



# The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

Sharing God's Love Through Action

One Person at a Time



December 2015

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## *The Pastor's Desk*

Every year at this time I rack my mind trying to come up with a new way to convey the message of Christmas. I look for stories of unexplained miracles or of people living in peace where there is hatred all around them. I think of how God brings peace on earth when people put their faith in Him and live for His Kingdom, and I look for those things in the news. Yet the real truth is this, "How can you improve on the real Christmas Story?" I'm not talking about the guy in the red suit, presents under the tree, feeling good about others or anything else, but the story found in the Biblical Gospels.

The very fact that the God of the universe would confine himself to the body of a virgin is mind-boggling. That God would not dictate orders to us about how to live, but would actually come to earth and show us how in person, is ludicrous. That the one who holds the scars in his hand would put his infant body in the hands of mere humans in unconceivable. A love that would not only give up a throne but would also suffer the inhumanities that Jesus did here on this earth (his own creation) at the hands of humans (his own creatures) is a love so wide and so deep that my feeble mind cannot understand it.

If Christmas is supposed to be about love, helping others, forgiving and being generous, then aren't those attributes reflected in the Bible's story of Christmas? Other religions and other societies have different beliefs and stories about the season, but none can match the love shown by God putting on flesh and walking among his creatures, of God dying to redeem His creation and His creatures.

This Christmas Season may the people of God (you and I) ask Him to come anew into our hearts and may He walk among us in His Spirit to help us worship Him as the Shepherds did, to bring Him gifts as the Wise Men did and to spread his love over the earth as He did 2,000 years ago. How can you improve on a story like that? How can you not respond to a God like that with all the love that is within your body?

***<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1 NRSV***

*Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Steve and Mrs. Penny*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor Steve Polk's Message . . . . .	1
Table of Contents . . . . .	2
Editorial Policy . . . . .	3
Correction: Walk to Emmaus . . . . .	3
Newsletter Deadline for 2016 . . . . .	3
Church Calendar for December . . . . .	4
November News . . . . .	5
December Events . . . . .	6
2016 Classes . . . . .	7
Marina's Corner . . . . .	8
Food Pantry Needs . . . . .	9
Finance and Related Topics . . . . .	10
Our Financial Standing . . . . .	10
UMC Market Update . . . . .	12
Our Departments . . . . .	13
Lay Leader's Corner . . . . .	13
The Trustees . . . . .	13
Rooted Student Ministry . . . . .	14
A Little Bit of Heaven CEC . . . . .	15
Music Department . . . . .	15
Adult Sunday School Classes . . . . .	15
Our Ministries . . . . .	17
Mission Moments . . . . .	17
United Methodist Men (UMM) . . . . .	17
United Methodist Women (UMW) . . . . .	17
Prayer Ministry . . . . .	18
Visitation Ministry . . . . .	18
Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) . . . . .	19
Celebrations . . . . .	20
Contact Information . . . . .	21
Cantata Invitations . . . . .	23

## 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 have increased 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).

## Walk to Emmaus, Correction

~~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). These dates do not apply to LGUMC.~~

The web site and date information (above) given in the November *TGN* for the Walk to Emmaus was for Tampa-area churches. Our area is Heart of Florida; walks are hosted at the Masterpiece Gardens in Lake Wales. To get more information about the walk and upcoming dates, see the web site <http://www.hof-emmaus.org>. Attendees, called Pilgrims, must be sponsored by someone who has completed the walk before you. Pilgrim application and sponsor forms are on the web site.

If you would like to learn more about this faith-building program, please talk to Mike and Rosita Stafford or Mike and Jan Booker.

## Newsletter Deadlines for 2016

In an effort to allow more time for editing, review and approval we will be using a standardized deadline for *The Good News* articles and input in 2016. Articles for every issue will be due on the 15th of the preceding month. Therefore, articles and reports for the January 2016 newsletter are due by midnight, Tuesday, December 15th.

We are actively soliciting articles from members of this church. If you have something to share with other members, please write it up and send a hard-copy or e-mail it to the editor. Don't worry about grammar, spelling, typos, etc. That's the kind of work the editor likes to do!

Thanks to everyone who provided input during 2015.

Phyllis Kitchens, Editor

## Church Calendar for December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>		
12/1	UMW Board Meeting	9:00 am	FLC
12/3	ALBOH Board Meeting	6:30 pm	FLC
	No Class		
12/5	Baby Shower	11:00 am – 4:00 pm	FLC
	ALBOH Yard Work	8:00 – 12 noon	ALBOH
12/7	Heart to Heart UMW Circle	11:30 am	Off Campus
	Boy Scouts	6:30 pm	FLC
	Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm	Admin Office
12/8	Cub Scouts	6:30 pm	FLC
12/9	Ruth Circle of Love UMW	10:30 am	FLC
12/10	Constitution Alive! Class	7:00 pm	FLC
12/12	Cantata Rehearsal	10:00 am - 12 noon	S
12/13	Harvest Sunday (Food Pantry) Caroling & Refreshments	1:00 – 5:00 pm	Off-Campus
12/14	Boy Scouts	6:30 pm	FLC
	SPPRC Meeting	7:00 pm	FLC
12/15	Cub Scouts	6:30 pm	FLC
12/16	Youth Christmas Party		FLC
12/17	Constitution Alive Class	7:00 pm	FLC
12/19	Cantata Rehearsal	10:00 am – 12 noon	S
12/20	Blood Drive	9:00 am	Parking Lot
	One Service	10:00 am	S
	Christmas Cantata	10:00 am	S
	Spud Lunch	11:30 am	FLC
	Cookie Exchange	11:30 am	FLC
12/21	Gift Wrapping	1:00 pm	FLC
	Finance Committee	7:00 pm	FLC
12/23	No Bible Study		
12/24	Office Closed		
	Candle Light Service	6:00 pm	S
	And Cantata Reprise		
	Cookies and Punch	After Service	FLC
	No Bible Study		
12/25	Office Closed		
12/30	No Bible Study		
12/31	No Bible Study		

\*\*\* Just a reminder, if you need to book something on the calendar, contact the office at least 2 weeks in advance or earlier. Dates are filling in fast for 2016 and a little bit of 2017. (Of course, emergencies will be an exception.)\*\*\*

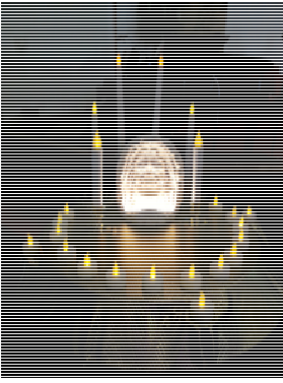
FLC = Family Life Center S=Sanctuary

Other Recurring Events\*: Mondays, 9:30 am, Intercessory Prayer, Sanctuary  
 Wednesdays, 8:00 am, Mid-week Devotions, FLC 1 & 2  
 Thursdays, 9:00 to 11:30 am, Food Pantry, Church Office

\*Subject to dates the office or church are closed in December.

Note: Youth Ministry weekly activities are posted in the FLC and on the church website.

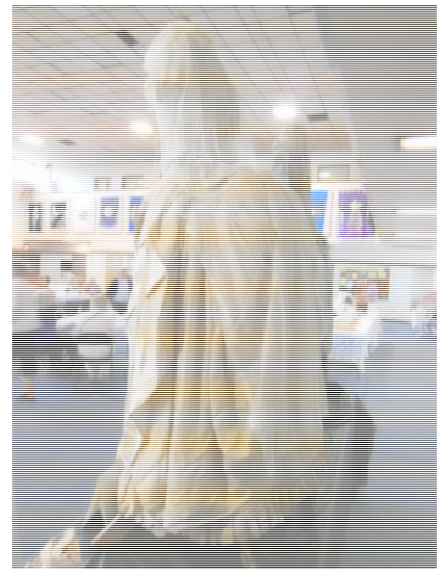
## November News



Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and the newsletter production schedule, we don't have reports on our two Thanksgiving meals. The first was a pot-luck lunch after the second service on Sunday, November 22nd. The second was a traditional Thanksgiving feast on November 26th. If anyone would like to write about these events for the January issue, articles would be appreciated along with photographs. Please send them to Phyllis Kitchens at [phyllis\\_kitchens@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com).

**Advent** started on November 29th. In addition to being the first Sunday of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup> was United Methodist Student Day, a Special Sunday with Offering, as well as a collection for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Offerings were also made to our own Rooted Student Ministry.

Another big event in November was the United Methodist Women's Tea with a special program, which is reported in the UMW section. Here are some photos of the event (with one man, Don Heishman, who operated the sound system). *Editorial Note: Your eyes aren't failing. These photos are out of focus; guess I've dropped Dwight's camera once too often. Please, someone, send me pictures for the newsletter every month! pfk*





## December Events

### Christmas Season Events: Poinsettias, Cantata, Spud Lunch and Cookie Exchange

Poinsettias will be sold by the Youth Ministry for \$10.00 per plant. You may dedicate your plant to loved ones or to the glory of God on the order form (see page 14).

The Christmas Cantata will be held during both the 10:00 am service on 20 December and the Christmas Eve service at 6:00 pm on 24 December. Hopefully, you will have used the invitations included in your December bulletins to invite your neighbors. If you are not able to attend Sunday services, we are also including **cantata invitations** in this newsletter (page 23). Feel free to cut them out and pass them to friends, co-workers, relatives or total strangers! We should be overflowing with guests during this time of the year.

Be sure to not only invite people to the cantatas, but ask your guests if they can stay for the Youth's 'Spud Lunch' on the 20<sup>th</sup>. You may want to offer to buy their lunch (\$7.00 each); then introduce them to other worshipers in the FLC in a less formal environment. Pass on God's love by breaking bread with friends and strangers while letting them see another side of our church. Reservations forms are on page 14.

New for 2015 is a **Christmas cookie exchange on the December 20<sup>th</sup>** in conjunction with the Youth Ministry's Spud Lunch. We'll set up tables across the room where you can drop off your cookies between 9:00 and 10:00 am. Whether your cookies are 'from scratch' or 'from a mix', decorated or plain, the variety should make for a tasty exchange. We'll have disposable gloves and zip-lock bags available to be used during the exchange. No matter how many you bring, we'll divide them into quarters. One-half will be left for you to exchange after the Cantata for someone else's goodies. One-quarter will be put on a table to be consumed as a dessert after the Spud Lunch, and one-quarter will be set aside for use after the Christmas Eve Cantata.

Dwight Kitchens

### Christmas Carols on December 13th

On Sunday afternoon, December 13th, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm members of the choir, praise band, friends and relatives will be singing Christmas carols to LGUMC's shut-ins in their rooms at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Anyone interested in joining us is invited to come; please contact Glenda Hess or Debbie Moore for details. Caroling planned for Lakeland Highlands, Valencia and Arbor Oaks. Please join the carolers for sandwiches, dessert and drinks back at the church afterwards.

### Christmas Photos Needed for January TGN

Many people take pictures during these special church events. *The Good News* needs your photos! Please e-mail your favorites to the editor to use in the January newsletter by the 15th of the month.

Phyllis Kitchens (phyllis\_kitchens@hotmail.com)

## 2016 Classes

### Group Study: When Helping Hurts

Poverty is much more than simply a lack of material resources, and it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve it. *When Helping Hurts* shows how some alleviation efforts, failing to consider the complexities of poverty, have actually (and unintentionally) done more harm than good.

But the class also looks ahead. It encourages us to see the dignity in everyone, to empower the materially poor, and to know that we are all uniquely needy—and that God in the gospel is reconciling all things to himself.

Focusing on both North American and Majority World contexts, *When Helping Hurts* provides proven strategies for effective alleviation of poverty, catalyzing the idea that sustainable change comes not from the outside in, but from the inside out.

Join us for a **six-week evening study group on poverty and its alleviation**. You will view short videos each week which we'll discuss. This may open your eyes as to whether we are treating today's poor properly.

**Study sessions will be in the FLC, classroom 1 & 2 on Tuesday evening, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, 19 and 26 Jan; 2, 9, 16, and 23 February.** There is no tuition fee for the study session, but we ask that you **let Dwight Kitchens (863-984-4564) know if you plan to attend.**

There is an optional text which discusses much of this in depth, available from Amazon.com for \$12.57 plus shipping and tax. (The text is not required for your participation in this class.)

### Freed-Up Financial Living Class

This class will be presented on 3 **consecutive Saturdays, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, 6, 13, and 20 February.** **Course fee of \$25 per family** for materials from the Good \$ense Ministry. **Register with the church office (863-858-5431) by 14 January to receive your Pre-Work Packet. Attendees must do the pre-work before the first class.**

The goal of this course is for you to become grounded in a biblical understanding of a proper relationship to money and possessions, and to commit to and begin developing a biblically-based spending plan.

By the end of the course, you will have a first draft of a usable Spending Plan in your hand, the knowledge in your head to implement it, and a commitment in your heart to follow through on it. The Good \$ense Ministry is committed to providing you with the principles, practical steps, and individual assistance to help make that happen.

Because it would be better if all adults in the family participate in this class, **free child care will be provided.**

## Marina's Corner

*“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”*

St. Francis of Assisi



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 four new families come in for both the groceries and the baked goods. Since the beginning of the year up to November 5, 2015, we have handed out **613 bags of groceries and 692 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.

Another huge THANK YOU goes out to Dan and Ann Johnson and members of the UMW – Ruth Zona, Ellen Haltiwanger, JoAnn Mickle and Sue Shelton — who came in on Thursdays and helped hand out and carry out groceries to the families in need. If you would like to volunteer on a Thursday, please contact the office to be scheduled for a date. Please call Marina at (863) 858-5431.

An extra-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.

A big “Thank You” goes to the **Cypress Lakes Homeowners Association** for the generous donations of canned goods and dry food items given to Lake Gibson’s Food Pantry for the last six months. The association runs the Bingo program at the park and players bring a food donation and receive a free playing card the second Tuesday of each month. Shirley Lux, a resident of Cypress Lakes, member of LGUMC and a bingo player, transports three full boxes of donations to the food pantry each month. Lake Gibson’s food pantry will remain on their list and will be chosen to receive the donations again sometime next year.

Ms. Shirley Lux also delivers two full boxes of bread and pastries each week to the ‘Jay and Eloise Troxel Family Life Center’ which is a home for women and children run by Lighthouse Ministries in Lakeland.

In addition, our very own church secretary, Marina Garcia, takes the remaining baked goods to Talbot House and delivers bread to the homeless in the area.

You can be proud of Lake Gibson UMC for filling the needs of many here in Lakeland.

Shirley Lux



# 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

## Our Financial Standing

We're now eleven months into the year, and can report on the financial status of the first ten months. You may note that our **downward trend continues**, with expenditures being higher than income for the past five months. The summer months are often noted for this revenue vs. expenditure difficulty, but it has continued for September and October.

As mentioned during several services, our primary difficulty is with the significant number of apportionments as-yet unpaid. As of 31 October, \$14,212 of our allocated \$27,193 was still owed (52.2%). As a connectional church, these funds are our fair share of running the United Methodist Church world-wide.

Thankfully, A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center has been so successfully managed during 2015 that it has made a profit and donated a portion to the church in the amount of \$7,000. The Trustees have designated this as a contribution to the 2015 apportionments. Therefore, our **remaining apportionment balance is only \$7,212**.

My primary concern is that **failure to pay apportionments, fund retirement accounts, and pay property and liability insurance may have dire consequences for the pay and appointment of our pastor at the June 2016 Florida Annual Conference**. If this is what we want, we are on the correct path. If it is not, we must collectively find a way to increase the support of our church family.

The three tables below are presented here so that you can see the detail of our financial health. The prognosis could be much better in 2016 if we choose to proportionally increase our financial contributions to the church.

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Chair

Month	Sun-days	Revenue	Expenditures	Budgeted	Rev-Exp
January	4	22306	20644	26289	\$1,662
February	4	26282	34856	26289	(\$8,574) **
March	5	31316	22669	26289	\$8,647
October	4	22325	21713	26289	\$ 612
May	5	26498	25603	26289	\$ 895
June	4	18538	19803	26289	(\$1,292) **
July	4	17763	22070	26289	(\$4,307) **
August	5	18641	21181	26289	(\$2,540) **
October	4	16310	20872	26289	(\$4,562) **
October	4	18372	19897	26289	(\$1,525) **
November	5			26289	
December	4			26289	

Notes: Rev-Exp is revenue minus expenditures

(\$x,xxx) \*\* Denotes spending above our monthly revenue

# Finance and Related Topics, Continued

## Our Financial Standing, Continued

### Three-year Congregational Giving Profile (CGP) Template: Monthly Version

#### Data Entry

Current Year **2015**

Current Budget **\$321,952**

Month	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2015
January	\$21,095	\$19,259	\$19,500	\$59,854	\$19,951	\$19,951	\$22,306
February	\$32,461	\$18,886	\$22,240	\$73,587	\$24,529	\$44,480	\$26,282
March	\$19,047	\$22,891	\$25,371	\$67,309	\$22,436	\$66,917	\$31,316
April	\$23,789	\$18,495	\$17,766	\$60,050	\$20,017	\$86,933	\$22,325
May	\$19,095	\$16,299	\$17,040	\$52,434	\$17,478	\$104,411	\$26,498
June	\$17,955	\$19,238	\$22,282	\$59,475	\$19,825	\$124,236	\$18,538
July	\$20,480	\$18,339	\$18,388	\$57,207	\$19,069	\$143,305	\$17,763
August	\$17,942	\$15,918	\$17,351	\$51,211	\$17,070	\$160,376	\$18,641
September	\$21,920	\$21,026	\$15,861	\$58,807	\$19,602	\$179,978	\$16,310
October	\$17,834	\$18,241	\$18,541	\$54,616	\$18,205	\$198,183	\$18,372
November	\$18,575	\$19,000	\$19,077	\$56,652	\$18,884	\$217,067	
December	\$21,473	\$23,478	\$23,415	\$68,366	\$22,789	\$239,856	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$251,666</b>	<b>\$231,070</b>	<b>\$236,832</b>	<b>\$719,568</b>	<b>\$239,856</b>	<b>\$239,856</b>	<b>\$218,351</b>

### Monthly Budget Monitoring Based on CGP Goals

Current Year **2015**

Current Budget **\$321,952**

Month	% Needed Monthly	\$ Needed Monthly	Received Monthly	% Needed Cumulative	\$ Needed Cumulative	Received Cumulative	Status Ahead or (Behind)	% Ahead or (Behind)
January	8.32%	\$26,780	\$22,306	8.32%	\$26,780	\$22,306	(\$4,474)	-16.71%
February	10.23%	\$32,925	\$26,282	18.54%	\$59,705	\$48,588	(\$11,117)	-18.62%
March	9.35%	\$30,116	\$31,316	27.90%	\$89,820	\$79,904	(\$9,916)	-11.04%
April	8.35%	\$26,868	\$22,325	36.24%	\$116,688	\$102,229	(\$14,459)	-12.39%
May	7.29%	\$23,460	\$26,498	43.53%	\$140,148	\$128,727	(\$11,421)	-8.15%
June	8.27%	\$26,611	\$18,538	51.80%	\$166,759	\$147,265	(\$19,493)	-11.69%
July	7.95%	\$25,596	\$17,763	59.75%	\$192,355	\$165,028	(\$27,326)	-14.21%
August	7.12%	\$22,913	\$18,641	66.86%	\$215,268	\$183,669	(\$31,598)	-14.68%
September	8.17%	\$26,312	\$16,310	75.04%	\$241,579	\$199,979	(\$41,600)	-17.22%
October	7.59%	\$24,437	\$18,372	82.63%	\$266,016	\$218,351	(\$47,664)	-17.92%
November	7.87%	\$25,347	\$0	90.50%	\$291,363	\$218,351	(\$73,012)	
December	9.50%	\$30,589	\$0	100.00%	\$321,952	\$218,351	(\$103,601)	

Totals **\$321,952**

## Finance and Related Topics, Continued

### UMC Market Update

The UMCmarket has been updated and permits a portion of many purchases to be returned to our local congregation. Register with [www.umcmarket.org](http://www.umcmarket.org) before you start your holiday shopping. It's easy.

1. Click on the "Signup" button in the top right-hand corner of the UMCmarket home page.
2. 'A Sign Up Guide' (bottom left-hand corner) provides setup instructions, if needed.
3. Once signed in, click on 'My Account' to insure that you have 'Lake Gibson United Methodist Church' as the designated beneficiary.
4. Once you have made your first purchase, you may access the new 'Transaction History' section under 'My Account' to see a history of all your purchases.
5. If you use Google's Chrome browser, you may download the Easy Give Button to shop directly at store websites. This is optional.

Check out the list of stores in the UMC Market. You can find specific stores using the SEARCH feature of the site. Alternatively, looking through the list may provide you with some new ideas. Just choose the store you want from [www.umcmarket.org](http://www.umcmarket.org) after signing into the site. Your linking through [www.umcmarket.org](http://www.umcmarket.org) insures that a percentage is returned locally.

As an example, if you were to donate a \$54.99 Campbell Hausfeld 12-volt cordless inflator from Home Depot to the Florida United Methodist Children's home, 1.5% of your purchase would be returned to LGUMC. Not a lot of money individually, but like interest on a savings account, it accumulates over time.

Give the site a try and see if any of your favorite online stores participate in the program.

### Looking for Christmas Gifts?

I know. Sometimes it's hard to find the perfect gift to express your love during the Christmas season. If you're looking to express your joy of the season, why not give anonymously where you know your gift will do some good?

Here are some suggestions:

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

\$150: Six \$25 gift cards to support one child's Christmas purchases

\$110: Contributions to purchase two battery-powered bicycle pumps

#### LGUMC:

\$100 to be placed in a Benevolence Fund. What's a Benevolence Fund? Remember the homeless family Lee Mueller reported on in the November newsletter who were sleeping in their car? The money we gave them to pay for a motel room is a typical Benevolence Fund expenditure.

## Our Departments

### Lay Leader's Corner

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him , all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen  
(hymnal page 95)

Remember how we used to sing that after each offering given and taken during our Worship time together? It is a reminder where our provision comes from and to Whom we owe our being as Christians.

Great is Thy Faithfulness, Great is Thy Faithfulness,  
Great is Thy Faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
ALL I have needed  
Thy Hand hath provided; Great is Thy Faithfulness,  
LORD unto me!  
(hymnal page 140)

Even though we just celebrated our national holiday of Thanksgiving, it is never done. Each and every day is to be celebrated with thanksgiving because we are continually blessed by God in all that we do!

Now may the God of peace . . . make you complete in every  
good work to do His Will. (Heb 13:20-21)

It could be said that stewardship is the defining theme of the God-human relationship. In Genesis 1, God made man the steward of His creation (Gen 1:28). The New Testament calls followers of Christ His servants — another way to define a steward (Rom 1:1). Paul says that bishops are stewards of God, meaning overseers of His Church (Titus 1:7). Paul called himself a steward "of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor 4:1).

In every case, God as Master provides what the steward needs to fulfill his or her calling. Paul writes that the Bible can make the Christian "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16-17). And the writer to the Hebrews praises God for making Christians complete "to do His Will" (Heb 13:21). (Turning Point Daily Devotional)

Whatever God has called us at LGUMC to do, He will furnish us completely with the resources to do it.

IT'S BEEN MY PRIVELEGE TO SERVE AS YOUR LAY LEADER. GOD'S GRACE AND BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

John Bernat

### Board of Trustees

No report this month.



# Our Departments

## Rooted Student Ministry

The LGUMC Youth Ministry is blessing us with two special, fund-raising events in December. There will be a tasty baked potato lunch with all the fixings and home-made soup after the Christmas cantata. Leading up to the cantata, the Youth are offering poinsettias at a special low price to decorate the sanctuary (and take home by Christmas Eve). Both events require actions on your part: Please fill in the forms below (or the same contained in church bulletins) and return them to church to place your orders. The Youth Ministry is largely self-supporting, raising most or all of the money they need for events like their annual mission trip.



- \* *When: Sunday, December 20th after the Cantata (about noon)*
- \* *Where: Family Life Center @ LGUMC*
- \* *What: A fantastic lunch with baked potato bar full of goodies, chili, soup, dessert & a drink.*
- \* *How Much: A bargain at \$7.00*
- \* *Why: To help raise funds for youth programs and to have a little fellowship with your church family.*

**Thanks so much for supporting our Youth!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How Many: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check: \_\_\_\_\_

*Place your order today by calling the office at 863-858-5431 or placing in collection plate.*

*Purchase a poinsettia to display in the chapel this wonderful holiday season for the low price of \$10.00.*

*Please Check;*

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in the glory \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Proceeds will help fund Youth programs,  
Thanks so much for supporting our Youth!*

Paid: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Make Check Payable To LGUMCYF**



## Our Departments



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

ALBOH celebrated with a "Thankful Dinner" on November 19th, attended by parents, children, staff and Board members. This has been a great year for ALBOH, with the achievement of VPK certification and ending the year in a healthy financial status. They have been able to provide \$7,000 to the church and to establish a reserve fund for future needs. We are very thankful that Lisa Bacon joined us as the director and really energized this mission of LGUMC.

We hope members of the congregation will join us on a work day at ALBOH on Saturday, December 5th, from 8:00 am to noon.

Phyllis Kitchens

### **Music Department**

On Sunday, December 13th, members of the choir, praise band, friends and relatives will go a-caroling to LGUMC's shut-ins in the north Lakeland area. Glenda Grant Hess invites anyone in the congregation to join them in singing Christmas carols. The caroling is scheduled to be from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

### **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

SECOND QUARTER

DECEMBER 6, 2015 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2016

UNIT 1

DECEMBER 6 TO DECEMBER 27, 2015

#### **WHAT WE BRING TO GOD**

1. December 6, 2015 — The Lord's Day  
A. Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-17
2. December 13, 2015 — Acceptable Offerings  
A. Leviticus 22:17-25; 31-33
3. December 20, 2015 — Dedication of Firstborn  
A. Exodus 13:13-15; Luke 2:22-32
4. December 27, 2015 — A Generous Gift  
A. Matthew 23:2-12; Mark 12:38-44

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

FLC Rooms 1 and 2  
9:15 AM TO 9:45 AM

ADULTS, COME AND JOIN US

## Our Ministries

### Mission Moments

No report this month

### United Methodist Men (UMM)

No report this month

### United Methodist Women (UMW)

**Heart to Heart Circle** will meet at the home of Mary Beth Kuhlman on December 7th at 11:30 for our Finger Food Fellowship Christmas Party. Bring a dish to share, a \$10.00 donation for the Food Pantry and a grab bag gift of something you no longer need or want. Mary Beth will serve her famous punch. Please call Ruth Zona (863-859-5967) if you are planning to attend.

**Ruth Circle of Love** will meet on December 9th as originally planned, but at 10:30 am rather than 11:00. There will be no lesson as it was decided at the last meeting that we would be putting together Christmas gift bags to be taken to those on our visitation list (those who are unable to join us in church, either homebound or a care/rehabilitation facility).

Please bring a small gift bag and a few items that might be useful or enjoyable for these individuals. Suggestions we discussed were travel-size lotions, shampoo, hand sanitizer, pocket-sized calendars, or anything, preferably small in size, that might brighten their day. Food items will be great for some of our recipients, but we do not need a lot as many have food restrictions. Once we have completed this project we will enjoy lunch and fellowship at Sonny's Barbeque restaurant!

Thanks to Lou Webb for her service as President of Ruth's Circle of Love. Beginning in 2016 Pat Moon will be the circle's President.

**Fall Tea Party and Program:** We had a great turn-out for our Fall Tea and program, with 72 in attendance. Our guest speaker, Leigh Ann Brown, entertained us with her stories and information about gowns she displayed and the history behind the women who wore them. Thank you, UMW members, for your hard work, the tea and goodies that made the afternoon complete! To those who visited and to any lady who has a possible interest, please take note of the following information about us, the United Methodist Women (UMW) at Lake Gibson United Methodist Church:

We currently have two circles and we are trying to generate interest in a third circle that would meet in the evenings or on Saturday to accommodate those who are working or otherwise occupied week days.

Heart to Heart Circle meets on the first Monday of each month at 10:30 am in the FLC and the Ruth Circle of Love meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am (with exceptions in December, as noted above, and during the summer months).

Continued on the next page . . .

## Our Ministries, Continued

### United Methodist Women (UMW), Continued

At these meetings we discuss any upcoming projects or news, then we study and share in a lesson. Following the lesson we fellowship with the lunch-time meal. We each bring a sack lunch and one member provides dessert.

We also have **Unit meetings** — usually three times a year. At this time circles meet together and we have a mission study, a guest speaker or a musical program. Mission study and support of ministries is very central to our purpose.

The money we get from our Spring and Fall Rummage sales goes to many different ministries — some within our own church (i.e., the food pantry), some to the community (e.g., Talbot House), some to global ministries (e.g., the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)). Some members also participate in the pantry distributions on Thursdays or make contact with those who are homebound. We would be delighted to have you join us in any or all of our activities. If you have questions please contact Sue Shelton at 853-9212.

**New UMW Vice President:** Linda Hudson will be the UMW Vice President, sharing some of the load with President, Sue Shelton.

### 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.* 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NLT)

Prayer Warriors are a wonderful reflection of God's love. You are one of those who keep the spirit of Christmas glowing brightly through the year. Every day you show what Christian love is really about through your prayers, compassion, concern, warmth and kindness for others.

The caring things you say and do bring Christ's peace, hope and joy to everyone around you. God has blessed Lake Gibson's Prayer Warriors in bringing us together in prayer and service to him.

May you be blessed with everything good and that God's love will always light your way.

May your heart be filled with the wonder of this blessed season. In Christ we give thanks.

Fran Mudge, Prayer Ministry Advocate

### Visitation Ministry

Our shut-ins will be treated to Christmas carols on December 13th and will be given small gift packages by members of the Ruth Circle of Love when they are visited.



## Our Departments, Continued

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

November was that time of the year when we “undecorated” the FUMCH Angel Tree that Karen and Jeff Acor decorated so carefully. The Children's Home again requested we provide gift cards so the kids can buy their own gifts or the houses can eat out as a family at a local restaurant. (There were a few angels for cottages which listed the many items needed to outfit them for new arrivals.)

The deadline for all contributions was Sunday, November 29th. FUMCH requested donations be provided to them by December 1st this year



# 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 December

## Anniversaries in December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
12/2	Bud Davis
12/2	Kaye Fields
12/3	Sue Shelton
12/5	Kris Welch
12/9	Jan Booker
12/11	Henry Zona
12/13	Holly Berry
12/13	Bob Gilmore
12/14	Robert Bailey
12/15	Marian Schroeder
12/16	Debra Berry
12/16	Fred Berry
12/17	Beverly Hines
12/19	Marilyn Conger
12/19	Donald Heishman
12/20	Kristie Otte
12/22	Ginger Fredrikson
12/23	Betty Tomlinson
12/26	Ann Kneeland
12/26	Rick Mueller
12/27	Kayla Freeman
12/27	Kevin Patterson
12/28	Glenda Hess
12/28	Phyllis Kitchens
12/29	Roy Bodemer
12/29	Virginia Collins
12/29	Bob Gunter
12/29	Judy Van Zile
12/30	Dottie Gabor
12/30	Justin Oliva
12/30	Matthew Rogers
12/31	Marion Cope

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
12/10	Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens
12/12	Bob and Sue Holmes

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
Cell	863-255-8619
E-mail	<a href="mailto:alboh@lakegibsonumc.com">alboh@lakegibsonumc.com</a>

*The Good News* is a monthly church newsletter bringing the "Good News" to members and friends of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. We welcome your suggestions, comments and articles. You may reach the editor, Phyllis Kitchens, by calling 863-984-4564 (home) or 410-790-2662 (cell), or by e-mailing her at [phyllis\\_kitchens@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com).



**YOU'RE INVITED TO A  
CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

**Sunday, Dec 20th, 10 AM  
Thursday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM**

Celebrate the Christmas season with music and worship. Join us for our annual Christmas musical and celebration of Christ's birth.

Stay in fellowship with a potato and soup luncheon plus dessert on Sunday.

Stay in fellowship with dessert on Christmas Eve.

**LAKE GIBSON UNITED  
METHODSIT CHURCH  
424 W. DAUGHTERY ROAD,  
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