



The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



July 2015

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From the Pastor's Desk

What a whirlwind the month June was! Events like the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and our Vacation Bible School in the life of the church, as well as graduation for our schools and colleges, made for a hectic month. In sports, the College Baseball World Series, NBA finals and the NHL Stanley Cup provided lots of entertainment.

While all of this was exciting and many people were caught up in the rivalry of the competition, amazed by the skill of the players or speakers and enjoyed the celebrations, the event that unfolded in Charleston, South Carolina at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church with the killing of nine worshippers reminded us of true reality and heroism. Those other things that occurred were only temporary milestones in a life, but at Emanuel A.M.E., eternity was present that night. The words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter 6 were certainly appropriate for that event:

¹² *We aren't fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens.*

That night good and evil were locked in combat there in that S.C. church – and again (just like at Calvary) we thought evil had won. It was a tragic, needless, senseless massacre of innocents. That night nine martyrs were ushered into heaven because of the actions of evil. Yet from this event conversations are occurring between people that suspected each other as enemies the day before. Hearts have been broken and love poured out to people regardless of skin color, sexual orientation or political opinions. Decent people around the world feel compassion toward the families of the victims, outrage at the act of the perpetrator and demand justice. In this tragic act of evil the love, mercy and grace of God is being poured out on all mankind.

On that Wednesday, of those nine people, only two – the pastors -- had to be there. The others were there to worship, pray and learn about God. They were there voluntarily. They were there in order to grow closer to their Lord, and while I am sure they hoped to experience God that evening, they never thought they would meet Him face-to-face at the service that night.

As I reflect on that event I wonder . . . If you knew the actions of your faith would cost you your life, would you still live out that faith? If you knew that the next time you went to church you would die literally – would you still go? Is your faith as strong as those nine people who showed love to their enemy? Turned the other cheek? Said, "Father forgive him," even as he pulled the trigger and the handgun roared. If one of your relatives were one of those nine victims, could you like the Apostle Paul say:

Continued on the next page . . .

From the Pastor's Desk, Continued

³⁸ *I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.* Romans 8:38-39, Common English Bible (CEB)

This is what is important and life changing: Not who won a game, or a championship or even who graduated with honors, but who like Paul can say at a time like the one that occurred at Emanuel A.M.E.:

⁶ *I'm already being poured out like a sacrifice to God, and the time of my death is near.* ⁷ *I have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.* ⁸ *At last the champion's wreath that is awarded for righteousness is waiting for me.* 2 Timothy 4:6-8, CEB

In the power of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ,

Pastor Steve

Church Calendar of Events for July

Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 Every Sunday!
Raising Money to Improve the FLC Kitchen

During the summer, there will be NO MEETINGS of the following committees:
Trustees, SPPRC, Finance and the ALBOH Board of Directors

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
7/3	Office is closed		
7/4 - 7/12	Pastor Steve on vacation		
7/5	Letra Davis Guest Concert	(S)	10:00 am
7/6	Heart to Heart UMW	Reececliff Diner	11:30 am
7/10	Fall Festival Meeting	(A)	10:00 am
7/12	Harvest Sunday John Bernat Guest Leader	(S)	10:00 am
7/13	Leland Family Ministry Meth- Free Project	(FLC)	6:00 pm
7/28	UMW Board Meeting	(FLC)	9:00 am
7/31	Karaoke	(FLC)	6:30 pm

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

S — Sanctuary

A — Church Office

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July and Future Events

LETRA DAVIS



Sunday, July 5th, 10:00 Service

Letra Davis is known for her powerful vocals and enthusiastic praise. She has her own unique style which blends gospel, jazz, inspirational, classical and R & P (rhythm and praise). She encourages people to lift up their own personal sound of praise to the Lord. She has been called upon to minister in song to local politicians and even for the President of the United States, yet you will often catch her praying for and singing a song to a homeless person on the street to spread God's love. She is the wife of Eric Davis and the proud mother of one adult child and two teenagers.

Christian Karaoke, July 31st

Fund-raiser for Porch Light Ministry, October 1st

On Thursday, October 1st, singer Natalie Grant will perform at the "Shine a Light" gala at Lakeland Center's Youkey Theater. Ms. Grant is a 5-time winner of the Gospel Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year award. The event raises money for Porch Light, a safe home and prevention program for victims of domestic sex trafficking operated by the Florida Baptist Children's Home. Porch Light is one of the missions Lake Gibson UMC supports in our Mission and Outreach program.

Tickets for the gala will go on sale on July 1st, and cost \$100 each. This includes dinner and the private concert. For more information, see Porch Light's web site: www.theporchlight.org.

Marina's Corner

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."

Aristotle Onassis

Festival Events Coordination Meeting, July 10th, 10:00 am, in the office. We always need volunteers for the fall and winter events, and ideas for games and activities for children. Call the office for information, 863-858-5431. If you are interested in helping out, please come to this meeting.

Harvest Sunday is July 12th. The **second Sunday of every month** is Harvest Sunday. Please bring your donations of food and/or personal care items to the office (between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, Monday – Friday), or place them in front of the altar on Sunday. Monetary donations may be placed in the collection plate with a notation "Food Pantry". The list of needed items is on the next page.



Food Pantry Report:

As of June 22, 2015, for the entire year, we have assisted 316 families with groceries and have given out an additional 43 bags with baked goods, which makes it a total of 359 bags of food provided to those in need.

For the month of June we have assisted to date 42 families with groceries and 7 additional with baked goods. With the help of Publix and our volunteers we have assisted families in our area and outside of our area with baked goods. In addition we have given baked goods to Hope House, Talbot House, and Sterling House and to families outside our area.

A Praise: Good Samaritans Still Exist Update on the Visitation Program

The **LGUMC Visitation Program** sometimes finds neighbors in need. Recently, a couple who are on the list found themselves in need of assistance. They happened to mention having a clogged drain to their visitors, and shortly thereafter, Bob Gilmore insured that it was cleared.

Our church visitation members also found that this couple's whole-home air conditioner was on the fritz. One repairman gave an estimate for replacement of the aging unit, although another said he might be able to fix it for less, but it would take a few weeks for him to get to it. They had already gone three weeks without air conditioning while the temperatures were in the mid-90's.

Once this information reached church members, they sought a solution. Brad Fox was generous enough to stop mowing his lawn and check out the system. With the replacement of a relatively inexpensive capacitor their system was up and running once again.

Continued on the next page . . .

A Praise: Good Samaritans Still Exist, Continued Update on the Visitation Program, Continued

Such selfless service by Bob and Brad exemplifies the behavior we hope we would all do. If you have skills which can benefit others within the community, please be ready to step up and help those in LGUMC when a need is identified.

We are working to automate the Visitation List over the summer. We won't post it on the LGUMC web site because of the personal information it contains. Instead, people who are visiting now, or who wish to become visitors in the future, will be given instructions on how to access the list. Marina Garcia, Administrative Secretary, will be responsible for updating the list periodically and granting access to visitors. In turn, visitors will be responsible for reporting their visits and —more importantly— documenting areas where the people being visited can use help. This will help our shut-ins so they won't feel forgotten or so isolated. Instructions for accessing the Visitation List and reporting visits will be published in the future.

Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens

The 2nd Sunday of Every Month Is Harvest Sunday Food Pantry Needs

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 June News

Lake Gibson UMC Welcomes 4 New Members

The month of June saw four people join our church: **Ronna Fay Wright** (who goes by Fay), **Barbara Gitt and Larry Gitt** were welcomed into the congregation on June 14th. Fay was also baptized during that service. **Sharon Ruth** joined LGUMC on June 28th.

Be sure to introduce yourself when you meet these new members, and remember to wear your nametag at church to help those of us who are a little forgetful.

2015 UMC Annual Conference – Next Generations Together in the Baptismal Waters

The 2015 Florida United Methodist Church's Annual Conference was held June 10th through 13th at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach. The purpose of the 2015 annual conference was threefold:

- A. To identify how to attract the next generation of church members.
- B. To elect delegates to the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon and the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina..
- C. To report on the activities of the Florida Conference during 2014.

The conference opened with a laity and a clergy session. In the laity session **Russ Graves, Conference Lay Leader, encouraged us to have a “dangerous” church, one not afraid to do the uncomfortable things needed to attract the next generation.** We ended the session singing “Make Your Church Burn,” inciting us to be passionate about our church.

The Church is **in good financial condition.** Eighty-eight percent (88%) of apportionments were paid in 2014, the highest percent since 2006. [LGUMC paid 100% of its 2014 apportionments and intends to do so again in 2015.] In 2015 a payment of \$5,000 will be given to all new clergy to assist in paying their student loans. **Six churches were discontinued, but 4 of those will be repurposed in a different ministry.**

Five resolutions were presented:

1. To limit the advertising of sexually oriented products – passed 558 for and 127 against.
2. To support human rights of Florida Farmworkers – passed 515 for and 165 against.
3. Encouraging that just resolution process of any complaint brought against an ordained clergy or a congregation be resolved through resolution rather than church trial – passed 367 to 276.
4. To support the unborn child and its mother – passed 402 to 199.
5. Creation Care – Care for the natural environment; churches to report Creation Care practices annually – passed 374 to 213.

Continued on the next page . . .

Summary of June News, Continued 2015 UMC Annual Conference, Continued

Delegates were elected after much balloting for the 2016 General Conference and the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference – 9 clergy and 9 laity to each, with 7 alternates. This was a long process requiring many prayers.

Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, was the keynote speaker. He spoke for about six hours over three different sessions. His church is the largest United Methodist Church in the US with 22,000 members.

This church has a three-fold purpose:

1. To connect with thinking people and inviting them to become followers of Jesus.
2. To engage in acts of justice and mercy in the community.
3. To work to renew the UMC.

He outlined four keys for a future with hope:

- A. Compelling worship and preaching.
- B. Calling and equipping new leaders.
- C. Starting new faith communities.
- D. Having a compelling mission ministry.

He gave many examples of how this is done in his church. Members of his church also volunteered to pray for each delegate to the 2015 Annual Conference by name for 30 days prior to the conference.

He emphasized **we are a church in need of revival**. United Methodists are losing 68,000 members each year. **Part of the problem is members like it the way it is.**

He feels that there are **three critical factors in a thriving church**: effective leadership, meaningful worship and preaching, and missional outreach.

The 2016 Florida Annual Conference will be in Orlando.

(On Sunday, June 28th, Mrs. Stafford will present a summary of the conference.

Rosanne Stafford, Lay Member

Summer Breakfast Fund-Raisers

In June we started serving full breakfasts from 8:00 to 9:00 am in the FLC. In addition to being a venue for fellowship, the breakfast's free-will offerings will be used to fund improvements in the kitchen's wiring (and along the wall between it and the FLC proper), to prevent blown circuit breakers. We have experienced a number of unintentional freezer defrosts and refrigerator power outages this month. Additional circuits will also allow a better layout of coffee makers, broilers and Crock-Pots. Debbie Moore, Kitchen Mistress, arranged for an electrician to inspect the kitchen and help us identify needed improvements. One item he recommended was installation of two industrial fans to circulate air around the kitchen. Sounds like a "cool" idea!

Continued on the next page . . .

Summary of June News, Continued

Summer Breakfast Fund-Raisers, Continued

A longer-range objective is to fund the purchase a modern, energy-efficient stove. This will replace the industrial one installed in 1979 when the FLC was built. This will be a big-ticket item, requiring \$5,000 or more, so it will be put on the “back burner”, so to speak. Through the first three Sundays in June, the sanctuary offerings for the **Kitchen Improvements Fund** have tallied \$584.00. (Money placed in kitchen’s offering plate during the breakfasts totals another \$446.00, which pays for the food and supplies used to prepare the breakfasts, and to fund the free breakfasts given to those who cannot afford them.)

Vacation Bible School June 15th to 19th, 2015

This year’s Vacation Bible School had the theme “Journey off the Map”, and what a journey we had learning how to follow God. Our wonderful guides led us through exciting adventures that included navigating Rushing Waters to Survival Springs, then going down Rappelling Ravine, crossing Boulder Bridge on to the Overlook and enjoying the Treehouse at Shady Grove.

Through our travels we saw strange animal tracks, giant butterflies and dragon flies and even monkeys! We enjoyed wonderful snacks and listened to stories from the Bible teaching us that there may be things that are unknown to us, but all things are known to God. We colored beautiful pictures, played exciting games, learned how to talk to God through prayer, made new friends and had a great time.

We had over 30 children join our “Journey off the Map” from our neighborhoods and also from A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center’s class of 3- and 4-year-olds. We had 23 volunteers that were our guides throughout this journey and we truly appreciate all the time they put in to make this such a success and a fun experience for our children.

Our volunteers were:

Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens, Shirley Lux, Tom and Betty Fischer, Bonnie Fuqua, Cindy Webb, Claudia Moore, Jacob McKnight, Rosany Powers (ALBOH), Jenniffer Guerrero (ALBOH), Lee Mueller, Jeff Acor, Jan Booker, Sue Shelton, Ruth Zona, Anne Bernat, Ann Johnson, Blake Worthen, Grant Sippel, Elisa Vividor, Linda Alvarez and Rosanne Stafford. We would also like to thank Pastor Steve and Lisa Bacon for their help.

Jeff Acor was our VBS photographer, taking over 250 pictures during the week, some of which have been reprinted in this newsletter.

We thank all of those in our church family who supported this year’s VBS through your donations, time and prayer. Through your support we were able to provide a fun program that exposed over 30 children to God, and we were able to raise \$170.00 to donate to “Imagine No Malaria”. That will fund 17 bed nets to protect people in Africa from malaria. God is Good . . . All the Time!

In His Service,
Rosita Stafford

Summary of June News, Continued VBS, Continued



All photos in this group were taken by Jeff Acor. He snapped 295 pictures; Mike Stafford selected 22 of those, a subset of which appear in this newsletter.

In the Craft Room: Cindy Webb led crafts with several helpers. Shown with Cindy are Ann Johnson, Ann Bernat, Elisa Vividor (youth volunteer).

In the Music Room: Claudia Moore led the music activities, but was camera-shy. Jenniffer Guerrero of ALBOH and Rosita Stafford are pictured with the kids.



Bonnie Fuqua in the Bible Study area. Keeping the attention of 3- and 4-year-olds was exhausting. Shown here are the older group of kids.



Summary of June News, Continued VBS, Continued



All photos by Jeff Acor.

Rosita Stafford leads an impromptu exercise class when the kids finished eating earlier than planned.

Flexibility was essential for all the VBS helpers.



Tom Fischer during a recreation period. Betty was working with another group outside the shot. The "slight difference" in the leaders' and kids' ages was a challenge, but Tom and Betty didn't miss a beat.

They played dodgeball, follow-the-leader, and several games involving balloons, all of which ended in popping the balloons!

On child asked Betty if "her father" could play with them again!

Counting the donations for "Imagine No Malaria". Each day the children brought in loose change from home. Jan Booker, Ann Bernat, Ruth Zona and Rosita Stafford were the counters this day.



Summary of June News, Continued VBS, Continued



Shirley Lux and Dwight Kitchens working on the snacks.

Who knew kids wouldn't like strawberry cupcakes with lots of strawberry icing?

The first day wasn't a hit, but we made up for it with Walking Sticks (candy-coated pretzel rods), Apples in a Blanket (crescent-roll wrapped apple slices) and Spiders (Lil' Smokies wrapped in crescent rolls decorated with mustard eyes and ketchup spots with potato-stick legs).

Now you know why Lisa Bacon offered to give us some healthier, child-friendly recipes for next year!

A Few Pictures of the May Work Party at ALBOH



Left: Debbie Moore and Dale Gower working on the playground mulch.

Right: Pastor Steve showing leadership.



Photos by Phyllis Kitchens

Summary of June News, Continued

A Few Pictures of the May Work Party at ALBOH, Continued



Fred Fredrikson up a ladder. He painted all day!

Dale Gower demonstrating proper form operating a wheel barrow.



Help Wanted

Topics and/or Questions for Next Year's Sermons: Pastor Steve has asked that everyone who has ideas for sermon topics or questions submit them to him at pastor@lakegibsonumc.com as he prepares next year's sermons.

Articles for August, September and October Newsletters: Are you traveling this summer and visiting different churches? If you learn of a program or other activity that you think would enhance ours, please write about it. Submit articles to Dwight at Dwight@dwightkitchens.com or phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com (note the underscore (<shift-hyphen>) between first and last names).

Remember the elementary school essays we had to write, "What I Did on My Summer Vacation"? If you have any adventures that might be suitable for *The Good News*, please write an article for us.

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 old during worship 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. When we resume two services in the fall, we will particularly need volunteers for the 10:30 am service. Please contact Sarah Schiemann at 863-815-4340 to volunteer.

Ideally, we'd like to establish a roster for each month listing who is available (on Nursery duty) for each service, with alternates in case the primary person can't attend that week. This way the ushers will know whom to locate in the sanctuary if children come in after the service starts. If someone would like to take responsibility to develop and update the duty roster, please talk to Sarah.

Sunday Breakfast Cooks and Helpers: **SOS! We still need cooks in the kitchen!** Thanks to Sharon and Danny Hughes for joining the crew, helping with everything from coffee making to setup and teardown. Gail Bishop has stirred her fingers to the bone making cheesy and plain scrambled eggs. Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens will be away from July 5th through approximately mid-October, creating "job opportunities", especially for grill cooks. Throughout the summer, we will be serving breakfast foods like pancakes, biscuits and sausage gravy, eggs and all the trimmings. Please let Debbie Moore know if you can volunteer (debntivoli@yahoo.com).

[If the FLC is the heart of our church, the kitchen is the heart of the FLC! We need to keep that heart pumping out terrific meals while reducing the burden on the members who volunteer to work in it. Editor]

Finance and Related Topics

Budget Update: Where We Stand at 5 Months into the Year

Lake Gibson UMC is in better shape financially than in the past few years, but still behind where we should be in program execution. We added some new expenses this year and sought to insure that the first 10% of our general contributions go directly to missions outside our congregation.

Unlike Abundant Life Church and North Lakeland Presbyterian Church which have high mortgages, we are mortgage-free. Yet, daily expenses continue to be a concern for us and for almost all congregations. Unlike municipalities which tax, we can only pray and ask for support of our missions. We have estimated that the execution of our programs will require \$321,952 in 2015. Of course, minor changes throughout the year may impact this number slightly. The bottom line is that we, the congregation, must raise the funds to support our programs.

I ask that you not forget Lake Gibson UMC while you enjoy the summer months. Whether by direct deposit, bill pay, or through our web-site's online donation option, please find a way to insure that you continue to support the missions of our church in making disciples of Jesus Christ.

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	\$26,498
June	\$17,995	\$19,238	\$22,282	\$59,515	\$19,838	\$124,250	
July	\$20,480	\$18,339	\$18,388	\$57,207	\$19,069	\$143,319	
August	\$17,942	\$15,918	\$17,351	\$51,211	\$17,070	\$160,389	
September	\$21,920	\$21,026	\$15,861	\$58,807	\$19,602	\$179,991	
October	\$17,834	\$18,241	\$18,541	\$54,616	\$18,205	\$198,197	
November	\$18,575	\$19,000	\$29,077	\$66,652	\$22,217	\$220,414	
December	\$21,473	\$23,478	\$23,415	\$68,366	\$22,789	\$243,203	
Total	\$251,706	\$231,070	\$246,832	\$729,608	\$243,203	\$243,203	\$128,727

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Budget Update: Where We Stand at 5 Months into the Year, Continued

Table 2

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	8.20%	\$26,412	\$22,306	8.20%	\$26,412	\$22,306	(\$4,106)	-15.54%
February	10.09%	\$32,472	\$26,282	18.29%	\$58,883	\$48,588	(\$10,295)	-17.48%
March	9.23%	\$29,701	\$31,316	27.51%	\$88,584	\$79,904	(\$8,680)	-9.80%
April	8.23%	\$26,498	\$22,325	35.75%	\$115,082	\$102,229	(\$12,853)	-11.17%
May	7.19%	\$23,137	\$26,498	42.93%	\$138,220	\$128,727	(\$9,493)	-6.87%
June	8.16%	\$26,262	\$0	51.09%	\$164,482	\$128,727	(\$35,755)	
July	7.84%	\$25,244	\$0	58.93%	\$189,725	\$128,727	(\$60,998)	
August	7.02%	\$22,598	\$0	65.95%	\$212,323	\$128,727	(\$83,596)	
September	8.06%	\$25,950	\$0	74.01%	\$238,273	\$128,727	(\$109,546)	
October	7.49%	\$24,100	\$0	81.49%	\$262,373	\$128,727	(\$133,646)	
November	9.14%	\$29,411	\$0	90.63%	\$291,784	\$128,727	(\$163,057)	
December	9.37%	\$30,168	\$0	100.00%	\$321,952	\$128,727	(\$193,225)	
Totals		\$321,952						

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Chair

Recent Donations

Extravagant Generosity. Thank God for the generosity of a member who donated appreciated stocks valued at slightly over \$22,000. The funds are currently in a stock account where they are continuing to grow. This was designated to be used for 'capital improvements' within the church, rather than for the general budget. The Trustees will now have some additional funds from which to make improvements to the church campus.

Memorials. From January 1 to June 21, 2015, LGUMC has received one donation of \$380.00 as a memorial in memory of Margaret (Maggie) Powers. If you want to make a memorial donation to the church, **please specify how you wish it to be used.** If the donor does not specify how the funds are to be used, after one year, the money will be transferred to the General Fund.

Continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Recent Donations, Continued

Console Organ. Thanks to Richard and Barbara Winder of Mount Olive Shores North in Polk City, the church has received an electronic console organ which has been placed in the FLC. This new organ will make it unnecessary to move a keyboard back and forth from the sanctuary to the FLC for certain musical events.

This donation was brought about by a church member hearing a neighbor remark that he wanted to find a new home for the organ. A call to Glenda Grant Hess confirmed that LGUMC could use the organ. The only “cost” to us was a letter thanking the Winders and documenting the donation for an income tax deduction.

Why Wills Are Important, Part 2 (Part 1 was in the June TGN)

Did you know that more than 50% of all people at the time of their death do not have a will or living trust?

Do you know who your heirs will be? Is your church included in your will? Without a will, state laws will determine who receives your estate, and no charity will receive a gift from your estate. Be sure your estate planning is up-to-date and expresses your wishes.

Remember your church in your will.

“Later” can be too late. Don’t delay having your will drawn or updated. Make sure your estate plans are in place so that your wishes will be carried out to benefit your family, friends, church or other charities.

Be sure your estate planning documents are properly prepared. A homemade will *might* work, but unless it is properly written, it might cause unnecessary expenses and delays—and worst of all, it might not accomplish what you want to happen. The writing of your will is a job for which you need your attorney's assistance.

It can be a terrific bargain having your will drawn by an attorney. The upfront costs associated with making a will may save taxes and administrative expenses to your heirs many times over that initial expense. Make sure your attorney also knows of your desire to include your church in your will.

Is your current will keeping up with you? Does it reflect your Christian commitments? Make sure your will is up-to-date.

Have you ever heard “*Wills are for rich people.*”? That’s right! But they are also “for poor people” and for everyone in between. Your will relates to everything God has entrusted with you, and it can be a powerful statement of your Christian stewardship.

Continued on the next page . . .

.Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Why Wills Are Important, Part 2 (Part was in the June TGN)

Who needs a will? Every adult who owns anything and who cares about what happens to it; everyone who cares about their family, and everyone who wants to include their church's future in their estate planning needs a will.

When was the last time your will had a check-up? Does it express your current desires? Does it include your church that means so much to you?

Have you named a residual beneficiary in your will (to receive what remains when all other bequests are fulfilled)? Have you considered including your church as the residual beneficiary?

When you need a will, it's too late to have one drawn. Don't wait, and don't forget your church.

Grandpa didn't have a will, but Grandma does. She had to settle Grandpa's estate without one, and she now knows how important a will really is. Do you have a will?

Are you leaving a legacy of "red tape" for your heirs? A legal will drawn by your attorney will cut out the "red tape" and accomplish what you want to happen following your death.

And Finally, A Gift of Thanksgiving . . .

David wondered in the book of Psalms, "What shall I return to the Lord for all His bounty to me?" If you are taking the time to reflect on God's blessings in your own life, perhaps you're having similar thoughts. How can you give thanks while sensibly planning for the future?

Remembering Lake Gibson United Methodist Church in your will can have the two-fold benefit of serving as an expression of faith, while helping a congregation close to your heart many years into the future. As you consider sharing your blessings with others, keep in mind that a simple notation can mean so much to so many.

Dwight Kitchens

Our Departments

Lay Leader's Corner

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOM!

Many of you have seen or heard the expression, "Freedom Is Not Free" and can remember our beginning history as a Nation which some believe was chosen by God to be a modern day "Promised Land". Certainly we have enjoyed prosperity beyond what any other nation has experienced throughout history. And there have been many great nations along the way who served their purpose and slowly faded or disappeared completely. So we should pause and ask ourselves, "What was and what is God's purpose for America?"

In 1788, after the ratification of the Constitution, George Washington wrote to his deputy, Benjamin Lincoln:

"No country upon the earth ever had it more in its power to attain these blessings. . . Much to be regretted indeed would it be, were we to neglect the means and depart from the road which Providence has pointed us to, so plainly I cannot believe it will ever come to pass. The Great Governor of the Universe has led us too long and too far. . . to forsake us in the midst of it . . . We may, now and then, get bewildered; but I hope and trust that there is good sense and virtue enough left to recover the right path."

We certainly hope that Washington's confidence in us can still be realized in this age of confusion in which we seem to be floundering.

Another of our founders, John Quincy Adams, former President, who on July 4, 1837, as Representative Adams, addressed a crowd of celebrants gathered to celebrate the 61st anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and gave this genuine assessment of America's spiritual impact and the importance of this day:

"Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birth of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation?"

John Bernat
Lay Leader

Rooted Student Ministry

The Lake Gibson Youth Ministry was busy getting ready for the summer mission trip to Copperhill, TN (the Gatlinburg area). They loaded the van Saturday, June 20th and departed early 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.

We are hoping for a detailed report from Lee Mueller with lots of pictures for the August newsletter.

Phyllis Kitchens

Our Departments, Continued

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Saturday, June 27th, was another painting and sprucing up day with volunteers for LGUMC working hard to improve the physical appearance of the preschool. Photos of the first work party are shown on pages 12, 13 and 23 of this newsletter.

Phyllis Kitchens

Healthy Snacks for Little Ones

[While talking to Lisa Bacon, Director of ALBOH, about the snacks we were planning for VBS, she offered to write an article about tasty, child-friendly treats that are educational and easy to make. Editor]

Summer is finally here. We as parents are thinking, what will I do with my kiddos for Summer? Here is a thought: We could have fun in the kitchen! This is great time for lots of learning such as math, science, and vocabulary building, too.

Here are a few food experiences that are great for kids:

Fruit Kabobs:

Sliced apples

Pineapple tidbits

Sliced pears

Slice apples and pears into quarters (math, talk about measuring); arrange apples, pears, and tidbits into a pattern (math - patterns and science – different tastes)

Push fruit onto a straw to make kabobs (wooden skewers are hazardous to small ones)

Cookie Cutter Toast:

Toast bread (math – time how long it takes to toast, science – what makes it toast?)

Use favorite cookie cutter to cut out shape (math – count the sides and identify the different shapes)

Place a drop of food coloring into a small cup of milk and use a new paint brush to paint the bread (math – counting, science – what made it that color and what if we add more?)

Trail Mix:

Equal parts of Cheerios (math – measuring, science – where did this cereal come from and how was it made?)

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center, Continued

Trail Mix Recipe, Continued:

Equal parts of pretzels (Same idea, but adding the concept of salt)

Equal parts of small chocolate candies (math – counting, science – asking “what if” questions – what if you melted it? What if you froze it?)

Mix all ingredients and package in plastic bags for portable snacks.

Lisa Bacon, Director, ALBOH

Music Department

The Music Department provided karaoke entertainment after the Father’s Day luncheon. The next scheduled karaoke will be Friday, July 31st at 6:30 pm in the FLC. We hope more people will join us and enjoy this fun activity, even if you only hum to yourself.



Bob Willome and Dave Hess sing.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Friendship Sunday School Class

Our class has continued to study characters of the Bible to understand how they are, in many ways, similar to you and me today. Many of these individuals had the same excuses we have when they received their calling from God. However, they were obedient to their calling and were able to make significant impacts on the circumstances of their times.

Abraham was 75 years old when God asked him to pack up all of his belongings and leave all that he knew behind. Noah was 480 years old when God called him to build an ark to prepare for a rain storm. Remember, they had never seen rain at that time. Noah spent 120 years building that ark out of obedience to God. Queen Esther risked her life in order to save God’s chosen people; Mary Magdalene left everything behind in order to follow and to serve Jesus. Jonah showed some reluctance to follow his calling from God; however, after a 3-day “time out” in the belly of a fish, he was obedient and brought all the people of Nineveh to repent and accept God. When we look at their challenges to accept God’s calling, what excuses do we really have when He calls us?

On a different note, our class continues to practice “Love in Action” through the gifts we offer to those in need. In the past 2 months, our class has given \$100.00 to Parker Street Ministries,

Continued on the next page . . .

**Our Departments, Continued
Adult Sunday School Classes, Continued
Friendship Sunday School Class, Continued**

\$100.00 to Imagine No Malaria and just this past Sunday, we agreed to provide \$360.00 toward the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner for use in maintaining our facilities.

The Friendship Sunday School class not only studies the Word of God, we also try to put it into action. We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the Family Life Center. We would love to have you join us!

In God's Service,

Mike Stafford

The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class

FOURTH QUARTER

**JUNE 7, 2015 TO AUGUST 30, 2015
GOD'S PROPHETS DEMAND JUSTICE**

UNIT 2

**JULY 5, 2015 TO JULY 26, 2015
MICAHA CALLS FOR JUSTICE AMONG UNJUST PEOPLE**

5. July 5, 2015 – No Rest for the Wicked
A. Micah 2:4-11
6. July 12, 2015 – No Tolerance for Corrupt Leaders and Prophets.
A. Micah 3:5-12
7. July 19, 2015 – Justice, Love and Humility
A. Micah 6:3-8
8. July 26, 2015 – God Shows Clemency
A. Micah 7, 14-20

**SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
FLC ROOM 1& 2:
9:00AM TO 9:45AM**

ADULTS, COME AND JOIN US!

Focus on Ministries

Mission Moments

No report this month.

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The United Methodist Men are taking some time off during June and July. Our next meeting will be on August 8th at 8:00 am in the Family Life Center. All men are welcome to join us.

See you in August!

Mike Stafford, President UMM

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The July meeting of the Heart to Heart Circle will be at Reececliff Diner, 940 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland on Monday, July 6th at 11:30 am. If you plan to attend, please call Ruth Zona at 863-859-5967 for reservations. All ladies are cordially invited to join us for fellowship. The Circle of Ruth does not meet during the summer. The next UMW Board meeting is Tuesday, July 28th at 9:00 am in the FLC.

Phyllis Kitchens

Prayer Ministry

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

Karen Acor demonstrates her artistry (and flexibility) in preserving the murals on the ALBOH hallway wall while painting the background.



Focus on Ministries

Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) Update

Donations of Back-to-School Supplies Needed

Summer vacation is about half over already, and the kids are enjoying all their summer activities. With so many residents to get ready for school, FUMCH has asked us to **take all donations to them no later than August 1, 2015.**

During the month of July **we will be collecting school supplies** for the upcoming school year. You can bring your supplies and drop them off in the box in the narthex through July. After July 4th the stores will be putting away all the fireworks and getting out the school supplies at great prices. Listed below are some of the items that have been requested. There will be a complete list published in the church bulletin later in July.

Notebook paper

Mechanical pencils

Colored pencils

Crayons, boxes of 24

Glue sticks

Post-It Notes

Backpacks

Highlighters

Pocket folders

Binders

Copy paper

Markers

Erasers

Thank you in advance for your donations.

Karen and Jeff Acor,

FUMCH Representatives

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 July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
7/1	Adam Schertzer
7/2	Maureen Meyer
7/3	Lynn Grier
7/4	Mary Bristol
7/4	Gary Mudge
7/6	Joyce Holleran
7/7	Bob Hawksby
7/8	Dottie Beckum
7/8	Jessica Cogswell
7/11	Jeff Acor
7/11	Debbie Moore
7/13	Lisa Evans
7/14	Laura Welch
7/15	Dorothy McGehean
7/15	Molly Oliva
7/15	Joy Walters
7/16	John Bernat

7/22	Allison Wesley
7/23	Linda Smucker
7/23	Larry Smucker
7/24	Matthew Collins
7/26	Eric Hines
7/29	Vanessa Van Zile
7/30	JoAn Beebe
7/30	Ed Haney
7/30	Jeanne Shull
7/30	Martina Willome
7/31	Phyllis Birchler



Anniversaries in July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
7/1	Doug and Sandra Harwell
7/10	Matthew and Jamie Collins
7/26	Bill and Judy Sadwick
7/30	Gary and Fran Mudge

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

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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

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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.