

Pathways

Newsletter of East Lake UMC

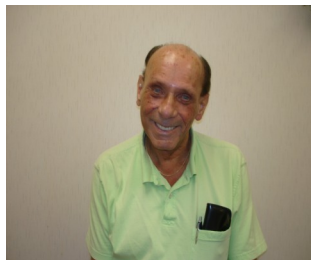
January 2014

Membership at East Lake UMC

By Lucy McGee

Maybe 2014 is the year for you to become a member at East Lake UMC. Compass Connection classes are held to assist you in becoming familiar with our church, its leaders and staff and the ministries we embrace by Offering Christ, Growing in Faith and Serving Others. Watch the bulletin and email blasts for upcoming class days and times.

Affiliate and associate memberships are also options. An affiliate member is someone who is a member of our church and another United Methodist church in another location. An associate membership is available for a person who is a member of another denomination who would like to be a member of our Methodist church. Lucy McGee, Congregational Development Coordinator, will be happy to discuss membership at East Lake UMC with you. Please contact her at lmcgee@eastlakeumc.org or 727-784-9250, ext.118



Tom Norman joined East Lake UMC as an affiliate member while continuing to be a member of his home church Islip United Methodist Church in Islip, NY. Please welcome him into the body of Christ as he continues to worship and serve with you.



"It is not good for man to be alone." Genesis 2:18

The celebrations of faith and family during Kwanza, Hanukkah, and Christmas are over, yet attention to the family is just as important in January as it was in December. Since the family of the 1950's is no longer the norm, we as a church need to ask what it means to be "family", how we support families, and how we reclaim its importance.

Today's families are led by traditional parents, single parents, gay couples, blended or step families, or by a group that is unrelated. Even though they may look different, each group is made up of people who support and love each other in all of life's situations. Without family, people are often set adrift with no direction or support which tends to make them less healthy. Positive relationships provide unconditional love and encouragement which foster self-esteem, positive attitudes, and better health habits. They ground a person and provide building blocks for other relationships.

How does one build and nurture positive families? Be interested in each other's activities. Attend and support each other's interests and events. Plan outings for the family and offer positive bonding experiences. Listen to each other and learn to 'agree to disagree' as families also need to understand and deal with conflict.

All families have highs and lows so it is important to teach children how to handle disappointment and adversity as well as how to celebrate the joys and wonders of family life. Embrace all family life whether it consists of biological, church, neighborhood, college, or other supportive 'family'. Each setting is important to your spiritual, mental, and physical health.

(Source: Focus on the Family www.focusonthefamily.com/)



One Blood Update

(Formally Florida Blood Services)



There were twelve donors in December. Thank you to those who donated.

*Mark
Your
Calendar*

The next blood drive will be Sunday, February 23 from 8:30 AM—12:30 PM.

Enjoy L.I.F.E.

on Thursdays

12:30-1:00 PM BYO Lunch

1:00-2:00 PM Discussion

2:00-4:00 PM Games



Well if you thought L.I.F.E. (Living In Faith Effectively) was just about playing games, think again. It's about making connections. Games are fun and mentally challenging, but getting to know someone who may otherwise be sitting at home alone is much more important and interesting. What better place to do this than at the church? First we can visit over a B.Y.O. lunch, and then it's time for Maxie. You know, Maxie Dunnam of our communal study *Irresistible Invitation*. Looking at my watch--2 o'clock, bring out the Skip Bo or Sequence or whatever game is the game of the day. There's definitely a place for you here. Come for all or part. We'll play then pray. Now is this an irresistible invitation or what! Join us in Fellowship Hall on Thursdays for lunch: 12:30 -1:00 PM; Discussion: 1:00-2:00 PM; Games: 2:00-4:00 PM.



Our First Road Trip!!! Enjoy L.I.F.E is going to Orlando to the **Holy Land Experience** and all are invited! We will be leaving ELUMC early on February 13 as the first show is at 10:15 AM, The Wilderness Tabernacle. The Scriptorium offers a self-guided audio tour of how we got the Bible and includes a museum of antiquities. A large model of Jerusalem is on display which is on the way to the Church of all Nations. Lots of presentations are presented here as well as the street scenes where you just might meet Jesus! The food is good and you have lots of options. To see the website: <http://www.holylandexperience.com/>
For group rates, we need 10 or more paid attendees paid four weeks in advance. They have not yet posted the spring rates. There is a lot to do and see – just depending upon your interests. Please come to one of our Thursday afternoons for more information or contact Judy Keats, jkeats@eastlakeumc.org.

United Methodist Women

New Year Potluck



All women are invited!
Bring a dish to share!
Thursday, January 9
6:00 PM

Fellowship Hall
Installation of UMW officers for 2014 pledge service

Community Yard Sale

By Kerry Raynor

East Lake UMC Missions and Outreach Team is planning a Community Yard Sale on Saturday, February 22 from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM with proceeds going to local, national and international missions. The team would like to create a task force to organize and implement this event. They are having a planning meeting on Sunday, January 12th after the 11:00 AM service in the West room in Fellowship Hall. A pizza lunch will be provided.

Missions and Outreach would like this to be a church wide community event and would like to involve as many small groups and ministries as possible. Plans include renting tables to interested individuals and groups who would like to sell crafts, nicer household items, etc. The Youth will sponsor a car wash, the United Methodist Women will hold a bake sale and there will be breakfast available as well as activities for children. Proceeds will go towards mission projects of the church. If you are interested in attending the planning meeting or helping with the event please contact Kerry Raynor at captmjr@aol.com



Extravagant Thanks

By Lucy McGee

Jesus: God's precious gift to us, whose birth we just celebrated with worship, prayer, Christmas carols, gifts, food, fun and festivities. God sent His son to us to show us just how much he loves us. Remember that you love because God first loved you. For six weeks we participated in the study *Irresistible Invitation* by Maxie Dunnam and learned about the extravagant heart of God. Take time to reflect on that study and God's extravagant love celebrated in His Son. Pastor Jay, the staff and I would like to invite you to join us in writing a personal note of thanks to Dr. Dunnam to let him know how the *Irresistible Invitation* study spoke to you. Did God meet you in the midst of your study? Have you discovered a new understanding of God? Have you experienced a renewed communication with Him? Has your trust, faith and wisdom deepened as a result of your study? Join us as we share with Dr. Dunnam our reflections on how we are responding to the extravagant heart of God.

We will collect your notes of reflection and appreciation in the church office and at the Welcome Center until Thursday, January 23 and then mail them all together to Dr. Dunnam.



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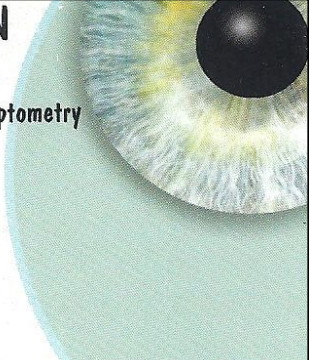
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THEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, "GIVE BACK TO CAESAR WHAT IS CAESAR'S AND TO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S" AND THEY WERE AMAZED AT HIM - MARK 12: 17



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