



The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



August 2015

Steve Polk, Pastor

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From the Pastor's Desk

The tide was coming in as we walked down the beach. As it did, the water relentlessly attacked the sand on the beach, trying to overcome the dryness of the land as well as the height of the dunes. The waves would rush over or around the high spots, yet as the water receded, rivulets of water that had made it over the dune would rush back out in the low spots to rejoin the gulf. I thought – why rush back if you were trying to overcome the beach? Once you got there, wouldn't you stay?

I thought of how this may represent the mission of the church. If the gulf represented the immense love of God – that love that sent Jesus to die and redeem the world -- that love that not even death can separate us from, and this love of God is constantly trying to woo the world, to reach the lost, to minister to the hurting, to bring all mankind to the saving grace of Christ, then we the Christians should be pushing forward into the dark places of the world with that love the way the gulf sends its waters onto the beach.

We -- the church -- should be taking God's love into the world that is a lost and dry place. We try to bring life and joy and peace to those in need, yet we, like that water, need to return to God's love in order to be recharged, renewed and refreshed so that we can go out into the highways and byways of life to once again share God's love. That is one purpose of worship – to reenergize the saints for the work of the kingdom.

Like the tide and the waves which come again and again, day after day, God's love comes again and again, over and over, never ceasing, never ending, ever crashing over us like the waves that crash on the beach. God is constantly striving to reach those who are out of relationship with Him. This constant rolling love is His prevenient grace trying to woo us to Him.

The rivulets rushing back to the sea could be those people that God's love has touched being united to His body through His justifying grace. Then as the water rejoins the main body and is renewed, it is likened to God's sanctifying grace which leads us into a mature life and guides us on our journey as we allow more and more of Jesus to control our lives and become like Him, ready to pour ourselves out for those in need. Just as the Gulf of Mexico is almost limitless in the amount of water it holds, God's love is limitless. Just as the tide never ceases, we should never cease to present the love of God to the world.

First Corinthians 12:4-8 *“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

Pastor Steve

Editorial Policy

The articles contained in *The Good News* express the opinions of their authors, and do not necessarily reflect policies of the United Methodist Church or of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. All members of LGUMC are invited to write articles and share their thoughts with the congregation. The purpose of this newsletter is to foster better communication of opportunities for service and worship among LGUMC members and friends as we seek to share God's love and to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Phyllis Kitchens, Editor

Church Calendar of Events for August

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
8/8	United Methodist Men (UMM)	FLC	8:00 am
8/16	Blood Drive	Bus	9:00 am to noon
8/21	Fall Festival Planning Meeting	A	10:00 am
8/25	UMW Board Meeting	FLC	9:00 am
8/28	Karaoke	FLC	6:30 pm

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

S — Sanctuary

A — Church Office

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Future Events

Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is an incredible opportunity to get away for a weekend and grow closer to God. This is a “spiritual” walk, not a “physical” walk, so you do not have to worry about any strenuous physical activity. It is a great opportunity to grow in Christ, meet other Christians from across denominations and have a “life changing” experience. The next scheduled “walk” is coming up at the end of October.

If this is something that you might be interested in attending, please contact me at church or by calling me at (863)797-5612 to learn more. We have over a dozen people at LGUMC that have attended the Walk to Emmaus already, and 4 individuals who are considering attending this walk coming up in October. If you want to reserve your spot, let me know and I will provide you with more information.

De Colores!

Mike Stafford

Fall Festival Planning

This Fall Festival will be held Friday, October 23rd. The first planning meeting for this year’s Fall Festival (a follow-on to 2014’s Trunk or Treat) was held on June 12th at 10:00 am in the Church Office. Cindy Webb, Shirley Lux and Marina Garcia attended. (The second meeting was scheduled for July 10th, and will be reported on in a later newsletter.) The following topics were discussed:

Activities: We discussed how we could decorate the FLC and what games we could play. It was decided it would be good to have 2 welcome tables at the entrance and the possibility of eliminating the vehicles (like used in Trunk or Treat) all together. We developed a possible layout of the area and the ideas for the event. We developed a planning list of the individual games for the event, shown below.

Food: Hotdogs, popcorn and drinks.

Hospitality: At the welcome table we will have a sign-in sheet. We will ask the parents if they would like to be contacted by mail with information pertaining to future events and activities. Also at the welcome table we will have a welcome baggie for each family. The baggie will have items like pens, church information, sponsor coupons, and an invitation to LGUMC events in 2015 and 2016 ,if possible.

Best Costume Contest: We will have a best costume competition for 3 age groups. We will have a prize for them along with a ribbon.

Continued on the next page . . .

Future Events, Continued

Fall Festival Planning, Continued

Sponsors: We would like to involve a few businesses and ask for either donations or gift certificates like free burger, sandwich or Frosty as an example. The list of possible sponsors is shown below:

McDonalds

Chick-fil-A These individuals will get the same sponsor letter.

Wendy's

Gelati Joes

MidFlorida

Walmart These individuals will get the same sponsor letter.

Publix

Harvest Meats

Nick & Moes These individuals will get the same sponsor letter.

Face Painting: Brenda and Joe Ross

Volunteers: We need to get someone to talk to individuals at church and the youth to assist us with the event. We need volunteers to help with the games and volunteers for set-up and clean-up.

Potential Games:

Ghost Toss

Ghost Toilet Toss

Pumpkin Patch Toss

Fishing Pond

Pumpkin Toss

Jack O Lantern Toss

Toss The Nose On The Pumpkin

Ring Toss

Guess What Is In The Box

Guessing Game – Guess How Many Pumpkins or Candy Corn are in the jar.

I Was Here Pumpkin

Marina Garcia

Marina's Corner

"Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life."

Buddha



Food Pantry

As of July 16, 2015 we have donated 363 bags of food along with 418 bags of bread.

Our ministry has assisted families inside and outside of our area with the baked goods supplied from Publix. Along with these families are Talbot House, Hope House, and Sterling House and the Salvation Army. A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers and a huge THANK YOU to the congregation for all your donations.

Harvest Sunday is August 9th. 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

Bulletin Announcements

Please submit any and all announcements for the bulletin into the office 2 weeks in advance. Deadline is Tuesday by noon. Emergency announcements will have an exception.

Welcome New Members

A warm, heart-felt welcome to new members who joined Lake Gibson UMC in July 2015:

Dennis Greenwood
Meredith Greenwood
Barbara Allen-Coil

Also, welcome back "Let Go Praise Team." We missed you!

Marina Garcia
Administrative Secretary

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 July News

2015 Mission Trip in Review

An open letter from Lee Mueller, Youth Director

Dear Church Family,

First I'd like to thank you all for your support to make these experiences possible! The Gatlinburg TeamEffort Mission Trip—which ironically was about an hour from Gatlinburg and we didn't set foot in the city—was based at The King's Academy in Seymour, TN. The King's Academy is a private school for PreK through high school. The high-school students are mostly internationals who live on campus.

We had several situations before we left on the trip—Jeff, a chaperone, had a very sick dad in Arkansas. We weren't sure whether Jeff was coming with us, or heading to Arkansas. Jeff ended up driving his truck behind us, which was a good decision because his dad passed away on Tuesday night, and he left for Arkansas Wednesday morning. The other situation happened two hours before we were to meet Saturday night to pack the van. Our dog, Tanner hurt himself and we had to make an emergency trip to the vet, possibly making the decision to euthanize him. Jacob and Drew were my heroes. Jacob met everyone and gathered all the luggage, and Drew gave me a ride when my car wouldn't start! Tanner had popped his hip out of joint, and the vet was able to get it back—we are taking it one day at a time and thankful for the time we have with him.

We had an uneventful trip to Tennessee, thank the Lord. During one of our stops on the way up, we drew names (we would do this every day) and prayed all day for the person we had drawn. Each night we would say who we prayed for, what we prayed about, and offered words of encouragement to them.

When we checked in Sunday night, we learned we would be teaming up with Sunset Hills United Presbyterian youth on a roofing and drywall project, our TeamEffort staff member would be Victoria, and we would be working on Ms. Sonia's house. The two groups hit it off right from the start and proved to be a formidable force on these projects! We got more done in our week than Victoria was hoping for, and had a great time with the other group as well. Miraculously, we had NO rain while we were doing the roof project, no one fell off or through the roof, and injuries were minor!

God showed up in several other places this week as well. At the river by Townsend, Teddy jumped into the water with his glasses on, and came up without them. A family from Texas helped dive for them, and there they were! On Thursday, we wrote prayers and scriptures on the roof and left markers for the next group to do the same. We also celebrated Ms. Sonia's birthday. We went to The Smokies to swim at The Sinks, a gorgeous setting complete with a very high rock formation to jump off of! We also enjoyed a day of rafting on the Ocoee, ate a picnic lunch at the Ocoee Olympic Park, and then swam in the river—all quite refreshing to enjoy God's creations after being on that roof!

Thursday evening, God was at work again! We picked up a rock symbolizing all the things that kept us from God—our NO's, and traded them in for a strip of cloth representing our YES's and accepting what God has done for us because we mean so much to Him.

We saw the value of building relationships with people along with hearing Pastor Saeed's witness while he is in prison. Some of the group's hair changed color and we said goodbye to Bob—he moved to Tennessee.

We have been changed. We've learned about helping in the community. We've grown closer to God and will show our faith in better ways and really mean it. We will strive to treat people better. Hope

Continued on the next page . . .

Summary of July News

2015 Mission Trip in Review, Continued

we have been changed. We've learned about helping in the community. We've grown closer to God and will show our faith in better ways and really mean it. We will strive to treat people better. Hope and faith are coming home with us along with a stronger passion to follow Jesus. We know that God has put special people in our lives for a reason. We've left behind some immaturity, and are taking home more responsibility for work that needs to be done. We've given of ourselves and yet gained so much more than we gave. We will pray more and show our faith more. And best of all, Teddy accepted Jesus into his life!!!!

Again, THANK YOU for your support to help make this mission trip (and all the other activities we do) happen!

Because of Him,
Lee Mueller



(Two Jeff's?)



Summary of July News, Continued

Summer Breakfast Fund-Raisers

In July we continued 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. The next step is to present the desired changes to the Trustees for their approval.

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 end of June the sanctuary offerings for the **Kitchen Improvements Fund** through July 22nd have tallied \$819.00. (Money placed in kitchen's offering plate during the breakfasts totals another \$691.00, 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.)

Insights from Other Churches

The summer gives us an opportunity to travel and to visit other churches. We invite everyone to look for programs, hospitality, missions, furnishings, symbols or whatever that might enhance Lake Gibson UMC. If you see something interesting at another church, please write about it and submit the article for the newsletter to enrich our understanding of the variety of ways to worship God and to serve his people.

On July 19th Dwight and I attended service at Monona United Methodist Church on the outskirts of Madison, WI. The following statement is published on the cover of their church bulletin every week. We thought it was a good affirmation of their Christian love for others:

"Approved by Monona United Methodist Church members

Monona United Methodist Church accepts, affirms, and celebrates the message of Jesus that God loves and accepts every person. We, as members of MUMC, are called to live and practice this message within our church congregation and our communities. We choose the concepts of acceptance over exclusion, compassion over prejudice, and grace over bias. For these reasons we as a congregation invite all persons regardless of age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, nationality, or physical or mental ability to join us as brothers and sisters and to participate fully in the life of this congregation. We recognize that we are all children of God, and as a result, we declare MUMC to be an Open, Affirming, Empowering, and Reconciling congregation."

Phyllis Kitchens

Help Wanted

Volunteers for the Fall Festival: We need to get someone to go and talk to individuals at church or the youth group to assist us with this event. We also need volunteers to help with the games, and volunteers for set-up and cleanup on October 23rd. Please let Marina Garcia know if you can help this alternative Halloween event. Call 863-858-5431.

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 either 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.

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.

Second Quarter Church Attendance

Date	8:00 Svc	10:30 Svc	10:00 Svc	Special Svc	Sunday School	Salty Servants	Total Worship
Apr 5	0	180	0	70	33	21	244
Apr 12	85	62	0	0	36	23	147
Apr 19	84	60	0	0	39	24	144
Apr 26	89	72	0	0	37	20	161
May 3	88	76	0	0	30	18	164
May 10	79	71	0	0	32	6	150
May 17	80	68	0	0	34	13	148
May 24	0	0	148	0	33	11	148
May 31	0	0	132	0	34	8	132
Jun 7	0	0	120	0	27	8	120
Jun 14	0	0	121	0	43	10	121
Jun 21	0	0	128	0	33	8	132
Jun 28	0	0	127	0	30	9	129

Finance and Related Topics

Finances for the First Half of 2015

While we are better off than in many previous years, we are still behind in where we want to go this year. **June saw a significant decrease in giving.** Perhaps vacation plans caused a decrease in disposable income; but, I would hope that we all **set aside our first 10% for the Lord's work** and only then figure out what else we can do with our monies.

The first chart below reflects our church family's income, while the second reflects where we should be in any month to meet our church's financial goals. You'll note that we are approximately **10% behind where we would like to be** at the end of June. Please relook your financial situation and pray on how we might bridge this shortfall.

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	\$18,538
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	\$147,265

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Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Finances for the First Half of 2015, 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	\$18,538	51.09%	\$164,482	\$147,265	(\$17,217)	-10.47%
July	7.84%	\$25,244	\$0	58.93%	\$189,725	\$147,265	(\$42,460)	
August	7.02%	\$22,598	\$0	65.95%	\$212,323	\$147,265	(\$65,058)	
September	8.06%	\$25,950	\$0	74.01%	\$238,273	\$147,265	(\$91,008)	
October	7.49%	\$24,100	\$0	81.49%	\$262,373	\$147,265	(\$115,108)	
November	9.14%	\$29,411	\$0	90.63%	\$291,784	\$147,265	(\$144,519)	
December	9.37%	\$30,168	\$0	100.00%	\$321,952	\$147,265	(\$174,687)	

Totals \$321,952

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Chair

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Mid-Year Tithes and Offerings for Missions

We've set an ambitious goal this year of insuring that the first 10% of our Tithes and Offerings, Loose Plate offerings, and Sunday School offerings go towards mission work. Mid-year, we are pleased to update you on our current expenditures. Yes, we have an opportunity to support more missions during the balance of the year, but we are expressing our faith in a very meaningful way.

10%-Tithe Dollars thru June 30, 2015

Total 10% of Tithes and Offerings, Loose Plate and Sunday School Received:	\$9,231.27
Totals Dollars Spent from the 10%:	<u>\$7,712.59</u>
Balance Available on June 30, 2015:	\$1,518.68

Disbursements through June 30, 2015:

Florida United Methodist Children's Home	\$1,319.00
LGUMC's Two Big Days	486.62
Love in Action	1,013.79
Parker Street Ministries	100.00
Hope House	46.72
Lighthouse Ministries	234.92
Salvation Army	100.00
Habitat for Humanity	25.00
Cuba Mission	1,103.76
Imagine No Malaria	672.00
Food Pantry	2,610.78

Total Spent	\$7,712.59

Dwight Kitchens and Sue Heishman

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

A Guide to Apportionments: Where Does the Money Go and How Is It Spent?

By Rosanne Stafford, Lay Delegate (taken from “A Guide to Apportionments”)

As your lay delegate to Annual Conference, I would like to share information about apportionments: what they are and how the money collected by the Florida Conference is spent. This will be the first of a continuing series of articles. I would like to start with:

CLERGY SUPPORT

Our system of appointed clergy is an essential part of our connectional United Methodist Church. The Clergy Support apportionment provides funding for the expenses borne by the Florida Conference to sustain, support, hold accountable, and nurture our clergy.

The Clergy Support apportionment provides funding for clergy salaries and benefits paid by the Florida Conference, and for other expenses related to our clergy system. Since this is the largest area of expense in the conference budget, it is also the largest single apportionment item for every local church. The conference spends nearly 100 percent of this budget each year, so, by action of Annual Conference, *this apportionment must be paid in full each year by every local church*. Any part of this apportionment that a church does not pay in the current year is carried forward and added to that church's apportionment the following year

The Clergy Support apportionment is used in the following ways:

Clergy Benefits and Equitable Compensation – The local church is the primary salary-paying unit for pastors, but the Florida Conference pays a variety of clergy benefits and expenses, including a substantial subsidy to ensure equitable compensation.

Clergy-Related Conference Boards – This part of the apportionment pays the meeting and program cost of our Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Center for Clergy Excellence – Covers the Conference Office of Ministry's staffing and expenses.

Bishop's Office and Residence – Pays the Episcopal office and Episcopal residence expenses which are not paid by the General Church through the Episcopal Fund Apportionment.

District Superintendents and Cabinet – Pays the salaries, benefits, and business expenses of our 9 district superintendents, and the meeting-related and other costs of the Cabinet.

Continued on the next page . . .

.Finance and Related Topics, Continued

A Guide to Apportionments: Where Does the Money Go and How Is It Spent?, Continued

Judicial Process – Pays the cost of the conference committee on Investigations and Judicial Procedures, which handles difficult clergy matters. It also pays the conference's costs related to clergy suspensions during the investigative and judicial process.

The 2015 budget for this apportionment can be found by going to flumc.org, click on ac2015, click on workbook and go to page 125 in the workbook.

Some of the ways your money was spent in 2014 were:

- Providing life-long learning opportunities for the clergy.

- Assisting clergy with funds for continuing education.

- Providing a sanctuary for individuals and their families for the restoration of body, mind and spirit.

- Offering every Ordained Elder and Deacon an opportunity to experience Spiritual Direction and Formation with a Certified Spiritual Director.

- Provided on-going church and personal financial education for new clergy.

A complete list can be found on page 103 of the workbook.

One of the additional goals for 2016 is to provide \$5,000 for each newly ordained clergy to put toward their student loans.

Apportionments fund the programs and activities approved by delegates from your church. Your church's apportionment is your church's fair share of the costs of these programs and activities. Your apportionment is important! Your church's giving makes a difference.

Look for more information on apportionments in the September issue of *The Good News*.

Rosanne Stafford, Lay Delegate

Our Departments

Lay Leaders Corner

Recently I received a letter from Wallbuilder Presentations, David Barton's ministry, which contained a commentary on the Supreme Court's recent ruling on marriage. The letter explained why the decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was wrong on the moral level, on the Constitutional level and on the structural level.

I believe it is important for us as Christians to have an understanding of how the Supreme Court arrived at this erroneous conclusion. This month we examine the moral level of this decision, quoting from www.wallbuilders.com website (used with permission). [Editor's note: If you want to see the references cited, please read the entire article on the website.]

On the Moral Level

"The Court's decision violates the moral standards specifically enumerated in our founding documents. The Declaration of Independence sets forth the fundamental principles and values of American government, and the Constitution provides the specifics of how government will operate within those principles. As the U.S. Supreme Court has correctly acknowledged:

"The latter [Constitution] is but the body and the letter of which the former [Declaration of Independence] is the thought and the spirit, and it is always safe to read the letter of the Constitution in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence".¹

"The Declaration first officially acknowledges a Divine Creator and then declares that America will operate under the general values set forth in "the laws of nature and of nature's God". The framers of our documents called this the Moral Law, and in the Western World it became known as the Common Law. This was directly incorporated into the American legal system while the colonies were still part of England;² following independence, the Common Law was then reincorporated into the legal system of all the new states to ensure its uninterrupted operation;³ and under the federal Constitution, its continued use was acknowledged by means of the Seventh Amendment in the Bill of Rights. Numerous Founding Fathers and legal authorities, including the U.S. Supreme Court, affirmed that the Constitution is based on the Common Law,⁴ which incorporated God's will as expressed through "the laws of nature and of nature's God."⁵

"These constitutional moral standards placed the definition of marriage outside the scope of government. As acknowledged in a 1913 case: "Marriage was not originated by human law. When God created Eve, she was a wife to Adam; they then and there occupied the status of husband to wife and wife to husband . . . It would be sacrilegious to apply the designation "a civil contract" to such a marriage. It is that and more – a status ordained by God."⁶

"Because marriage "was not originated by human law," then civil government had no authority to redefine it. The Supreme Court's decision on marriage repudiates the fixed moral standards established by our founding documents and specifically incorporated into the Constitution."

Next month we will examine the Constitutional level. Also get ready for the Lord's Feasts that are taking place in September.

John Bernat, Lay Leader

Our Departments



Rooted Student Ministry

“Odd Jobs by Odd People” is in full swing as the youth ministry take on the chore of maintaining several yards in Mount Olive Shores North to raise money for future activities. When someone sees the kids working so hard to eliminate weeds from planting beds, they usually end up asking the group to work on their yard.

Lee sent this photo with the comment that this was a record-setting number of workers!

If you are interested in having our youth group do some house or yard work for you, please call the office at 963-858-5321.

Phyllis Kitchens

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Lisa Bacon and staff are working toward the PreK certification. The last interior painting was scheduled for Saturday, July 25th at 8:30 am.

Music Department

The Let Go Praise Team returns this month!

Adult Sunday School Classes

Friendship Sunday School Class

We have continued our study of individuals in the Bible and how they answered God’s calling in their lives. We have come to know them as individuals with the same excuses, fears and situations in their lives as each of us have in our lives.

We have been looking closely into the life of Moses over the past couple of weeks. We have seen how Moses went from being a “somebody” as the Prince of Egypt living in the palace of Pharaoh, to spending forty years in the desert of Midian as a “nobody” herding sheep. We have discussed how God needed to humble and prepare Moses so that he could be used by God to deliver the Hebrews out of slavery and bondage.

God works the same way today. God needs to work in our lives to help us realize that we need to shift our focus from the idols and distractions in our lives so that we can be available for use by Him, for His purposes.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the FLC. Our class is very interactive as we take the abstract lessons in the Bible and realize how they apply to us today in our lives. Bring a friend!

God Bless!
Mike Stafford

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

Adult Sunday School Classes, Continued

The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL LESSON ANNUAL

FOURTH QUARTER

JUNE 7, 2015 TO AUGUST 30, 2015

GOD'S PROPHETS DEMAND JUSTICE

UNIT 3

AUGUST 2, 2015 TO AUGUST 30, 2015

ADVOCATES OF JUSTICE FOR ALL

9. August 2, 2015 – Our Redeemer Comes

A. Isaiah 59:15-21

10. August 9, 2015 – A Choice to be Just

A. Jeremiah 7:1-15

11. August 16, 2015 – A Call for Repentance

A. Ezekiel 18:1-13, 30-32

12. August 23, 2015 – God Demands Justice

A. Zechariah 7:8-14

13. August 30, 2015 – Return to a Just God

A. Malachi 3:1-10

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

FLC ROOM 1 & 2: 9:00AM TO 9:45AM

ADULTS - COME AND JOIN US!

Our Ministries

Mission Moments

Our mission and outreach efforts are blooming in many areas. I hear often about what our members are doing and how much they are giving in new ways. If you keep your eyes and ears open, you will hear, too. Those who are visiting and helping others do not broadcast what they are doing because they are doing it for the Lord, not for recognition.

On a recent Thursday I tagged along with Pati and Bob Gilmore and made my first visit to Hope House. I found them setting up breakfast of cereal and milk for the men who depend on this program for everyday needs. They were also busy preparing pork roast, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and rolls for lunch. There would be ice cream, too, Pati said. Besides food, the men have a place to shower and do their laundry at Hope House. Lemonade, iced tea and coffee were also available.

They call the homeless men (and occasionally a woman) who come there “our friends”. When the friends come in, they sign in. There are also sign-up sheets for use of the shower and laundry.

While there, I got to meet Lee, who lives in a tent and is from Indiana. He told me that the best thing about Hope House is having a burden lifted off his mind about what he would eat. It is a blessing to him to have kind and courteous, non-judgmental people who provide good food. I also talked to Larry, who told me that if it weren't for these folks, he would not be the man he is today. He has been homeless for 20 years. I noticed that he and others wore wooden crosses around their necks. There is always a Bible on the table.

For Christmas, Lake Gibson UMC put together large trash bags for these friends. The bags were full of gifts, Bibles and personal hygiene items. There are others from our church who also help at Hope House, including Debbie Moore, Lynn and Alan Grier and Rick and Debbie McClellan. Take a minute to talk to them about their experiences and go with them if you get a chance. They are practicing Love in Action!

“And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.” Psalm 39:7

Linda J. Alvarez, Mission Coordinator

United Methodist Men (UMM)

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

Summer is coming to an end and it is time to renew our time of fellowship with one another as men of the church. The UMM will be meeting on August 8th at 8:00 am in the FLC. Please join us for breakfast and a time of sharing together as friends. We need to make plans for the rest of the year, so please join us. Feel free to bring a friend....the more the merrier!

Mike Stafford

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Reading Program: Book Review

I was feeling pretty complacent about the status of women in 2015 until I read The New Feminist Agenda by Madeleine M. Kunin. Those of us of a “certain age” well remember the battles of the ‘50’s, ‘60’s and ‘70’s to obtain equal rights for women. I really thought that things were going very well. I knew that women’s gains have been tremendous. I was proud to have been a part of the battle. Now I know that the next round is just beginning.

The author, former US Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein (1996 – 1999) and Governor of Vermont (1985 – 1991), Madeleine M. Kunin, says “it’s time to usher in a new social revolution – one that mobilizes women and men to call for the kind of policies that can improve the lives of women and strengthen their families”.

Because I believe in facts and figures, I like how this book spells out what we have gained and what we haven’t, what we can learn from the rest of the world, and what we can do to make a difference starting right here in Polk County.

This book is a call to arms and a must-read for anyone concerned about the number of homeless school children here in Lakeland; the increasing number of people living at and below the poverty level; and the lack of affordable, high-quality child care, paid family leave, equal pay for equal work and other social structures that have remained static over the years.

All of these things that many of us thought we would have by now, this book shows us that we are lagging behind. By following Ms. Kunin’s road map we can help achieve that vision and be a part of a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

This book may be found in the church library in FLC Conference Room 2 on the UMW shelf.

Rosanne Stafford

Our Ministries, Continued

Focusing on Prayer from the Prayer Ministry

Prayer warriors at LGUMC intercede with God by praying for those who have special concerns. These are some blessings we have found that come out of prayer:

- Prayer brings us closer together as a church family, and prayer for others brings us closer to God.
- Prayer increases our ability to communicate with God more effectively and increases our time spent with God in prayer. "Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit". Ephesians 6:18
- Prayer helps us focus on the power of God -- We know God's power is the strongest we could ever imagine and none can ever compare to it.
- Prayer helps us find peace and comfort during the storm. Sometimes we go through trials and we think God is silent, but when we look back we realize God was right there beside us all the while.
- Prayer is a guarantee we all need in our life. Some may not realize they need prayer in their life for a season or two, but there will be a time they will know they missed out on the greatest gift of all -- God's amazing grace.
- Prayer is our way to show gratitude to God. We need to glorify our Father in heaven with thanks at all times.

If we have trust we have hope,
If we have hope we have faith,
If we have faith we have prayer.

Thanks to all of our prayer warriors at LGUMC and in the world. We welcome any of you who would care to join us in one or more of our three prayer ministry teams:

- * Intercessory Prayer Mondays, 9:30 am in the Sanctuary
- * Mid-Week Devotions Wednesdays. 6:30 am in the FLC Rooms 1 & 2
- * Home-based Prayer:

**Receive email "Prayergrams" during the week. This email notifies you when someone has an immediate prayer need (hospitalization, surgery, etc.). You pray at home for the individual.

**Pray over the LGUMC Prayer Journal. This may seem like a long list, but these individuals have long-term health concerns and need our prayers. If the list is too long, pray for a few each day.

**Take the weekly church bulletin home and pray over each section during the week.

Continued on the next page . . .

Focus on Ministries, Continued

Focusing on Prayer from the Prayer Ministry, Continued

If you wish to become a prayer warrior for LGUMC, please contact Fran Mudge at 863-858-3935 or check the Prayer Ministry box on the Connection Card in your bulletin.

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for the power of prayer. We give thanks for the freedom to pray and thank you for all your blessings. Amen.

Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

Karen and Jeff Acor are busy gathering donations of school supplies for delivery to FUMCH on or before August 1st. They will update us on happenings at the home in the September newsletter.

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 Au-

gust

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
8/1	George Band
8/8	Dan Johnson
8/10	Rosita Stafford
8/11	Linda Hudson
8/12	Betty Burness
8/12	Danny Hughes
8/13	Donna Woodworth
8/14	Claude Hatchett
8/15	Philip Webb
8/18	Mike Stafford
8/20	Joyce Webb
8/23	Ed Egolf
8/26	Jared Arnett
8/26	Marjorie Ford
8/28	Gladys Bryce
8/28	Sue Russo

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
8/28	Sandy Stanfield
8/30	Don Stirn
8/31	Carol Campbell
8/31	Lou Webb



Anniversaries in August

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
8/6	Jack and Shirley Patterson
8/14	Claude and Faye Hatchett
8/15	Bob and Martina Willome
8/21	John and Anne Bernat
8/21	Mike and Rosita Stafford

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

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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.