



The Good News

*Our Mission in making disciples for Jesus Christ is...
to instruct Heads to know God's Word
to nurture Hearts to grow in God's Love
to offer Hands to show God's Grace
in our community and church family.*

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

From the Pastor's Desk

Can you believe it? The holiday season is upon us. It has been such a busy and eventful year that time seems to have literally flown out the window. If your schedule has been anything like mine there has been precious little opportunity to slow down and just sit, talk to and thank God for his goodness and mercy. This month I encourage and challenge you to make a regular appointment with God and thank Him for all of his bounty. To help start this conversation I give you the following examples of things we can thank God for using the word thanksgiving for inspiration.

This one is about God

Take time to converse with God
Hear what He is saying to you and obey
Adore God in all things and Ask for his guidance in everything
Notice God in the world around you and thank Him for his gifts and presence in your life
Know you are His child
Show God's love to others each and every day
Give generously to God's ministries
Inspire others to live for God
Vocalize your love for God to others
Include and Invite others to share in God's love
Name God as your Lord, Savior and Friend for
Great is our God and worthy of all praise

The next one is about specific things we can thank God for

T – Today, Turkey, dressing and gravy, time with loved ones
H – Hearing our prayers, Home, Heaven, Hope
A – Answered prayer, Agape love, Apples
N – Never leaving nor forsaking us, Newness of life through the Holy Spirit
K – Knowing my name, Keeping me safe in His hand
S – Sunrises, Sunsets, Surprises, Servant leaders
G – Grandparents, good friends, Great music
I – Inspiring worship, the Incarnation
V – Variety in life, Vivaciousness
I – Inviting me into His family, Including me in His plans
N – Nurses, Nieces and Nephews, N. B. Polk (my Dad)
G – Good Times, Grace and more Grace

Happy Thanksgiving and may God's blessings be upon you.
Pastor Steve

Church Conference Minutes
October 5, 2011

1. 7:35pm- Pastor Steve Polk introduced our presiding elder, Pastor Harold Hendren. See attached for attendance. Lee Mueller was approved as recording secretary.
2. Welcome
3. Missional Vital Signs goals-Pastor Steve explained about the different vital signs that the church is tracking for the conference: goals-

	2012	2013	2014	2015
a. Passionate Worship	205	225	250	275
b. Radical Hospitality	8	12	15	18
c. Intentional Discipling	55	65	80	100
d. Salty Service	25	35	50	65
e. Extravagant Generosity	230,000	250,000	265,000	275,000

These minimum goals were accepted without opposition.
4. Membership Members for Removal.
See attached list of 63 names for 3rd year removals.
Please remove Debbie Moxley from the drop list, reducing the list to 62.
5. Clergy Compensation
 - Continuing Education, CE fund, for Pastor Steve-Pastor Steve is preferring our church, considering our struggling finances, get our past debts paid first, then we will talk about CE.
 - Carol Davis responded with a request to add \$250 of Continuing Education funds as part of Accounts Reimbursable. Pastor Steve's salary package, was passed with no opposition.
 - o Salary 40,800
 - o Acct Reimbursable 2400 including \$250 for Continuing Education
 - o Housing 17,000, with a \$5000 exclusion for tax purposes
6. Deacon Report-na
7. Lay Leadership nominations-Eric Hines moved to accept the appointments as presented by committee, approved with no opposition. See attached list for nominations.
8. Recommendation of Candidates for Ordained Ministry-na
9. Lay Servant Ministry-Mike Stafford was approved for renewal with no opposition.
10. Connectional Giving Summary-we continue to strive to "catch up" with our commitments. Apportionments for 2012 are \$27,943.
11. Finance-our offerings are falling short of our 2011 budget. We continue to work within our resources & pray for God's blessings.

Linda Alvarez & Carol Davis were very appreciative of our new Pastor Steve Polk.
Steve is a wonderful addition to Lake Gibson!!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully,

Lee Mueller

GET YOUR DEPARTMENT or MINISTRY INFORMATION OUT THROUGH THIS
NEWS LETTER EACH MONTH TO THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION !

E-mail to: dheishman@verizon.net by the 20th each month.

Here's an article posted on Jonathan McKee's blog, something for Lake Gibson UMC to ponder.

Teenagers Looking for Ministry?

Posted on [October 13, 2011](#) by [Jonathan McKee](#)

A few weeks ago I was sitting in the front row of a church waiting to speak, and after hearing a few announcements about the numerous ministries the church was actively doing in the community I turned to the pastor sitting next to me and said, "Wow, this church is really making a 'hands-on' impact in the community."



The pastor pointed up on stage and said, "See that bass player? He's a doctor and has three residents. Every month he takes his residents with him and they go to a homeless area of our city and just start helping people one at a time. No facility, no clinic... he just walks up to a homeless person, introduces himself as a doctor who would like to help and then asks if he can check their ears, their feet, etc. Often he'll find an infection of some sort and he'll send one of his residents right then to go fill a prescription and bring it back to the person within the hour."

The whole church is involved in ministries like this,
.....and the teenagers notice.

What do the teenagers in your community see from the church? Are they learning to serve and love the community like Christ himself demonstrated? Or do they only see that from Lady Gaga?

You see, [this young generation is a very "cause" oriented generation](#). They are looking for ways to make a difference. The question is... who do they see really making an impact? [Earlier this year I shared with you how Lady Gaga was named the #1 key influencer](#) to young people, known for compassion, raising millions for Japan and being a spokesperson for numerous causes. Since then, [Forbes even named her #1 most powerful celebrity women](#), beating out Oprah.

Do your teenagers see more compassion and service out of Gaga than the church? Are believers seeking to get their hands dirty and serve like Christ modeled?

Are you creating opportunities for [ministry by teenagers?](#)

This Friday my church opens up its gym to anyone needy in the community—something they call "Second Fridays." It's this simple. They feed a meal to anyone who is hungry.

Every second Friday hundreds show up for these "Second Friday" meals. Justin, a 17-year-old in my church shows up every week to serve food and just hang out with the needy people there. "I just love hanging out with them." Justin told me. "They're real people with real stories. I can talk with them for hours."

Justin's first taste of this ministry was years ago, going with his family and serving back in the kitchen. As Justin became a steady and dedicated volunteer, he began to get to know some of the needy people that returned each month. Now Justin's job is to interact with the people.

Second Fridays opens the doors to tons of other ministry opportunities. The church gives away coats and clothing, they also have people there that provide haircuts and other needs.

Are you developing Justins in your church?

What are some of the ways people in your church serve and love others?

A Little Bit of Heaven

Sue Shelton, Board Chairperson of the A Little Bit of Heaven, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church preschool, has announced that the Board of Directors have chosen Mrs. Gail Patterson to become the new Director of A Little Bit of Heaven effective January 1, 2012. Gail will be retiring from the Polk County School System at the end of this year. Gail is a member of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church and was involved in the early development and formation of A Little Bit of Heaven preschool. She brings years of experience in the education field to our program.

The school has been in existence for about five years and the first Director was Mrs. Vivian Albritton, wife of Pastor Lamar Albritton. The school is available for children from infants to five years old. It is a ministry of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church and offers a year round Christian education to students.

At the present time we have 42 students and a teaching and administrative staff of 16.

Although we are a ministry of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church we pay our own bills and payroll through the tuition payments from the parents of children attending the preschool. An independent Board of Directors is responsible for management of the school. Like any new business, especially in the current economic environment, we have had some struggles financially. Treasurer of the Board, Eric Hines, reports that the school is currently in sound financial condition.

—Don't Miss it—

Lake Gibson Fall Fair and BBQ,
Nov. 12, 2011, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Lake Gibson
United Methodist Church,
424 Daughtery Road, Lakeland, FL

Enjoy Some Delicious

Ribs, chicken, pulled pork,
Eat-in or Take Out!

And while you're there check out
the large selection of Handmade
crafts and gifts for the holidays
and year round.

More info call 863 604-0194.

NOTICE

No monthly activities calendar has been furnished for this e-mail version of the Good News Newsletter
To view the current month's calendar click on the [calendar](#) link button on www.lakegibsonumc.com website

H.O.N.O.R.

HELPING OUR NEEDY ONES RESPECTFULLY, INC.

"Why spend your money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Isaiah 55:1-2

Helping Our Needy Ones Respectfully, Inc., a faith based ministry dedicated to providing free minor home maintenance and repairs for elders age 60 and above, is staffed by volunteers and funded by donations.

Bookmarkers with 6 different designs may be found in the Narthex. Won't you please choose one or more of these markers and make a donation to HONOR? Your dollar will be spent on "bread" so that we can labor to assist an elder.

If you need assistance from HONOR or would like to sign up as a team member, go to our website www.honorinc.org or call 816-2779



YOUR INFORMATION, STORY OR PROGRAM COULD BE HERE !!!

11/8 Ed and Althea Holt		11/20 Jerry and Gail Bishop
11/10 Bob and Barbara Gunter		11/24 David and Karel Knox
11/18 Joe and Pat Moon		11/27 Jack and Lisa Curtiss
11/19 Ed and Cyndee Arnett		

	Birthdays	11/10 Jean Wesley	11/19 John Travis
		11/10 Bobby Courtney	11/19 Nathen VanZile
		11/11 Mary Futch	11/24 Christian Smith
		11/13 Don Chandler	11/24 Mackenzie Smith
		11/15 Judy Chandler	11/24 Marilyn Warnack
11/3 Bret Fox		11/17 Lydia McKinney	11/27 Brad Fox
11/3 Gail Smith		11/17 Beckie Haubry	11/27 Donna McKnight
11/8 Rosalie Williams		11/18 Bob Beniston	
11/10 Rob Ashford			



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

The Good News

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 and comments. Please send to :

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Web Page - www.lakegibsonumc.com

Rosita M. Stafford, Administrative Secretary;
 Lee Mueller—Youth Director
 Sue Heishman, Bookkeeper,
 Glenda Grant, Director of Music/Organist
 Burt Fortin, Custodian
 A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center
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