

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

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January 7, 2007

## *SEEDS OF A SOWER*

New Year's Eve after worship I spent the afternoon on my knees pruning roses and praising God. This congregation poured its heart out during the Advent and Christmas seasons. You generously gave of your time, talent, love and gifts as an offering to God. Thank you for your devotion to Bethlehem Experience, our music ministry, Sunday School, youth groups, worship leadership, small groups, fellowship groups and all the ministries that make this a vital congregation.

In addition to praising God, I also opened myself to the call of God for our ministry in the New Year. To what new ministries is God calling us? How might we deepen our faith in this New Year? What fresh experiences of God's love might we offer?

These questions go beyond our personal preferences. They are prayerful questions that open us to God's desire for the congregation, not our individual opinions. In this New Year, I invite your prayers for our congregation. Let us listen for God's call upon our time, energy, and work: **God, reveal your call for our ministry together.**

My New Year's Eve prayers continued at a vigil at the cross display on Deer Hill Road where my prayers were transformed from praise to tears. It is powerful to have a place in which to remember the lives lost in the Iraq war and the sacrifices made on behalf of members of our armed forces and their families. I wept for the bloodshed and trauma experienced by the people of Iraq and countless lives forever changed by violence.

In a world fraught by conflict at every level, God needs the Body of Christ to be a witness to a peaceful way of living and being in the world. May our ministries teach the ways of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Blessings,

*Pastor Lori*

## **LUMC PROGRAMS 2007**

Do you enjoy our all-church potlucks?

Would you like to have more all-church events?

How about a family movie night, talent show, art show or picnic?

Perhaps you have an idea.

January 21, 2007 LUMC's Program Council will meet from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. We'll gather with representatives from Education, the Youth Ministry, Worship, and Outreach to plan our programs for the new year. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

We will be inviting people to serve on short-term task forces to implement the programs. If you have ideas or are interested in attending, let Pastor Lori know.



### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY REMEMBRANCES**

Let Justice Roll Like a River:

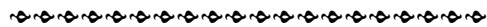
#### **A Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Monday, January 15, 12:00 noon

Walnut Creek Civic Center

Civic Park (corner of Broadway and Civic)

This annual event sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County remembers Dr. King's legacy of seeking peace with justice. Enjoy the music, inspirational speeches, and keynote by Birmingham native, Lester Cobb.



#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation for World Peace**

January 15, 3:00 p.m.

Wesley Center

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church

902 Danville Blvd., Alamo

A Program of Sacred Dance by the Omega West Dancers

Readings by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Inter-Faith Prayers for World Peace

Global Music

# New Year's Resolution: Wear my nametag at church!!!



## ON THE BOOKCART: (from the Library)



The top of the cart is full of new books donated by friends and family of Robert Crowe, in his memory.

Just a few titles:

“Enter by the Gate” by Flora Wuellner

“Winter Grace” by Kathleen Fischer

“And Not One Bird Stopped Singing” by Doris M. Jones

“Growing the Soul, Meditations from My Garden” by Delia Halverson

“A Hard-Fought Hope, Job’s Journey ” by Wm Long and Glandion Carney

Watch the Sunday bulletin for “Book Comments” highlighting others in this collection.

Take the time **CHECK IT OUT!!**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**MANY THANKS** to Randall Husch and his daughter Julia, who helped weed out and organize the Sunday school supply closets in room 5.

Sunday, January 21 and 28, at 10:30 A.M. there will be a continuation Bible Study for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. We will meet in Room 8 before the rest of the children go to classes. Encourage your children to come even if they missed the times in September. Remind them to **BRING THEIR OWN BIBLES, TOO!!** Who can find the most verses? There will be something special for everyone.



**MANY THANKS** to Blanche Cancel for reading/reviewing many books to help weed out those in poor condition/unsuitable for our growing library. Now there is more greatly needed shelf space!

## **Bishop and District Superintendents Volunteer in Mission trip to the Gulf Coast**

Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> the Bishop and District Superintendents will participate in a mission trip to the gulf coast, Mississippi and New Orleans, to provide support and bring encouragement to those who are still in need of help and to those United Methodist volunteers who are there working to rebuild lives and communities.

They will stay at a community center during the six day trip bunking with fellow volunteers and preparing their own meals each day. This is not a trip of comfort, but one of experiencing and observing what has been done, what needs to be done and how to accomplish that task. Letting those who are still there know they have not been forgotten, not by the United Methodist Church.



Save the evening of February 23 for London's longest-running comedy troupe: "The Reduced Shakespeare Company" presenting All The Great Books at Walnut Creek Regional Theater. Join the Levanders for discussion and dessert afterwards.



## ***KUDOS TO LITURGISTS AND COMMUNION STEWARDS!***

For the past four years, I have had the privilege of scheduling the liturgists and communion stewards for Sunday morning service. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the church in this role, thanks to your most generous and responsive attitudes when I have contacted you. You have been a valued asset to our worship service. In the future Karen Brown will be contacting you as she has assumed the role of Liturgist Coordinator. So Thank You for your great responses and your service. I know that you will be as caring when Karen calls you.

Best regards,  
Ginny Leavitt

## Round About LUMC

Congratulations to **Donald Walter**, a member of the NCS championship varsity football team at De La Salle High School. They won the championship at the Oakland Coliseum on December 9.

It was a joy to baptize **William Maxwell "Max" Singleton** on Sunday, December 24. In addition to his parents, **Kristoffer and Erin Singleton** and sister, **Riley**, also in attendance were grandparents, Steve and Cindy Buck from Kentucky, and aunt Laura from Portland, Oregon. Max and his parents also starred as Jesus, Joseph and Mary for the Family Christmas Eve service.

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, with **Annie, David, Zoe, Isaac, Qing Inglis** and **Marisol Carrillo** upon the death of Annie Inglis' father, John Webb, in England on Dec. 25.

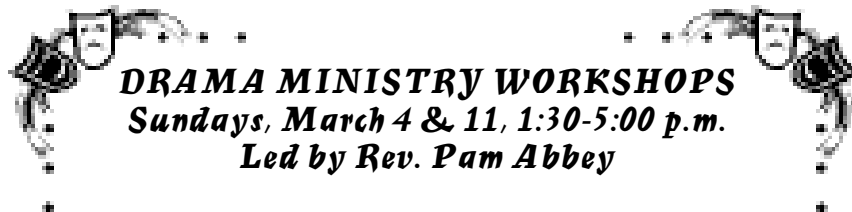
**Lucille Wright**, wife of **Rev. Sarge Wright**, died on Dec. 27. Sarge is a former pastor of LUMC. He is residing at 6220 Summerset Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. The memorial service for Lucille will be Saturday, January 13, at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew's UMC in Sacramento.

Worship programs have been received from:

**David & Julia White** – Trinity UMC, Richmond, VA

**Ruth Onstadt** – Festival of Lessons & Carols, St. Mark's Episcopal, Berkeley

**Joe Darrell & Pat Hershey** – North Naples UMC, Naples, FL



Senior high youth and adults interested in enhancing LUMC's drama ministry are invited to attend. We'll consider what drama is doing in the church! We'll do some theater games and dramatic readings, and work on some scripts together. Please let Pastor Lori or the church office know if you are interested in participating.

## LUMC GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED

Pastor Sandy Gess and **St. Paul's UMC, Vacaville** send a Christmas card, photo, and note of appreciation for the donation LUMC sent to help in recovery of the flood that severely damaged their church facility December 31, 2005.

Our holiday offerings for Thanksgiving and Christmas have benefited several organizations.

The **Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center** Executive Director, MaryAlice O'Connor writes, "Thank you for including us in your community gifts. May our quest for unity be realized now." Find out more about forums and events at [www.mtdpc.org](http://www.mtdpc.org).

Louise Bourassa, Executive Director of **Contra Costa Interfaith Housing**, writes: "It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) to thank you and LUMC for the generous donation of \$250....We are seeing first hand the impact that permanent supportive housing can have on formerly homeless families and their children. We believe that we can break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and homelessness, one family at a time."

John Steinfurst, President and CEO of **Fred Finch Youth Center**, is grateful for our gift of \$200. "Your generosity means the difference:

- Between homelessness and safe shelter for a youth who is living on the street, uncertain of where to turn for a meal or a place to spend the night.
- Between flunking out of school and getting the one-on-one attention needed for a student with learning disorders to succeed academically and learn essential job skills.
- Between hospitalization and home-based care for a child who is at risk of being removed from her family. Between overwhelmed, isolated and confident, involved parents who get the support they need to care for a child with psychiatric disabilities."



**THINK OF LUMC!!!!**



As you clean out the old to make room for the new, be sure to think of the church! We will hold the Annual Rummage Sale in the spring. Please save all those useful items for it. If you can hold your things that will be great, but we do have some storage, if you need to clean out right away. Also, if you get new cell phones for Christmas, let LUMC recycle your old. There are boxes in the church office, in Fellowship entryway, and in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, call Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857.

## *Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Class Spring 2006 Schedule*

Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Course is open to all Widows and Widowers. Enrollments are now being accepted. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$5. Please call the contact at the church where you would like to attend the group. Brochures will be sent upon request.

April 10 – June 12, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette Contact: Bev Fellows 925-283-7722



You are invited to a Spiritual Journey shared with Bishop Beverly Shamana and friends of the California-Nevada Conference. **Spirit of Italy 2007. . . . October 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007.** Travel to cities such as Verona, Venice, Florence and Assisi (the home of St. Francis).

The cost \$2,898 includes round trip airfare from San Francisco, comfortable hotels, two meals a day and ground transportation in each city.

Download the complete itinerary at <http://spiritofitaly2007.org> or contact our church office for brochure.



Hello to my family in Lafayette,

I've now survived 18 1/2 months working as a writer for the Cortez Journal (available online). I started as newsroom assistant, now am a full-fledged reporter with beats in arts & entertainment, education, lifestyle, social and religion. I know the basic familial/cultural structure here, which serves me well. As a reporter, I get to meet all kinds of interesting people and then share the cultural diversities in the two-county area through my stories.

I'm active in the Methodist church here — sing tenor in the choir, support the Sunday School program, and try to belong to UMW. Having five horses, two dogs (Maggie is still with me, will be 16 in March) and five cats add time restraints, along with a house needing a new roof and paint inside and out, an orchard that was (note past tense!) full of weedy elms, 20 acres that require irrigation by side roll sprinklers, and an acre of lawn, not to mention a slew of falling-down fences and sheds. I've also been trying to edit and send out some poetry for publication. When I succeed, I'll let you know.

I'm happy to be back in the high desert with lots of elbowroom and way less asphalt/cement than California.

I've seen the Linsons a bit, Judy Stillman more often, hope to see the Levanders in May and would love to entertain any visitors that toodle through, with enough notice to clean the guest room.

Mesa Verde National Park just celebrated its 100th anniversary, which I reported on in the Journal. It's a fine place to visit, as are Hovenweep, Chaco and the Anasazi Heritage Center.

In Christ's love,  
Vila Schwindt  
20019 Road A, Cortez, CO 81321, 970-564-1480



#### **CHURCH STAFF**

|                                           |                          |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastor.....                               | The Reverend Lori Sawdon |
| Pastor e-mail.....                        | Sawdon2@pacbell.net      |
| Director of Music Ministry.....           | Ronald Sutherland        |
| Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....          | Ruth Onstadt             |
| Youth Director .....                      | Judy Stillman            |
| Intern for Youth.....                     | Terry Miller             |
| Joyful Beginnings Preschool Director..... | Dot Feist                |
| Custodian.....                            | Jason Cano               |

#### **TOWER NOTES**

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Editor.....              | Ginny Cowden                |
| Computer Formatting..... | Tom & Mary Henderson        |
| Mailing.....             | Fran Smith and Evelyn Clark |

#### **TOWER NOTES DEADLINE**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, January 25, 2007**

#### **LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION**

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Telephone.... | 925-284-4765     |
| Fax.....      | 925-284-5170     |
| E_Mail.....   | lumc@pacbell.net |
| Web Site..... | www.thelumc.org  |