

Fall/Winter 2014

a note from Pastor Greg

Celebrating our Past, Present, and Future

As I sit down to write this article many changes are underway. The plan for the septic tank is nearing its completion. The design team has made carpet, pew chair, and fabric selections for the sanctuary. We have received word from the Foundation for the loan so we can make the necessary improvements. Sign companies are working on bids and code implications. The sanctuary stairs renovation, exterior pressure washing and trim painting continue. The changes are needed. But I'm also aware changes can also be very hard.

On December 31st of this year I will officiate at my son's wedding. In preparation for the big day Kris has boxes of pictures spread out across the dining room table. We've been reminiscing and putting together for his fiancé, family, and friends, memories of John's life that are precious to us, and might help fill in the gaps for those who didn't know him then. In looking at the pictures part of me wants him to be the little boy in the "bowl" cut again with the impish grin. Another part of me appreciates he's growing into a young man and moving on to a new phase of his life. Weddings are a fantastic way to celebrate our past, present, and future.

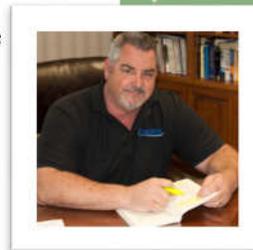
As we make necessary changes at church I am sensitive to the fact that things are... changing. While the changes are necessary, I'm aware many of you have

wonderful, fond memories, of the way it used to be. This past week as I had a chance to reminisce with members and a few of our shut ins. I loved hearing the stories of the early days. Some remember meeting in a tent before the sanctuary was built. Some remembered watching the masons hand chisel each stone for the perfect fit before it was laid.

As a part of celebrating our past, present and future, we're planning a "Homecoming Sunday". The date is set for November 9. We're planning on one joint service at 11 am with a covered dish dinner in Norton Hall afterward. We'd love to hear from you about some of your favorite pictures and stories from our past. We're reaching out to former pastors and hope you'll reach out to former church members to come share in this special day.

Lake Shore United Methodist has served in faithfully ministry for nearly 70 years. Countless numbers of people have been saved, baptized, discipled, served, married and buried through this wonderful ministry. It's humbling to know we're an integral part for the building of God's Kingdom, changing lives now and for all of eternity.

God bless you all as we celebrate our past, present, and future together.



Upcoming events

Homecoming
Sunday
November 9th
One Service 11am

Christmas Music
Program
December 7th
6:30pm

Annual Big Give
December 13th
9am to noon

Cookies & Carols
December 14th
5pm & 6pm

Christmas Eve
Services
5pm & 7pm

Worship Matters

This is a really exciting time! As I write this we are in the early stages of putting into action the plans that we have made for the 2014 Restore Lake Shore plan. We have the approval of the loan and the new flooring and seating have been ordered. These two items take the longest to get built and shipped so that the work can be completed before our Christmas Eve Services. Last year was such a well-attended event, that we really want to get these replaced before we have an issue with the existing pews. This work will require us to be out of the Sanctuary for a few weeks while this work is being done and we will be able to meet in Norton Hall in the interim. There are a few modifications that have to be made to the platform area after the carpet is pulled up and before they can put down the new, so I could definitely use a group of handy folks to assist with these projects.

One of the things we will be able to correct in this renovation is the spacing between rows. However this will have an impact on the maximum seating, but it's the right thing to do. The only event in the last two years that would have been affected by less seating is Christmas Eve and we had more than we probably should have in there anyway. This year we're expecting at least the same number and praying for more so we have decided to have 2 Christmas Eve services this year. The first at 5pm will have the candlelight event inside and the second at 7pm will have the children re-creating the manger scene and candlelight outside. Talk it over with your families and figure out which works best for you. It should be a wonderful time whichever you choose.

Lastly, as we are headed to the end of this year and into the next, I just want to encourage you to make a choice to come prepared to worship each time we gather together. God inhabits our praise and He is still alive and working among us !

Bob Caldwell

Easy Tithing

Don't forget the quick and easiest way to donate to the mission of Lake Shore is through your online banking account or online giving through our website.

www.lsumcjax.org



Cornerstones

Thanks for all the support for our team leaders who recently shared some of their teaching in our services. Hopefully for some of you it sparked an interest in learning a little bit more. As we seek God's heart as a faith community remember, "The revelation of God is the fuel for the fire of worship" Look for upcoming classes and "Step up, Sign up, and Show up."

Explore Lake Shore

Take a test drive of LSUMC with a behind the scenes info session. Come hear about our core beliefs, goals and leadership model. This is a one time, one hour class and is required for those preparing to go through our New Member class.

Missional Vital Signs

The Methodist Church has 5 indicators (Attendance, Discipleship, Hospitality, Serving, and Giving) for the local churches, which help to measure the vitality of congregations. Below you will find an update as to how we are doing in some of these areas so far this year.

Records through August

Avg. Worship Attendance:	202
Avg. Sunday School Attendance:	121
New Members (PoF, RoF):	12
Avg # of Salty Servants:	30
2014 Budget:	450,862
Rec'd Toward Budget:	295,239
Budget Expenditures:	301,618
Income (+or -) of Expenditures:	-6,379

Our Little Pumpkins

With the kids back in school and the weather getting cooler, it must be time for The Children's Garden at LSUMC to get ready for fall. And boy is it filling up fast!

We are kicking off our very own "Upward" Sports league with basketball and cheerleading programs for girls and boys. Not only will the kids learn about sports, but they will learn about Jesus at every practice, game, and event. Upward teaches kids how to live out God's word on the playing field and off. During our free annual sports camp we were able to host 65 children and those children have been invited back to our league along with other kids in our community. Christy Davis said "We are continuing to reach out to the Lake Shore area children and spread the good news of Jesus with them all. Upward is a different and exciting way to do that."

The Children's Garden is again partnering with Bayview Elementary School and started our third year of this partnership. The students are excited about seeing us in the school and our presence helps to let students know that LSUMC cares about them. We began our "Weekly Reading" project at the school on Wednesday mornings. During these times, volunteers from LSUMC read to four different classes each week. "Any time we can bring God's Good News into the school with our actions, caring, and words, it blesses us all", says Christy Davis.

The Garden has also been able to sponsor a field trip for children at Bayview with Autism to go to the zoo. Bayview currently has about 60 students with Autism and are a specialty school in teaching these students. We are pleased to be able to help in this way.

"And what are the children learning in Sunday School this fall?" you ask. The kids are learning the longest chapter in the Bible, Psalm 119. "I want the kids to know why Christians are to follow the instructions of the Bible and how much God loves each one of us, so we are working on memorizing all the verses of Psalm 119" said Christy Davis when asked. "Just like the Bible says in Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) 'Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it.' That is one of the things we are commissioned to do."



Youth News

Happy Fall Lake Shore! First and foremost I'd like to thank everyone who has helped and continues to help by volunteering in the pumpkin patch. Our pumpkin patch not only provides the funding that allows me to do youth ministry for our students, but this year we've been making a big push to use it as an additional form of outreach and ministry. We've been seeing a big response from our movie nights and storytime field trips as well as other family oriented events that we've had going on in our patch this month. It's great to see how many of you have been on board with this vision. You guys are great and I couldn't do it without you!

Some of the money from the pumpkin patch will be used to send our youth to Imprint, which is the yearly Fall Retreat held at Warren Willis Summer Camp in Leesburg, Florida in November. The students that went last year had a great time and we're hoping to send even more this year. We also hope to begin renovating the café area in the youth room with some of the pumpkin patch funds so be on the lookout for more dust and construction in that area.

In other news, Sheron Willson recently volunteered to take over as our youth Sunday School leader and is doing a phenomenal job at it! I've sat in on a few of her Sunday School lessons and she's doing a great job at shepherding our young people and encouraging them as they grow in their faith. Thanks Sheron!

Mike Greenlee



Each year, as the holiday season approaches, we want to remember families in our congregation who are experiencing difficult times. The Ministry Team would like to be able to provide a food basket to members of our congregation who otherwise might not have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. We would also like to provide a gift card to families with children 17 and under who need assistance with Christmas expenses. If you would like to register your family for one or both of these items, you may call Tracey in the church office through November 13th. Please provide your name, a phone number where you may be reached and the number of children in the family. Church members may make a donation to the fund which will be used to purchase the food baskets and gift cards for the families that register with the office. It is estimated that the baskets will cost \$55 each. Please label your donation “ **C h u r c h F a m i l y P r o j e c t .** ” Thank you for making this a brighter holiday season for our brothers and sisters in Christ!



Words from the UMM

What a thrill it was to see the generosity of the folks that responded to the needs of “The PET Project”. We had hoped to raise a few hundred dollars to re-stock tires & wheels, but your generosity will keep us running full speed ahead for several months.

The total amount given is over three thousand dollars! This will allow us to continue purchasing tires and wheels, all the nuts and bolts and lumber to help us reach the number we provided in 2013 (80), and possibly more. Each one built and shipped changes lives and is a blessing.

Thanks to all!
Tom Woodard
UMM President



**Give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good;
his love endures forever.**

