



The Good News

*Our Mission in making disciples for Jesus Christ ...
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



November 2013

Steve Polk, Pastor

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Phone (863) 858-5431

From the Pastor's Desk

Thoughts from the Pastor

Fall is here; the cooler weather feels wonderful, the festivals are entertaining and expectations about the coming holidays are exciting. In other areas of the country there are spectacular shows of color as nature prepares for winter. On our vacation, Penny and I witnessed breath taking views of varied colored leaves on mountain after mountain; it was as if we were moving through a living, breathing kaleidoscope. To see the beauty of nature causes me to reflect upon God the Creator. The mountains in and of themselves are awe inspiring, the animals that live there are beautiful and the change of color an epic motion picture. To be enveloped is a virtual rainfall of yellow, red and orange leaves in a miracle it itself. Yet, to be loved by the God that created all this is even more amazing. That this God who made nature gave me sight, smell and touch so that I could enjoy His creation is incomprehensible. That God fashioned each leaf and tree and mountain side so that I and others could enjoy His creation and reflect upon His glory is hard to believe but that is what He did. Why I ask myself, why would God love me so? Love is hard to explain but it basically means one thinks more of another than you do yourself; of being committed to making another's life meaningful and enjoyable at your expense. This is what

God had done for each of us, loved us enough to give Himself on a cross to redeem us from a life of sin and death.

During this time of Thanksgiving I can praise God for His Holy Word, the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ and the love of God which nothing, not even death, can separate me from. (Romans 8:38) Yet I often times neglect to thank or praise Him – I wonder if this hurts Him the way it does me when my children take me for granted? This month I challenge you to find new things to thank God for; intentionally thank him every day for 5 minutes, keep a list of things you can thank him for, spontaneously give Him praise during your day for the little things – beautiful scenery, heat and air conditioning, transportation, food, a warm bed and the list goes on and on.

Psalm 75:1 We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare *that* Your name is near.

Happy Thanksgiving

Pastor Steve



ANNUAL Holiday Craft Fair

November Craft Workshops

Tuesdays November 5, and November 19, - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

November is our last month to work on our crafts and plan foods to sell before the Holiday Craft Fair and BBQ on Saturday, December 7, 2013, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



George Gribble is handling the BBQ to benefit "Kids Pack".

Contact Ann Fox 863 604-0194 if you have any questions.

Ann Fox at 863 604-0194 or email at annfox27@gmail.com



It is that time a year again and will be will doing the Angel Tree for the Children's Home. Unlike in years past we will not be receiving individual wish lists from the kids. Becky Dotson, the new President & CEO of the Children's Home has indicated that the children would like gift cards this year so they can go shopping and get the specific gift they would like to have.



The goal of the Children's Home this year is collect enough gift cards so that each child will have \$150.00 in gift cards to spend on what they want. We have been asked to purchase gift cards in any increments of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25 & \$50 to various stores.

We will also be collecting gift cards to restaurants so that the house parents can take the kids out to dinner and also items for the cottages like we have in the past. Please look for the tree in the Narthex later this month to pick the angel of your choice.

Karen & Jeff Acor

Preschool News

For November, 2013

First of all, a correction from last month's entry: our first group of 4-year-olds are not seniors in high school quite yet. In fact they are beginning their middle school years. Even so, time still does fly!

This month the children learn that November means giving thanks to God for the wonderful things He has given us. This is the central teaching during the year but it has special meaning during this month. The teachers will talk to the children about the First Thanksgiving and what it means. We will continue emphasizing the importance of sitting down to a big meal with the family and be thankful in spite of difficulties - a message, by the way, for all ages .

MISSION MOMENTS

By Linda J. Alvarez

Are you a United Methodist Woman? If you are female and attend a United Methodist Church, you are. You can join a circle and participate in many of the mission projects this group supports. The Purpose of United Methodist Women is as follows:

“The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

We are indeed devoted to missions. The Rum-mage Sales, held twice a year, raise funds that we distribute to international, national and local organizations that help so many in need. We have given money to Talbot House, Parker Street Ministries, LVIM and other local groups. We also have raised money through the sale of tickets to Macy’s charity day sale. This money has been used to take meals to our church’s shut-ins. We are now gathering items for Guardian ad Litem. They have a young lady who will be leaving the program

and setting up her own apartment. She will need all the furnishings a move like that entails. Soon two of our members will be going to Cuba as part of a Prayer Caravan. We will take many items with us, things that are very scarce there. A Cuban dinner will be held November 30th to raise funds for this. You all know what a wonderful cook Rosita is, so you won’t want to miss this event. We will take a monetary offering to the pastor of our sister church, Quesada. The pastor there earns \$20.00 per month! We are also looking for sewers who can make pillowcase dresses for us to take along.

There are two circles in the Lake Gibson UMW. Heart to Heart meets the first Monday of each month at 10:30 and the Ruth Circle of Love meets the second Wednesday also at 10:30. Programs are interesting, discussions lively, and the fellowship supportive and warm. The Unit Meetings give the two groups a chance to meet together and hear a speaker.

Ladies, now is the perfect time to join one of our circles. Help us help others through our mission projects. Read Matthew 25:34-40 if you need a reminder of how we should care for each other.

Prayer Ministry Opportunities

Prayer Ministries are part of LGUMC’s commitment to offer prayer for those in need.

The following are the prayer ministries at LGUMC:

Intercessory Prayer group meets every Monday in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. for 1 hr.

Prayer Chain involves an emergency phone prayer to be passed on from one prayer warrior to the other, as a relay effect, and usually takes approximately 5 minutes per week and is done from your own home. We have a call list for daytime and nighttime.

Sunday Worship Prayer group meets for a very few minutes in the back of the sanctuary after the 8 a.m. service.

Please call Fran Mudge if you are interested in being a part of any or all of these much needed prayer ministries or visit us at one of our Prayer groups soon.

Mid-week devotions meet at 6:30 a.m. in the FLC. Please contact Joe Moon if you are interested in this particular prayer ministry.

Thought for the Day-Upper Room September 1st, 2013

“Who’s waiting for an invitation to pray with me (us)?”

Thank you.

God Bless

From Mr. Tom Burns - Board of Trustees:

We still have a few small things that need to be done to the FLC, which we will be working on.

We are also looking into replacing the indoor/outdoor carpet at the main doors for the Sanctuary, with an outdoor carpet. Using money from the Sanctuary maintenance account.

On October 16, we had a company looking at the tree by the FLC, to let us know whether it needs to come out or that it is safe. If it needs to come out the water company will pay for it, because it is on their property.

A couple of members want to make a donation to update the Audio & Video equipment in the Sanctuary. We do have Audio Video Account (2370). Anyone wishing to help with this, just indicate the account name or number. As the trustees see the account grow we will start getting cost together. What we have in mind is TV's, a digital mixing board and new mikes and speakers.

Also we still have the Air Conditioner account, as soon as it gets to \$15,000.00 or \$20,000.00 we can start making changes.

Boy Scouts: Scouts had a cleanup day October 12, 2013 to clean up the garden.

They will present the Flags on November 10, 2013 at the 10:30 services for Veterans Day.

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW APPORTIONMENTS ARE DETERMINED

AND HOW THEY IMPACT THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH AT LARGE

Apportionments

Each year the Florida Conference determines the dollar amount of apportionments based on a formula approved at the Annual Conference. There are three basic kinds to be considered: District, Conference, and General Church. In each case a 'fair share' determination is made to help in our ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

What do these apportionments do for the glory of God? Possibly the following synopsis of the apportionments may be of assistance.

Primary areas of apportionment include:

Clergy Support – Compensation of Pastors, District Superintendents & Cabinet, Conference Boards, Conference Office of Ministry, and Judicial Processes.

World Service Fund – the first benevolent responsibility of the Church provides for core ministries of our denomination. Included are expansion of missions and evangelical efforts, both here and abroad.

Conference Benevolences –

Conference Connectional Ministries – support for such activities as Camps, Communications, Disaster Preparation and Relief, Discipleship, Hispanic Ministry, Missions, Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, and others.

Campus Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries – supports campus ministers, Wesley Foundations on campuses, and two Methodist-related colleges in state.

Conference Board of Lay Ministry – support for lay people, including the UMW, Lay Speaking Ministry, and Lay Witness Mission.

Office of Congregational Transformation

Other Conference Ministries

Conference Services and Administration –

Financial and Administrative Leadership – covers various conference bodies required for administration, as well as audit of our operations.

Annual Conference Event – covers everything required to conduct our annual conference.

Conference Workbook and Journal – covers workbook and journal expenses above and beyond that charged participants thru fees.

United Methodist Conference Center – covers operational expenses for the Lakeland Conference Center.

Employee Salaries and Benefits – Salaries and benefits for conference financial, technical, and administrative staff are funded through this apportionment.

Property Maintenance – covers maintenance and eventual replacement of conference owned properties, as well as casualty insurance on conference-owned facilities – such as churches.

New Church Starts – As Florida grows, new churches are often required to meet geographical needs. This covers new starts, churches starting churches, and new missions within a District.

General Administrative Fund-

General Conference – covers costs of participation in the General Conference every four years for official delegates, both lay and clergy.

Legal, Financial and Administration – covers the administrative function of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Judicial Council, and management, legal interests and rights of the United Methodist Foundation.

History and Statistics – covers operating costs of the General Commission on Archives and History, the maintenance of certain historic properties (shrines, landmarks, and sites), and compiling/publishing denominational statistics.

Episcopal Fund – covers expenses of active bishops and support of retired bishops and spouses. Apportionment must be either paid or will carry forward from year-to-year. This fund supports both U.S. and missionary bishops.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund –

Ecumenical agencies – support numerous interdenominational programs, such as chaplains.

Churches Uniting in Christ – seeks way toward greater visibility and effectiveness among ten denominations.

Ministerial Education Fund –

Helps recruit and train effective United Methodist Ministers thru our thirteen United Methodist seminaries.

Provides the basis for new pastors who respond to God's calling.

Provides scholarship aid for those seeking to become ordained ministers.

Sponsors regional and national events for the exploration of God's call to the ministry.

25% of apportionment stays within the conference, 63% goes to our 13 United Methodist Seminaries, and 12% supports programs for ordained and diaconal ministers.

Black College Fund –

Supports eleven predominantly black, United Methodist-related college and a medical school.

Societal inequalities of race and class require educational institutions committed to providing academic excellence while serving as intellectual, spiritual, and cultural reservoirs of African-American history and tradition.

In Florida, the Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach receives financial support from this fund.

African University Fund –

Supports the development of the only African United Methodist university in Zimbabwe.

Includes schools of theology, agriculture, and education.

Open to students from throughout Africa.

Jurisdictional Fund –

Underwrites the cost of Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and various programs within the nine states it covers.

Program and Administration – covers costs for participation of the 600 delegates to the four day conference held every four years. Also covers regional programs, to include conference centers (such as Lake Junaluska, NC) and the Lay Ministry Training Center.

District Apportionments –

All District apportionments stay within the District to support missions, ministries, programs, and administration.

Includes a District Work Fund for operations, and a District New Church Fund to help in the starting of new churches and other District mission initiatives.

As we look at how we support initiatives outside our local church, possibly a better understanding of what we have been called to do might help clarify our priorities.

Theological Foundations for Giving:

In many local churches, money talk is taboo. Churches are dependent upon the offerings of members and constituents. Yet, many people do not like to hear too much money talk in church. This stands in stark contrast to the Bible where money talk is both frequent and pointed. The Bible portrays money as a powerful force in life and ultimately, a contender against God for a person's primary loyalty.

The Bible discusses money within three basic categories. First, money is a blessing from God. Throughout the Old Testament, Israel is promised material blessing as it faithfully follows God. Still, the blessing is never an end in itself, but is meant to reveal the power of the true God. Furthermore, God's people are always blessed in order to be a blessing to others.

This leads to the second important way that money is discussed; those who have been blessed by God are expected to care for those who are in need. Giving is not an option for God's people, but is foundational to the lives of disciples. Both Testaments speak frequently of giving in order to support God's mission. "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Finally, money is understood as a potential idol and a force of disruption against a person's ability to love God and neighbor. The most famous text for this aspect of money's identity is Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

JOHN WESLEY AND MONEY

John Wesley, the primary founder of the Methodist movement, frequently spoke about money and its relationship to our lives as followers of Christ. Regarding money, his most famous words to the early Methodists were to gain, save, and give all that one can. Perhaps less famous were his concerns that many Methodists were quite content to follow two-thirds of his advice; that is, many were gaining and saving, but few were truly giving as much as they could. Some things change very little. One of the key roles for the committee on finance is to encourage contemporary United Methodists to continue to take John Wesley's complete message to heart.¹

Our Pledges

As our individual pledges are made to Lake Gibson United Methodist Church, please consider how each of us may do more in furtherance of our ministry.

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Rooted Student Ministries, Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

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Lee Mueller, Director

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November

2-Sat, Time Change, Fall back 1 hour
3-Sun, hi school & older bible study 6-8:30p,
6-Wed, potluck, Charge Conference @ 7pm
7-Thur, vball, 7-10pm
10-Sun, youth 6-8:30pm speaker Ellis?
13-Wed, youth, 6-8:30pm
14-Thur, vball, 7-9:30pm
16-Sat, Video Hunt, 3-7pm
17-Sun, hi school & older bible study 6-8:30pm
20-Wed, Youth, 6-8:30pm
21-Thur, VBALL, 7-9:30pm
24-Sun, Church @ 10am, noon potluck
24-Sun, youth 6-8:30pm PIE DOUGH MAKING
26- Tue, Make Pies, 8:30am-1pm
27- Wed, NO YOUTH, Happy Thanksgiving
28-Thur, Happy Thanksgiving, NO Vball
30-Sat, Youth Sunday practice, 10am-noon

December

1-Sun, Youth Sunday, 7am-noon
1-Sun, hi school & older bible study 6-8:30pm
4-Wed, Youth, 6-8:30pm ROCK CANDY
5-Thur, Vball, 7-9:30PM
7-Sat, Holiday Fair?? 8:30am-2pm
8-Sun, Youth 6-8:30pm
11-Wed, youth, 6-8:30pm
12-Thur, vball, 7-9:30pm
14-Sat, Cantata Practice 10am, Spud lunch - prep, 1-3pm
15-Sun, Cantata, 10am, Spuds, 8:30am-1pm
15-Sun, hi school & older bible study 6-8:30pm
18-Wed, youth, 6-8:30pm
19-Thur, vball, 7-10pm
20-Fri, Last School Day, Cmas party 6-10pm, guys-snack, gals-drink
22-Sun1 church service @10am,
22-Sun, NO YOUTH TONIGHT
24-Tue, Cmas Eve Service @ 6pm
25-Wed, MERRY CMAS, NO YOUTH

26-Thur, VBALL???, 7-10pm

29-Sun, Church @ 10am

31-Tue, HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE

January

1-Wed, NO YOUTH
5-Sun, NO YOUTH
6-Mon, Playday, 1-6pm, guys-drink, gals-snack
8-Wed, Youth 6-8:30pm
9-Thur, Vball, 7-9:30pm
11-Sat, Winter Jam??? \$13, 12:30-11pm
12-Sun, Youth, 6-8:30pm
15-Wed, Youth, 6-8:30pm
17-Fri, Disc golf, \$2 & food \$, 8:30am-5pm
18-Sat, Child Protection Class 10am-noon
19-Sun, hi school & older bible study 6-8:30pm
20-Mon, Webster, 8:30-2pm, \$2 & food \$
22-Wed, Youth 6-8:30pm
23-Thur, Vball, 7-9:30pm
26-Sun, Youth, 6-8:30pm
29-Wed, Youth, 6-8:30pm
30-Thur, Vball, 7-9:30pm

11/10 Bob & Barbara Gunter
 11/18 Joe & Pat Moon
 11/19 Ed & Cyndee Arnett
 11/20 Jerry & Gail Bishop



11/24 David & Karel Knox
 11/27 Jack & Lisa Curtiss
 11/27 Richard & Ann Kneeland



Birthdays

11/3 Brett Fox
 11/5 Betty Figert
 11/5 Gail Smith
 11/10 Bobby Courtney

11/10 Gary Jones
 11/10 Jean Wesley
 11/11 Mary Futch
 11/13 Donald Chandler
 11/15 Judith Chandler
 11/18 Robert Beniston
 11/19 John Travis
 11/19 Nathen Van Zile
 11/24 Reginald Laster

11/24 Christian Smith
 11/24 Gail M. Smith
 11/24 Marilyn Warnack
 11/27 Brad Fox
 11/27 Donna McKnight
 11/28 Gene Vandervort
 11/30 Earl Figert

SOME NOTES FROM MARINA

- 11/6 Charge Conference 7 pm**
- 11/11 Veteran's Day – post office & banks will be closed**
- 11/16 BBQ Fundraiser for Liturgical Dance & Music**
- 11/17 Blood Mobile – free movie ticket**
- 11/24 Home Harvest 1 Service 10:00 am Bring a can good. Thanksgiving Pot Luck**
- 11/28 Thanksgiving Day – Office will be closed**
- 11/29 Black Friday – Office will be closed – Happy Shopping**
- 11/30 Fund Raiser – Trip To Cuba**
- 12/1 Hanging of Greens**



*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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