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A Word from Woody...
Thanksgiving Top 10 Lists

It is hard to believe we are about to enter the month of Thanksgiving, isn't it? Sometimes we get so busy in the course of the year that we forget to have hearts of gratitude. Three members of the church have come to our rescue by providing their lists of 10 things—in no particular order—for which they are thankful.

Brenda Marks shares the following. (1) Communion with God (communication of speaking and listening); (2) parents that taught me to pray and raised me in the church; (3) two children that are living Christian lives; (4) a loving and caring husband; (5) all of God's blessings; (6) my health, a grateful heart and a true spirit of thankfulness; (7) God's love; (8) all material things; (9) God's continued presence and power in my life; (10) God's salvation in Jesus Christ. She adds, "I am thankful for all of the above and the many mercies and blessings I receive each day."

Ed Payne lists "10 things for which I'm thankful to God." (1) I believe and accept the Gospel; (2) I live in the United States of America; (3) my family who loves and supports me; (4) my education; (5) my friends who remind me of my limitations; (6) I get to work in my home town; (7) I have finally joined a church; (8) my company and boss; (9) I live a comfortable life; (10) I enjoy relatively good health.

And Rick Gilmore also provides his list. (1) I am thankful for the strength God has given me to overcome any obstacle; (2) I am thankful for the guidance and direction God gives me in my everyday life; (3) I am thankful to be alive to witness God's creation; (4) I am thankful for salvation's promise of an eternal life in God's Kingdom; (5) I am thankful for my wife who has been my loving partner in this life; (6) I am thankful for my children who have blessed us with 11 grandchildren; (7) I am thankful for my late parents, who gave me spiritual guidance in my adolescent years; (8) I am thankful to be a member of Lake Vista United Methodist Church; (9) I am thankful for our pastor, who works tirelessly in God's service; (10) I am thankful for the hope that future generations will become stewards of God's creation.

These wonderful top 10 lists have inspired me to toward thankfulness. So, as a little bit of Louisiana lagniappe, here is mine! (1) God's grace and mercy in my life in saving my soul; (2) God's patience and power in making the dead parts of my character alive and new, resembling His character, and His loving determination to complete this formidable task; (3) my wife of 29 years, Elena, whose presence in my life is a constant reminder of God's generosity to me; (4) Our three children—Norwood, Emily, and Nathan—who have been such great blessings in our lives it leaves us wondering

why we stopped at three! (5) my Mother, who at 85 still teaches me what I need to know and provides a gracious example of a life lived for the King and His Kingdom; (6) my Dad, who taught me tremendous lessons—by word and deed-- about what it means to be a man after God's heart, and has left me still trying to learn from him; (7) the Lake Vista Church Family, who over the past nearly 20 years have become truly family to me and my family and have provided a wonderful example to us of living courageously and lovingly for Jesus; (8) my being allowed by the Lord to be a pastor—the fact that I can preach and teach His Word and help others grow in Him is a privilege and thrill! (9) my health in still being able to run regularly each week; (10) the joy of being able to grow up and live as an

adult in New Orleans, especially as it celebrates its 300th birthday!

I truly appreciate Mrs. Brenda, Ed, and Rick for providing their top 10 lists. Thank you for allowing me to share my list. Now it is your turn! I encourage you to sit down and write your list, and then share it with at least one loved one. And please remember, we don't do this in a perfunctory way, but in the spirit of 1 Thesalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

With Thanksgiving in Christ,

Woody



Youth Corner

Bowling Rocked! On to Laser Tag!

Our outing to AMF All Star Bowling Lanes was a lot of fun! It was great to have Gabe, Jack, Kaylor and Pressley bowl two games with Pastor Woody. While Jack won both games handily, the rest of us held our own.

Gabe gave a good example of what "violent bowling" looks like as he hurled his ball at nearly 20 mph! Presley was getting more and more into the rhythm of bowling with each attempt. And Pastor Woody taught Kaylor **a lesson of his prowess is not just in Bingo, by "badly" beating her 111-110 in the first game; but in the second game she reminded him of her bowling prowess by "just barely" beating him 141-107!**

Our November event will be laser tag at Adventure Quest Laser Tag in Elmwood!!! On Sunday, November 18, we will meet at 3:30 PM and return by 5:30 PM. The **cost is \$7.13 per game, and we'll probably play two games.** Please invite friends!



Hint! Hint!
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Church Family Night

Church Family Night will be on Wednesday, November 7th with Thanksgiving Turkey from 6:00-7:00 PM. Beau Crosetto will give his testimony, speak of his work with InterVarsity, and lay out his vision for InterVarsity ministry at UNO from 7:00-7:30. Please make plans to come, and bring friends!



Last month, Wayne Smith, pictured with Randy Roberts (l), regaled us with songs of his own composing.

Have a Strong-willed Child?

If you have a strong-willed child, help is here! Pastor Woody is leading this class based on psychologist **Dr. James Dobson's book and workbook *The New Strong-willed Child*** this month on Tuesday, November 6th from 6:30-7:30 PM and Tuesday, November 27th from 6:30-7:30 PM. This will be a nine-session class, and this month will mark its third and fourth meeting. Free childcare will be provided. The two books can be purchased through the church for \$22, or you can purchase them yourselves at Amazon.com. Please help get the word out on this important class, and feel free to attend any of the classes.

Church Thanksgiving Celebration!

On Sunday, November 11th we will celebrate Thanksgiving together as a church family. After the worship service we will depart to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch! Please let the Church Office know if you can bring a food item.



Advent Devotionals Due Soon!

We are now putting out an official call for Advent devotionals, as the Advent season is right around the corner! Devotionals may be brief—a few sentences even— or a few paragraphs and follow the format in *The Upper Room*—Bible verse(s), reflection on the verse(s), prayer, and thought for the day. The deadline to get devotionals to the Church Office—preferably by email—is Sunday, November 11th.

Stewardship and Planning for 2019

On Sunday, October 28th our church celebrated not just Saints Sunday and our 70th anniversary, but also Stewardship, our time for financial commitments for 2019. If you were not able to make a pledge for 2019 and would like to do so, pledge cards can be found at either entrance to the sanctuary and placed in the offering basket. Also, pledge cards will be mailed out for your convenience, and can be mailed back to the church. If you have any questions on this, please call the Church Office.

Wesleyan Covenant Simulcast!

On Saturday, November 3rd Lake Vista UMC will host the simulcast of the Wesleyan Covenant Association's **Global Gathering from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to hear leaders in the WCA speak to the struggle in The UMC over homosexuality and staying biblically faithful as we approach the special General Conference, February 23-26, 2019. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes snacks and lunch. To register, please go to wesleyancovenant.org.

Listening Session with the Bishop

Bishop Harvey and New Orleans District Superintendent Rev. Jan Curwick invite all interested laity to attend a listening session at Gretna UMC on Saturday, December 1, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. for an overview of the proposed legislation to be considered at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis February 23-26, 2019.

**Reaping a
Bountiful
Harvest**

Prayer Focus

- ✝ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✝ The UMC, unity and faithfulness to the Bible and its doctrines
- ✝ Beryl Lynn Jones, recovery from surgery
- ✝ Susan Doyle, recovery from surgery
- ✝ Cheryl Strauss, in the death of Jim
- ✝ Herbert and Brenda Marks, in the death of his son Robert

The Gospel of John Sermon Series

Pastor Hingle will continue this month a sermon series on the Gospel of John called “**Good News for Life**”. You are encouraged to read this gospel in your quiet times to get better familiar with it. This beautiful gospel reveals important parts of Jesus and His ministry, such as His deity, His teaching on eternal life, raising Lazarus from the dead, and His appearance to doubting Thomas.

Finally, a Time for Guys!

Finally, a Time for Guys! We have a new adult Sunday School class which is geared for men! Pastor Woody Hingle is leading this group that meets in the Library at 9:30 AM, and we are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. All men are invited and encouraged to bring friends!

Christmas Decorations and Joyful Concert!!

Please stick around after worship if you can on November 25th to decorate the church for Christmas. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

Afterwards, you will not want to miss the Coastal Chorale's **Christmas Concert at 4:00 PM at Grace Episcopal Church in Bay St. Louis**. Pastor Woody can give you a ride if you would like to go; we will leave the church around 2:30 PM.



Read your newsletter online at <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>

Daylight Saving Time/Casual Dress Sundays End

Sunday, November 4th marks the end of Daylight Saving Time as well as our return to formal dress Sundays.

Outreach to Voters! On Tuesday, November 6th

Lake Vista UMC's Fellowship Hall will be converted into two voting precincts for the national election. This presents a great opportunity to reach out to many in our neighborhood with the love of Christ! We will be offering free refreshments to the voters from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon as they arrive on our campus. Please let the Church Office know if you can donate baked goodies and/or volunteer to act as a table host to the voters.

Skeptic's Corner

This event will return on Friday, November 9th at 12:00 noon in the Parlor at church. We will continue our discussion of Paul Copan's *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. We will discuss chapter 13 and Thom Stark's rejoinder to Copan in his online book *Is God a Moral Compromiser*, pages 180-205.

Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

Prayer Walk—Saturday, November 10th from 10:30-11:30 AM from 10:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this wonderful ministry!

Small Group Offerings

Wednesday SONset and Wonderful Wednesday Bible Study—we have begun a Bible study on the Gospel of John which will be led by Pastor Woody, where there will be a discussion on the previous Sunday's sermon text. The study meets in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome!

The S(tudy), P(ray), A(ct) Ladies' This Fall SPA Ladies will be delving into Kelly Minter's study on *2 Corinthians, All Things New*. The study began at Debby Grimm's house on September 11th and alternates with meetings at Cheryl Richard's house from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. All are welcome to participate.

Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. Adult classes meet in the Parlor and library. Youth and children meet in the Education Building. *Please call Susan in the office (504-288-2242) if you have any questions about any of the above activities.*

Angel Tree Just Around the Corner!

On Sunday, December 2th, the first day of Advent, we will put up our up our Angel Tree. Each paper angel on the tree has information on a child whose parent is in prison, and on behalf of that parent we purchase two Christmas gifts for the child. More information on this exciting ministry is forthcoming!

A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.

Lake Vista

United Methodist Church

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