



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



JULY, 2011

Lamar Albritton, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

FAREWELL

Just today, June 22, 2011 Vivian and I took our oldest child Evelyn to the Tampa International Airport to catch a plane back to her home in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I shared with her on our journey to the airport that it is always a joy going to pick her up, but a sadness taking her back to say our farewell. For I know it will be quite a while before we see her again. There is that lonely lost feeling deep in the gut when people you love and care for say their "good-byes."

Such is the emotion I as your pastor am experiencing now in this season of change in pastoral leadership, as we say our farewell's to each other. In seeking solace for these anxious feelings, I do what God's Holy Spirit has taught me to do over and over again: turn to the Word.

Most of you know that one of my most favorite parts of God's Words is the *Book of Psalm*. It is there all the human emotions ever fathomed are laid before God from the rawness of the heart. Strange as it may sound I found comfort today in these words written by David in the 139th Psalm: **"Where can I go from Your Spirit? / Or where can I flee from Your presence?"** (v. 7).

Here is an intimate psalm that gives perspective for the sweep of life in both its travels and travails. God is present in change and knows completely what is in the mind and heart of each person present on the day of leave-taking. Despite loss, the community, the church, the body of Christ is bound together for all time with the knowledge that God is always present even as leadership comes and goes.

David asks two rhetorical questions here and both times the answer is "Nowhere." God commands His whole creation; there is no corner in which He is absent, either in life or in death; and

yes, even in pastoral changes. God is our one constant whether we come, stay or go. He was here before I arrived at Lake Gibson, He is with Lake Gibson now, and He will remain with His same graceful love and mercy offering forgiveness and faithfulness to all who believe.

To use a theological term, God is *"omnipresent"* – meaning He is all present; everywhere. Because this is so, we can never be lost to His Spirit or to each other in the faith. This is good news to those of us who know and love God, because no matter what we do or where we go, we can never be far from God's comforting presence. It is this truth that enables me as a father to say farewell to my daughter and as a pastor to say farewell to you my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Dear friends of Lake Gibson UMC over the past 17 years we have had our ups and downs, our highs and our lows, and everything in between. But nothing has been able to separate us from the love of Christ Jesus in our hearts. Thank you for being a blessing to my family and me over the years. Words cannot express what our relationship and time together has meant. I assure you that you and Pastor Steve Polk will be in my thoughts and prayers, as you begin your new journey together in the presence of the Loving and Living God.

So with the blessed assurance of God's presence I could say farewell to my daughter Evelyn today at the airport, and I can also say farewell to you Lake Gibson UMC – **"FAREWELL!"**

**"O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST,
OUR HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME" .**

.. Pastor Lamar Albritton



**BLESSED IS THE NATION
ONE HOPE FOR AMERICA**

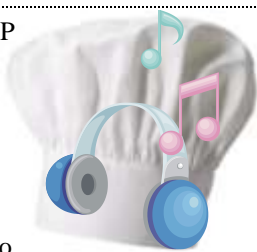
America is a nation whose God-given bedrock foundation of deep faith and great freedom has begun to crumble in recent years. We live in perilous times as we systematically push God out of our national conscience. Survival of our prosperity and blessing hangs in the balance.

On July 3rd, the Adult Choir will present a 27 minute DVD musical that takes a serious look at the state of our nation and serves as a call to prayer and repentance, lest, through our indifference, we lose the freedom we have so long cherished. COME JOIN THE CHALLENGE not only to remember our godly heritage, but to return to it. God's Word is clear: *Blessed Is the Nation whose God is the Lord. (Psalm 33:12)*

Our new minister, Pastor Steve Polk, also will be speaking at the July 3rd combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be a potluck dinner and games following the service.

COOKING UP
some
AWESOME
MUSIC

For Vacation
Bible School,
August 8-12.
First 60 kids to
Register get a FREE GIFT!



55th Annual Church Music Workshop

Sunday, July 17th through Friday, July 22nd, 2011
Florida Southern College, Lakeland
featuring Adult Choral Clinician Joel Raney
renowned composer and pianist



JOEL RANEY IN CONCERT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011
7:30PM
R. A. DAVIS FINE ARTS
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
ROOM 202
FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE
PUBLIC WELCOME!
A GOODWILL OFFERING
WILL BE TAKE.

CLOSING CELEBRATION CONCERT
FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2011
10AM
1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
72 LAKE MORTON DR., LAKELAND
PUBLIC WELCOME!
AN OFFERING TO BENEFIT
SCHOLARSHIP FUND WILL BE TAKEN.



sponsored by the Florida Chapter of



Workshop and Registration Information
at www.floridafellowship.org

CHOIR VACATION IN JULY

Following the July 3rd Musical, the Adult Choir will enjoy a short break for the rest of the month.

Thank you to the following volunteers who will be providing special music for our services:

- July 10th
George Gribble, Claudia Moore and Bill Anderson
- July 17th Beverly Hines
- July 24th Claudia Moore and Bill Anderson
- July 31st Youth Sunday

***Thank you Adult Choir for blessing our services with
your talent and dedication all year long!***



July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 8:00 am Chapel Worship 8:45 am Fellowship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Youth Leadership weeks 1 and 3 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study week			<u>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</u> 4:45 pm Youth Band Practice 5:30 pm Jr. Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group		1	2
3 10:00 am COMBINE WORSHIP SERVICE AND 4TH OF JULY POT LUCK AND CELEBRATION	4 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> <u>INDEPENDENCE DAY</u>	5 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Boy Scouts #721	6 6:30 am Mid Week Devotions 10:00 am Chapel Pre School 12:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	7 5:00 pm Pre School Board Meeting 7:00 pm Lock-In Youth	8	9 8:00 am UMM Breakfast 10:00 am CPR Training Boy Scouts
10	11 9:30 am Intercessory Prayer 7:00 pm Finance	12 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Boy Scouts #721	13 6:30 am Mid Week Devotions 10:00 am Chapel Pre School 12:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	14 7:00 pm Volleyball	15 Youth — Venice Beach Trip	16 Youth — Venice Beach Trip
17 Youth — Venice Beach Trip	18 9:30 am Intercessory Prayer 7:00 pm Staff Parish	19 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Boy Scouts #721	20 6:30 am Mid Week Devotions 10:00 am Chapel Pre School 12:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	21 7:00 pm Volleyball	22	23
24 MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY	25 9:30 am Intercessory Prayer	26 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Boy Scouts #721 12:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	27 6:30 am Mid Week Devotions 10:00 am Chapel Pre School	28 7:00 pm Volleyball	29 5:00 am Tubing Ichetucknee Youth	30 10:30 Youth Sunday Rehearsal 11:00 am UMM Bar-B-Que
31 YOUTH SUNDAY						

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.

Called Church Charge Conference Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Meeting Opened-by Pastor Lamar Albritton at 6:58pm. See attached for attendance. Welcome to all as we take care of the business of the church regarding the new pastor and his salary package. Youth, thanks for coming to see how this process goes. Pastor Lamar offered a prayer, and then turned the meeting over to the SPR Chair, Carol Davis.

Carol presented Pastor Steve Polk's salary package as:

Salary	40,800
Housing	17,000
Reimbursable Acct	2,400
Health Ins	12,900
<u>Pension</u>	<u>6,528</u>
Total	79,628

This package is a yearly decrease of \$2070 from the current pastor package.

The package was agreed upon by the conference, new pastor and SPR. The Chairs of Finance, Church Council, SPR, and Pastor Lamar were part of the committee to work up this package.

Pastor Steve Polk comes to us as a full time, local pastor. He has finished his first basic 5 year term of seminary. He is not ordained nor an elder, which means he can only perform pastoral duties within his district. He works under the supervision of the superintendent and the bishop. As a local pastor, he cannot serve on conference boards.

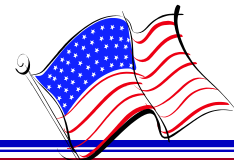
Some discussion was made on the difference of housing allowance verses a parsonage.

Ken Fuqua moved to accept Pastor Steve's salary package, Linda Alveraz 2nd, APPROVED with 1 opposition.

Rosita Stafford moved to adjourn, John Bernat 2nd, meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully,

Lee Mueller



**SEE LISTING ON PAGE 2
FOR THE JULY 3RD SPECIAL BEING PRESENTED BY THE ADULT CHOIR**

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



7/10 Matthew and Jamie Glass
 7/25 Doug and Judy Atkinson
 7/30 Gary and Fran Mudge



Birthdays

7/1 Adam Schertzer
 7/2 Maureen Meyer
 7/4 Gary Mudge
 7/6 Joyce Holleran
 7/8 Marilyn Cornwell

7/13 Brittney Evans
 7/15 Mollie Oliva
 7/15 Dorothy McGehean
 7/16 John Bernat
 7/18 Vivian Graham
 7/18 Debbie Moore
 7/20 David Knox
 7/22 Rose Kampka

7/22 Allison Wesley
 7/23 Larry Smucker
 7/24 Matthew Collins
 7/26 Lamar Albritton
 7/26 Eric Hines
 7/29 Vanesa VanZile
 7/30 JoAn Beebe

A Living Sermon

I would rather see a sermon than hear one any day
 I would rather one should walk with me than merely show the way
 For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give
 But there is no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Just In Case

If I knew that tomorrow would be no dawn on earth for me
 That I should have gone in the dark of night into eternity ----
 I should do so many things for those I love
 But, oh, I should be happy, too, with those above!
 So, just in case I might be viewing
 Morning in celestial skies,
 Lord, bring me those who need my love today,
 For otherwise the night may close a door on words I meant to say
 And morning find my empty house
 With me away

I found these poems hidden away in my Bible and I thought you might enjoy them.
 Abba's Girl



*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 :

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church
 424 West Daughtery Rd.
 Lakeland, FL 33809

Lamar A. Albritton Jr., Pastor Email: office@LakeGibsonUMC.org
 Steve Polk, Pastor – Effective July 1, 2011
 Phone: 863- 858-5431 FAX : 863-853-1625
 Office Hours: 8:30 am. till 3:00 pm. (Monday thru Friday)
 Web Page - www.lakegibsonumc.org
 Rosita M. Stafford, Administrative Secretary;
 Lee Mueller—Youth Director
 Sue Heishman, Bookkeeper,
 Glenda Grant, Director of Music/Organist
 Rowena Orso, Organist
 Burt Fortin, Custodian
 A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center
 Interim Director - Phone: 858-8400
 email: alboh@lakegibsonumc.org