



# The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



October 2015

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

In the past month we have witnessed several historic moments in our world, such as the reopening of the US embassy in Cuba, the staggering immigration issues in Europe and the visit of Pope Francis to Cuba and the US. The Pope is a welcome breath of fresh air that is not all about holding onto tradition or past covering up of wrong doing.

This Pope seems to be more personable, more compassionate and more realistic in the decisions he makes than those who came before him. Watching the proceedings of his visit on television, seeing the photographs and reading about the events, I am amazed at the number of people who came out to witness the Pope's visit. We are told he brings compassion and hope to the down-trodden, and confronts politicians with common-sense approaches.

I agree with those observations, yet I wonder . . . Why do such crowds come out to see this pious, humble priest, but most churches are almost empty on the Sabbath? If Jesus Christ was to visit us, would the crowds come out to see Him? Would the media cover Jesus like they did the Pope?

The real hope of the world is Christ, not the Pope or any preacher. Jesus is ready to meet with a person any time of the week. We have thousands of preachers that are as humble, pious and knowledgeable as the Pope, yet they are not hosting standing-room-only crowds. There are congregations all over the world trying to help those in need, being God's hands in action, and these churches put their money, effort and time into showing others the love of God. Why are these churches not flocked to like the Pope?

If people really want to see a light at the end of the tunnel, if they are down and out and need a hand up, if they are hurting and need a shoulder to cry on or an encouraging word to lift their spirits, they can meet with God every day for prayer, read His word for guidance and meet with others on a regular schedule to praise and worship God.

Our world today will turn out and flock to music venues, political events, sporting venues and other celebrity gatherings, while the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is ignored and forsaken. Perhaps our society should reevaluate its priorities. Perhaps the professing Christians, the church members, should once again be committed about worshipping God and filling the sanctuaries to overflowing, to show others where true hope, real compassion, and a joyful life can be found – in Christ.

*Pastor Steve*

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## 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

## Letter to the Editor

From JoAn Beebe

Before time gets any further away, I want to put in a thank you for the September newsletter.

Thank you to everybody who prayed for me while I was sick. And to everybody who visited, sent cards, called on the phone or in any other way made me feel so special. Thank you for the BIRTHDAY CAKE with the numbers turned around on it that said 48 instead of 84. That made me smile. I ended up with 3 birthday cakes! Of course I couldn't eat all of them so I shared with the Activities that was being held at Wedgewood that afternoon and I'm sure they all enjoyed it.

But I appreciated it and Pastor Steve was there to visit so many times during the hospital and rehab stay and I really appreciated it. Also the special birthday cards!

I thank you so much for everything and I just hope I can continue gaining strength and by the time this comes out, I should be back in full swing.

Love to all of our church family and to Jesus Christ our Lord,

JoAn Beebe

## Church Calendar for October

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/1	ALBOH Board Meeting	6:30 pm	FLC
10/4	World Communion Sunday (Special Offering)		
10/5	Heart To Heart UMW Circle	10:30 am	FLC
10/5	Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm	A
10/7	Charge Conference	7:00 pm	S
10/10	Popcorn Concert and Dinner	5:00 pm	S & FLC
10/11	Harvest Sunday—Bring Donations	8:00 am & 10:00 am	S
10/12	Columbus Day Holiday (Office Will Be Open)		
10/12	Staff, Pastor, Parish (SPPRC) Mtg	7:00 pm	FLC
10/14	Ruth Circle of Love UMW Circle	11:00 am	FLC
10/14	UMW & Friends—Empty Sheds <sup>1</sup>	5:00 pm - 8:30 pm	FLC
10/15	Set Up for Rummage Sale <sup>2</sup>	8:00 am - 3:30 pm	FLC
10/16	Rummage Sale	8:00 am - 3:30 pm	FLC
10/17	Rummage Sale	8:00 am - Noon	FLC
10/18	ONE SERVICE—Great Day Concert And Message	10:00 am	S
10/18	Blood Drive	9:00 am	Parking Lot
10/19	Finance Committee Meeting	7:00 pm	FLC
10/25	ONE SERVICE—With Pastor Joe Brady	10:00 am	S
10/26	Worship Committee Meeting	7:00 pm	S
10/27	UMW Board Meeting	9:00 am	FLC
10/29	Bible Study with Pastor Joe Brady	10:00 am	FLC

Rummage Sale Notes: 1. Start time on 10/14 is approximate; Youth will begin when they are available. Other volunteers please come when you are able.  
2. Start and finish times approximate.

Weekly recurring events not shown above:

1. Mondays, 9:30 am, Intercessory Prayer, Sanctuary.
2. Mondays, 7:00 pm, Boy Scouts meet in FLC
3. Tuesdays, 7:00 pm, Cub Scouts meet in FLC
4. 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.
5. Thursdays, Food Party in Church Office, 9:00 to 11:30 am.

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

S — Sanctuary

A — Church Office

# The News

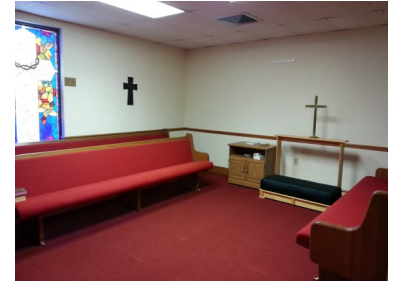
## Sanctuary Upgrades

You may not see the changes Dave Hess has been making, but our electric bill should reflect them. Dave has been adding additional insulation in the storage spaces around the sanctuary. Above the narthex and the choir room foam board insulation and sheet rock walls are being installed to make the spaces more useful. In addition to an aesthetic improvement, we should get a slight reduction in heating and cooling costs throughout the year. Many thanks to Dave for all his efforts to bring this project to completion.



By moving the Audio/Visual Booth further into the sanctuary, we freed up space for other uses. We now have an attractive quiet play area for small children at the back of the sanctuary with toys in a swimming pool. There is also a separate Prayer Room adjacent to it. The Prayer Room is open at any time God lays a burden on our hearts to pray privately, even during services. If you feel an urgency to

pray in private, please feel free to kneel or sit in the Prayer Room to seek God's presence and help at ANY time. There are cards to write down prayer requests that you would like our Prayer Ministry team to specifically remember as they meet to pray. Please leave the cards in the basket provided in the Prayer Room.



## Revised Bulletin Format Saves Money

The Sunday bulletin format changed on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The new format allows us to get slightly more information on a single piece of paper, reducing the number of pages in each bulletin. The printing costs don't change when we increase the paper size from 8 1/2 by 11 inches (letter) to 8 1/2 by 14 inches (legal). In either case, it costs \$0.008 to print one page (one side) in black and white.

## Charge Conference: Have You Volunteered Recently?

The annual Charge Conference is on October 7th and Pastor Steve is now recruiting members of the congregation to serve on various committees and in positions that are required to operate Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. Are you fulfilling your obligation to give of your time and talents in managing the operation of your church?

Please take the time to look at where your talents might best serve the church family. Each of us can find time to insure that our church family continues to serve our community. Contact Pastor Steve at 863-858-5431 or e-mail [office@lakegibsonumc.com](mailto:office@lakegibsonumc.com).

## Boy and Cub Scout Troop Changes

Due to the relocation of North Lakeland Presbyterian Church, their Cub and Boy Scout troops have moved to Lake Gibson UMC. Our and their Boy Scout troops have merged into a single troop under a

Continued on the next page . . .

## The News, Continued

### Boy and Cub Scout Troop Changes, Continued

new number. In addition Lake Gibson has gained 35 Cub Scouts!

The scouts have agreed to take responsibility for raising the flags on Boy Scout Day and Veterans Day. Tom Burns is our liaison with both scout troops. If you would like to help out, please contact Tom at 863-670-5233.

The Girl Scout troop that formerly met at LGUMC has disbanded.

### Movie: Do You Believe?

On Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Covenant Group (a Bible study hosted by Sue and Don Heishman) hosted a viewing of the movie "Do You Believe?" The movie depicts a dozen strangers who, for reasons they are not yet able to comprehend, cross paths, converging on the importance of Christ -- all triggered by one pastor's life-changing encounter with a street-corner preacher.

Two hours later we were left questioning the strength of our convictions and whether we are carrying Jesus's messages to those around us. Possibly the quick growth of Islam world-wide might suggest that they are more dedicated to expressing their beliefs to others than are most Christians.

The cast includes Mira Sorvino, Sean Astin, Alexa Pena Vega, Ted McGinley, Logan White, Cybill Shepherd, Delroy Lindo, Madison Petit, Brian Bosworth, Liam Matthews and Lee Majors.

If you missed this showing, "Do You Believe?" Is readily available from Netflix by DVD or online viewing.

Dwight Kitchens

### New Online Church Directory

It's been a long time coming. This year we transferred constituent records from our older Membership Plus software and XP computer to the newer Servant Keeper software program and an updated computer. Membership Plus is no longer supported and some of the features we needed were not working.

With the transition of the Financial Secretary functions from Ann Fox to Cindy Heishman, we also moved our software online (cloud based) so that input could be performed outside the church office.

This past spring we published a new Church Directory in .pdf format and sent a downloadable link to all for whom we had a valid e-mail address, about 40% of the congregation. We're now moving from a static, printed directory to a dynamic, online directory.

### Wanted: Individual and Family Photos

Keeping a Church Directory up-to-date is a difficult task. As you look over LGUMC's new online Church Directory, you may note how many records are missing photographs. Fortunately, with our online directory, you can upload your own photos into the system.

So, check those recently taken pictures to see which you would like to post online. Yes, you can even reuse the photos you placed on Facebook or elsewhere. As members of our church family, we want everyone to be able to recognize a fellow member's face and associate it with the correct name .

## October Events

### Worshipping the Lord in Music

We have two musical events in October:

At 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting an always exciting Popcorn Concert with three gospel groups: Gulf State Quartet, Simple Truth Quartet and Trust Quartet. If you've never attended a Popcorn Concert before, you'll be amazed at the energy the groups generate. Please call the office at 863-858-5431 if you would like to attend the dinner after the concert so we prepare enough meals. A free-will offering is requested for the concert and for the dinner.

The single Sunday service at 10:00 am on October 18<sup>th</sup> will feature the Great Day Ministry of the Ferguson family gospel group.

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. Please bring your friends.

### Rummage Sale

The fall Lake Gibson Rummage Sale is October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We will empty the sheds on Wednesday, Oct 14th. The Youth Ministry is helping, but we could use some adults, too. Setup and pricing are on Thursday, Oct 15th. Of course we need lots of "staff" to assist customers and make sales on Friday and Saturday. The doors open at 8:00 am, but staff should try to arrive by 7:30.

We hope you've been saving all those things you can't stand to throw away, but no longer need or want! Ask your friends and neighbors to give you their ~~junk~~-treasures, too. If you have items you need us to pick up, call Lois Teske (863-858-5251) or Pati and Bob Gilmore (863-937-4429). If possible, we would like items to be delivered to the FLC not later than Wednesday night between 5:00 and 8:30 pm. Funds raised are used to support ministries of our church.

### Worship Committee Meeting

Glenda Hess is holding the first Worship Committee meeting on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Anyone with a real desire to positively contribute to our worship services is encouraged to attend. The Worship Committee is to create as much as possible an atmosphere that enables the worshiper to connect with God. Members strive to make all areas of worship focus on Jesus and on inviting the Holy Spirit. It is imperative that people on this committee have a heart for worship and a desire to be open to the Holy Spirit in bringing others into connection with God. Please contact Glenda at 863-307-1261 or by e-mail at [northstarnutrition@verizon.net](mailto:northstarnutrition@verizon.net).

### Fall Festival Cancelled

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



## Marina's Corner

*"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched — they must be felt with the heart."* Helen Keller

### 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 Report

Dear Friends and Family,

Once again we have blessed many more families with our Food Pantry and the Baked Goods from Publix. We have had (3) three new families come in for both the groceries and the baked goods. Since the beginning of the year up to September 10, 2015, we have handed out 478 bags of groceries and 553 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 goes out to Dan and Ann Johnson and the UMW members who come in on Thursdays and help hand out and carry out groceries to the families in need.

A huge THANK YOU 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.

If you would like to volunteer on a Thursday, please contact the office so I may schedule a Thursday for you. Please call Marina at (863) 858-5431.

We still depend on donations of food and personal hygiene items from the congregation to meet our expanding needs. On the next page is the list of needed items. You can take them to the sanctuary on Harvest Sundays (the second Sunday of each month), or drop them by the office Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

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 (All Sizes)  
Baby Wipes  
Toothbrushes  
Travel-sized: Toothpaste,  
Soaps, Shampoos, Deodorants



## Help Wanted

### Your Input on Church Financial Priorities

**This article expands on the financial report in September's TGN.**

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 of projects and missions we want to accomplish, 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 so it can be expanded, 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.

**Every member of the congregation needs to be involved in determining the future direction of this church. Please ask God to guide your thoughts about what Lake Gibson needs to be doing to better serve Him and His people in the upcoming year and beyond. Then write your thoughts down and submit them by October 15th (before the next Finance Committee meeting on Oct 19) to the Finance Committee Chairperson ([dwight@dwightkitchens.com](mailto:dwight@dwightkitchens.com)). You can also call Dwight at 863-984-4564 or drop a note in the Finance Committee mailbox in the church office expressing your ideas and thoughts.**

Each member of Lake Gibson's congregation can help us to build a **needs-based** budget. This time of the year is also the season traditionally devoted to Stewardship; that is, determining what the congregation will **pledge to tithe or donate during 2016**.

Elsewhere in this issue we are appealing to members to **increase their donations** throughout the end of 2015 to make up for significant shortfalls in the current year's budget. Donations to date have just NOT matched the expanded missions and outreach the Lord has placed in our hearts. If you are able financially to increase your usual offerings to help to make up the shortfall, please continue to contribute at the higher level in 2016.

Throughout 2015 articles in *The Good News* have asked that members who don't already do so, to start tithing to the church. Are you ready to share God's love through this action?

## Finance and Related Topics

### Church Finances

If you think back to the past few years, you may remember that in 2013 we had a campaign to raise funds for carpeting in the FLC. Then, in 2014, there was another campaign to install a new sound booth and monitors in the sanctuary. For 2015, we chose to build a budget of \$321,952, which we thought properly reflected most of our needs to further the ministry of the church. This included giving the first 10% of contributions to Missions and Outreach; building a maintenance reserve for future repairs; holding two big outreach events annually; fixing an air conditioner and performing some outreach mailings, etc.

Being good stewards, we've managed our expenditures so that they don't consistently run ahead of our contributions. We held off execution of some of our plans to insure that we don't incur debt. But the trend is that **donations have lagged behind the required amount for seven out of eight months**.

At the end of August, we were approximately \$32,000 below the amount needed to fund our identified programs. While we have forgone some expenditures this year, we would need approximately \$40,000 per month for October, November and December to fully fund our budgeted program.

If members were to immediately **double** their contributions for the next three months, we would reach that objective. While I don't think this is reasonable to expect, I do believe we all can dig deeper. We will have to forfeit many of our identified programs without your increased financial support.

In fact, I would hope that we might collectively rethink our contribution behavior. To insure that we can continue to enhance our impact within the community in future years, we must offer more of our time, talents, prayers, and monies on a permanent basis. I pray that we can open our hearts and purses to increase what we return to our Lord in the furtherance of His ministry.

**Bottom Line:** If you are a member of Lake Gibson UMC, please tithe. Phyl and I have increased our automatic bill-pay allotment effective in October. By having our monthly tithe to LGUMC come off the top, we are paying God first. Might you do the same?

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Chairperson

### Food Ministry Status

Demand for our Food Pantry have been much greater than anticipated when we built the 2015 budget. We had planned to provide 500 bags of food this year, and have already given out nearly 500 bags with 3 months still left to go. While many donate much needed non-perishable foodstuffs, the cost of perishable meats has driven our expenditures higher and higher. We've also had an increasing client demand from within our local service area. While the generous Publix donations of baked goods supplements our efforts, they do not cover the more basic nutritional requirements.

If any feel that they don't understand why this demand has increased over the past few years, a most interesting series of articles in *The Ledger* may help to educate us on this pressing need. Check out their series, which ran from 20 to 24 September entitled [Poverty's Widening Grasp](http://www.gatehouseprojects.com/project/poverty/?site=theledger.com). If reading this online, you may click the hyperlink, or go online to

<http://www.gatehouseprojects.com/project/poverty/?site=theledger.com>

to read the entire series.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Finance and Related Topics, Continued

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

#### **The Episcopal Fund**

This series of articles on apportionments continues with the Episcopal Fund. The Episcopal Fund was one of the three general apportioned funds which were part of the financial plan of the Methodist Church from the time of its unification in 1939. This apportionment pays for the expenses of active bishops and for the support of retired bishops and spouses. It pays for expenses related to Florida's Bishop Ken Carter.

The general church spends nearly 100% of this budget area each year, so 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 full in the current year is carried forward and added to that church's apportionment the following year.

All monies collected for the Episcopal Fund are sent to the General Council on Finance and Administration on a monthly basis. All active bishops are paid the same salary based on General Conference action each quadrennium. This fund provides the base support for the bishops of the church, not only in the US, but also for the missionary bishops around the world.

The Episcopal Fund provides salaries, moving expenses, pension, disability coverage, medical insurance and professional travel expenses for the bishops. In addition this fund helps support the cost of the Episcopal residence of our bishop as well as operating expenses for the Episcopal Office.

In 2015 this apportionment was budgeted at \$1,012,431. Lake Gibson's share was \$1,248.00. The Conference's 2016 budget for this apportionment is \$1,057,798.

Bishops have always had a very special role in our church, elected and consecrated to speak to the church and from the church. Whether presiding over the annual conference sessions, surveying disaster damage, meeting with district leaders or planting a tree, bishops accept what the apostle Paul called a "noble task". It is important that we support them with our share of the apportionment.

This information comes from "A Guide to Apportionments", a publication of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rosanne Stafford, Lay Delegate

Continued on the next page . . .

## Finance and Related Topics, Continued

### See Your Giving History Online

Ever wonder if the church received your last contribution? Are you up-to-date on your pledge? With password protection, you can now access your family's Giving History without waiting for a printed giving statement. Each recorded transaction may be seen, showing the date, amount, and account into which it was directed.

Our online system will permit you to:

1. View the entire LGUMC Church Directory
2. Edit your own family's individual Church Directory entries
3. View your own family's up-to-date Giving History.

How do you gain access while protecting your private data? Follow the links below and in a few minutes you can see the Membership Directory and have the ability to modify your family's records, as well as view your family's Giving History.

1. Membership Directory Access
  - a. Go to [https://directory.servantpc.com/Lake\\_Gibson\\_UMC](https://directory.servantpc.com/Lake_Gibson_UMC),
  - b. Type in this Key : " LGUMC-Web-Directory "
  - c. You now have access to the entire Church Directory where you can click on family records to see more public data.
  - d. Save the URL in your browser's favorites for near-instant access
2. Directory Update and Giving History access:
  - a. Go to <https://directory.servantpc.com/login>
  - b. First time, click "haven't registered yet"
  - c. Respond to e-mail to create personal password and get full access
  - d. Go to [https://family-edit.servantpc.com/Lake\\_Gibson\\_UMC/login](https://family-edit.servantpc.com/Lake_Gibson_UMC/login) , type in e-mail address and password, and have instant access.
  - e. Update personal information and access family Giving History

# Our Departments

## Lay Leader's Corner

Well, we made it through September and are headed into that wonderful time of year known as the fall. Before you know it, various holiday paraphernalia will be showing up in all the stores. And it's only a year away from the next national election.

I have an in-depth course on the original intent of the Constitution, recorded in Independence Hall by David Barton (of WallBuilders) and Rick Green who are Constitutional experts and advocates for the original intent of our founding documents. If you are interested in attending a 12-week study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to learn about executive orders, recess appointments, the Electoral College, the powers of Congress and the President, freedom of religion, and much more, please contact me at 863-816-1671 or call the church office and leave a message.

This month is the final installment of the response to the Supreme Court's decision on gay marriage by the WallBuilders organization, which is quoted from their web site. [Editor: Numbers in brackets refer to references that are contained in the full article on the [Wallbuilders.com](http://Wallbuilders.com) web site.]

### “On the Structural Level

“The Constitution stipulates that “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government” (Article IV, Section 4). A republican form of government is one in which the people elect leaders to make public policy, with those leaders being directly accountable to the people. More than thirty States, by their republican form of government, had established a definition of marriage for their State. The Supreme Court decision directly abridges the constitutional mandate to secure to every state a republican form of government.

“To believe that the Judiciary is an independent and neutral arbiter without a political agenda is ludicrous. As Thomas Jefferson long ago observed:

““Our judges are as honest as other men and not more so. They have, with others, the same passions for party, for power, and the privilege of their corps. [11]’

“Judges definitely do have political views and personal agendas; they therefore were given no authority to make public policy. The perils from their doing were too great. As Jefferson affirmed, the judges’ “power [is] the more dangerous as they are in office for life and not responsible, as the other functionaries are, to the elective control.” [12] He therefore warned:

““[T]o consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions [is] a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy. . . . The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal. [13] The Constitution, on this hypothesis, is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the Judiciary which they may twist and shape into any form they please. [14]’

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Departments, Continued

### Lay Leader's Corner, Continued

“The Supreme Court’s decision is a direct assault on the republican form of government that the Constitution requires be guaranteed to every State.

#### “The Road Ahead

“The Supreme Courts decree on marriage will become a club to bludgeon the sincerely-held rights of religious conscience, especially of those in the several dozen States who, through their republican form of government, had enacted public policies that conformed to both the Moral Law and the traditional Common Law.

“While the Supreme Court decision paid lip service to the rights of religious people to disagree with its marriage decision, history shows that not only does this acknowledgment mean little but also that it will be openly disregarded and ignored, particularly at the local level. After all, there are numerous Supreme Court decisions currently on the books – including unanimous Court decisions – protecting the rights of religious expression in public, including for students. Yet such faith expressions continue to be relentlessly attacked by school and city officials at the local and city levels. (See [www.religiousthostility.org](http://www.religiousthostility.org) for thousands of such recent examples.)

“Even before this decision was handed down, numerous States were already punishing dissenting people of faith, levying heavy fines on them or closing their businesses – not because those individuals attacked gay marriage but rather because they refused to personally participate in its rites. These governmental actions were initiated by complaints of homosexuals filed with civil rights commissions – and all of this was already occurring without a Supreme Court decision on which they could rely. Now that such a decision does exist, expect a tsunami of additional complaints to be filed against Christian business owners, and both the frequency and the intensity of the penalties to be increased.

“Now is the time to display stand-alone courage on the issue of marriage as well as the judicial activism of the Court – now is the time to stand up and be counted, regardless of whether anyone else stands with you. Now is the time for individuals to broadly voice support for traditional marriage (which will likely cause you to be verbally berated or attacked by its opponents) as well as for the rights of religious conscience of dissenters (which will cause you to be charged with defending bigots and haters). Good people can no longer be silent and allow themselves to be intimidated by the mean-spirited attacks that occur when you begin to speak out on this issue.

“It will soon become obvious that this decision opened a Pandora’s Box that will initiate a series of policy changes affecting everything from hiring practices to college athletics, from non-profit tax-exempt status to professional licensing standards. So the battle is not over; it is literally just beginning. We have a duty to let our voice be heard.

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## Our Departments, Continued Lay Leader's Corner, Continued

“Strikingly, duty was the character trait of Jesus. He loved us because it was the right thing to do; He went to the cross because it was the right thing to do; He forgave us because it was the right thing to do. It was His duty. Our Founders repeatedly praised that character trait, and noted the numerous spiritual blessings that came from its performance:

“The man who is conscientiously doing his duty will ever be protected by that Righteous and All-Powerful Being, and when he has finished his work, he will receive an ample reward. [15] Samuel Adams, signer of the declaration

‘All that the best men can do is to persevere in doing their duty . . . and leave the consequences to Him who made it their duty, being neither elated by success (however great) nor discouraged by disappointment (however frequent and mortifying). [16] John Jay, original chief justice of the u. s. supreme court, author of the federalist papers

“The sum of the whole is that the blessing of God is only to be looked for by those who are not wanting in the discharge of their own duty. [17] John Witherspoon, Signer of the Declaration’

“People of faith need to regain the concept of duty, and we would do well to adopt the motto that characterized the efforts of Founding Father John Quincy Adams: “Duty is ours, results are God’s.” [18] Now is the time for people of faith to be silent no more.”

John Bernat  
Lay Leader

### The Trustees

#### Many Thanks!

Insuring that the church property is ready for presentation to visitors and members alike is an ongoing task. A ‘cleanup crew’ worked on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> to spruce up the exterior plantings around the church. The improved aesthetics are the result of efforts by Tom Burns, Dale Gower, Debbie Moore, Dwight Kitchens, Lee Brown, and Pastor Steve Polk. Let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

It is time to start replacing the rectangular tables used in the FLC. Four which had various defects were pulled out for repair. Three were fixed, but one was damaged beyond repair and discarded. We have ordered two new 8-foot tables which should be here in time for the Rummage Sale.

The fluorescent bulbs in the emergency EXIT lights are being changed out to LEDs as the old bulbs fail. As other lights on campus need to be replaced, we are using up our old stock of bulbs. When they are gone, LED lights will be installed.

Tom Burns, Chairman  
(863) 397- 4254

## Our Departments, Continued

### Rooted Student Ministry

No report.

### A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

The ALBOH Child Enrichment Center has been accredited to offer Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)! This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the ALBOH director and staff, Pastor Steve and the Board of Directors over a year or more.

Thanks to everyone in the congregation who prayed us through this process! When the VPK is up and running Lake Gibson UMC will be able to continue to provide young children a Christian education for an additional year.

The state of Florida funds VPK for children who are 4 years old as of September 4th. A VPK class requires at least four students. This program allows children to receive a year of pre-schooling before entering Kindergarten. Among our present students, only a few would qualify for VPK.

Now the task turns to setting up the program and making sure the community is aware of it. The director has been working with regulators to get advice on doing this. The VPK program requires that each child receive 540 hours of instructional care during the year.

### 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 brochure is also on the church web site.

Practice is in full swing for the Christmas Cantata with some volunteers in addition to our choir members.

During the rest of 2015 we will glorify the Lord with the following events:

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

*“Let us not misunderstand the nature of prayer . . . The primary purpose of prayer is not to make a request. It is to praise, to sing, to chant. The essence of prayer is song, and people cannot live without a song.”* Rabbi Abraham Joshua Herschel

## Our Departments, Continued Adult Sunday School Classes

### **Friendship Sunday School Class—Mike Stafford, Leader**

The adventures of the Friendship Sunday School Class now lead us into a study about Paul. One of the resources we will be using for this study is the book, The Call, by Adam Hamilton. As we have been doing with our other studies of the characters in the Bible, we will attempt to understand how Paul was just a man. What made him great was his willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to work through him in order to accomplish God's Will.

This past month our class has donated \$200.00 to the Food Pantry; \$200.00 to help a member of our class move into a new place to live; and \$100.00 towards a new vacuum cleaner for LGUMC. When we talk about "Love in Action" the members of the Friendship Sunday School Class are absolutely amazing.

Please come and experience the love and wisdom within this group. We meet in the FLC between the worship services on Sunday morning. All are welcome . . . So bring a friend!

### **The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class—Eric Hines, Leader**

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL LESSON ANNUAL

FIRST QUARTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2015

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COMES ALIVE

UNIT 2

OCTOBER 4, 2015 TO OCTOBER 25, 2015

GIVING BOLD TESTIMONY

5. October 4, 2015 – The Spirit is Not for Sale

A. Acts 8: 9-24

6. October 11, 2015 – Saul Earns Credibility

A. Acts 9: 19b-31

7. October 18, 2015 – Peter Takes a Risk

A. Acts 10: 24-38

8. October 25, 2015 – Trusting the Spirit

A. Acts 11: 1-18

FLC ROOMS 1 & 2: 9:15 AM TO 9:45 AM.

## Our Departments, Continued

### **Custodian, Kitchen Committee and Audio-Visual Reports**

A heart-felt THANK YOU for the two new vacuum cleaners purchased in September. First Tom and Betty Fischer bought us a new Dyson vacuum with a 5-year warranty. Then the Friendship Sunday School class gave \$100 and an individual anonymously gave another \$100, and we now have a "Rocket" vacuum by Shark. Both have been put to good use.

Members of the Kitchen Committee have been very busy, but had no formal meetings. Debbie Moore turned in a bid to Tom Burns of the Trustees regarding the electrical work to improve power distribution in and around the FLC kitchen. (Goal: No more blown fuses and surprise freezer defrostings!)

Please pay attention to the video screens in the sanctuary since church announcements will now be made on them before and after each service, instead of by the Pastor during the services. We are working to record additional explanatory material to go with certain slides in the announcements. Of course, announcements will continue to be posted in each Sunday bulletin and in the monthly newsletter.

Debbie Moore

## Our Ministries

### **Mission Moments**

No report this month.

### **United Methodist Men (UMM)**

The next meeting of the UMM is October 10, 2015 at 8:00 am in the FLC. Breakfast will be served.

Mike Stafford, President, 863-797-5612

### **United Methodist Women (UMW)**

Heart to Heart will meet on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the FLC. This circle is reading and discussing the first four chapters of Joining Jesus on His Mission, by Greg Finke. Please bring your lunch and beverage; dessert will be provided. Ruth Zona is the leader of this circle. You can contact her at [hzona@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hzona@tampabay.rr.com) or call her at 863-859-5967.

Ruth Circle of Love will meet on Wednesday, October 14<sup>at</sup> 11:00 am in the FLC. They are reading and discussing Entering the Psalms (Session 5). All are welcome! Lou Webb is stepping down as circle leader. The Lake Gibson United Methodist Women take this opportunity to thank Lou for her many years of service and devotion as leader of the Ruth Circle of Love. Linda Hudson has graciously accepted the invitation to lead this circle. You can reach her at [akywomannfl@verizon.net](mailto:akywomannfl@verizon.net) or call her at 540-419-8872.

All ladies are cordially invited to check out our two circles and see if they might be right for you.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

### UMW, Continued

[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]

The next UMW Board meeting will be October 27th at 9:00 am in the FLC.

We are not reporting on the Rummage Sale under UMW this month as it takes the whole church to make this essential fund-raiser a success. Please read about the Rummage Sale under "October Events".

### News from Prayer Ministry

Please pick up a copy of the expanded [Prayer Journal](#) in the narthex with information current for the week of September 17th. The plan is to update and publish the Prayer Journal every two weeks, so it will be distributed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The new format combines the original Prayer Journal's list of those requesting our prayers along with prayer needs and other information formerly contained in the Sunday bulletins.

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 e-mail [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)**

There are the two weekly prayer groups that pray in meet to pray together:

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

Mid-Week Devotions - Wednesday @ 8:00 am in the FLC – Rooms 1 & 2. If you care to join the group for breakfast prior to Devotions please come to McDonald's on US Hwy 98 North and Daugherty Rd between 7:00 and 7:30 am.

### Visitation Ministry

Heartfelt thanks to all who have participated in the Visitation Ministry. **Sixty-one (61) recorded visits were made from August 1st through September 23rd!**

This ministry started with a number of individual church members who regularly visited other members who weren't able to attend services, to show caring and to help shut-ins deal with loneliness and isolation. The development of the "Visitation and Shut-ins List" was a logical next step, which assembled the information about who was visiting whom and identified other people who would welcome a visit.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

### Visitation Ministry, Continued

The visitation effort has expanded to fill a growing need and has evolved into a ministry of this church. This means that **EVERYONE** in Lake Gibson UMC can take part in this initiative to show love for frail, elderly or sick church members and friends, or for those who cannot leave their residences (for example, they might be care-givers).

We have made recordings of our sermons available for visitors to take to “visitees” on MP3 players or CDs. (Shut-ins who have a computer can access the church web site and listen to the recorded scripture, sermon and YouTube copies of the worship music.) Printed copies of *The Good News* are also available to take to visitees.

Sue Shelton, Debbie Moore and Marina Garcia are working to refine the processes by which anyone who is interested can bless those in need of human contact, prayer and caring. Watch for future announcements in the Sunday bulletins and newsletters as they refine the processes.

For your convenience the Visitation Ministry calendar and cards have been moved to the narthex. They are located on a table on your right as you enter the church doors, under the bulletin board. Use the calendar to “stake out” the day(s) you plan to visit someone so we don’t overwhelm them with too much love at once!

Take a card (there are multiple ones for each person on our list) which contains information about the person receiving a visit, call or card. On the back of each card, there are driving directions to the residence. There are other cards to submit after each visit or action (telephone call made, greeting or birthday card sent) to report on what you did (you know, United Methodists need to count everything). Seriously, these report cards serve a good purpose: They can be used to describe any needs you observe or learn of that someone else in the congregation may be able to meet.

If you have questions or suggestions to improve this ministry, please see or call Sue Shelton (863-853-9212) or Debbie Moore (361-746-2021). Thank you again, and may we continue to look for opportunities to serve God with willing and joyful hearts!

Sue Shelton and Phyllis Kitchens

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

This year the **Day on Campus** for the Children’s Home is **April 9, 2016**. If you are interested in touring the campus and meeting some of the kids, please mark your calendar. You will be able to tour the entire campus, meeting some of the kids, see their cottages, and meet some of the staff and the house parents.

Now that school is well under way and fall is here, it is time to start thinking about Christmas. Again we have been asked to purchase **gift cards** for the residents. The cards have proven to be very popular

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

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

with the residents, who are able to go to a store and buy exactly what they want. We have been asked that we **deliver the Christmas gift cards by December 7, 2015**. Please look for the Angel Tree in November and select an "ornament" to guide your gift card purchase.

Jeff and I again want to thank all of you for your support of the Children's Home. Without your support the Children's Home cannot be the success that it is. Here is how one staff member describes their job at the Children's Home.

**"There are many jobs in America that are just too small for the human spirit. Not many jobs allow you to influence the life of another human being. Every day I come to work on the campus of the Children's Home I see God in the faces of our children in care. Who could ask for more?"**

Karen and Jeff Acor  
FUMCH Representatives



## Celebrations

(If there are errors in these lists, you can correct them using the online church directory, or let the editor know so we can correct the data base.)



### Birthdays in October

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
10/1	Alan Grier
10/2	Kathy Huskin
10/3	Nick Stafford
10/5	Garnet Retter
10/6	Tim Welsh
10/7	Franki Bailey
10/8	Tre Darious Davidson
10/8	Kenneth Hawthorne
10/9	Lee Mueller
10/10	Brenda Haney
10/10	Phyllis Michael
10/10	Debbie Mitchell
10/10	Steve Osborn
10/10	Tammie Schertzer
10/11	Betty Fischer
10/11	Karel Knox
10/11	Marty Sargent
10/12	Karen Acor
10/12	Penny Polk
10/14	Robert Butler
10/14	John Escobar
10/14	JoAn Mickle
10/14	Fran Mudge
10/15	Mary Beth Kuhlman
10/18	Sue Holmes
10/19	Laurie Hillsgrove
10/19	Laura Lizotte
10/20	Sylvia Barrett
10/20	James Sargent
10/20	Anne Swafford
10/20	Gail Travis
10/21	George Davis

### October Birthdays, Continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
10/23	Clara Sawyer
10/26	Sue Hawthorne
10/26	Amy Schertzer
10/27	Loren Conger
10/27	Ann Fox
10/29	Ryan Freeman
10/30	Shirley Hawksby
10/31	Mary Friend



### Anniversaries in October

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
10/2	Larry and Barbara Gitt
10/4	Charles and Linda Alvarez
10/6	David and Glenda Hess
10/9	Gene and Helen Vandervort
10/30	Creon and Ginger Fredrikson

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 <a href="mailto:muellrcg@verizon.net">muellrcg@verizon.net</a>
Jacob McKnight	Assistant Youth Director
Sue Heishman	Bookkeeper
Glenda Grant Hess	Director of Music/Organist <a href="mailto:northstarnutrition@verizon.net">northstarnutrition@verizon.net</a>
Debbie Moore	Custodian

### **A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center**

Lisa Bacon	Director
Office	863-858-8400
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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 (home) or 410-790-2662 (cell), or by e-mailing her at [phyllis\\_kitchens@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com).