



# The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



**September 2015**

Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

## From the Pastor's Desk

While writing this I am smelling the aroma of a very good spaghetti sauce simmering on the stove, and at the same time I am thinking about what makes a good church? It occurs to me that good churches and good spaghetti sauces may share some similarities (I'm sure the ladies are saying only a man can think this way -- through his stomach). Let's discuss this thought a little bit.

Spaghetti sauces start with a few basics; in my family, two: a good tomato sauce and good meat. A good church is founded on basics also, the blood of Christ shed for the forgiveness of sin and the lamb sacrificed on the cross (sauce and meat). Those ingredients are a must and they are foundational, but to create a great sauce or a great church there are other things that must be included.

In a sauce we may add water – the water of baptism for the church. Some like to add onion – onions can make us cry. A good church will have some sorrowful moments in it that may bring tears to our eyes. Most good sauces will have salt and pepper for some seasoning, just as the church is to be the salt of the earth seeking to flavor and preserve the good here in our society.

Most good sauces are going to have many other ingredients in them like basil, chives, bell pepper, mushrooms, sugar, baking soda, garlic, fresh herbs and more. The same way a good church has many different kinds of people in it: white, black, brown, yellow; white-collar, blue-collar, managers, laborers, professional, laity, those educated in school, those educated by hard knocks, rich, poor and in between. Now just throwing all these ingredients into the pot doesn't make a good sauce – they have to simmer together.

Likewise, a church has to have people who are willing to walk through life together and help one another in hard times as well as rejoice in good times. Time and life experiences are what simmer us and bring us together as one. The Holy Spirit provides the heat to simmer us all together in the "melding pot" for it is only as we meld together that we become a good, or prayerfully, a great church.

Like in a good sauce, when you taste it your mouth waters with all the flavors of the various ingredients, a good church appeals to a broad spectrum of people because there is something there that compels people to join together. This is the "love of God" manifest in the body of Christ. One of the terms we use here at Lake Gibson UMC to describe this process is "love in action": God working through our members to help those in our community and around the world.

Many people may say the preacher is an important part of a good church, but like Italian sausage added to a hamburger base of a good sauce, the extra flavor is nice, but not necessary for nutrition. A sauce

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## From the Pastor's Desk, Continued

is not made to be eaten by itself. It is poured over something and we normally put it over spaghetti or some sort of starchy base. Yes, you can add it to meats, rice and other things too, but commonly it is served over pasta of some sort.

A good church is served over the noodles of everyday life. The church, the pastor, the congregation, the programs and the facility all work together to help the people of the community deal with life.

Like children who say spaghetti reminds them of worms, life gives us worms at times and it is a good church that helps society and individuals cope with bad things. A good church also helps us to put things in perspective when they are going well, so no one thinks they are the tomato or hamburger of the church. A good church reminds us that God provided the basics through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and God also graciously gives us the extras to enjoy this life.

So, is Lake Gibson UMC a good church? The basics are here, many of the extras are present, and we are still simmering. The aroma is beginning to waft into the community and others are coming to check us out.

The question I ask you this month as I close is this: Are you a part of the church willing to do your part to make us a good – perhaps even a great – church, or are you still on the shelf of life? Let God use you to spice up your life and the lives of others through your service to the church.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day,

*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

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## Church Calendar for September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
9/3	ALBOH Board Meeting	6:30 pm	FLC
9/6	Grand Parent's Day		
9/7	Labor Day		
9/7	Office Will Be Closed		
9/7	Heart to Heart UMW	10:30 am	FLC
9/9	Ruth Circle of Love UMW	11:00 am	FLC
9/12	United Methodist Men (UMM)	8:00 am	FLC
9/12	Work Day - Church Grounds	8:00 am - 1:00 pm	
9/13	Last Summer Breakfast	8:00 am - 9:00 am	FLC
9/13	UMW Sunday	10:00 am	S
9/13	Harvest Sunday (Food Pantry Donations)		S
9/13	Simply Faith Quartet	4:00 pm	S
9/14	Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm	A
9/14	Leland Family Ministries	6:00 pm	FLC
9/15	Meet & Greet of Greater FL	10:00 am	FLC
9/20	Traditional Worship	8:00 am	S
9/20	Contemporary Worship	10:00 am	S
9/28	Finance Com Meeting	7:00 pm	FLC
9/29	UMW Board Meeting	9:00 am	FLC

- Notes:
1. Weekly event, Mondays, 9:30 am, Intercessory Prayer, Sanctuary.
  2. Weekly event, Wednesdays, 8:00 am, Mid-week Devotions, FLC 1 & 2; join the group for breakfast at McDonald's between 7:00 and 7:30 am if you are interested.
  3. Change in start times for all second service times to 10:00 am, beginning 9/20/15. If there is a single service, it will also start at 10:00 am.

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

S — Sanctuary

A — Church Office

## Future Events

### Worshipping the Lord in Music

The Lake Gibson UMC Music Department has published its 2015 - 2016 program booklet. You can pick up a copy in the narthex or download a copy from the LGUMC website, [www.lakegibsonumc.com](http://www.lakegibsonumc.com). Click on the hyperlink to view or save the schedule. The first event is Sunday, September 13, at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary when the Simply Faith Trio, a Southern Gospel Group from Arcadia, FL will perform. Please bring your friends.

### UMW Rummage Sale

Church family: the United Methodist Women (UMW) Rummage Sale is October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Please start saving all those things you can't bear to throw away but no longer need or want! Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins. Ask your friends and neighbors to give you their junk treasures, too. Funds raised are used to support ministries of our church.

### Worth Repeating and **Updating:**

#### 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 who have attended the Walk to Emmaus already. **Mike and Jan Booker have signed up to attend 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 Cancelled

The Fall Festival previously announced for Friday, October 23rd, has been cancelled due to conflicting local events and other problems.

### Late-Breaking News!

Please welcome the newest group to share the FLC: The Cub Scouts who formerly met at the North Lakeland Presbyterian Church will begin meeting at LGUMC in September.

## Marina's Corner

*When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive - to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love. Marcus Aurelius*

### THANK YOU!

To all the individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty. To the individuals who have taken time away from their busy schedules to put a smile on someone's face. It's the little things in life that matter and those little random acts of kindness always brighten someone's day.

To the ladies who come in on Friday to fold the bulletins. Without your help and dedication the bulletins would not be as nicely folded as they are now.

To Ms. JoAnn Mickle who patiently waits for me on Monday mornings when I am running late, and for all her help and assistance in the office. Thank you for picking up the recycle items and recycling them for me.

### 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.

### Food Pantry



Friends and Family, once again we have blessed many more families with our Food Pantry and the Baked Goods from Publix. We have had five new families come in for both the groceries and the baked goods. Since the beginning of the year up to August 6, 2015, we have handed out 405 bags of groceries and 466 bags of baked goods. We thank you for your continuous donations to the pantry. A huge THANK YOU goes out to the individuals who go to Publix and pick up the baked goods.

A huge THANK YOU to Dan and Ann Johnson who come in on Thursdays and help hand out and carry out groceries to the families in need.

A huge THANK YOU also to Todd and Yvonne Bower who pick up and deliver the ground meat and purchase additional items for the pantry when we are running low.

Beginning in September, the UMW will be coming in to help with distribution. If you would like to volunteer on a Thursday, please contact the office at (863) 858-5431 so I may schedule a Thursday for you.

As a reminder, **Sunday, September 13th, is Harvest Sunday.** Please bring in your donations of food or personal care items during office hours (9:00 am to 2:00 pm during the week), or place them at the alter before Sunday's service. Monetary donations may be placed in the collection plate with a notation "Food Pantry". The list of needed items is on the next page.

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



# What's Happening?

## Lay Servant Ministries



Do you want to grow in Christ so that you can be equipped in ways that will help you serve your local church?

Over the past 6 weeks I have been blessed with two opportunities to be a Worship Leader and deliver the message at church services in the area. It is such a humbling and fulfilling experience to be invited to worship with others in this way. I wanted to encourage others here at LGUMC to consider allowing God to equip you to serve in new and exciting ways here at LGUMC. The Conference and the South Central District offer training programs throughout the year to expose you to new ways to serve in your local church. These programs are taught by lay people, as well as clergy, to open your eyes to opportunities to be an active and supportive member of the church.

The ways you can help within your church are numerous. You do not have to be a public speaker to be a Lay Servant. The Lay Servant Ministries can help equip you to be a Prayer Warrior, a Sunday School or Small Group Leader, a Liturgist or any number of other ways that you can help support the leadership and congregation of LGUMC, and to serve as a witness to the mighty works of Jesus Christ. I have listed a brief description of what a Lay Servant is below. If you are interested in learning more, simply follow the link below or feel free to give me a call at (863)797-5612.

### **A LAY SERVANT IS . . .**

- An active, supportive member of a United Methodist Church
- Eager to serve through the church
- Well informed on Scripture, and on the doctrine, heritage, and organization of the United Methodist Church
- Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communication.
- Willing to improve his or her skills through training.

See more at: [http://flumclsm.org/what\\_is\\_a\\_lay\\_servant.html#sthash.9DpVd8py.dpuf](http://flumclsm.org/what_is_a_lay_servant.html#sthash.9DpVd8py.dpuf)

We are truly blessed when we choose to share ourselves with others.

God Bless!

Mike Stafford



## What's Happening?, Continued

[Editor's Note: This information was submitted in response to the request in the August newsletter for members of the congregation to submit articles. This ties in with the UMW report on page 18.]

### Just a Phone Call

As a new volunteer Phone Pal for VISTE (Volunteers in Service to the Elderly), I was given a list of names and phone numbers of several elderly clients who needed assistance and usually live alone. The list included their birthdates and a comment column. Other than their birthdate, I knew nothing else about them.

Phone Pals are volunteers who call the persons on the list each week to check in with a reassurance call to see if they are okay or need any help that VISTE services can provide. These services include transportation to a doctor's office and other destinations, home delivery for supplemental grocery supplies, prepared meals and minor home repairs.

When I began making the calls, I simply introduced myself, explained I was with VISTE and the purpose of my call. Most of the clients would reply to my questions for them with a simple "I'm okay" or "No, I don't need anything" and the conversation ended with "Thank you for calling".

At first I made the calls, asked the questions to see how they were doing and ended the call with "It was nice talking to you. Have a nice day and I'll call you next week." I then wrote in the comment column by following the example sheet given to me: Fine, OK or No need or request at this time.

For a while this routine went well. It only took a short time to make the calls and write the comments in the blank spaces. After a while I begin to review my short comments of "Fine, OK and No needs or request" and realized these were elderly, home-bound people that live alone and needed someone to talk to, and most of them had little or no family, or no one living nearby.

It wasn't easy to get some of them engaged in a general conversation; after all, I was a stranger to them, but others warmed up quickly. Little by little, each week I was able to extend our conversations by asking how their day was going and little things about themselves. After we hung up the phone, I made notes pertaining to the things they talked about. This made it easier to open the conversation the next week.

The subject could be on anything: the weather, gardening, flowers, politics, church, their faith, family, health issues, latest news on TV or the radio, reminiscing about the past or whatever came up, but I let them open the subject, then listened and chatted with them. Sometimes they would remember something funny that happened in their younger years that would make them laugh, which is something they probably didn't do often. They were eager and happy to have someone to talk to.

There were several clients (Phone Pals) that I had to make contact with, so I had to limit the time I spent with each one, but that time meant so much, and to have someone remember the little things we talked about meant the world to them. Living alone or being home-bound can be lonely and make the days and weeks long and sad. God knew this in the beginning and gave Adam his mate Eve. Genesis 2:18-25 **If you have a loved one or know someone who lives alone, a shut-in, or a care-giver who can't leave home, give them a call and brighten their day. It only takes a moment to spread a little love and kindness to cheer up someone.**

Ellen Haltiwanger

## Help Wanted

Volunteers to Spruce Up the Church Grounds: Tom Burns, Trustees Chairman, has asked us to gather on Saturday morning, September 12th, at 8:00 am for fall cleanup and improvement of the appearance of the church grounds. Bring your preferred yard-maintenance equipment. Please call Tom at (863) 397- 4254 so he can plan for the work.

Church Financial Priorities: Each year we 'muddle through' building a proposed budget for LGUMC. But, we often find out during the year that there are additional demands for new projects. Why not build a list, price it out, and prioritize it for inclusion in the 2016 budget? Whether we are talking about air conditioner replacements, electrical upgrades for the kitchen, moving the food pantry, offering meals in conjunction with the food pantry distributions, fabricating a crying room for the sanctuary, adding a new building with state-of-the-art classrooms, or some other endeavors, these needs should not be spur-of-the-moment thoughts, but consciously planned activities. I encourage all committees and members of the congregation to put your thoughts down and submit them during September to the Finance Committee Chairperson (Dwight@DwightKitchens.com).

Repeated from August's TGN

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.

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 10:00 am contemporary 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.

# Finance and Related Topics

## Church Finances

[Editor's note: I found the two charts that Dwight used in this section difficult to interpret, and thought others might, too. If members of the congregation would like to return to the previous style of reporting on finances, please let me know. Phyllis Kitchens, 410-790-2662 or [phyllis\\_kitchens@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com).]

This month we're reporting on where we stand with church finances through the end of July (we're always two months behind the newsletter's date due to the lead time involved in publication of *The Good News*). Rather than provide charts with percentages as we have been doing, I'll just reflect the basic numbers and their implication.

The 2015 core budget was approved at **\$321,952**. As a reminder, during 2015, the Lake Gibson United Methodist Church Administrative Council chose to set aside the first 10% of most contributions (envelopes/pledges/tithes, loose plate offerings, and Sunday School collections) to be used specifically for mission, outreach, and evangelism (up to \$27,000). The remaining 90% would then be available to support other aspects of church operations.

Our commitment to give the first 10% to mission/outreach/evangelism has significant implications for our church budget. With members in 131 family units, we are attempting to raise almost \$322,000 during 2015. Through the **end of July**, we have received **\$165,189**, or approximately **51.3% of our budgeted revenue**.

Based on a straight-line projection, **after 7 months we should be at 58.3%, reflecting a deficit of 7%, or \$22,540**.

Is our support of the Kingdom of God any less important than the support we give to secular endeavors? Please look at what your family has financially contributed and plans to contribute the rest of this year to the objectives of LGUMC to insure that we are able to continue our ministry for years to come.

We are taught to give generously with the anticipation of spiritual rewards, not monetary. Jesus instructed followers to focus on spiritual rewards, citing His command in Matthew 6:19–20, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . . But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (KJV).

Most of us have accepted that there is a place for government, whether it be local, state, or Federal. Happily or begrudgingly, as members of society, we contribute through such acts as voting, jury duty, and paying property and income taxes. In fact, the lowest Federal tax rate is 10%, with the highest set at 39.6%.

As church members, we promised to be faithful in "our witness" as well as in "our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service." This is not an either/or proposition. We are asked to provide our church with our efforts in all these areas.

This past year I was asked about my definition of tithing during a Finance Committee meeting. I mentioned that my definition of tithing was contributing 10% of our gross (total) income to the church, not a portion of what is left after subtracting taxes, deductions, etc. While tithing might be considered an Old Testament concept, providing financial gifts to the church is essential to spreading the Word. While there is a certain separation of church and state, church members must insure that the work of the church

Continued on the next page . . .

## Finance and Related Topics, Continued

continues. Unlike some countries, the American church is not state supported, and must rely upon its members. We don't garnish pay. We rely upon the willingness of our church family to provide this financial support to further the Lord's work on earth.

Dwight Kitchens, Chairman, Finance Committee

### A Guide to Apportionments:

#### Where Does the Money Go and How Is It Spent?

As your lay delegate to the annual conference I would like to share information about apportionments. 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. Last month we talked about Clergy Support. This month I would like to tell you about:

#### **NEW CHURCH STARTS**

This apportionment helps underwrite the cost of starting new churches in the Florida Conference. To increase our rate of making disciples in an increasing population, the Florida Conference must continue to start new churches and missions to reach people of all ages, races and nationalities. **The Florida Conference leads the United Methodist Church in America in new church starts and missions.**

The Conference Committee on New Church Development works with the Cabinet and the District Committees on New Church Development to target communities for new churches and missions. Each district is represented on the Committee through its chair (or their representative) of the District Committee on New Church Development. The *MissionInsite* demographic database is used to help locate areas in which new congregations are needed.

This apportionment provides funding for new church starts in each District as follows:

- A traditional church start ("parachute drop").
- For new starts that are "Mother/Daughter" (churches starting other churches) and multi-site (establishing a second campus).
- Each new mission in a district.

This committee also provides training, coaching and mentoring for pastors who have demonstrated and been tested to have the gifts needed to start a new congregation.

The administrative expenses for this committee are funded through interest earnings on loans for first units to new churches and not through apportionments.

The 2016 budget for this apportionment can be found by going to [flumc.org](http://flumc.org), click on ac2015, click on workbook and go to page 125.

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

- Seven pre-chartered new starts met their benchmarks and continued to receive funding.
- Twenty mission churches received support.

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

- Three new starts are planned for 2015.
- Two pre-chartered churches were selected for funding under a new program to provide support for churches on the cusp of chartering who need specialized staff to energize growth.
- New Church Start Academy was begun.

The complete report can be found on pages 94 and 95 in the workbook

Rosanne Stafford

### UMCmarket Program Relunched:

#### Do Your Holiday Shopping and Help the Church

The UMCmarket has been relaunched. In the setup, you can designate that you want rebates for online purchases to be sent to Lake Gibson UMC. While some of the former participating companies are no longer doing so (most notably, Amazon), there are still thousands of businesses offering rebates in support of church ministries. The rebate is usually 1 to 2% of the purchase price.

Check out this link: <https://umcmarket.org/dn-umc/>. Sign up and find another way of contributing to the ministry of your church. Using UMC Market does not increase the cost of the items you buy. If you shop online frequently, here's a terrific way to benefit LGUMC.

Dwight Kitchens

## Remembering Mother Teresa

Eighteen years ago, on September 5, 1997, Mother Teresa of Calcutta died. On October 19th, 2003, Pope John Paul II pronounced her a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church, the culmination of actions started only 2 years after her death. Who was the tiny woman who had such an impact on people around the world during her 87 years?

The book Mother Teresa, Come Be My Light, the Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta", edited by Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, M.C., was published 10 years after her death and stunned the world with the revelation of the agonizing darkness of spirit she suffered most of her adult life. Despite her deep suffering, feeling rejected by Jesus, she never lost her faith in Him. She was able to smile in spite of her suffering because she saw Jesus's face in the face of each desperately poor and suffering person she helped.

As a tool of God, this tiny saint accomplished so much, starting out alone as a missionary in India and eventually attracting more nuns to this work. From the "Inspiration Day" on September 10, 1946, when she received guidance from Christ, she worked tirelessly to bring about the founding a new religious order, the Missionaries of Charity in 1960.

The Missionaries of Charity has grown from one woman to over 4,500 nuns, as well as the Missionaries of Charity Fathers and Lay Missionaries of Charity serving in 133 countries. In the United States, there are M.C. houses in New York City; Chicago; Washington, DC; St. Louis; Miami, Detroit and many other cities. Catholic and non-Catholic lay persons are welcome to volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity.

Mother Teresa always said that she did nothing; God did it all. Mother Teresa also said "If I ever become a Saint – I will surely be one of 'darkness.' I will continually be absent from Heaven – to light the light of those in darkness on earth."

The power of faith can move mountains.

Phyllis Kitchens

# Our Departments

## Lay Leader's Corner

This month is going to be an exciting and revealing time on God's Biblical calendar, because of all the events that are occurring and culminating in the month of September. First are the fall feasts of the Lord that include Rosh Hashanah (Sept 13-15), also known as (aka) Jewish New Year, followed by Yom Kippur (Sept 22-23), aka the Day of Atonement, followed by Sukkot (Sept 27-Oct 4), aka the Feast of Tabernacles.

Also, Sept 13th will be the end of the Sabbath of the Seventh Year and the start of the Jubilee Year. You can read about these events in Leviticus 24:23-44 and 25:1-22. And one more event that occurs on Sept 28 is the final "blood moon" which began on Passover in 2014. Much has been written about the blood moons and you can find information about them on the Christian blogs on the Internet.

For us Christians this will be an exciting time to witness what God has in store for us as a Nation which has severely fallen from grace by the recent actions and decisions taken by our Federal government to not challenge the evil that is taking over the Middle East and the persecution of the Christians still living there. We need to be in prayer for our Christian brethren and our national leadership to do the right thing and support our ally Israel.

Last month started an explanation of the ruling by the Supreme Court on the issue of homosexual marriage and why it violated our moral standards. This month we will examine why it violates our standards on the constitutional level. The following is provided by Wallbuilder's Ministry. [Editorial Note: The numbers in brackets refer to the Wallbuilder's article's footnotes which may be seen at [www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id:169861](http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id:169861)].

### On the Constitutional Level

"The Constitution establishes both federalism and a limited American government by first enumerating only seventeen areas in which the federal government is authorized to operate [7], and then by explicitly declaring that everything else is to be determined exclusively by the People and the States (the Ninth and Tenth Amendments).

"Thomas Jefferson thus described the overall scope of federal powers by explaining that "the States can best govern our home concerns and the general [federal] government our foreign ones." [8] He warned that "taking from the States the moral rule of their citizens and subordinating it to the general authority [federal government] . . . would . . . break up the foundations of the Union." [9] The issue of marriage is clearly a "domestic" and not a "foreign" issue, and one that directly pertains to the State's "moral rule of their citizens." But the Supreme Court rejected these limits on its jurisdiction, and America now experiences what Jefferson feared:

"[W]hen all government, domestic and foreign, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another.' [10]

"By taking control of issues specifically delegated to the States, the Court has disregarded explicit constitutional limitations and directly attacked constitutional federalism."

Be prepared for whatever the LORD has in store for us and the world during the glorious month of September! John Bernat, Lay Leader



## Our Departments, Continued

### The Trustees

It has been an unusual summer, lots of heat and rain. We hope everyone is well.

The Trustees will be starting back with meetings on 14 September 2015. **We still need lots of help with the Air Conditioning Fund.** Brad Fox has done a real good job keeping them running.

We also **need someone to watch over the circle in front of the Sanctuary and the Garden.** If you can help please let me know.

For your information, **any major changes made to the inside or outside of any building on the church campus needs approval of the Trustees.** Also the Trustees were given the responsibility for the flags in front of the Sanctuary. If you have any ideas or reason for a different height, please contact the Trustees.

Tom Burns, Chairman  
(863) 397- 4254

### Rooted Student Ministry

No report this month.

### A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

No report this month.

### Music Department

Be sure to pick up the latest version of the Music Department's 2015 - 2016 program brochure and support their efforts by attending these uplifting programs. The programs scheduled for the rest of 2015 are as follows:

Sunday	Sep 13	4:00 pm	Simply Faith Trio
Saturday	Oct 10	5:00 pm	Popcorn Concert with Dinner
Sunday	Oct 18	10:00 am	Great Day—The Ferguson Family
Thursday	Nov 26	Noon	Thanksgiving Day Celebration with Lunch (entertainment to be announced)
Sunday	Dec 20	10:00 am	Christmas Cantata
Thursday	Dec 24	6:00 pm	Candlelight Service and Encore Presentation of the Christmas Cantata



## Our Departments, Continued

### Adult Sunday School Classes

#### Friendship Sunday School Class

The Friendship Sunday School class is an adult class that meets each Sunday morning in the FLC at 9:00 am. Our class has a very interactive format, allowing for plenty of exploration of God's Word.

Recently, we have been getting to know individuals in the Bible on a more personal level. We have gone beyond the "headlines" about events in which these people were involved, and tried to get to know them as people. What we have come to understand is that, although these people may have lived long ago, their nature is not all that different from our nature today. They experienced the same challenges and questions about their faith and their purpose in God's plan as we experience today. They even used all of the same excuses that we find ourselves using today.

If you would like to dig deeper into the Bible and see how it is still relevant today, I would like to invite you to join us. We are currently finishing up the study of Moses and who knows where the Holy Spirit will lead us next?

Blessed be His name!

Mike Stafford

#### The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL LESSON ANNUAL

FIRST QUARTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2015

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COMES ALIVE

UNIT 1

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

SEEDS OF NEW GROWTH

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 – Praying for One Another  
Acts 4:23-31

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 – Sharing All Things  
Acts 4:34-5:10

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 – Witnessing to the Truth  
Acts 5:27-29, 33-42

SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 – Remembering God's Faithfulness  
Acts 7:2-4, 8-10, 17, 33-34, 44-47, 53, 55

FLC ROOM 1 & 2: 9:00AM TO 9:45AM. ADULTS - COME AND JOIN US!

## Our Ministries

### Mission Moments

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 2015-16 school year will be underway. The Missions Committee of Lake Gibson UMC will be putting together **18 backpacks for needy children at Padgett Elementary School**, our neighborhood school down the block. They will be filled with all the supplies on the school's list. The funds for this project will come from the 10% tithe we have committed to as a church family. As of last spring, 15 children at Padgett had been identified as homeless. This will truly be a **Love in Action outreach** to our local community.

A focus of this column has been to highlight what our members are doing as far as volunteering here in Lakeland. With school starting, there will be many opportunities for us to volunteer in our own pre-school and throughout the Polk County school system. Many volunteer jobs require only a few hours of your time a week. For instance, I am a Reading Pal at Padgett. I spend one hour a week in a kindergarten class reading a book to two children at a time. These are children who need extra help with their beginning skills.

**Reading Pals** is a United Way project, and all materials and supplies are provided. We are trained and then given a notebook full of activities, follow-up questions for the children, and other suggestions. If you are interested, please call me or any school in your neighborhood. It is a rewarding and much-needed activity. If you do volunteer in a school or other venue, please let me know so I can feature what you do in an upcoming newsletter, which might encourage others to volunteer.

*"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "* Acts 20:35

Linda Alvarez, Mission Coordinator

### United Methodist Men (UMM)

The UMM will be meeting on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the Family Life Center. I would like to encourage all men in the church to join us for breakfast and fellowship. If you attend on a regular basis, then invite a friend to join you this Saturday.

We will be planning some activities for the rest of the year as well as looking for people who are interested in being involved in leadership for the coming year.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.

Mike Stafford, President

(863) 797-5612

## Our Ministries, Continued

### United Methodist Women (UMW)

#### Expansion of the Visitation Program: Just a Phone Call, or a Card, or a Visit . . .

A while back it was brought to the attention of the UMW Board that a few wonderful people in our church needed more people to join them with a ministry within our own church. That ministry is to extend the love of Christ to those who are not able to join us in church. These are individuals who are homebound, rehabilitating in a facility after being released from the hospital, or residents in independent living, assisted living or nursing homes.

Helping out doesn't have to be a big commitment – just a few minutes are needed to prepare and send a card, or to have a friendly chat on the phone. A visit is a little more time consuming, but can be not only a blessing for the individual or couple you visit, but it will almost certainly be a blessing for you!

We would like to make this as easy as possible for those of you who decide this is a way you could become more involved in the ministries of Lake Gibson UMC. Located on the side of the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary is a list of individuals who would like to be contacted. There is also a calendar for you to write on, to indicate who and when you will (or did) make contact with, and the nature of that contact: a card, a phone call or a visit. This record will allow us to see who is being missed so we can try to remedy that situation.

Below the calendar you will also see an alphabetical card file. Look for the person you will be making contact with. The card will provide their phone number, address and directions to the home or facility. Take one; there are duplicates! We would also appreciate it if you would provide feedback about your contact by filling out a "report" card, located on same table as the file. [The report card can document additional needs that someone else in the congregation may be able to fill. Editor] I hope you enjoy reaching out to our brothers and sisters in Christ and taking part in this ministry! This grass-roots ministry came about because a few people recognized a need and tried to help other members of LGUMC, or friends or family members who can no longer attend church.

#### UMW Rummage Sale

Church Family - The Fall UMW Rummage Sale is October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Please start saving all those things you can't bear to throw away but no longer need or want!

#### UMW Circles

Our two circles took a little summer break, but we are getting back on track in September! Heart to Heart will meet on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the FLC. This circle is reading and discussing the first three chapters of Joining Jesus on His Mission, by Greg Finke.

Ruth Circle of Love will meet on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the FLC. They are reading and discussing Entering the Psalms (Session 4). All are welcome! Both circles follow their meeting with a bring-your-own-lunch fellowship. Bring a sandwich; beverages and desserts will be provided. Hope to see you there! [Although these circles meet during the day, we welcome the opportunity to start a new circle that meets at night or on the weekends to suit others' schedules. Please contact the office at 863-858-5431 if you are interested. Editor]

## Our Ministries, Continued United Methodist Women (UMW), Continued

### UMW Reading Program Book Review

If you want to understand the plight of the more than 10 million restaurant workers here in the United States who struggle daily to feed us, then you must read this book -- Behind the Kitchen Door. Written by Saru Jayaraman, this book opens our eyes to the fact that too many of our meals are now brought to the table by the misery of others.

Ms. Jayaraman helped to found Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United). This organization was created to support the 13,000 displaced restaurant workers in New York City who lost their jobs after the 9/11 tragedy.

The book takes us from farm workers to restaurants, describing the life of these people who live on some of the lowest wages in America. She describes not only poor working conditions, but also discriminatory labor practices, exploitation and unsanitary conditions found in some kitchens.

Reading this book is not easy, but the last chapter clearly describes actions that we all can take to improve the lives of these people who provide us with many meals out that we enjoy so much. By following just a few of these suggestions **one person** can make a huge difference.

This book may be found in the church library (FLC classroom 2) on the UMW shelf.

Reviewed by Rosanne Stafford

[According to Wikipedia, ROC United is a not-for-profit organization and worker center with affiliates in a number of cities across the United States. Its mission is to improve wages and working conditions for the nation's low-wage restaurant workforce. Its tactics and strategy have drawn fire from business groups and restaurant industry lobbyists. Editor]

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### CORRECTION TO LGUMC COOKBOOK RECIPE Sweet Potato Casserole

Submitted by Ann Fox/Maridell Wooley

Preheat oven to 350°

3 cups sweet potato, cooked and mashed  
1 cup granulated sugar  
3 eggs  
½ cup milk  
½ stick or ¼ cup softened butter or margarine  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Topping:  
1 cup brown sugar  
½ cup self-rising flour  
½ stick or ¼ cup softened butter  
or margarine  
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

You can use drained canned sweet potatoes or use 3 - 5 fresh sweet potatoes: Wash, prick with fork, and wrap individually with paper towel. Cook in the microwave about 3 - 5 minutes each, depending on size. Cool, peel and use a mixer to add the other ingredients, except topping. Pour into well-greased or sprayed 9" x 12" casserole dish. Mix topping ingredients until crumbly and well combined. Sprinkle on top of potato mixture. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes or until top is browned.

## Our Ministries, Continued

### News from Prayer Ministry

Welcome to Prayer Ministry. This month we have an update on the number of Prayer Warriors who are participating in our Prayer Ministry. A few months ago we changed the way we sent out *prayer needs during the week* for emergency health concerns and for people needing prayers as soon as possible. In years past this was achieved through a phone prayer chain using a day list and night list.

As our list of Prayer Warriors grew, we found the need to make emergency prayer requests available at the time of request, and to be able to reach our Prayer Warriors all at one time, thereby eliminating the need for both day and night lists. When we began this new mission of “prayer by email” we had 18 telephone Prayer Warriors. We now have grown to **29 Prayer Warriors** for prayer requests by email. This month alone we added 3 new Prayer Warriors, whom we welcome to our Prayer Team.

If you wish to join one of our prayer teams please check the “Becoming a Prayer Warrior” box on the Connection Card in your bulletin or email [gfmudge@yahoo.com](mailto:gfmudge@yahoo.com). The current list of Prayer Warriors, who are contacted by email and pray individually, or in a group setting, is in the church’s narthex.

**“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14 KJV)**

Listed in our bulletin are the two weekly prayer groups available to pray in a group setting:

\*Intercessory Prayer - Monday @ 9:30 am in the church sanctuary

\*Mid-Week Devotions - Wednesday @ 8:00 am in the FLC – Rooms 1 & 2 (**New time begins on Sept 9th**)

**Notice the change of time for Mid-Week Devotions. If you care to join the group for breakfast prior to Devotions please come to McDonald’s on N. 98 and Daughtery Rd between 7:00 and 7:30 am.**

**Moses sang, "The Lord is my strength and my song: he has become my victory." Exodus 15:2**

### **The Beautiful Garden of Prayer**

**From the song by Schroll and Fillmore-1920**

There's a garden where Jesus is waiting,

There's a place that is wondrously fair;

For it glows with the light of his presence

And I go with my burden and care;

O the beautiful garden of prayer.

Just to learn from his lips words of comfort

O can aught with his glory compare?

Continued on the next page . . .

## Focus on Ministries, Continued

### News from Prayer Ministry, Continued

Just to walk and to talk with my Savior there  
O beautiful garden of prayer.

There's a garden where Jesus is waiting,  
And he bids you come meet with him there,

Just to bow and receive a new blessing,  
There my Savior awaits and he opens the gate  
To the beautiful garden of prayer.

**Thought for the month - Help us to be people of prayer.**

Fran Mudge for the Prayer Ministry

### Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) Update

Jeff and I want to thank everyone who donated school supplies for the Children's Home. As FUMCH requested, Jeff took the donations up the beginning of August and, as always, FUMCH staff were very appreciative. Some of you have come up to me and Jeff and wanted to know if we have taken the supplies up to the kids. If you still have any donations, we will be happy to accept them and we will take them up on our next trip.

School supplies are always needed throughout the school year. We also want to thank you for giving to the **Fifth Sunday** offering. This is so important to the ministry of the Children's Home to meet the needs of the children, youth and families in their care.

Another year of summer fun is winding down. It has been a productive summer full of numerous activities, outings, classes and enrichment. Twenty-seven residents were able to enjoy a week of summer camp at the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Youth Camp in Leesburg.

Last year was the first year for the on-campus school, Aldersgate Academy, which operated as a private school. This year they have officially partnered with Volusia County School district and it is now called **Legacy Scholars Academy (LSA)**. LSA provides on-campus schooling for some residents in grades K-12th. The classroom ratio will be eight students to one teacher along with one teaching assistant. There will be four classrooms with a total of 32 students. LSA is voluntary for the middle and high school students who want to attend a smaller school. One elementary classroom will be added this year. Enrollment is based on need and prior school disciplinary reports.

Madison Ranch Campus: On July 10, 2015 the Stickney Stable for Equine Therapy was officially dedicated. They are currently researching equine therapy programs and hope to have the program in place in the next couple of months. Equine therapy has shown remarkable results in helping the residents at the Enterprise campus to find a sense of healing and wholeness.

Karen and Jeff 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 September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
9/1	Gloria Laube
9/2	Michael Booker
9/3	Paula Drummond
9/4	Harold Burness
9/6	Charles Alvarez
9/6	Fred Fredrikson
9/6	Kenneth Fuqua
9/6	Bob Wenger
9/7	Joseph Brady
9/8	Donald Eshelman
9/9	Travis Watson
9/10	Joyce Scott
9/13	Diane Eshelman
9/13	George Gribble
9/13	Lois Teske
9/14	Sue Heishman
9/14	Claudia Moore
9/16	James Armentrout
9/16	Gregg Hall
9/16	Helen Vandervort
9/17	Jocelyn Escobar
9/17	Blanche Lennon

### September Birthdays, Continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
9/18	Rick McLellan
9/18	Shirley Patterson
9/18	Don Shedd
9/19	Jarica Arnett
9/20	Clayton Loggins
9/20	Gail Patterson
9/23	Vivian Hiller
9/24	Carol Davis
9/24	Daniel McCarty
9/27	Creon Fredrikson
9/27	Jack Patterson
9/27	Larry Smith
9/28	Chris Lowery
9/30	Lyla Jane Winstead



### Anniversaries in September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
9/7	Rick and Debbie McLellan
9/16	Thomas and Dorothy Burns
9/16	Steve and Penny Polk
9/17	Robert and Vivian Hiller
9/21	Robert and Patricia Gilmore
9/27	Harold and Betty Burness
9/28	William and Olga Anderson
9/29	Dale and Jean Gower



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](http://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:	<a href="mailto:pastor@lakegibsonumc.com">pastor@lakegibsonumc.com</a>

### Support Staff

Marina Garcia	Administrative Secretary 863-858-5431 <a href="mailto:office@lakegibsonumc.com">office@lakegibsonumc.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:alboh@lakegibsonumc.com">alboh@lakegibsonumc.com</a>

*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 (home) or 410-790-2662 (cell), or by e-mailing her at [phyllis\\_kitchens@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com).