



# 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

December 2012

Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

## Thoughts from the Pastor

*Christmas 2012*

*"Tis the Season to be Jolly" so the song says of Christmas but.... Have you ever had a Christmas when things were not jolly? A time when perhaps finances were low, food scarce, housing inadequate or non-existent, family and loved ones far away, estranged or worse, passed away. Have you ever considered a time when there wasn't any Christmas? Before Jesus was born there was no Christmas; the government that bans manger scenes and the mention of Jesus at events forget that without the Christ child there would be no Christmas or "season to be jolly".*

*This is a joyous time but not for the reasons most people associate with the Holiday. The majority of the world celebrates this day as a day of rest and relaxation, a time of family gatherings, fine food and the exchanging of gifts but think of that very first Christmas. There was no family around; food was scarce after all Joseph and Mary were in a smelly stable when Jesus was born.*

*While Mary and Joseph were celebrating the birth of Jesus heaven had lost a King. While the happy parents looked forward to the future of their child little did they know that future included being spat upon, ridiculed, stripped, beaten and nailed to a Roman cross. Even now many of you reading this are saying don't talk about that now – it's Christmas.*

*Christmas comes with a cost – a King from heaven steps down from the throne and into the womb of a virgin. He leaves the streets of gold to tread a rocky path to Golgotha, He leaves a loving Father and faithful legions of adores to be spurned and rejected*

*by most of mankind. He gets up from a banquet table with a sumptuous feast to come to an empty table where it is His blood and His body that become the meal. He begins a life here on earth even though He knows he is destined to suffer and die. Why?*

*Why because He loves you and me that much; because He loves every man, woman and child that has ever or will ever live on this earth and wants each of us to spend eternity with Him. That love – the LOVE OF GOD is what Christmas is all about. A God that loves mankind so much that He would and did die for His creation is what Christmas is all about. That is Christmas and anything else is a fake. Regardless of anything else going on in your life know how much God loves you and the price he paid so there would be a Christmas. Celebrate the fact that nothing – not even death- can ever separate you from the love God has for you and then you have the real meaning of Christmas.*

*This Christmas bask and glory in the Love of God and share His love with all mankind. Have a JESUS filled Christmas!*

*Love,*

*Pastor Steve and Mrs. Penny*



# **LGUMC JUBILEE HOMECOMING**

March 9 & 10, 2013

*THIS IS THE DECEMBER UPDATE ON PROGRESS FOR THE LAKE GIBSON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH 50 YEAR CELEBRATION.*

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE AND THE LGUMC JUBILEE HOMECOMING COMMITTEE IS HARD AT WORK MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR OUR BIG WEEKEND MARCH 9 AND MARCH 10.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF THE EVENTS THAT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. IN JANUARY YOU WILL BE GETTING A REMINDER POST CARD AND YOUR SPECIAL INVITATION WILL BE COMING IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

A COMMITTEE IS PUTTING THE MAILING LIST TOGETHER, SO LET THE OFFICE KNOW OF ANY NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CURRENT OR PAST MEMBERS WHO SHOULD BE INVITED.

THE OTHER COMMITTEE THAT IS WORKING VERY HARD IS THE SATURDAY NIGHT 50 YEARS OF MUSIC AND MEMORIES COMMITTEE.

WE HAVE LINED UP A NUMBER OF CURRENT AND PAST MUSICIANS TO COME AND SHARE AT THAT SERVICE ON SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 9TH.

HERE IS CLUE # 2 TO THE NAME OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER ON SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 10TH. HE OR SHE IS MARRIED AND LIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA AND IS AN ORDAINED MINISTER.

STAY TUNED FOR ANOTHER CLUE IN JANUARY, 2013.

WRITE DOWN THOSE DATES NOW!

YOUR LGUMC JUBILEE HOMECOMING COMMITTEE



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for your faithful support of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. While this past year has been a challenge because of the economic climate we have been very active in ministry to the community. We are hosting an average of 50 youth on Wednesday evening; our food bank is helping many families each month, new Bible study opportunities are available for spiritual growth, the prayer ministry is active, our concert series begins in December and we are planning our Golden Jubilee Homecoming (50 years) March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The need for people to experience God’s love is a very real and deep need and Lake Gibson UMC’s staff and congregation are ready and willing to meet that need.

We are asking you to prayerfully consider how God would have you support this ministry with your talents, prayers, service and finances. The ministry opportunities are abundant, “the fields are white with harvest” but workers and tools are needed to reap the harvest. Please consider increasing your financial pledge this year to help those in need. Our “Pledge Sunday” will take place on Sunday December 16th. This is a one Sunday Service also featuring the choir’s Christmas cantata. The Christmas season is a good time for us to give our gifts to God. Please plan to join us on this occasion. If you are unable to attend you can mail you pledge to the office or bring it at a later date. Pledges will be received through the end of the year.

May God richly bless you this season and next year,

Pastor Steve Polk



**Lake Gibson United Methodist Church**

In support of the challenge for our next year and in thanksgiving to God, I/We make the following commitment for 2013:

I/We commit \_\_\_\_\_ per week/month/year (circle one).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Rooted Student Ministries, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

424 W. Daughtery Rd, Lakeland, FL 33809

863.858.5431

Lee Mueller, Director

Youth@LakeGibsonUMC.org



### December

1-Sat, Youth Sunday practice, 10-noonish  
 2-Sun, Youth Sunday, 7am-noonish  
 2-Sun, LG Audio sings, 2ish  
 2-Sun, Everybody night, 6-8:30pm  
 5-Wed, potluck & make candy & fudge, 6-8:30pm  
 6-Thur, vball??, 7-10pm  
 8-Sat, Cmas fair, 8:30am-4pm  
 9-Sun, youth, 6-8:30pm  
 12-Wed, potluck & youth, 6-8:30pm  
 13-Thur, vball, 7-10pm  
 15-Sat, Spud lunch prep, noon-3pm  
 16-Sun, Cantata @ 10am, Spud lunch after, 8am-1pm, leadership?? 6-8:30pm  
 19-Wed, potluck & youth, 6-8:15pm  
 20-Thur, vball, 7-10pm

21-Fri, LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, youth cmas party, 6-10pm  
 23-Sun, Church @ 10am, NO YOUTH  
 24-Mon, Cmas Eve service, 6pm  
 25-Tue, CHRISTMAS, Happy Birthday Jesus  
 26-Wed, NO YOUTH  
 27-Thur, VBALL???, 7-10pm  
 30-Sun, Church @ 10am, NO YOUTH

### January

Watch for a Spy Hunter, Frisbee Golf, and Winter Jam

### February

Watch for Super Subs and Super Bowl party (Go Pack GO!) and Love Boat

### March

Watch for Homecoming Weekend, Spring Break, and Easter



### NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We will be producing a new pictorial directory.  
 Lifetouch Photographers will be taking pictures on  
 November 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

We will be signing up for pictures Oct 21<sup>st</sup> thru Nov 25<sup>th</sup> between the 2 services on Sundays.

And questions – call Jo Ann Mickle @ 255-8391



## New Beginnings in 2013 – Christian Education Department Debuts

Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

As you read this article it will be near or already in the Advent season which is the beginning of the church year. In 2013, only a few days away, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church will be celebrating its *Year of Jubilee*. This is a time for celebrating and new beginnings. There already are new actions and opportunities for each of us to grow in Grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the new opportunities for our *Year of Jubilee* is the formation of Lake Gibson Christian Education Department. The worst that could happen in 2013 or any other year is for any member of Lake Gibson to not grow as a Christian. Our church should be commended for the dynamic youth ministry, the ongoing Sunday adult classes, and the Wednesday night Fellowship and Bible Study, but, Lake Gibson needs so much more. As Peter said in his second letter: **“Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means Salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. ***But grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*** II Peter 3:15-18 niv

To grow in this Grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus we, individually, each member of this Fellowship, needs to set 2013 Jubilee Goals for ourselves of how we learn more of Him Who saved us.

On **December 6<sup>th</sup>** everybody has an opportunity to share input of what the scope of Christian Education will be beginning in 2013 at Lake Gibson. You have a choice of when you will gather for this brainstorming. The **daytime meeting is at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center classroom 1 and 2 [FLC1&2]** for about one hour. If you work or prefer an **evening gathering, we will also meet at 7 p.m. in FLC1&2.** This gathering will also be about an hour.

It will be very helpful if you will let us know which meeting you will attend so we can effectively plan needed resources. Please call 863-701-6808 to let us know which gathering you will attend. If you get Voice-mail, please leave your name, phone number, which gathering you will attend and for how many your message covers. Through your sharing in these gatherings we can celebrate seeking and hearing His Voice for us as David celebrated in the Psalms: **“The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.”** Psalm 29:3-4 NIV





November 1, 2012

1. 7:33pm- Pastor Steve Polk started our meeting with a prayer and introduced our presiding elder, Pastor Joe Brady. See attached for attendance. Lee Mueller was approved as recording secretary.

Welcome

2. Missional Vital Signs goals-Pastor Steve explained about the different vital signs that the church is tracking for the conference:  
conference: - 2012actual goals: 2012 2013 2014 2015  
a. Passionate Worship 183 205 225 250 275  
b. Radical Hospitality 6 8 12 15 18  
c. Intentional Discipling 87 55 65 80 100  
d. Salty Service 8 25 35 50 65  
e. Extravagant Generosity 170836 230000 250000 265000 275000

These minimum goals were accepted without opposition.

3. Membership Members for Removal.  
See attached list of 43 names for first year removals. These will be posted in bulletin.
4. Deacon Report-na
5. Lay Leadership nominations-George Band is moved to chair of Christian Education. Ken Fuqua moved to accept the appointments as revised, approved with no opposition. See attached list for nominations.
6. Recommendation of Candidates for Ordained Ministry-Steve Polk.
7. Lay Servant Ministry-Mike Stafford was listed as an advanced certified Lay Servant; Judy VanZile, Sue Shelton, Kim Whidden were listed as a basic Lay Servants.
8. Connectional Giving Summary- Apportionments for 2013 are \$26913. One-hundred percent of these apportionments have been included in the 2013 budget.
9. Finance- 2011 income-\$244824 expense-239824  
2012 income as of 9.1.12-\$179297 expense-\$165342

Pastor Brady asked for a motion to receive and accept all reports presented. Ken Fuqua moved, and Linda Alvarez 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept all reports, APPROVED.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Steve at 8:09pm.

Respectfully, Lee Mueller

**From your Board of Trustees:**

Thank everyone for the very good work day. We did make some new Policy Letters this year, and will be enforcing one that has been on record. Old one is removing items from church property, things may be loaned out but need to be signed out at the office so that we know where things are. Some one borrowed a two wheel dolly a couple of months ago and as yet have not returned it.

New policy concerning keys, everyone that has any keys for church property must stop by the office during the month of January each year to ~or the keys. Anyone not on a committee or board and does not need keys please return them.

We have had a very busy year, and things are progressing at a good pace.

With Gods help we will have another good year in 2013.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES CALENDAR - AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

www.lakegibsonumc.com

12/4 John and Gail Travis

12/10 Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens



12/15 Wayne and Jean Wesley

12/22 Steve and Tammie Schertzer



**Birthdays**

12/2 Bud Davis  
 12/2 Kaye Fields  
 12/3 Sue Shelton  
 12/9 Lisa Curtis  
 12/9 Jan Booker  
 12/11 Henry Zona

12/14 Bob Bailey  
 12/14 Linda Smucker  
 12/15 Marian Schroeder  
 12/17 Joan Frederich  
 12/17 Beverly Hines  
 12/19 Don Heishman  
 12/20 Bill McKinney  
 12/22 Midge Plath  
 12/22 Ginger Fredrikson  
 12/23 Betty Tomlinson  
 12/25 Elisa Vividor

12/26 Rick Mueller  
 12/26 Ann Kneeland  
 12/27 Kevin Patterson  
 12/28 Glenda Grant (Hess)  
 12/28 Phyllis Kitchens  
 12/29 Judy VanZille  
 12/29 Bob Gunter  
 12/29 Roy Bodemer  
 12/30 Dottie Gabor  
 12/30 Justin Oliva



**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

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

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Office Hours: 8:30 am. till 3:00 pm. (Monday thru Friday)

Rosita M. Stafford—Administrative Secretary;  
 Lee Mueller—Youth Director  
 Sue Heishman— Bookkeeper,  
 Glenda Grant—Director of Music/Organist  
 Custodian—Jose Cardona  
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