

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

January 29, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

As the new year began I was struck by the number of people I heard who were seeking balance in their lives. Finding balance is a common longing in our fast-paced, hurried, busy culture. We are easily thrown off balance by the speed of life, interruptions, and distractions. When we devote ourselves primarily to one dimension of life, it controls us and we miss out on so much of the rest of life.

Joan Chittister writes, "Life is made up of many parts. When we allow one part of it to become the whole of it, the other parts of our souls atrophy. We walk around half-dead and never even know it."

It may be a helpful exercise to list all the elements that fill our lives – and then make a list of what is left out. Include all dimensions of life – physical (exercise, healthy eating); social (family, friends); emotional (support, self-care, fun); spiritual (worship; prayer; devotions); intellectual (learning; reading). What is consuming us? What is missing? We cannot always change the circumstances of life, but we can change our response to them.

Our God is always making all things new. The Psalmist encourages us to place the pieces of our lives before God, that God might help us find balance, wholeness, and holiness of life:

"God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him.

When I got my act together, he gave me a fresh start.

Now I'm alert to God's ways; I don't take God for granted.

Every day I review the way he works; I try not to miss a trick.

I feel put back together, and I'm watching my step.

God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes."

Psalm 18:20-24 *The Message*, by Eugene H. Peterson

May you breathe deeply of God's healing Spirit, receiving the life-giving power and renewing energy of our Creator. May God grant you balance and holy, wholesome living.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

LUMC PROGRAMS 2007

Following are ideas brainstormed at our Jan. 18 Program Council. We're seeking teams of 3-5 people to help implement some of these programs, including scheduling, planning, publicity, coordination, and recruitment. Consider how you might participate and sign up at church or at the Friendship Time.

Family Fun Nights (movies, board games, etc.)
International Lunch with ethnic foods
All Church Retreat, Monte Toyon Camp April 28-29
Father's Day BBQ June 17
Homecoming Sunday (Sept. 9; meal, activity)
Halloween Party
Advent Event (food, crafts)
Nativity Set Display
New Years Eve Event
Conflict Resolution Seminar
Youth Musical
Film Festival
Blessing of the Animals
Talent/Art Show
Interfaith Fair
Event with area United Methodist Churches



WORSHIP
Wednesday, February 21
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
LUMC Sanctuary

Begin the 40 days of Lent with a quiet time of centering and prayer. Lent is a time for returning home to God and renewing our relationship with Jesus. Scripture, prayer, music, and the marking of ashes will start our Lenten journey.

Small groups for spiritual growth will also be offered. More information will follow soon.



You are invited to

*Rhinestone Cowgirl
Valentine Tea and Luncheon*

On Friday, February 9, 2007

at 11 a.m.

*at the home of Margaret Kintner
3827 Happy Valley Road
Lafayette*

*Suggested Attire: Come dressed up as a cowgirl,
wear red and denim!*



*Given by: MWMS Circle
of Lafayette United Methodist Church*

RSVP: Donna Partlow, 283-9567 or donnapartlow@sbcglobal.net

ROUND ABOUT LUMC

Worship bulletins were received from **Virginia & Dick Black**, who worshiped at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA on Christmas Eve.

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the sudden death of **Paul Persons**, the son of **Paul and Daisy Persons**. Paul was a professor of political science at Chico State University. Our prayers are with Paul, Daisy, and their family.



Mt. Diablo Habitat's 2007 Crab Fest

Festivities start at 5:30 / Dinner at 7:00

Saturday, February 17

Blake's at Boundary Oak

3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek

\$50 per ticket

Hot and Cold Crab, New Orleans Cuisine, Dancing

Kingcakes, Parade, Throws, Masks, Beads, Fortune Tellers, Boas Optional!

**Purchase tickets online: www.mtdiablohabitat.org
or for more information call (925) 288-0112 ext.19**

Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity
5702 Marsh Drive, Suite T
Pacheco, CA 94553



February



1 <i>Leiola Walter</i>	8 <i>Lisa Murray</i>	18 <i>Raymonde Crowe</i>
2 <i>Karen Peterson</i>	10 <i>Roseann Beeman</i>	<i>Maddie McPhail</i>
3 <i>Josephine Jegoux</i>	<i>Ray Peters</i>	<i>Jeff Sawdon</i>
<i>Lucie Jegoux</i>	11 <i>Sam Ghaziani</i>	21 <i>Tracy Davis</i>
4 <i>William Breashears</i>	<i>Bradley Miller</i>	23 <i>Annika Shearer</i>
<i>Joe Darrell</i>	<i>Terry Miller</i>	24 <i>Dorcas Channell</i>
<i>Paul Renno</i>	<i>Chen Yin Noah</i>	<i>Jane George</i>
<i>Melanie VandenBerghe</i>	12 <i>Julia Zischke</i>	<i>Jeanne Gianakos</i>
5 <i>Lauren Corcoran</i>	13 <i>Ginny Leavitt</i>	25 <i>Del Kolbe</i>
<i>Mark Wendland</i>	<i>Fred Youngmans</i>	26 <i>Lynne Rocksvold</i>
7 <i>Sandy Porter</i>	14 <i>Robyn Corcoran</i>	27 <i>Greg Horner</i>
	15 <i>Catherine Sinnott</i>	28 <i>Hanna Straw</i>

Wedding Anniversaries

- 11 *Karen and Brian Chuck*
28 *Virginia and Wesley Thomas*



EASTER BASKETS



The United Methodist Women are sponsoring Easter Baskets for needy children again this year. Last year we were able to contribute over fifty baskets to be distributed by the Food Bank. We hope to do ever better this year. We need your help to make this happen! There are two ways to take part in this project. You may contribute small toys, games, books, school supplies, toiletries, and baskets to be assembled into Easter Baskets for the children or you may wish to make up a basket or two as a family project. Please bring all items to Church by Thursday, March 1. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Flood at 283-3409. Thank you.

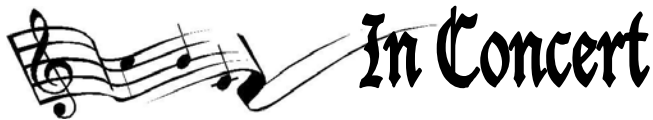
FEBRUARY FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for

February are

soup and rice

Food baskets can be found at both
Entrances to the church sanctuary.



Vocal Ensemble

Con Anima

St. Petersburg, Russia

**Santa Maria Church – Orinda, CA
February 14 at 7 p.m.**

Con Anima is an ensemble of five singers, all graduates of Saint Petersburg Conservatory. Their repertoire includes religious music, Russian Chamber and opera music of the 19th and 20th century, including compositions by P. Tchaikovsky, S. Rakhmaninov, S. Taneev, N. Rimsky-Korsakov, P. Chesnokov and others. Their concert will introduce the audience to the depth and spiritual wealth of Russian orthodox culture. Their concert is free but individual donations are welcomed. For further information visit their website at www.spb.ru/index.html or www.santamariaparish.info.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Thanks to a very loving and generous congregation, we were able to pay 100% of our shared mission giving, as well as the askings.... our full share to our connectional church system! In addition, we fully supported our Outreach programs, and were able to purchase an Ark for the Heifer Project. We are truly blessed at LUMC! Ginny Leavitt, Finance Chair

CA Council on Alcohol Problems Director to Preach

In July 2005, the Rev. James Butler was selected to fill the position of Executive Director of the California Council on Alcohol Problems (CalCAP), and affiliated associations, Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation (ANEF), and the California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion (CCAGE). These Sacramento-based organizations are statewide, faith-based groups that address the CA Legislature and raise public awareness. They use education, research, lobbying and advocacy to help prevent the moral, economic, scientific and social problems caused by alcohol and gambling.

CalCAP continues to take an active and leading role in addressing the problems of alcohol in general and of underage drinking specifically. CCAGE monitors and addresses legislation related to gambling. This is one of the agencies LUMC supports with our holiday offerings.

Rev. Butler, a United Methodist minister, has served churches in Southern California. He will preach at both services on Sunday, February 18.



Senior high youth and adults are invited to spend two afternoons with Rev. Pam Abbey dreaming about drama ministry at LUMC. Actress, pastor, singer and writer, Pam combines her passions for theatre and the church. With humor, energy and compassion, she is excited about building on the talent of LUMC members and growing our drama ministry. Please let Pastor Lori know if you are interested in attending: 284-4765 or sawdon2@pacbell.net.

Session One: Sunday, March 4

- Why have a drama ministry
- A brief history of drama and the Church
- Various models of drama ministry
- Helpful resources for scripts, etc.

Session Two: Sunday, March 11

- Theatre games
- Representational vs. presentational drama
- Dramatic reading
- Scripture, movement, memorization, and generating creative ideas

ON THE BOOKCART



ANOTHER NEW PURCHASE:

**“God @ Ground Zero, How Good Overcame Evil....One Heart at a Time”
by Chaplain Ray Giunta**

This is the riveting account of criminal investigator-turned-crisis-chaplain as he spends 68 life-changing days at Ground Zero, the heart of the worst terrorist attack in American history. Within hours of arrival, he enters the barricaded Ground Zero site with befriended firefighters. There he is an eyewitness and confessor to the heroic and horrific, to the miraculous and macabre. Working the “third watch” wearing his hardhat with its chaplain’s cross, he waits with the rescue workers, digs with them on the shifting rubble pile and leads processions of recovered bodies off the site. As this unique account unfolds, we join Ray in discovering something beyond Ground Zero, lessons about the power of love and faithfulness of a God who is near, a God of transformation and grace.

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THERE ARE MANY OTHER CHOICES INSIDE THE LIBRARY
DON’T THINK IT ENDS ON THE CART!!

This one has been on the shelf in the library:

Vic Smith recommends **“Turning Around the Mainline”** by Thomas C. Oden. Renewal movements within the United Methodist Church and other denominations are growing rapidly, even though they seem as theologically liberal as ever. Where are they headed??

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

“Prayer, Stress and Our Inner Wounds” by Flora Wuellner

“Shepherds Abiding” by Jan Karon

“Forgiving Your Family (A Journey of Healing)” by Kathleen Fischer

“In Every Pew Sits a Broken heart (Hope for the Hurting)” by Ruth Graham

“Children and Prayer, A Shared Pilgrimage” by Betty Shannon Cloyd

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



CHANGE IN VBS DATE

We would like to change the date of VBS this summer to the 5th week of July, July 30 - August 3. We need to do this because Sarah Mohr, our Music leader, is unavailable earlier in the month. If you usually attend or staff VBS and this is a bad date for you, would you please notify Sue Renno (284-5173) ASAP. Thank you.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 17

8:00-9:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Nancy Lennstrom

Topic: Islam



DATES SET FOR ALL CHURCH FUNDRAISERS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

RUMMAGE SALE --- MAY 17 through MAY 20. We will start with the Preview Party for the church on Thursday eve. May 17, all day public sales, Friday and Saturday the 18th and 19th, with wrap-up Sunday morning, May 20. Start saving all your useable items. It is best if you can hold them until the beginning of that week, but if you need storage, contact Ginny Leavitt - 284-7857, or ginleavitt@comcast.net

SILENT AUCTION - Sunday, OCTOBER 7 - get your creative juices flowing and think of something that you would like to donate, and plan on staying for the Luncheon after church service (10:30) on Sunday, October 7 to join in the fun! For donations or questions, contact Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857, or Jeanette Shearer, 284-9093.



Lafayette United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting January 16, 2007

Present: Dean Coons, Jack Cotteral, Ginny Cowden, Joe Darrell, Tom Henderson, Pat Hershey, David Inglis, Ginny Leavitt, Robyn Roberts, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Carol Slatten and David White,

The meeting was called to order by Pat Hershey at 7:30 PM. Joys and concerns were shared along with self-introductions and reasons for attending. Pat led the group in prayer. The minutes of December 12, 2006 were approved unanimously.

Pastor Lori gave a devotion on the church council being "parts of the body of Christ" and all are important.

Pastor Lori introduced the book, Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith. There are ten signposts of renewal and three of the signs; hospitality, discernment and healing were discussed at length by the council. Others on the list will be highlighted at future meetings.

Committee Reports

Staff-Parish Relations - Ginny Cowden announced upcoming vacation dates for the church secretary (3 days in March and 2 weeks in April) and for Pastor Lori (February 12 - 18). Pastor Lori has asked Rev. Jim Butler from the California Council on Alcohol Problems to speak. LUMC donates money to this council.

Lay Leadership - Pastor Lori announced that she plans to lift up the committees and members of those committees at services throughout the year. She plans to do this the third Sunday of the month and will introduce the Church Council this Sunday.

Finance - Ginny Leavitt announced that all itemized plans for year-end money were fulfilled; LUMC paid its shared mission giving and askings in full, funded a contingency account for \$1,850, and moved all leftover 2006 trustee budget money to 2007. In addition the year starts with \$20,000 in unbudgeted money. The fundraisers for 2007 were approved and will be the rummage sale in the spring and the silent auction in the fall.

- David White distributed the financial reports for 2006 and announced that he is still in the process of cleaning up some accounts.

- Ginny Leavitt gave the guidelines for use of the special donation (\$10,000) to board meeting attendees who didn't already have them. Tom asked that the good news about LUMC finances be put in the Tower Notes.

Program Council - Robyn Roberts announced that the first meeting of this group will take place this Sunday. She also reported that the warm coat collection was very successful and St. Vincent de Paul appreciated the donations.

Trustees - Joe Darrell announced that he has been elected Chair of the Trustees for 2007 with Greg Horner, vice chair and Jim Brown, secretary. Greg Horner fixed the ovens in the kitchen and Brian Chuck got the heating system in the Fireside Rooms working. Joe reported that the annual tour of the church campus to identify and prioritize Trustee projects will take place the first Saturday in February. The arrangement with the valet parking company is continuing even though they haven't started parking yet; all money raised will go to parking lot maintenance. The beautification team headed by the Lennstroms will be discussing the opening up of the front of the church property. The trees will probably be shaped.

Old Business

None

New Business

The group discussed starting meetings at 7 p.m. but decided by consensus to keep the time at 7:30 p.m.

Communications

It was pointed out that an article in The Connection discussed the changed apportionment formula. Basically LUMC has had their assessment reduced but the conference has asked the larger churches (including LUMC) to pay more than their allotment if possible.

The change in the pastor's pension formula was changed by the General Conference and adversely affects pastors living in parsonages as opposed to receiving housing allowances. Further research will be done on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Slatten, Secretary pro tem



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

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

TOWER NOTES DEADLINE

2nd & 4th Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, February 8, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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Web Site.....	www.thelumc.org