also pray through the bulletin during the week for the events and individuals listed in each category. We now have prayer chain by email for those special prayer needs during the week such as hospitalization, surgery, tests.

If you would care for more information about our prayer ministry, please contact Fran Mudge at 863-858-3935.

God Bless you all.

Fran Mudge

Focus on Ministries, Continued

Florida United Methodist Children's Home Update

On March 21, 2015 Anne Bernat joined Jeff and me for this year's Day on Campus, along with over 1,100 other people. At the time of our visit there were 78 residents. As we toured the campus, we went into a couple of the residents' cottages, saw the Chapel and toured the new school on campus, Aldersgate Academy, which had 29 students this year.

The Aldersgate Academy is designed for students who have difficulty in public school in academics or socially. We had the opportunity to talk with some of the students who shared how the school has helped them. The students who do attend Aldersgate must apply. Right now it is for high school students with plans to expand in the future. This year 86% of the FUMCH students have increased their GPA.

As school comes to an end the residents will be attending various camps as well as "Summer Fun" on campus. This gives the residents an opportunity to learn how to be creative with arts, crafts, pottery and wood working. They also learn to trust others as they master the ropes course and how to work together in team sports. In their spare time they have a nice big pool they can cool off, go fishing, ride bikes and just enjoy being kids.

At the Madison Youth Ranch the horse stable is nearing completion. This will be the newest addition to the campus since it opened last September.

We would like to thank everyone who helped the Children's Home on the Fifth Sunday offering on May 31, 2015. This offering helps meet the day-to-day needs of the children, youth and families in their care.

Karen Acor

Celebrations

(Please let the editor know if information is incorrect or missing from the birthday and anniversary lists so we can correct the data base.)



Birthdays in June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
6/1	Tom Burns
6/1	Wanda Lammey
6/1	Patricia Moon
6/5	Reginald Jenkins
6/7	Shirley Addems
6/7	Pat Gilmore
6/7	Scott Shelton
6/10	Rusty Collins
6/11	Tom Fischer
6/11	Tyler McKnight
6/14	Jonathan Drummond
6/17	Linda Osborn
6/19	Joshua Byroads
6/19	Jerry McKeever
6/19	Dave Meyer
6/23	David McPherson
6/24	Meghan Maxon
6/26	William Brito
6/30	Corey Fredrikson
6/30	Barbara Gunter

Anniversaries

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
6/10	Randy and Karen Moore
6/13	Thomas and Irene Herzog
6/15	John and Anne Joyce
6/17	Robert and Lisa Evans
6/24	Dave and Maureen Meyer
6/25	Stephen and Marjorie Mann
6/25	Jeff and Donna McKnight
6/25	Lawrence and Gail Smith
6/26	Tom and Betty Fischer
6/27	Steve and Sue Shelton
6/30	Don and Sue Heishman
6/30	Rick and Lee Mueller
6/30	Tim and Kim Watson

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church shares and supports the love of Jesus Christ.

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church
424 West Daughtery Road
Lakeland, FL 33809

Web Page: www.lakegibsonumc.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday

Contact Information

Steve Polk, Pastor	Phone:	863-858-5431
	FAX:	863-853-1625
	E-mail:	pastor@lakegibsonumc.com

Support Staff

Marina Garcia	Administrative Secretary 863-858-5431 office@lakegibsonumc.com
Lee Mueller	Youth Director
Jacob McKnight	Assistant Youth Director
Sue Heishman	Bookkeeper
Glenda Grant Hess	Director of Music/Organist
Debbie Moore	Custodian

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Lisa Bacon	Director
Office	863-858-8400
Cell	863-255-8619
E-mail	alboh@lakegibsonumc.com

The Good News is a monthly church newsletter bringing the "Good News" to members and friends of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. We welcome your suggestions, comments and articles. You may reach the editor, Phyllis Kitchens, by calling 863-984-4564 or by e-mailing her at phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com.