



The Good News

Lake Gibson United Methodist Church



Our Vision: To be a joyful church family that is crucial to our community

May 2018

Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

From the Pastor's Desk

There are 3 big events that occur in May: Mother's Day, Pentecost and Graduation. While each of these events is significant on its own, I wonder, do they have something in common? On Mother's Day we remember our mothers and the love they showed for us over the years. If asked, most mothers would wish that their children would be happy in life and contribute to the good of society. Mothers may put an emphasis on education, and thus celebrate their child's graduation from high school or college as an achievement of maturity. In the mind of many mothers graduation means the training is over and now the child can contribute to society with the knowledge and wisdom they have acquired. In ***The Story***, last month we discussed Solomon's proverb that, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". As Christians we understand that knowledge and wisdom are gifts of God.

Religiously speaking, the big day of this month is Pentecost. This event described in the book of Acts, chapter 2, occurs 50 days after Easter when the Holy Spirit descends on those believers gathered in the upper room, and they go out and "preach the gospel" to the crowds in various languages. We are told that 3,000 people come to believe on the Lord Jesus from the message delivered that day. We call this the "birth of the church". This is the day the church as we know it comes into existence.

God births the church here much as a mother births her child. If mothers desire the best for their children, what do you think God desires for his child – the church? Of course, He also wants them to feel loved, be happy and contribute to society. In the physical world we teach our children they need to get an education and practical experience to contribute to society, yet often times in the church we put very little emphasis on training God's children to act prudently and responsibility in society. We expect God to supernaturally give that ability to us. Yet God tells us in Proverbs that we are to "train up the child in the way he should go".

Just as a parent has the responsibility to make sure a child is sent to school and that the school that child is attending is meeting its duty in teaching the appropriate subjects, I ask, have the leaders of the church met their responsibility to teach proper scriptural theology and practice?

We also have to realize that there is a requirement on the children to apply themselves in school – you can send them, but they have to learn the principles taught. I ask you that question now concerning your faith – have you properly applied yourself to the teaching of your church? Have you diligently studied and put into practice your faith, or is your faith training haphazard? Maybe the three events celebrated this month are tied together as we try to serve our Lord and impact society for the Kingdom.

Maybe we should consciously and diligently devote ourselves to learning the principles of our faith and then put them into practice. What do you think?

Pastor Steve

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Pastor’s Desk	1
Table of Contents	2
May Calendar	3
April News	4
May Events	8
Prayer Breakfast, May 3rd	8
Mother’s Day, May 13th	8
Pentecost Celebration, May 20th	8
Marina’s Corner	10
Food Pantry Report	10
Miscellaneous Topics	10
What Does This Church Mean to You?	11
Editorial Policy	11
Finance and Related Topics	12
Financial Update	12
Altar Flowers	13
Our Departments	14
The Administrative Council	14
The Board of Trustees	14
Music Department	14
Lay Leader’s Letter	14
Children’s Ministry	14
A Little Bit of Heaven CEC	14
Worship Committee	14
Adult Sunday School Classes	15
Acts from a Messianic Jewish Perspective	16
Our Ministries	16
Mission Moments	16
United Methodist Men (UMM)	16
United Methodist Women (UMW)	17
Prayer Ministry	19
Scouting Report	19
Florida United Methodist Children’s Home	20
Neighborhood Missions Ministry	20
Celebrations	21
Contact Information	22

Special Monthly Events Calendar for May

See Sunday Bulletin for Changes

2018 MAY

CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>Single Sunday Service at 10:30 am, May 6th thru September 30th</i>	30	01	02 UMW Ruth Circle of Love, 11:00 am, FLC	03 Lake Gibson's National Day of Prayer Breakfast, 7:30 am, FLC	04	05
06	07 UMW Heart to Heart, 10:30 am, FLC; Trustees, 2:00 pm, Office	08	09 ALBOH trip to ZooTampa at Lowry Park	10 ALBOH Board mtg, 4:30 pm, FLC; Cub Scouts Committee mtg, 7:00 pm, FLC	11	12 United Methodist Men breakfast mtg, 9:00 am, FLC; Boy Scout Troop 711 Merit Badge ceremony
13 Mother's Day: Harvest Sunday (food pantry donations)	14 UMW Unit mtg, guest spkr & lunch, 10:30 am, FLC; Staff, Pastor Parish Com mtg, 1:00 pm, FLC; UMW Evening Circle, 6:30, off campus	15	16	17	18	19
20 Pentecost: Churches Unite to Celebrate Pentecost , 3:00 pm, Gibsonia Baptist Church, 5440 US Hwy 98N	21 UMW Leadership Team mtg, 1pm, FLC; Finance Committee mtg, 7 pm, FLC	22	23	24 Last Day of School! ALBOH End-of-Year Celebration , 6:15 pm, sanctuary and FLC	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day Office Closed Worship Com mtg, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary	29 ALBOH Summer Care Program starts, 6:30 am - 6 pm, Mon thru Fri, FLC	30 Last Bible Study with Pastor for season, 7:00 pm, FLC	31 ALBOH Last Day for VPK; Last Bible Study with Pastor for Season, 10:00 am, FLC	01	02

Weekly Recurring Events (Changes will be in Sunday bulletin)

Sunday

Adult Sunday school classes	9:15 - 10:15 am	FLC
Kidtricity Children's Ministry	9:15 - 10:15 am	FLC
Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary
Children's Ministry continues (nursery available)	10:30 - 11:45 am	Sanctuary & FLC
Asian Christian Service	3:00 pm	Sanctuary

Monday

Intercessory Prayer	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Boy Scout Troop 711	7:00 pm	FLC

Tuesday

Deadline for Sunday Bulletin	noon	Office
Praise Team Rehearsal	To be announced	Sanctuary
Cub Scout Pack 711	7:00 pm	FLC

Wednesday

Mid-week Devotions	8:00 am	FLC (on hold)
ALBOH Chapel	9:15 am	Preschool
Book of Acts Messianic Study	10:00 am	Off-campus
<i>The Story</i> Small Group 1	10:00 am	Off-campus
Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Bible Study with Pastor	7:00 pm	FLC

Thursday

Food Pantry	9:30 - 11:30 am	Office
Bible Study with Pastor	10:00 am	FLC
<i>The Story</i> Small Group 2	7:00 pm	Off-campus

April News

Easter Celebration and Cantata

On April 1st we celebrated Easter with a beautiful cantata, *Amazing Grace*, by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith. Thanks to the United Methodist Men (Michael Moake, Bob Gilmore and Dwight Kitchens) who picked up the Easter lilies and placed them around the Sanctuary.

Thanks to Glenda Hess, Music Director, and all who raised their voices in praise.



UMW Spring Rummage Sale, April 20 and 21

The results of hundreds of donations and four days of HARD work -- \$3,600 raised for UMW missions! Thanks go to almost every member and constituent of Lake Gibson UMC. What a team effort! Special thanks to the men of LGUMC whose strength made it possible to lug in all the heavy stuff on April 18th, and who continued to help on the 19th as we prepared for the sale. Special thanks to Michael Moake who checked out most, if not all, of the appliances and electronics and to Bob Gilmore -- was there anything he didn't do? Joe Moon, Dwight Kitchens, Dale Gower, Tom Burns, Jeff Acor and others made this event a success.



Barbara Allen-Coil lent a new bookcase for the book sale - "Some assembly required".

The picture below doesn't tell half the story of the overflowing tables that greeted our customers on Friday morning. Kudos to the ladies who had all the clothes folded so neatly and items carefully labeled with prices.



April News, Continued

Lake Gibson UMC Supports Homeless Graduating Seniors

Once again Cindy Webb led us in a food drive for Polk County's homeless graduating seniors. We donated food, money and labor to make sure everyone left their graduation celebration with food to eat. Here are Cindy's report, photos and captions:

Wrap-up on Homeless Seniors for 2018

Mega thanks to all who supported me in providing 162 food bags for Polk County's Homeless Graduating Seniors.

It was a privilege to attend the luncheon at the Bartow Civic Center on April 19th. Two of the young men at my table were from Lakeland High School. One lives with his best friend's family and the other at the Talbot House in a room with 30 men. Both will be attending Traviss Technical College in the fall. One to be an auto mechanic and one to be a chef. The young man at the Talbot House also works at McDonalds.

Both sat at the table before lunch checking out all the food in their bags. One is allergic to peanuts, so they were trading items back and forth. I heard many good comments about the variety of food. In addition to the food bag they received a rolling duffel bag filled with basic toiletry items. In some pictures you will see pillows, twin sheet sets, throws, first aid kits, etc. They also received \$55 in Walmart and fast food gift cards. The highlight was the distribution of electronic tablets to all who attended the luncheon. This was made possible by a special donation.

The speaker was originally from New York but now resides in Orlando. He was a high school dropout and single father of 3 before the age of 17. He now has a GED, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and two days before the luncheon he received a letter stating he now has his PhD. Everyone celebrated with him for his accomplishments. He was so impressed with this program that he donated his services. At times both he and his wife were visibly emotional.

Without your help, the City of Lakeland Community Involvement Committee and the Collegiate National Honor Society this could not have been accomplished.

Cindy Webb



All the food waiting to be packed.



Contents of one food bag.

Continued on the next page . . .

April News, Continued

Wrap-up on Homeless Seniors for 2018, Continued



Lake Gibson workers packing.



LG Team 2018: Cindy Webb, Debbie Moore, Bonnie Cochran, Glenda Hess, Sharon Codlington, Susan Ritchie, John Travis, Gail Travis, Dan Johnson, Ann Johnson, and Bev Henrich. [Note: Susan and Bev are friends of Cindy's and not [yet] LGUMC members. Editor]

This group of good looking people formed a caravan to deliver the food bags to the School Board. Some even stayed to fill toiletry bags. I would still be driving in circles without their help. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Completed food bags.



Bev, Sharon and Bonnie stuffing toiletries at the School Board.

Continued on the next page . . .

April News, Continued

Wrap-up on Homeless Seniors for 2018, Continued



Household items at the School Board to put in duffel bags.



Some more duffel bag items.



The filled duffel bags.



Getting ready for the luncheon.

Thank you, Cindy Webb, for your hard work, leadership and loving example!

May Events

Lake Gibson's First National Day of Prayer Breakfast, May 3rd at 7:30 am

Please join us for a home-cooked breakfast in the FLC at 7:30 am on Thursday, May 3rd. We'll enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, coffee and juice before uniting in prayer. The theme for 2018's National Day of Prayer is "**Pray for America – Unity**," based on Ephesians 4:3, "*Make every effort to keep yourselves united in Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*" (NLT)

If you haven't already noted on your Contact Card during Sunday service that you will attend, please call the office at 863-858-5431 to reserve your seats (and give us a count for supplies). As of May 1st we are planning for 50 attendees.

Congress created the NDP in 1952; it was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. President Ronald Reagan signed an amendment to the law in 1988 which designated the first Thursday in May as the NDP. To learn about the history of the National Day of Prayer, please go to the web page of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>. Quoting from their web site, "The National Day of Prayer exists to mobilize unified public prayer for America."

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th

(Source: *United Methodist Women Program Book 2017 - 2018*)

A Methodist woman from West Virginia, Ann Reeves Jarvis, created and advocated for Mother's Day in 1868. Initially called Mothers' Friendship Day, she promoted this special day to bring about the peaceful reconciliation of former Confederate and Union soldiers by bringing together their mothers.

After she died her daughter, Anna Jarvis, continued to promote creation of a national Mother's Day to honor the sacrifices of mothers. The first official Mother's Day was celebrated on May 10, 1908 at Methodist churches in Grafton, WV and Philadelphia, PA. In 1914 President Wilson declared Mother's Day as a national observance.

To learn more about the role of the Methodist church in the founding of Mother's Day, watch a video at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mothersday.

Churches Unite to Celebrate Pentecost, May 20, 2018

Twelve churches in north Lakeland will gather to celebrate Pentecost and worship together on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th, 3:00 pm at Gibsonia Baptist Church, 5440 US Highway 98 North.

If you would like to prepare your heart for Pentecost, go to the web site <https://uniteforpentecost.com> to learn more about Pentecost and this celebration, as well as to watch daily video devotionals in the "50 Day Count Down to Pentecost". Pastor Steve is preparing some of these devotionals.

The following information was taken from an earlier version of the web site, and is used with permission, for those who don't have Internet access:

Continued on the next page . . .

May Events, Continued

Churches Unite to Celebrate Pentecost, May 20, 2018, Continued

Why Churches Unite to Celebrate Pentecost:

To obey God's word

"Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all." Ephesians 4:3-6

To obey Jesus' commandment

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:34). Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come, as promised by his Father.

To praise and worship God with . . .

Congregational singing and special music

The recounting of the historical "mighty act of God" at Pentecost (using video or drama)

A Scriptural message by Dr. Bill Sawyer on the reality of God "In Us" by the Holy Spirit

Celebrating the birth of "the church" of which we each are a part. "One Church – Many Congregations"

Sharing the Apostles Creed and giving an offering

Leaving with the "overflowing love, joy and peace" of Christ in our hearts witnessing to our world
JESUS IS ALIVE!

Prayer Chain: As we look forward to uniting to celebrate Pentecost, we need to join together in constant prayer that God will *refresh our hearts and our congregations*.

Luke 12:52: So they returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

Acts 1:14a: They all joined together constantly in prayer.

Each prayer segment is 10 minutes, which means 6 persons will pray per hour, allowing 144 people from the many congregations to participate! An individual may **sign up** for as many segments as they choose, especially during the night hours. Once signed up you will pray for your 10-minute slot every day from **May 9th to May 19th**. Go to the web site uniteforpentecost.com for information on how to sign up.

Churches Unite to Celebrate Pentecost is not an organization! It is a group of churches that have chosen to experience the oneness Jesus offers through the activity of Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Churches have not been asked to pay for this event.

Marina's Corner

There is nothing permanent except change.

Heraclitus

Thank you to everyone who assisted in the office while I was out. We appreciate your patience recently while our phone line was malfunctioning.

Marina G. Hernandez, Administrative Secretary
863-858-5431
Office hours: 9 am - 2 pm, Mon-Fri.

Food Pantry Report 1st Quarter 2018

For the first three months of 2018 we gave out an average of 53 bags of groceries and 61 bags of Publix baked goods a month. The quarterly totals were 160 bags of food and 184 bags of baked goods. For comparison, during the same period in 2017 we gave out 163 bags of food and 180 bags of baked goods.

Thank you to everyone who makes donations of groceries, personal care products and money. You are a blessing to these needy individuals.

Miscellaneous Topics

Craft Fair Cancelled

The Lake Gibson 2018 Craft Fair has been cancelled. Please let your crafter friends know we will not be holding the fair this November.

Flying Tigers Baseball Tickets Available

Barbara Allen-Coil has four tickets available for the Lakeland Flying Tigers vs. the Jupiter Hammerheads for June 11th at 6:30 pm at Publix Field at Joker Marchant Stadium. Please call Barb at 863-859-5902 if you would like to get them.

Newsletter Help Needed

Because we will be traveling from mid-May to about mid-September, **photographers and writers are needed for *The Good News***. I will continue to put the newsletter together as long as we have access to the Internet. The **deadline for input for the upcoming month's issue is the next-to-last Wednesday of the current month**, so the pastor can review it the last Wednesday of each month. *The deadline for June's newsletter is May 23rd.*

The goal is to have a small number of hard copies in the Narthex on the first Sunday of each month. Again, assuming access to the Internet, we will send you e-mail links to the newsletter and post it on the lakegibsonumc.com web site as soon as it is approved. Send your articles and photos to the editor at phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com. Thank you!

What Does This Church Mean to You?

Pastor Steve recently suggested a new column for the newsletter. He wanted to explore the question “**What does this church mean to you?**” with some of our long-term members. He also suggested a second question, “**How has it enhanced your life?**” He suggested I call Lois Teske who has been a member since its inception, and who has lived near the church for 56 years.

Lois Teske signed the papers to organize Lake Gibson United Methodist Church. She was 36 years old at the time, and remembers asking herself “Who do you think you are to be doing this?” She told me she was hanging clothes in her back yard in 1962 when a young man stopped by and asked if she would be interested in joining a new Methodist church. She thinks he was Dick Wills, then a student at Florida Southern studying for the ministry.

When asked what Lake Gibson UMC means to her, Lois replied, “It is my lifeline to Christianity, my go-to place for over 50 years. I’m renewed on Sundays to live a better life. I’ve made a lot of friends here; they are my church family. Of course, so many of my friends have passed on now. The biggest influence on me was probably Lillie May Hughes, Danny Hughes’ mother. She was a member of College Heights UMC which started Lake Gibson.”

If anyone would like to share your thoughts on these questions with our readers, please call or send me an email.

Phyllis Kitchens
phyllis_kitchens@hotmail.com
Cell 410-790-2662

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 encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts with the congregation. The purpose of this newsletter is to foster better communication of ideas and opportunities for worship and service among LGUMC members and friends as we seek to share God’s love and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Phyllis Kitchens, Editor

Finance and Related Topics

Financial Update

Summaries:

2018 - Month	# Sundays	Revenue	Expenditures	Budgeted	Rev-Exp
January	4	\$23,610	\$18,082	\$25,256	\$5,528
February	4	\$29,950	\$36,746	\$25,256	(\$6,796)
March	4	\$29,201	\$25,465	\$25,256	\$3,736
April	5	\$26,066	\$21,129	\$31,571	\$4,937

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

Data Entry

Current Year 2018

Current Budget \$328,334

Month	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	3-Yr Total	3-Yr \$ Avg Monthly	3-Yr \$ Avg Cumulative	Actual 2018
January	\$22,306	\$29,299	\$28,306	\$79,911	\$26,637	\$26,637	\$23,610
February	\$26,282	\$29,218	\$27,256	\$82,756	\$27,585	\$54,222	\$29,950
March	\$31,316	\$21,386	\$26,501	\$79,203	\$26,401	\$80,623	\$29,201
April	\$22,325	\$24,069	\$28,612	\$75,006	\$25,002	\$105,625	\$26,066
May	\$26,498	\$28,167	\$21,816	\$76,481	\$25,494	\$131,119	
June	\$18,538	\$17,395	\$17,272	\$53,205	\$17,735	\$148,854	
July	\$17,763	\$23,318	\$23,381	\$64,462	\$21,487	\$170,341	
August	\$18,641	\$15,985	\$16,366	\$50,992	\$16,997	\$187,339	
September	\$16,310	\$23,646	\$21,139	\$61,095	\$20,365	\$207,704	
October	\$18,372	\$24,737	\$20,835	\$63,944	\$21,315	\$229,018	
November	\$32,022	\$22,606	\$21,926	\$76,554	\$25,518	\$254,536	
December	\$28,664	\$23,214	\$27,446	\$79,324	\$26,441	\$280,978	
Total	\$279,037	\$283,040	\$280,856	\$842,933	\$280,978	\$280,978	\$108,827

The above reflect that we are not over-obligating the church, and not spending more than we have in our accounts. But, **we are not raising funds at the rate we had discussed** for our three new designated accounts: 1) roof replacement, 2) air conditioning replacement, and 3) setting aside money for an insurance reserve fund to cover a catastrophic act of nature.

Earlier, we asked each of the 134 member families if they would contribute approximately \$5 per week per adult to each of the above three designated funds. Roof replacement would take two years, air conditioner replacement would take three years, and our insurance reserve would take five years before we had raised sufficient funds. At this point, eleven weeks after our initial announcement in mid-January, we would have hoped for contributions similar to the following (134 families times 15 weeks times \$5 per account):

Financial Update continued on next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued Financial Update, Continued

Status of Funds Raised for 3 Designated Accounts

(as of 30 April 2018)

<u>Account</u>	<u>Hoped For</u>	<u>Received</u>
Roof Replacement	\$12,000	\$ 7,874
Air Conditioner Replacement	\$12,000	\$17,366*
Insurance Reserve Account	\$12,000	\$ 4,647

*\$13,902 of this amount was carried over from the end of December 2017, meaning that we have actually contributed \$3,464 of new funds during 2018 for air conditioner replacements.

Unless we increase our contributions in the future, we will have to delay our execution of these projects much further into the future. Merely designating funds for these purposes without increasing total contributions serves no purpose. We all need to increase the total amount we give to insure that both our general operating costs are met now and our future projects are completed on time.

Dwight Kitchens, Finance Co-chair

What's Going On with the Altar Flowers?

Several people have noticed the lack of flowers on the altar rail during some worship services and have asked why. I consulted Marina Hernandez, Administrative Secretary, to find out what has happened and what the procedure is now to obtain these flowers for Sunday services.

Our long-time florist closed in 2017. Frankly, we were getting a bargain from her: two large, showy vases of cut flowers for \$30.00 (and we supplied the vases). She delivered them to the office on Fridays at no extra charge. Since she closed, Marina has not been able to find another florist who would give us comparable sized arrangements and service for the same \$30.00.

The procedure has always been that people in the church sign up to donate the money to purchase the altar flowers for a specific date. There has been a large, green signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex with places for up to two individuals or couples to order these flowers for each Sunday. (That way the cost could be shared and each person or couple could take home a vase after the second service.) The last Sunday in April it appeared that the flower signup sheet was missing. Marina will put up another one.

Unfortunately, some people forgot that they signed up to purchase flowers and failed to pay, leaving the church to handle this unplanned expenditure -- not an acceptable situation. So, here's the current procedure:

1. If you want to pay for altar flowers for a specific date, call Marina (863-858-5431) or email her at office@lakegibsonumc.com stating your desire. Arrange to pay her in advance before she places the order on Wednesday. She will purchase cut flowers and arrange them in donated vases (sorry, \$30 doesn't cover the cost of the vessels). This way we will have live flower arrangements that can be seen from the back pews.

2. If you have any vases you'd like to donate to be used for altar flowers, please bring them into the office.

Continued on the next page . . .

Finance and Related Topics, Continued

Altar Flowers, Continued

3. As an alternative, you may order and bring the flower arrangements to church yourselves. Just let Marina know in advance and annotate that you will supply the arrangements on a specific Sunday on the Narthex form, so we don't have more than two.

If having altar flowers during worship services is important to you, please consider making or buying seasonal silk flower arrangements which can be brought out when live flowers aren't available. Storage space in the Sanctuary is limited, but we can try to reserve a place to store a few arrangements. (Loose silk flowers are not requested, only arrangements in vases.)

Phyllis Kitchens

Our Departments

The Administrative Council

No report.

The Board of Trustees

No report.

Music Department

No report.

Lay Leader's Letter

No report.

Children's Ministry

We have continued to work on Mother's Day gifts and appreciate the "Bible Divers" (Youth Sunday school class led by Bonnie Cochran) helping us. We have a Father's Day project to begin as soon as we finish the Mother's Day gifts. In Children's Church our Wisdom Warriors are excited to act out scenes from the Bible. The boys really enjoyed pretending to be David, a lion, a bear or a soldier in an army David defeated. So thankful not to have real swords! We learned about Solomon and his wisdom in finding who the real mother of the baby was.

We are now making plans for Vacation Bible School. We will be using the same format as last year and hold VBS on the five Sundays in July. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Debbie Moore, Director, Children's Ministry

A Little Bit of Heaven (ALBOH) Child Enrichment Center

The 2017-2018 school year is soon coming to a close. Our **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten's** last day will be May 31st. It is an exciting time for the class. We are traveling to *ZooTampa at Lowry Park* on May 9th. Our **End-of-Year Celebration will be held on May 24th at 6:15 pm**. All are invited to attend this wonderful time of celebration. There will be a cake social to follow.

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

A Little Bit of Heaven, Continued

Our **Summer Care for School Age Children** program will be starting on **Tuesday, May 29th**. This is a new adventure for the preschool, since this is the first time in its history to offer something like this. We are praying that this program is successful. It will be filled with both on-campus and off-campus activities. The cost is \$120.00 weekly or \$24.00 daily. This includes any cost for off-campus activities. We have 6 children signed up for this program as of May 1st. If you know of any family in need of care, please have them call the preschool office at 863-858-8400.

Currently the preschool has an enrollment of 48 students and a staff of 15.

This month's **ALBOH Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10th at 4:30 pm.**

Lisa Bacon, Director

Worship Committee

No report.

Adult Sunday School Classes

All three Adult Sunday School classes meet in the FLC from 9:15 to 10:15 am. **Each class welcomes new members. Please join us!** All classes are using *The Story* through May 27th (Chapter 18) and will resume with *The Story* on September 16th (Chapter 19). During the summer each class will determine its own topics of study.

The **Friendship** Sunday School Class is led by Mike Stafford and meets downstairs in the multipurpose room. The **Seekers** Sunday School class meets in FLC Classrooms 1 and 2. Sue Heishman is the leader. The **Upstairs** class meets next door to Kidtricity with Michael Moake as the leader.

The May syllabus of *The Story* is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Subject</u>
May 6	15	God's Messengers [the Prophets]
May 13	16	The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel)
May 20	17	The Kingdoms' Fall [the fall of Judah]
May 27	18	Daniel

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Departments, Continued

Acts from a Messianic Jewish Perspective

Leaders Maria and Rich Thomas plan to continue this study through approximately the end of June, until the final chapter (27) of the book of Acts is completed. The class on May 2nd will be on chapter 20; there will be no class on May 9th. You are welcome to join this group at any time. It meets at Debbie Moore's home, 400 Vineyard Drive in Lakeland at 10:00 am on Wednesdays. We share lunch and fellowship after the lesson. For information, please call the Thomases at 302-750-1491.

After Acts, we are planning to watch some videos this summer (including the series Against All Odds), and then resume this study in the fall, possibly on the book of Matthew, again from a Messianic Jewish perspective.

Our Ministries

Mission Moments

The spring UMW rummage sale is over. All that is left are memories of sorting, pricing, folding and fellowship. What will you remember from this year's event?

My memories of past sales include the time beloved member Midge Plath found a sparkling jumpsuit that fit her perfectly. She modeled it for us and then wore it on a cruise. It was just what she needed. Another year I had left home in the morning heading for the sale and a later picnic. It was sunny and warm when I left home, so I wore shorts. Later, when I was leaving the Family Life Center, I stepped out into cold and wind. I hurried back in, rummaged through piles of clothing and found a pair of new, white pants. I put them on and went off to enjoy the afternoon. I still have those pants, and this year I found another pair that I will take on vacation.

This year at the rummage sale I learned about the death of a friend, got to chat with many old and new friends, and watched people hunt for their treasures. The best thing was knowing that all our work would result in money for missions. The UMW gives all the proceeds to organizations that help women and children. A list of those groups receiving donations will be posted at a later time [and published in this newsletter].

If you haven't been involved in Lake Gibson's rummage sale (many men were there to help), you are missing out on something special. But don't be too disappointed; there will be another one in the fall!

Linda Alvarez, Missions Coordinator

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The United Methodist Men would like to express their thanks to all those who supported the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the 31st of March. It was the joint effort of all the church members that made the event a success. We had 32 children hunting for eggs and playing the games provided by Michael and Jan Booker.



The event was blessed by all those who supported it in so many different ways, including all in the congregation who contributed the candy and prizes. The hunt was a united effort by all who helped from arriving early to hide eggs and set up games, to setting up tables for the luncheon after the egg hunt and supervising the children. This support resulted in a smooth and joyful event with no major glitches with the exception of the uninvited ants. Maybe next year we will dust or spray beforehand to keep them away from our candy.

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

United Methodist Men (UMM), Continued

We would like to express **warm and gracious thanks to Barbara Allen-Coil** for her tireless devotion to being our Easter Bunny and the joy she provided to all the children present. Others who helped so much include Pat Moon, Bonnie Cochran, Sharon Moake, Cindy Webb, Charlotte Rich, Lexie Otte, Dale Gower, Dwight and Phyllis Kitchens, Justin Oliva, Linda and Charlie Alvarez, Mike and Jan Booker. I'm sure there were others; please forgive the oversight. Your help was appreciated!

The UMM and Trustees, along with Pastor Steve, worked hard on April 18th, after unloading the sheds for the rummage sale, to repair and/or replace sections of the fence around the FLC's air conditioning enclosure. The fence around A Little Bit of Heaven's playground still needs repair, and we will announce a work day for that in the near future. We need to complete this project before we have any major damage from a hurricane or severe winds.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 12th, at 9:00 am in the FLC. Come hungry and enjoy a fellowship breakfast as part of the meeting. We will discuss projects for the fall and then go outside to complete the FLC air conditioner fence project. **Bring hammers and pry bars** to complete the project. All members are invited to help.

For further information, please contact Michael Moake, President, 863-816-3194



Before and after pictures of the repaired air conditioner enclosure on April 18th.

United Methodist Women (UMW)



Rummage Sale:

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! The United Methodist Women thank you for all the donations, help unloading the sheds, sorting, checking the electrical appliances, volunteering of your time and energy, purchases and most of all, prayers. Our spring rummage sale was a success and we collected a little over \$3,600. These monies will go to different local and foreign missions. We are looking forward to our October sale!

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

United Methodist Women (UMW), Continued

Unit Meeting:

Our Unit Meeting is **May 14th at 10:30 am** in the FLC. We are blessed to have **Jodi Bennett** as our guest speaker. She is the director of **One More Child/Anti-trafficking**, which is an outreach of the Florida Baptist Children's Home. We will have a covered dish luncheon after the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

We have three Unit Meetings a year, in which members of all three of the Lake Gibson UMW circles come together for worship, fellowship and an informative program about a mission serving women and children.

Circle Meetings in May:



Ruth Circle of Love will meet on Wednesday, May 2nd at 11:00 am in the FLC. We will be studying chapter 5, Rebekah, in *Women of the Bible* by Frances Vander Velde. Remember to bring a sandwich and a drink; dessert will be provided. All ladies are welcome. Please call Pat Moon (863-858-6883) for information.

Heart to Heart Circle will meet on Monday, May 7th, at 10:30 am in the FLC. We will be studying May's lesson in the current UMW Program Book. Bring a sandwich and a drink; Jackie Webb will bring dessert. See you there! Please call Ruth Zona (863-859-5967) for information.



Evening Circle will meet on Monday, May 14th, at 6:30 pm at Debbie Moore's house (400 Vineyard Dr., Lakeland). We will discuss chapter 34, Salome, in *Women in the Bible* by Frances Vander Velde after enjoying dinner. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please call Debbie Moore (863-614-7193) for information.

Leadership Team Meeting: The next meeting of the UMW Leadership Team is scheduled for Monday, May 21st, at 1:00 pm in the FLC.

Summer Schedule:

The Evening Circle will continue to meet in June, July and August at the regular day (2nd Monday of the month) and time (6:30 pm) at Debbie's home (400 Vineyard Drive). However, Ruth Circle of Love and Heart to Heart will either go out for lunch or have an outing of some kind. Your circle leaders will notify you of times, places and dates. Both day circles will resume their regular meetings the first of September.

Pat Moon, Vice President

Continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

Prayer Ministry



Amidst the multiple colors of spring and the beautiful sights that unfold, we give thanks for God's creations. Psalms 136:26: "Give thanks to the God of heaven."

God also reminds us we should be alert and take the time to pray for others. 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)

There are currently 32 Lake Gibson Prayer Warriors. God is good. Please check the Narthex for a list of Prayer Warriors. Prayer by email is a meaningful but simple way of receiving requests during the week for people who may have an emergency or chronic health concern.

May 3rd is National Day of Prayer. We are thankful to have the freedom to pray. [We hope you can join us at church this day for our Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 am. Editor]

Taking the Prayer Journal home with you and praying for each individual and need is another way to be a Prayer Warrior from your own home. The Prayer Journal is updated and distributed in the Sunday bulletin every two weeks.

Being a Prayer Warrior is a gracious way to be a blessing to others in need of prayer and to fulfill God's call for us to serve him. Please mark the "Becoming a Prayer Warrior" box on the connection card and put it in the offering plate on Sunday if you would like to become a Lake Gibson Prayer Warrior. You will feel blessed by praying for others.

Fran for the Prayer Ministry

Scouting Report

Boy Scout Troop 711 will hold a Merit Badge ceremony on Saturday, May 12th. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scout Pack 711 will camp out together at Hillsborough State Park on Sunday, May 20th.

Once school is out the scouts meet on a less-than-weekly basis. Check with their leaders for summer events.

Tom Burns, Scouting Representative

Our Ministries continued on the next page . . .

Our Ministries, Continued

Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH)

Karen and Jeff Acor are our FUMCH Representatives. No report this month.

Bikes for FUMCH



Phyl and I spent a week at FUMCH, working on bicycles from Monday, April 2nd through Sunday, April 5th. We were joined by neighbors, Inez and Hank Rogerson, for four of those days. For the first time we serviced all the bikes at every cottage! (The unfixable ones were swapped out with rideable ones from the storage shed.) The only ones not serviced were those that may have been locked inside children's rooms.

We started the week at the bike storage shed, spending two and a half days fixing as many there as we could, cannibalizing others too badly damaged and saving components to use for spare parts. We also moved the junk hidden on the far side of the shed so it could be seen and removed. While we were working there a drone flew over and observed us -- what a weird feeling that is. (We think someone was videoing construction on the Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center nearby.)

We've come to a conclusion: **All future bike purchases for FUMCH should be single-speed models.** These kids don't know how to shift gears and damage or destroy them. Apparently few adults on campus are able to teach them how to ride multi-speed bikes. If LGUMC buys any more new bikes, they should be "beach cruiser" models. For years we have advocated for multi-speed bikes due to the proximity of a wonderful bike trail, thinking the children and house parents would ride on it, but that does not seem to be the case.

We also delivered 5 repaired bikes donated by church members and neighbors -- all multi-speed. We'll keep taking up whatever rideable bikes we receive, regardless of the models, but having to stock multiple types of gear shifters and other spare parts is expensive, and rebuilding complex components takes a lot of time. We thank the congregation members who continue to donate to the Bicycle Repair Fund -- we typically buy \$200 - \$400 worth of parts, tubes and tires before each trip to FUMCH.

By the way, the most popular type of bike with teenaged boys: Anything they can ride motocross-style and do tricks! Their favorites are small, 20" wheeled, single-speed and WITHOUT brakes!!! They must wear out a lot of shoes.

Dwight Kitchens
863-984-4564

Neighborhood Missions Ministry

No report.

Celebrations

[Please let the editor know if there are errors in these lists so we can correct the data base. We print both members' and constituents' celebrations.]



Birthdays in May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
5/1	Fay Wright
5/2	Dale Gower
5/4	Debbie McLellan
5/4	Vera Ridley
5/5	Robert Holmes
5/7	Etmonia Davis
5/7	Steve Schertzer
5/8	Bill Sadwick
5/9	Steven Schertzer
5/10	Debbie Scanlan
5/12	Barbara Gitt
5/12	Jean Welch
5/13	Sandra Armentrout
5/14	Dorothy Burns
5/14	Bob Herrick
5/14	Robert Kendall
5/17	Herb Scribner
5/18	Kim Watson
5/19	Irene Herzog
5/19	Karen Moore
5/19	Sharon Vojtko
5/20	Wuenceslao Montalvo
5/23	Brian Stafford
5/25	Jerry Bishop
5/28	Merry Greenwood

Birthdays in May, Continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
5/29	Randy Moore
5/29	Keith Patterson
5/30	Jay Ellis
5/30	Steve Polk



Anniversaries in May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
5/2	Sharon and Dick Shepherd
5/4	Sue and Roy Bodemer
5/4	Ann and Dan Johnson
5/5	Wanda and Dick Lammey
5/6	Yvonne and Todd Bower
5/14	Sandy and Gerry Stanfield

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

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:	pastor@lakegibsonumc.com

Support Staff

Marina Hernandez	Administrative Secretary 863-858-5431 office@lakegibsonumc.com
------------------	--

Sue Heishman	Bookkeeper
--------------	------------

Debbie Moore	Children's Director
--------------	---------------------

Youth Director

Youth Intern

Glenda Grant Hess	Director of Music/Organist
-------------------	----------------------------

Don Heishman, Michael Moake, Fay Wright, and Kristie Summers	Audio/Visual Support
---	----------------------

Debbie Moore	Custodian
--------------	-----------

A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center

Lisa Bacon	Director
Office	863-858-8400
Cell	863-255-8619
E-mail	alboh@lakegibsonumc.com

The Good News is a monthly church newsletter that supports Lake Gibson UMC's vision *to be a joyful church family that is crucial to our community*. We welcome your suggestions, comments and articles. Please contact the editor at 863-984-4564 (home) or 410-790-2662 (cell), or by e-mail her at phylis_kitchens@hotmail.com.