



# The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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



**November 2015**

Steve Polk, Pastor

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## *The Pastor's Reflection*

### Psalm 106

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD,  
or declare all his praise? (ESV)

Penny and I have just returned from a visit to the Smokey Mountains – we joined the thousands of leaf peepers who come out in the fall. When we arrived in the mountains the trees were just starting to change color, but by the time we left the exploding colors were evident all over. The orange, red and gold leaves are something that is unseen here in our part of Florida. Just to look at the mountains is a magnificent reminder of the creator God we serve, but to do so when they are full of color is like looking into a kaleidoscope of constantly changing scenery. It wows me and reminds me of the God I can never comprehend, yet he is a God that delights in pleasing his children. Then, when we take into consideration the wildlife (turkeys, elk, deer, bear and more) that God allowed to cross our path while on our trip and the beautiful weather we experienced, we must thank Him for his wondrous grace. Of course, we should thank God at all times, as the psalmist and others in Scripture remind us, but in our busy, rushing world we often forget to thank Him.

We can thank God for the beauty of nature found in flowers, trees, animals and scenery, for each new day, for the night in which we can rest, for the meal we have, the home we live in. I often thank God for indoor bathrooms, running hot water, refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat. We can thank Him for friends and family, for His promise to never leave or forsake us, for our trials which make us stronger and the faith which carries us through tough times.

We can thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ and the salvation offered to all mankind, for the redeeming work God does in mankind. We can thank God for our families, the love of our spouses, our health, our church fellowship and the opportunities we have to share with others. There is always something we can thank God for; with God there is always hope. Even as we face death we can thank God for the resurrection and promise of eternal life with Him. When we thank God in all things His name is glorified and others see the loving, forgiving Father God.

Continued on the next page . . .

## *The Pastor's Reflection, Continued*

On our trip we noticed that while the colors were always there and were visible to anyone who wanted to enjoy them, it was when the sun's light hit them that they became their most brilliant. When the colors reflected the sun's light they became magnificent, they screamed look at what God has created. This Thanksgiving Season let's thank God and allow the light of Christ to fill our praises to magnify God and his kingdom so others may see, feel and experience the love of our heavenly Father. I pray you have a safe, Happy Thanksgiving and experience God's blessings in your life.

*Pastor Steve*

### A Letter to the Congregation: Love in Action

Dear Church Family,

Let me tell you what your generosity has done! Several weeks ago, an older couple came by church asking for help. They were traveling back to Pennsylvania with their older son and his two young children, ages 3 years and 8 weeks. They had slept in the car two nights, and were hoping to get enough money for a hotel room for the night.

We scrounged some cash and I was able to go to the Food Pantry and find some goodies that they could heat up in a microwave. They were sooo appreciative! They had been to several churches and shelters and had been given the run-around. Yes, they may have been spinning a tall tale, but thanks to your support and supplies in the Pantry, we were able to help a family in need. Gosh, could we call that Love In Action??

I asked them to pay our kindness forward sometime when they were in a better position. Thank you all for supporting such an important and needed ministry!

Lee Mueller

### 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.

Starting with the November issue of *The Good News*, we are increasing the number of paper copies available in the narthex. We had hoped that most people would read the newsletter on-line or download and print it at home. That doesn't seem to be happening, so to support our goal of improving communications within the Lake Gibson community, we will print more copies each month. To reduce costs, these copies will be printed in black and white. Readers can still see the newsletter in color by going on-line to [www.lakegibsonumc.com](http://www.lakegibsonumc.com).

Phyllis Kitchens, Editor

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## October News

### Church Charge Conference, 7 October 2015 Part 1 – Mission Vitality

In accordance with guidance from the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, South Central District, Lake Gibson's 2015 Charge Conference was designated "A Mini Annual Conference" to retain the Annual Conference's emphasis on Next Generations. The presiding elder was the Reverend William Knight. Pastor Steve Polk chaired the meeting. Because the recording secretary, Lee Mueller, was unavailable, Judy Sadwick performed her duties.

After the Pastor's opening prayer, Elder Knight explained that the Charge Conference is the annual business meeting of our church, with the purpose of identifying what resources we have to go into 2016. The Annual Conference's theme of "Next Generations" refers to the **next generation of believers, who could be of any age, who are young in the Christian faith, or who haven't yet heard the Gospel.**

The Charge Conference reviewed five facets that make up "Mission Vitality", such as Passionate Worship (average weekly worship attendance), Radical Hospitality (number of people who joined the church by professing or reaffirming faith), Intentional Discipleship (weekly attendance in Sunday School and other religious classes), Salty Service (average weekly number of people who provided at least one hour of volunteer service outside of the church) and Extravagant Generosity (total amount given by the congregation).

Data were presented from 2012 through September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, both as goals and actuals achieved. Unfortunately, two important areas show marked decreases: Passionate Worship and Extravagant Generosity. Only Intentional Discipleship shows strong growth, while Salty Service is only one under its 2014 level. Radical Hospitality is in line with actual results of 2012 and 2013, but only half of what it was in 2014 (a year in which there were 18 new members). The steep reduction in giving so far in 2015 will be discussed in other articles in this issue of *The Good News*.

As of August 2015, Lake Gibson UMC had 324 members (compared to 318 in 2014). One of the sad duties of a Charge Conference is to remove inactive members from the church's roles after a second annual reading of their names (and attempts to contact them have either failed or confirmed their desire to be deleted). This year 32 people were removed from Lake Gibson's membership, leaving us with 292 members.

Phyllis Kitchens

Continued on the next page . . .

# October News, Continued

## Church Charge Conference, Part 2

### Leadership for 2016

The charge conference is where the church's leadership team is elected for the upcoming year. Lake Gibson's officers for 2016 are as follows:

Chairperson of the Church Council	Sarah Schiemann
Church Treasurer	Yvonne Bower
Financial Secretary	Cindy Heishman
Lay Member to the Annual Conference	Phyllis Kitchens (Alternate: Sue Heishman)
Lay Leader	Ken Fuqua
Recording Secretary	Lee Mueller
Membership Secretary	Church Secretary
Campus Ministry Representative	Lee Mueller

#### Administrative Committees:

##### Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC)

Chairperson	Bill Sadwick
Class of 2016	Phyllis Kitchens, Jean Wesley, Jeff Acor
Class of 2017	Mike Booker, Bill Sadwick, Bonnie Fuqua
Class of 2018	Henry Zona, Barbara Allen-Coil, Joe Moon
Lay Member	Phyllis Kitchens
Lay Leader	Ken Fuqua

##### Committee on Finance

Chairperson	Dwight Kitchens
Other Members	Pastor Steve Polk, Tom Burns, Ken Fuqua, Sue Shelton, UMM rep, Sarah Schiemann, Bill Sadwick, Cindy Heishman, Sue Heishman, Shirley Lux, Pat Gilmore, and Phyllis Kitchens (nonvoting)

##### Board of Trustees

Chairperson	Tom Burns
Class of 2016	Todd Bower, Bud Davis, Betty Fischer
Class of 2017	Tom Burns, Dale Gower, Rosita Stafford
Class of 2018	Bob Gilmore, Cory Fredrikson, Diane Eshelman

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# October News, Continued

## Church Charge Conference, Part 2

### Leadership for 2016, Continued

#### Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Chairperson	Pastor Steve Polk
Vice Chair	Ken Fuqua
Class of 2016	Pat Moon, Rowena Betz, Barbara Gunter
Class of 2017	Bob Herrick, Don Heishman
Class of 2018	Judy Sadwick, Sharon Ruth

Interpreter of Connectional Giving     Dwight Kitchens

Children's Home Representative     Jeff and Karen Acor

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

Chairperson	Sarah Schiemann
Other Members	Pastor, Lay Leader, SPPRC Rep, Finance Committee Rep, Church Council Rep, Board of Trustees Rep, Parent Rep (Kari Parowski), Karen Acor (Class of 2016), Jan Booker (2017), Barbara Towns (2018)

#### Permanent Endowment Committee

Chairperson	Dwight Kitchens (and Fin Com Rep)
Pastor	Steve Polk
Class of 2016	Lois Teske, Wanda Stowe
Class of 2017	Rick Mueller, Todd Bower
Class of 2018	Sandy Stanfield, Rita Fredrikson

#### Other Ministries

Missions Coordinator	Linda Alvarez
Christian Education	
Prayer Advocate	Fran Mudge
Children's Ministry	
Youth Coordinator	Jeff Acor

## October News, Continued

### Worshipping the Lord in Music

We had two great musical events in October. If you missed them, you missed opportunities to be part of outstanding programs of worship.

The "Popcorn Concert" was held on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, with three gospel groups: Gulf State Quartet, Simple Truth Quartet and the Trust Quartet. There was a rather small turnout for this amazing concert, but those of us who attended thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The three groups at times exchanged members with each other, demonstrating their close association in their music ministries. Lake Gibson's kitchen crew cooked up a delicious spaghetti dinner that was served before the concert.

During the single Sunday service at 10:00 am on October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Great Day Ministry of the Ferguson Family gospel group provided the musical worship program. Again, it was an inspiring and entertaining way to worship the Lord while Pastor Steve and Penny were on vacation. On Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Great Day will celebrate its music and worship ministry's 10th anniversary with a performance at the Apopka Calvary Church of the Nazarene. The Taylors and Jeff Stice will also perform. Doors will open at 5:00 pm. The church is located at 750 Roger Williams Road, Apopka, FL 32703. A donation of \$10.00 may be made at the door and a love offering will also be received.

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. Plan to bring your friends to these special events. In addition to two opportunities to enjoy the Christmas Cantata in December, the Music Department has planned wonderful and varied programs to enhance our worship experiences in 2016.

### Rummage Sale

The fall Lake Gibson Rummage Sale was held on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Sue Shelton's article in the United Methodist Women (UMW) section provides more details. Although the UMW is responsible for managing the two annual rummage sales, they rely on everyone in LGUMC. Everyone who donates items or works to set up, sell or clean up afterward ensures the success of these events. The monies raised are used to support missions in our local area and beyond.

### Walk to Emmaus

The Tampa Bay Area Emmaus website (<http://tampabayemmaus.org>) states "The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all.""

The Walk to Emmaus is presented in our area twice a year. Men and women, called Pilgrims, participate in separate walks. Mike and Jan Booker signed up from Lake Gibson for Walk #18 (men Oct 1 - 4; women Oct 8 - 11). Much of what happens at a walk is kept secret to increase the sense of wonderment for the Pilgrims; however, the website contains enough information to stoke one's interest and help to make the decision whether to participate.

Continued on the next page . . .



## October News, Continued

### Walk to Emmaus, Continued

For 2016 the dates for Walk #19 are March 10 - 13 (men); March 17 - 20 (women). For Walk #20, the dates are September 29 - October 2 (men) and October 6 - 9 (women). Find out about this experience by visiting the website or talk to Mike or Rosita Stafford, or to the Bookers.

Phyllis Kitchens

### October Was Clergy Appreciation Month

Remember the first time you heard the phrase as a child that “a mother’s work is never done”? Remember thinking that sounded pretty daunting? If there is one other person besides your mom who is on call practically around the clock, it is probably our pastor, Steve Polk.

A pastor is wedded to his church as we are to our own families. Steve attends and participates in church meetings, makes hospital and other visits to see our members and non-members, as well as provides counselling sessions when needed. He also is a husband, father and grandfather and likes to spend as much time with his family as possible.

In October we recognized Steve as members of our church gave donations and gift cards to him. Now an additional gift would be welcome: Please **thank Steve** for what he has done to help you, or just for being available to help his flock. **Do this in writing or in person during November.**

Sarah Schiemann, SPPRC Chair

### Leadership ConneXions Class

(Reported here because it occurred after the September newsletter deadline)

Saturday, 26 September 2015, found a multitude of United Methodists joining the congregation of the Wahneta Mission to learn more about identifying all those who reside in their community, and how to meet their needs. Beth Potter (from the South Central District office) presented a synopsis of the results reflecting the leadership and worship style of those within the Wahneta Mission’s service area.

Similar results are available to LGUMC through use of **MissionInsite**, a computer tool which uses census and other data and supplementary analysis to provide information about those surrounding our own community. This might be a first step in helping us determine the real needs of our neighbors.

Vick Harrison, Minister of Missions, First UMC of Brandon, talked about what we might do once we identify community needs. Her emphasis was on determining our mission, evaluating our outward focus to insure it reflects our values as Christians, and moving us to grow while serving others, not ourselves. Choosing fewer missions and doing them well helps pull a congregation together and increases its impact on people who live near the church.

Dwight Kitchens

## November Events

### Angel Tree Deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>

Karen Acor reports that she and Jeff will place the FUMCH Angel Tree in the narthex this month. Like last year, the home has requested we give mostly gift cards. In addition, there will still be a need for specific items for the cottages. All donations should be provided by December 1st so they can be delivered to FUMCH by the first weekend in December.

### Thanksgiving Celebrations

#### Church Pot Luck on 22 November

On Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have a church pot-luck dinner for Thanksgiving after the service, about 11:30 am. This way we can celebrate Thanksgiving together as a church family and people can still attend their family's or neighborhood's holiday feast on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on 26 November

This year the Thanksgiving Dinner will be at noon on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and **everyone is invited**. People wishing to bring in food for the dinner can do so anytime after 9:00 am. We are planning to have after-dinner movie time in FLC Classrooms 1 and 2 for anyone wishing to stay. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletins.

Point of contact for coordinating both meals is Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193. Her e-mail is debtivo-li@yahoo.com. If you want to sign up to bring a dish for the 26 November dinner or to help prepare the meal or clean up afterward, please let Deb know. If you plan to attend the 26 November dinner, please call Marina by Thursday, 19 November, for a reservation to ensure sufficient food for all.

#### 5th Sunday, 29 November

In addition to being the first Sunday of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup> is United Methodist Student Day, a Special Sunday with Offering, as well as a collection for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. If you are feeling especially generous, you can also make a designated offering to our own Rooted Student Ministry.

## December Events

### Our Christmas Cantata – A Chance to Share the Love of Christ

We're preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior in another month. Isn't Christmas really about sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the world? Christmas may be one of the few times many friends and neighbors think about joining in a fellowship to worship Jesus Christ. Why not make it easier for them to take the first step?

*<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:16-20 (New International Version (NIV))*

We will be printing invitations to the two Christmas Cantata presentations, Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> (during the 10:00 am worship service), and Thursday, Christmas Eve, at 6:00 pm. We hope you will use them to invite family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to attend. We also hope that you and your guests will stay after the Sunday service to enjoy the Youth Ministry's **Spud Lunch** (donations support that ministry) and the **holiday cookie exchange**. We will also serve punch, coffee and more holiday cookies after the Christmas Eve cantata for everyone who attends.

The cantata invitations will be placed in some of the November and December bulletins. Think now about with whom you might want to share this special time of the year. Then, extend the invitations; the people will appreciate the thought. Sometimes it only takes a personal invitation to introduce someone to a life-changing experience. **What a wonderful Christmas present to give!**

Dwight Kitchens

### Holiday Cookie Exchange

Are you already trying to figure out what holiday goodies to make during the Christmas season? Are you getting tired of making the same old recipes? Let's eat someone else's!

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Christmas Cantata at the 10:00 am service, we're hosting a holiday gathering and cookie exchange during the Youth Ministry's Spud Lunch. We would like people who want to participate in the exchange **to bring four dozen home-baked cookies or candies**. Each person's cookies/candy will be divided into three groups: We'll serve one dozen after the service, and save one dozen for use on Christmas Eve. Participants on December 20<sup>th</sup> get to use their remaining two dozen to exchange with other people so they can take them home for later enjoyment.

Since the treats will be divided into three groups, **please bring 3 labels** (or hand-written cards) describing your cookies or candy, stating your name, the name of the treat and what (if any) dietary restrictions apply (gluten-free or sugar-free, etc.).

**Kitchen elves are needed during the breakfast/pre-cantata time** to organize the three batches of cookies/candy and make sure everything is labeled properly.

Continued on the next page . . .

## December Events, Continued

### Holiday Cookie Exchange, Continued

This is a great opportunity to try out those special holiday recipes which will bring enjoyment to many. Check the LGUMC cookbook for ideas and, if you're willing to share your recipes, please add them to the on-line cookbook. If you have any special dietary restrictions, we welcome goodies that conform to your needs – you are probably not alone. Others in the congregation likely share the same restrictions. Just label your contributions so everyone knows how special they are.

Call Dwight or Phyllis Kitchens, 863-984-4564, if you have any questions.

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### New Online Directory and Giving History Available (Updated from the October 2015 article) Corrections: Underscores and Hyphens Caused Confusion

Last month we published an article entitled “New Online Directory and Giving History Available Online”. It seems that the **hyperlink** to the URL (uniform resources locator), which shows up as an underline, caused lots of confusion. Because the newsletter is published online as well as in hard copy, the URL's underlining obscures the “underscore” (shift-hyphen) between words of the electronic address. Also, some of the directions contain ordinary hyphens. So, here's an attempt to clarify the instructions for people who type in the commands instead of just clicking on the embedded URL's.

As a reminder, our on-line system will permit you to: View the entire LGUMC Church Directory, edit your own family's individual Church Directory entries and 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 both the Membership Directory and your personal family's Giving History, as well as have the ability to modify your family records.

#### Membership Directory Access:

Go to [https://directory.servantpc.com/Lake\\_Gibson\\_UMC](https://directory.servantpc.com/Lake_Gibson_UMC), (Note that there are single underscores [ \_ ] between Lake and Gibson and UMC).

Type in this Key : “ LGUMC-Web-Directory “ (note that there are single hyphens [ - ] between LGUMC and Web and Directory). You now have access to the entire Church Directory where you can click on family records to see more public data. Save the URL in your browser's favorites for nearly instant access.

#### Directory Update and Giving History Access:

Go to <https://directory.servantpc.com/login>. If this is your first time, click “haven't registered yet”. ServantKeeper will send you an e-mail asking you to create your password. Respond to that e-mail to create a personal password and get full access.

Go to [https://family-edit.servantpc.com/Lake\\_Gibson\\_UMC/login](https://family-edit.servantpc.com/Lake_Gibson_UMC/login) (Note that there is a hyphen [ - ] between family and edit, and there are single underscores [ \_ ] between Lake and Gibson and UMC).

Type in your e-mail address and your newly created personal password, and have instant access.

Update personal information and access family Giving History using the appropriate tabs at the top left-hand corner of the page.

Dwight Kitchens  
863-984-4564 or 410-790-4422

# Marina's Corner

*"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others."*

Rosa Parks



Friends and Family,

Once again we have blessed many more families with our Food Pantry and the Baked Goods from Publix. We have had eight (8) new families come in for both the groceries and the baked goods. Since the beginning of the year up to October 15, 2015 we have handed out 567 bags of groceries and 645 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 United Methodist Women (UMW) – Ruth Zona, Ellen Haltiwanger and Sue Shelton -- who come in on Thursdays and help hand out and carry out groceries to the families in need.

As always, 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 contact 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.

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\*\*\* Just a reminder, if you need to book something on the calendar, contact the office 2 weeks in advance or earlier. Dates are filling in fast for 2016 and a little bit of 2017. \*\*\*  
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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



## Finance and Related Topics

### Will Lake Gibson UMC Go the Route of the Dodo Bird?

You might not think that a church could become extinct. But, did this not happen to Good Shepherd UMC? As I look at the financial situation of Lake Gibson UMC, I wonder if we might not be following a similar route.

For a number of years, Lake Gibson UMC neither paid all their apportionments nor their property and liability insurance. On the plus side, unlike many churches, we have no mortgage to worry about. In years past, to deal with budget shortfalls, LGUMC applied a 10% pay reduction to all its employees, as well as let some go. Why? Because we, the church congregation, did not raise sufficient funds to pay staff, connectional obligations and operating costs.

In 2014 the Church Council obligated LGUMC to paying our entire apportionment each year. As a connectional church, it is the right thing to do. But, we as members must step up and insure that there are sufficient funds to meet our obligations.



In recent years, we've done better. We have been able to meet our connectional obligations and insurance. But, this year may see a return of the past behavior. After 10 months, we still owe 50.47%, or \$13,727 of \$27,193 in apportionments to the Conference. If not paid, there will likely be dire consequences to our congregation.

In a perfect world, we would have sufficient reserves to write a check for the 2016 annual apportionments (which will be \$26,964), and our property and liability insurance (approximately \$17,000) during the first quarter of the New Year.

Why haven't we already paid more? Well, our first priority has always been to minister locally. With an operating checkbook balance of \$3,779 on September 30<sup>th</sup>, you can see that we could not write a check to pay the balance owed.

While this situation be announced during worship in November, we need to quickly rectify this problem, and find a more permanent solution. The immediate apportionment solution would be to **dig deeper and provide 2<sup>nd</sup> mile giving to pay our 2015 apportionments between now and January 1<sup>st</sup>**. **The long-term solution is for each of us to increase what we set aside to support our congregation.**

Your dollars are needed now to meet the 2015 obligations. Whether your increased giving is a designated donation, or a contribution to the general fund, it will make a significant difference in what Lake Gibson UMC can accomplish.

Continuing our current path looks to me as if our church campus may, in a few years, belong to another denomination.

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Chair

Continued on the next page . . .

## Finance and Related Topics, Continued

### Parking Lot Improvements?

Ever wonder why we have to continually track sand and shell into the sanctuary and FLC? Many people have asked why we don't pave the roads and parking lots on our campus. Aside from the cost, which our budget can't handle, there are other, very good reasons why we need to retain porous surfacing and have to live with damaged high heels and messy car floors and building entryways.

When considering facility improvements, we have to abide by all current city, state and federal rules and regulations. Unfortunately, when the church was built there was no requirement for large retention ponds to alleviate rainwater runoff. There is simply not enough land available to excavate suitable ponds.

If we are looking at what capital improvements are need most, improved parking would not rank as high as building a larger, more accessible classroom complex, or relocating and enlarging the preschool, or creating a larger, more efficient administrative center (with or without an enlarged food pantry). [Note: These are just some potential ideas of what we might consider for the future, assuming Lake Gibson UMC has one. PK]

Dwight Kitchens

### Freed-Up Financial Living -- A 3-day Class in February 2016

LGUMC is conducting a six-hour financial training class over three Saturdays in February (6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). Register by 16 January 2016. The class fee is \$25.00 per individual (or family) which covers the materials. Free child care will be provided so both parents can participate in the class (sharing one set of materials). Dwight Kitchens will be the instructor. The following information is quoted from a course description:

***Freed-Up Financial Living*** is an outstanding tool, designed to help individuals at every stage of their lives effectively deal with day-to-day issues related to finances. Even more, it's about finding the peace, joy, and freedom that come through following biblical financial principles. Presented in an encouraging, grace-filled manner, *Freed-Up's* goal is a heart-change and a more God-centered perspective on your resources, not just a change in financial behavior.

In the *Freed-Up* course, you'll discover effective tools and develop skills that will help you control your finances -- so your finances don't wind up controlling you! After completing the course, you'll walk away with:

- A clear understanding of biblical financial principles,
- Simple steps to apply those principles in day-to-day decision making, and
- A personalized spending plan in your hand, knowledge in your head to implement it, and the motivation in your heart to follow through.

When dealing with financial matters, most of us have a natural tendency to push away from the table and avoid engaging the issues. This is true for those who are in the midst of significant financial challenges, as well as those who are financially secure. Wherever you are on the wealth spectrum, *Freed-Up Financial Living* offers you a clear, biblical understanding of money management that can bring about peace and joy in this critical area.

Continued on the next page . . .



## Finance and Related Topics, Continued

### Freed-Up Financial Living -- A 3-day Class in February 2016, Continued

*Freed-Up Financial Living* is an opportunity for people from all sorts of financial contexts to come together, find hope and encouragement for the unique challenges that they face, and develop into more biblically-rooted, confident stewards of their resources.

Are you experiencing a time of significant financial challenge or crisis? Are you interested in taking back control of your spending? Do you want a firm biblical understanding of financial management that can help you steward your resources in a God-honoring fashion?

Registration forms are available in the church office and will be included in a church bulletin during December. We will also place forms into the grocery bags of patrons of our Food Panty. If you know someone who might benefit from this course, please let them know about it.

Dwight Kitchens

## Our Departments

### Lay Leader's Corner

Well, here we are into fall already and looking at the end of another year in just 2 short months filled with so much to do after a long, hot, lazy summer. And yes, we are staring at another budget shortfall that will not allow us to meet the commitment LGUMC made in the setting of this year's budget last January.

Remember, we were going to commit the first 10% of our offerings to mission giving outside the confines of our church boundaries, just as we do with the Love in Action program, that allows individuals to participate in and receive the blessing of giving to the needs of others. That is what we want to do on a larger scale with the mission budget. **Think about what you can do this month and next to allow us to meet and complete what we set out to do as a church body serving the needs of others.**

Even though God gave us many signs in September, the results of those signs are finding significance in other areas of the world, as we watch the developments of the "invasion" of Europe by Muslims from the Middle East, as well as the continued development of conflict in Israel. God is not through with us yet and it will be interesting to watch and see what He has in store for the world.

Remember the **Constitution Alive** class meets on Thursday in the FLC at 7:00 pm and all are welcome to attend and hear some excellent teaching on our founding documents.

And remember to keep watching for all those special times ahead as we rush to the end of this year! God Bless You All!

John Bernat, Lay Leader

### Board of Trustees

No report this month.

## Our Departments

### **Rooted Student Ministry**

Our youth have been doing an interesting study on the Parables of Jesus. Interesting because a different youth is choosing and leading the group in discussion each week. It's been a learning experience in many ways. We are also looking forward to watching and discussing the movie, "We Believe".

We continue to stay busy helping some of you or your neighbors through "odd jobs". Thank you so much for your support!!

Lee Mueller, Youth Director

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

The preschool has an enrollment of 48 students as of October 27<sup>th</sup>. We are continuing to work towards offering Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten to our families. We are praying to offer this service within the next few weeks. The preschool had a Family Engagement Night on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and a pajama party on Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup>. We are hosting our first "Thankful Dinner" on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Lisa Bacon, Director  
863-858-8400

### **Music Department**

No report this month.

### **Adult Sunday School Classes**

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

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!

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Departments, Continued

### **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 3**

NOVEMBER 1, 2015 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2015

SPREADING THE GOSPEL

9. November 1, 2015 – God Rescues Peter

A. Acts 12:1-11

10. November 8, 2015 – God Makes No Distinction

A. Acts 15:1-12

11. November 15, 2015 – From Derbe to Philippi

A. Acts 16:1-5, 8-15

12. November 22, 2015 – Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens

A. Acts 17: 1-4, 10-12, 22, 25, 28

13. November 29, 2015 – Teaching God's Word

A. Acts 18: 1-11, 18-21

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

FLC Rooms 1 and 2

9:15AM TO 9:45AM

ADULTS, COME AND JOIN US

### **Kitchen Upgrades**

Upgrades to the electrical service in the kitchen have been approved by the Board of Trustees. A contractor has been hired, who gave a 2-week window for doing the work in late October. Point of contact for all things involving the kitchen is Debbie Moore, 863-614-7193.

## Our Departments, Continued

### Our Ministries

#### Mission Moments

We are all called to be servants, to serve others. Each week we have the opportunity to put Salty Service cards in the offering plates. They signify that we have spent at least one hour during the previous week in service to others. Salty Service is anything we do in Christ's name for the welfare of others. One person may help someone who is suffering in any way, physically, mentally or spiritually. Another may be advocating for someone who has been a victim, whether it be at the hands of another person or one of our social systems. There are some in our congregation who are environmentalists, urging better care of God's world, our environment. Those who visit our shut-ins are meeting the emotional or spiritual needs of another person. Tutoring an adult or child r reading to school children also qualify as Salty Services. If you do any of these things, do not forget to put your Salty Service card in the offering plate. These are counted and reported to the Florida Conference to document the impact Lake Gibson UMC is having on its neighbors.

I have already written articles about people in our congregation who serve others at LVIM, Hope House, VISTE, or by visiting friends and church members. There are at least two ladies who volunteer at Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center. Sarah Schiemann, a nurse, escorts patients from triage to an examination room. There a doctor determines what medical procedures are needed. She is involved in many other activities at our church, with the preschool, and in her community. Ruth Zona volunteers in the hospital's gift shop. There she patiently listens to visitors who just need someone to talk to, someone who will listen and offer comfort. The shop sells all kinds of items. I was surprised to learn that most of the customers are employees and people from the community. The gift shop is open to the public.

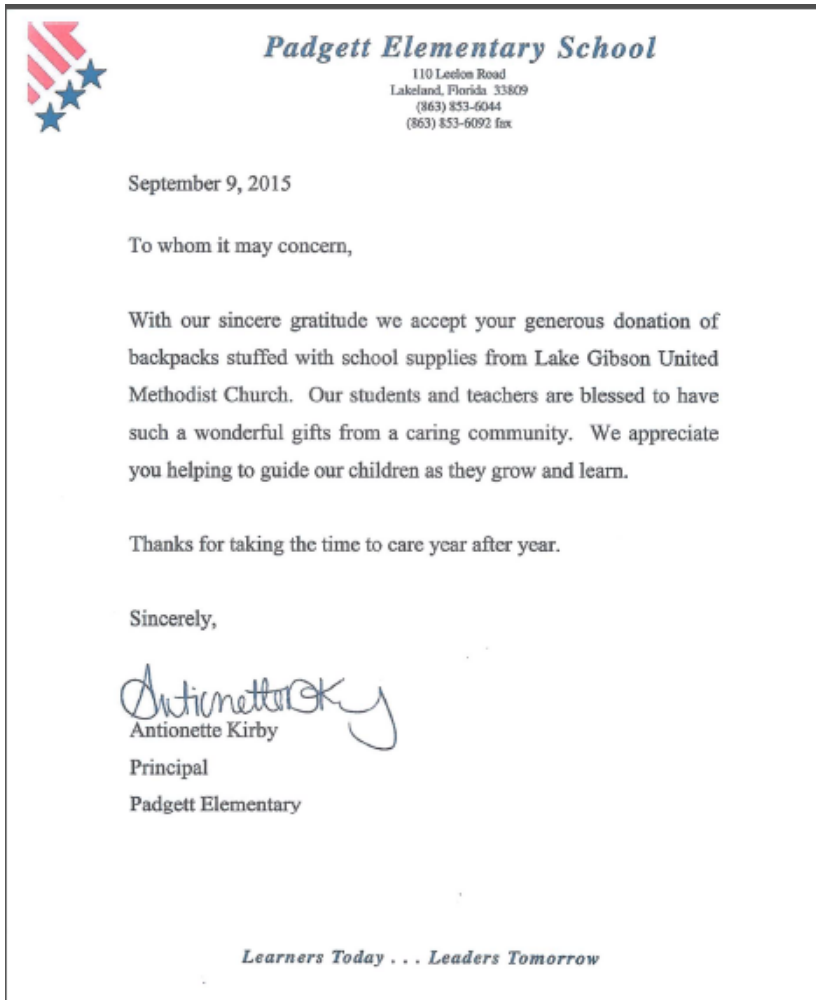
As you can see by the photo and thank-you letter on the next page, the Missions Committee filled 18 backpacks and I delivered them to Padgett Elementary School. Principal Antionette Kirby was delighted to accept them. I have one child in my Reading Pals group who lives in a motel, so I know these backpacks found good homes with some needy children. We also voted to give \$500 per month of our tithing donations to our Food Pantry and meet our commitment to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Thank you all for going the extra mile in giving to OUR CHURCH. As we sang one Sunday, "We Are the Church".

Linda Alvarez

Continued on the next page . . .

# Our Ministries, Continued

## Mission Moments, Continued



Left: Copy of the thank-you letter from Padgett Elementary School's Principle, Antionette Kirby.

Right: Photo of the donated, filled backpacks with Principal Kirby and Linda Alvarez, LGUMC.

### United Methodist Men (UMM)

The next meeting of the UMM will be on November 14th at 8:00 am in the FLC for breakfast and fellowship. If you have any questions, please call Mike Stafford, 863-797-5612.

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

### United Methodist Women (UMW)

#### Fall Tea and Special Program, Saturday, 14 November



**All ladies of Lake Gibson UMC and the community:** Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm! UMW is pleased to have Leigh Anne Brown present her program entitled "Portrait of a Bride: An Evolving Silhouette." Leigh Anne is a pastor's wife and an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She will focus on the ever-evolving history of the modern American woman, from the Victorian era to the present. The program consists of 25 to 30 antique, vintage and contemporary wedding gowns.



During the course of the program, emphasis will be given on the history of educational opportunities, social events, economic boom times and crises as well as the political changes that surrounded each "modern" bride in her day. It is a program that celebrates the growth of the American woman as she has evolved through the years.

Leigh Anne has presented this program across the state of Florida and has been well received over the past 13-plus years. We hope you will come and treat yourself to a relaxing afternoon of tea, savory sandwiches, desserts, beautiful historic gowns and fellowship! You are welcome to bring or even wear your own wedding dress. We will have a memory table set up so that you can bring and share any items from your own wedding day, photographs, etc. Hope to see you

there!

#### Rummage Sale Results

Once again the UMW Rummage Sale was a great success! **Thank you so very much for all the volunteer hours and item donations.** This UMW and church family effort will allow us to dedicate \$2,827.00 to God's work in local ministries and beyond. Thank you again!

#### Circle Meetings

Heart to Heart Circle will meet Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am and will continue their reading and discussion of Joining Jesus on His Mission. Ruth Circle of Love will meet on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. They will continue to read and discuss Psalms. All are welcome to join us; bring a little lunch for yourself. Dessert will be provided. Both circles meet in the FLC classrooms 1 and 2.

Sue Shelton

## Our Departments, Continued

### News from the Prayer Ministry

*Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.* I Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NLT)

As we come to Thanksgiving season we give thanks to all our Prayer Warriors. Those of us who meet in a prayer group during the week stay focused on the needs of those in our congregation who have requested prayer. We have a total of 30 Prayer Warriors, those who meet in groups and those who receive prayer requests by e-mail notice. Prayer e-mail requests occur during the week for emergency concerns, hospitalizations and updates to previous prayer concerns. These Prayer Warriors pray from their homes once they receive the prayer request by e-mail.

If you would like to join in our prayer groups Monday or Wednesday, we always welcome extra prayer warriors. If you would like to be notified by e-mail of a prayer need during the week please, e-mail [gfmudge@yahoo.com](mailto:gfmudge@yahoo.com). You may also use the "Connection Card" in the bulletin for becoming a Prayer Warrior.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18, "Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere." (NLT)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Fran Mudge

### Visitation Ministry

No report this month.

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

#### FUMCH Bicycle Maintenance 20 – 23 October 2015

Armed with dozens of new tires, tubes and miscellaneous parts paid for by generous donations from members of Lake Gibson UMC, Dwight and I spent 3 1/2 days getting broken bikes back into service. The work was outdoors and physically demanding, so every night we groaned and moaned with muscle aches and pains. Is it possible that almost-70-year-olds aren't well-suited people to be bicycle mechanics?

We fixed bikes at eight homes, including two at the transitional housing across the street from the campus. These bikes provide essential transportation to work for the young adults who have graduated from the family-style cottages and are learning to live independently. One marked improvement we noted this visit is that the homes which had received the electric air pumps from LGUMC had most of their bike tires inflated when we arrived – a big change. This means more bikers are available for riding!

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

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

In years past, we have had to cannibalize unserviceable bikes for spare parts: gear-shifters, brakes, wheels, tires, saddles or whatever we needed. Some of these bikes were down to bare frames; others had a few dented, rusty parts left. All were piled haphazardly in the bike shed. We spent a long Friday afternoon taking almost everything out of the shed, triaging bikes into those that looked rideable with minimal repairs and those that couldn't be restored economically. When we finished, there was an impressive pile of junk outside the shed to be hauled away. There is a lot more work to be done: we left bikes upside down inside the entire left side of the shed to be repaired on our (or someone's) next trip.

Stored on the right side of the shed is a row of rideable bikes, almost all of which are girl's models (pink or lavender), with 20-inch diameter wheels. Unfortunately, there doesn't appear to be a boy on campus who would ride one of these! There is a shortage of boy's bikes of all wheel sizes from 20 inches and up, and of adult-sized bikes for the teenagers and house parents. The guys would prefer (prohibitively expensive) motor-cross-style bikes to do tricks on, but they use whatever bikes they have, resulting in lots of pretzeled wheels and broken spokes.

With the opening of the on-campus school (the Legacy Scholars Academy), the nice bikes LGUMC donated a couple of years ago are being used for Physical Education classes. Two were damaged earlier this year and since repaired (Dwight ordered and replaced a pretzeled rear wheel on one and reinstalled a pedal whose threads had been stripped on the other). These bikes are being kept in locked indoor storage and are used under adult supervision, prolonging their useful lives.

Fixing bikes for enthusiastic riders is fun and rewarding. At a home with 8 or 9-year-old girls, we couldn't repair them fast enough. As soon as school was out, the girls were all over us trying to help! Getting them back on their bikes was the most satisfying part of the week.

Phyllis and Dwight Kitchens

L: Work in progress



R: Restocked bike shed





## 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.)



### Anniversaries in November



### Birthdays in November

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
11/1	Jane Townsend
11/3	Brett Fox
11/3	Jason Gitt
11/5	Gail Smith
11/10	Jean Wesley
11/11	Faye Bingham
11/11	Mary Futch
11/13	Donald Damaschke
11/14	Bob Addems
11/17	Heather McGrath
11/19	Ashley Davis
11/19	John Travis
11/19	Nathen Van Zile
11/20	Pat Evans
11/22	Barbara Towns
11/24	Reginald Laster
11/24	Marilyn Warnack
11/25	Carlos Exclusa
11/26	Barbara Allen-Coil
11/26	Ellen Haltiwanger
11/27	Brad Fox
11/27	Donna McKnight
11/28	Elaine Baxter
11/28	Sharon Hughes
11/28	Gene Vandervort
11/30	Jim Johnson
11/30	Jeri Spooner

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
11/2	Jerry and Gail Bishop
11/10	Bob and Barbara Gunter
11/14	Danny and Sharon Hughes
11/18	Joe and Pat Moon
11/19	Edison and Cyndee Arnett
11/24	David and Karel Knox
11/27	Richard and Ann Kneeland

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

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church  
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Lakeland, FL 33809

Web Page: [www.lakegibsonumc.com](http://www.lakegibsonumc.com)

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

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	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**

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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).