



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

December 2013

Steve Polk, Pastor

424 West Daughtery Road, Lakeland Florida 33809

Phone (863) 858-5431

From the Pastor's Desk

Penny and I went for a walk the other day and I notice several houses that already had their Christmas decorations up and on at night; this was a week before Thanksgiving. Black Friday which is supposed to be one of the biggest shopping days for Christmas has now stretched into Thanksgiving Day itself and earlier. What is going on? As I have been contemplating this, I must admit my first reaction was people are greedy, but I repent of that thought. I see that people are genuinely searching for what they think bring, joy, happiness and peace. It is at Christmas time that many families can put their differences beside for a few hours of fellowship; at Christmas love and joy are shared with neighbors and friends, and at Christmas nations can call a truce to wars and rebellions. The social agencies that reach out to the needy receive a great deal of their donations at Christmas; the media puts a greater focus on stories that warm the heart at this time of year. That is what people are striving for, in my humble opinion. Would it not be great if these actions became year round (except for the lights and blow ups)?

Christmas celebrates - "Immanuel" God with us - as Christ came into the world as a babe and yet...

Christ comes into our lives each and every day if we allow Him to. Christ is ready to come anew in every person's life; to bring them unconditional love, acceptance, joy and peace. That is what people are truly searching and yearning for - not money, fame or possessions.

The Church and Christianity can show society what they are truly looking for as they share the love of God not only in this season but throughout the year. Those trying to rush the season are really hungry for the Son of God. May they see and encounter Him in each of us this year.

Matthew 5:16 King James Version (KJV)

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

I pray you will have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and share the light of Christ with others this season and in the coming year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Pastor Steve and Mrs. Penny

Unite Methodist Women December Unit Meeting

Ladies of Lake Gibson United Methodist Church please join us for our December UMW Unit Meeting. This will take place on Monday, December 9th at 10:30 am. We will have a short business meeting followed by Christmas music presented by our very own LGUM musical department. Then join us for lunch! UMW members will each provide a dish that will feed all of those who join us. Hope to see you there!

We would like to thank the congregation again for generously helping to make our Fall Rummage Sale successful. We would not be able to do it without the items you donate and the help of the youth, men and women who work hard to pull it off! *Sue Shelton*



Holiday Crafts and Gift Fair

SATURDAY, December 7th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

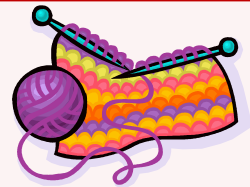
Lake Gibson United Methodist Church

424 West Daugherty Rd.

"Hot and Smokin' BBQ"
EAT IN or TAKE OUT

Holiday Decorations, Gift Baskets, Plants, Crafts

"Cracker" Dolls, Gifts, Homemade Candy, Pies and Cakes



we need all hands on deck for selling at the craft and baked goods tables. George Gribble will need help selling BBQ out in front of the FLC. We hope we may need some crowd control with parking too. It wouldn't hurt to have extra people for security of people walking away without paying for merchandise. Each vendor table will sell for their own table. We have over 35 vendors inside and outside under the covered sidewalk. Sale starts Saturday, December 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Set up starts inside the FLC at 10 a.m. Friday morning. .



Preschool News

December, 2013

This is a very special month at the Preschool. It's the time of the year that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and the excitement of the event dominates the month. We are focusing on celebrating with our families and friends, but mainly we are celebrating Jesus' birthday. It is a time of faith, wonder, amazement, and excited children. We are striving to make this month very special by taking the time to explore all the things that make this holiday season unique.

Our teachers are planning different activities for the children. They all will be talking about Christmas around the world, and in our arts and crafts classes they will be preparing Christmas wreaths as a gift for their parents. The younger ones will be coloring poinsettias, the gingerbread man, and singing songs with bells.

And speaking of children singing, they will be singing at 10:00, Sunday, December 15, prior to the Christmas Cantata. You won't want to miss their cherubic voices and faces that morning!



From Mr. Tom Burns - Board of Trustees:

It has been a very good year as chairman of the trustees and I look forward to another year.

The water oak tree by the FLC has been proven to be on its last legs and needs to be removed. The water company wants to make sure it is on their property so they will be having it surveyed by an independent company and let us know the results.

The trustees do have a wish list for 2014, and do need your help. Your help should be second mile giving, above what is needed for the monthly budget and apportionments.

So if you can please help with the following accounts. Air conditioner balance at end of October was \$2990.00 and Video and Sound with a balance at end of October of \$0.

The trustees would like to thank the choir for the beautiful job they did at there expense to painting and re-arranging the choir room, please take a few minutes to check out what they have done and tell them thank you.

They are also rearranging the storage area above the choir room and installing insulation to reduce the heat, which will reduce the cost to run the AC system.

Good Job choir thank you.

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

Lake Gibson UMC Church Conference Minutes held at Lake Gibson UMC
November 6, 2013

1. 7:03pm- Our ordained elder, Pastor Joe Brady, opened our meeting.

See attached for attendance.

Tom Burns moved and George Band 2nd to approve Lee Mueller as recording secretary, Passed.

Pastor Steve Polk offered a prayer, reminding us that this meeting was a worship service and asking God to work through the meeting. Pastor Steve reminded us that this was the 50 year Jubilee celebration, and the church should look forward to the next 50 year celebration.

Welcome

2. Missional Vital Signs 2012- THESES GOALS ARE FROM LAST YEAR'S CHARGE CONFERENCE -

3.	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

Missional Vital Signs 2013-

1.	2013actual to 9/13	2014	2015	2016
a. Passionate Worship	154	250	275	280
b. Radical Hospitality	10	15	18	20
c. Intentional Discipling	78	65	80	85
d. Salty Service	9	15	20	22
e. Extravagant Generosity	*227158	275000	300000	315000

*This figure includes \$15,000 for carpet and \$10,000 for van. True weekly giving is about \$200,000.
These minimum goals were accepted without opposition.

2. Membership

2012 active membership- 365 2013 active membership- 362

Members for Removal.

See attached list of 41 names listed for second year. These people will be removed from our church rolls with the exception of Betty Figert, deceased; and RoseMary Pancake, who would like to remain on our membership roll. Ken Fuqua moved to remove these 41 people from our rolls, Tom Burns 2nd, APPROVED with no opposition. Pastor Brady offered a prayer over the people represented on the list.

3. Clergy Compensation as reported and moved by Ken Fuqua, SPR chair:

Wayne Wesley 2nd this package, APPROVED with no opposition.

4. Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, beginning January, 2014-

(see list for complete nominations)

Church Council Chair- Carol Davis

Lay Leader- Ken Fuqua

Pastor-Parish Relations- Sarah Schiemann

Finance Chair- Dwight Kitchens

Trustees Chair- Tom Burns, if voted at first 2014 meeting

And many more, watch for contact information for all who serve.

The Nomination Committee moved to accept these people into service, Eric Hines 2nd, APPROVED without opposition.

5. Lay Servant Ministry-Mike Stafford was listed as an advanced certified Lay Servant; Judy VanZile and Sue Shelton were listed as a basic Lay Servants. Carol Davis moved to accept these people as Lay Servant Ministries, Ken Fuqua 2nd, APPROVED with no opposition.

3. Connectional Giving Summary- Apportionments for 2013 (includes Apportionments-[\$26913], Pension, and Health & Ministry Protection) are \$65792.57.

Amounts given as of 9/1/13 [through 66.7% of year] \$46,598.16

	Given:	% of total paid
Apportionments	\$13,452.31	42.43%
Pension & Health	\$17039.16	75%
Ministry Protection	\$16106.69	100%
Total (9/1/13)	\$46598.16	72% [actual 70.83%]

2014 Apportionments: \$25098, 100% of these apportionments will be included in 2014 budget.

4. Finance-	2012 income-	\$235,895.93	expense-\$216,325.88
	2013 income as of 9.1.13-	\$162,515.65	expense-\$165,449.86

Pastor Brady asked for a motion to receive and accept all reports presented. Tom Burns moved, and Linda Alvarez 2nd to accept all reports, APPROVED with no opposition.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Brady at 8:08pm.

Respectfully,

Lee Mueller

Offerings and the Consumer Price Index

Many will agree that we have had a recession during the past few years. Jobs have been scarcer for many seeking them, and sometimes salaries don't match our expectations. But, for those fortunate enough to have a steady income, we may actually find our income rising each year. This fact may be due primarily to such factors as Social Security benefits, retired pay, some salaries, etc., being linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is computed based on comparisons between the cost of a basket of goods at the end of the third quarter of one year to the next. For 30 Sept. 2012 it was computed at 1.7 percent, which affected January 2013 payments. It has already been determined that the CPI increase for January 2014 will be 1.5%. Thus, over the past two years, the CPI has risen a compounded 2.55%. Over the past ten years the compounded rise is 21.0%.

While this two-year increase may seem negligible, has our support of Lake Gibson UMC's ministries kept pace? Have we increased our tithes and offerings to keep pace with inflation, or are we still giving the same amount year after year?

Every year the United Methodist Church as a whole, and Lake Gibson itself, identify missions that need to be done. Unless we are willing to abandon or significantly reduce some ministries of our church, we can't meet our increasing obligations with the same income. Should we not at least increase our tithes and offerings annually to keep pace with inflation?

One Small Child



Lake Gibson United Methodist Church
424 W. Daughtery Rd
Lakeland, FL 33809
December 15 @ 10:00 am



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-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

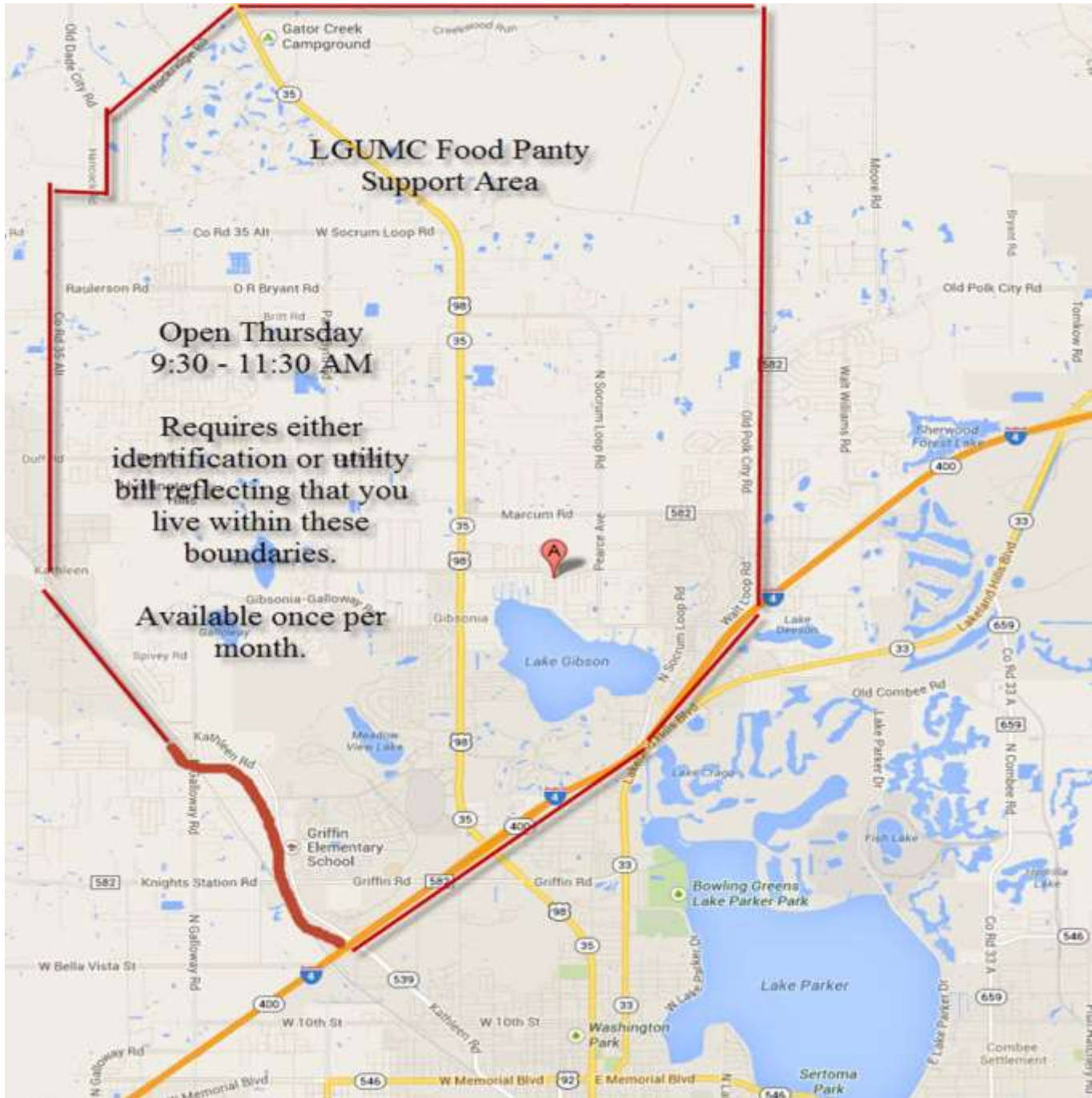
January

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

Food Pantry Information

The LGUMC Food Pantry is part of our mission to support those less fortunate than ourselves, regardless of the circumstances. We have chosen a support area reflected by the included map.



We attempt to provide a grocery bag with the following items once per month to an individual living within the supported area who asks for assistance.

Might you be willing to accept the challenge of supplying a bag of groceries once per month? We have received the bounty of our Lord. Might we not share it with those less fortunate?

During 2013, the food pantry has supplemented the needy with bags of groceries to the tune of:

Month	# bags	ITEMS PER MONTHLY BAG OF GROCERIES:
January	12	1 SAUCE
February	12	1 NOODLE/SPAGHETTI 1 HELPER TUNA/HAMBURGER
March	8	2 SOUPS
April	9	1 RAVIOLI (if we have it) 1 MAC & CHEESE BOX
May	17	1 SINGLE SERVE MAC & CHEESE 2 VEGETABLES
June	10	1 FRUIT
July	18	1 P'NUT BUTTER 1 JELLY PRESERVE
August	17	1 TUNA OR CHICKEN 1 ODD MEAT
September	15	1 FROZEN GROUND BEEF
October	16	1 TOILET PAPER (if we have it) ask secretary

IF WE HAVE IT: (mostly for the children)

- 1 box of cereal
- 1 packets of poptarts (if we have and are labeled for the food pantry)
- 1 carton of eggs

IF NEEDED & THEY ASK

- 1 PACKAGE OF DIAPERS ASSORTED SIZES (if we have it, ask secretary)
- 1 BABY WIPES (if we have it)

PERSONAL HYGIENE

- 1 BAGGIE WITH TRAVEL SIZED TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSH, SOAP, SHAMPOO (if we have it)

Consider making an additional offering to the Food Pantry, whether it be in foodstuffs or money to make bulk purchases. This is a continuing ministry which is constantly in need of replenishment.

“Freely you have received, freely give.” *Matthew 10:8*

Thanks to the labor of Yvonne Bower, Pat Gilmore, JoAnn Mickle, and Marina Garcia, and donations of goods and funds from our congregation, this ministry continues to enhance the lives of our neighbors.

EXTRA MEDICATIONS WANTED.

We recently found that our prescriptions changed. In each case it required that we either start/stop a medication, or get a different dosage. So, we found we had excess medications which we could no longer use. Yes, I know that the city and county have turn-ins where they destroy medications rather than have them go down the sewage treatment plant route. But, we've found a much better alternative to destruction. Consider turning in medications in excess to your needs to the Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine. They may be able to reuse your medications with their clients. This is a thoughtful gift which helps others. Just deliver them to either Kim Katsaras or Charlotte Hall the next time you head downtown. They will be grateful for the assistance.

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33805 Ph (863) 688-5846

12/4 John & Gail Travis
 12/10 Dwight & Phyllis Kitchens
 12/15 Wayne & Jean Wesley



12/22 Charles & Faye Bingham
 12/22 Steve & Tammie Schertzer
 12/24 Gary & Karen Coates



Birthdays

12/2 Wayne Davis
 12/2 Angela Fields
 12/3 Sue Shelton
 12/5 Kristopher Welch
 12/9 Janice Booker
 12/9 Lisa Curtiss

12/11 Henry Zona
 12/14 Robert Bailey
 12/14 Linda Smucker
 12/15 Marian Schroeder
 12/17 Beverly Hines
 12/19 Donald Heishman
 12/20 William McKinney
 12/22 Midge Plath
 12/23 Betty Tomlinson
 12/26 Margaret Kneeland
 12/26 Rick Mueller

12/27 Kevin Patterson
 12/28 Glenda Grant Hess
 12/28 Phyllis Kitchens
 12/29 Roy Bodemer
 12/29 Karen Coates
 12/29 Bob Gunter
 12/29 Judy VanZile
 12/30 Dorothy Gabor
 12/30 Justin Oliva
 12/31 Marion Cope



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: 9:00 am. till 2:00 pm. (Monday thru Friday)

Marina Garcia—Administrative Secretary;
 Lee Mueller—Youth Director
 Sue Heishman— Bookkeeper,
 Glenda Grant—Director of Music/Organist
 Custodian—Jose Cardona
 A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center
 —Director - Phone: 858-8400

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