

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

February 11, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

The season of Lent is comprised of the forty days prior to Easter, with the exception of Sundays, which are “little Easters.” Lent is a time for reflection upon one’s life with God and re-commitment to the Christian way of life. It is a season for growing deeper in the practices of the Christian faith. The practices of the faith are not meant to be restrictive, but rather liberating. The purpose is not to punish us for our sin, but to grow us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. The goal is to develop an authentic faith that is expressed in purposeful living.

Diana Butler Bass has written a new book, *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. The book is the fruit of a three year study of 50 mainline congregations. These solid, healthy churches have found new vitality through “an intentional and transformative engagement with Christian tradition as embodied in faith practices.”

These are the ten faith practices Bass discovered in vital mainline congregations, compared with the means of grace John Wesley emphasized as he lead a spiritual renewal movement in the Anglican church that evolved into the Methodist movement.

Ten Signposts of Renewal

Hospitality: Welcoming Strangers
Discernment: Listening for Truth
Healing: Entering *Shalom*
Contemplation: Open for Prayer
Testimony: Talking the Walk
Diversity: Making Community
Justice: Engaging the Powers
Worship: Experiencing God
Reflection: Thinking Theologically
Beauty: Touching the Divine

Wesley's Means of Grace

Public worship of God
Ministry of the Word
Supper of the Lord
Family and private prayer
Searching the Scriptures
Fasting or abstinence
Works of mercy

It seems as though Methodists have long known the formula for health and vitality of local congregations. My prayer is that in our journey together, we will grow deeper into the practices of faith, so that LUMC continues to be a vibrant mission post of ministry in the 21st century.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



LENTEN SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

The Heart of Christianity serves as a resource for growing deeper in the faith during the Lenten season. We will reflect on the essentials of the Christian faith, including faith, the Bible, God, Jesus, born again, sin and salvation, and the Christian practices. One group will meet Mondays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Room 9/Library, beginning February 26. A second group will be offered if there is sufficient interest. Let Pastor Lori know if you would like to attend.



Mary & Tom Henderson will not be doing the Tower Notes during March and the first one in April. Continue to email your articles to Ginny Cowden at ginny.cowden@comcast.net. Carol Slatten will be typing and formatting the March 8th issue and Julia White will be doing the March 22nd and April 12th issues.



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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Through February the Sunday school children are collecting items for the Easter baskets to be filled by UM Women. These will be distributed to needy families. Small toys, games, books, school supplies, combs, toothbrushes & paste, soap bars are requested. NO CANDY, PLEASE. There are large boxes for the collection in room 7 & 8 as well as under the mailboxes across from the office.



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Opportunities

At the March Men's Breakfast, we heard from Chris Lotz and Warren McGuffin who have led teams from San Ramon Valley UMC to Mississippi. They emphasized the great need for volunteers to assist in the rebuilding efforts and for all of us not to forget the great need in the face of vast devastation.

SRVUMC invites any interested LUMC members to join them on their VIM trips. Spring trips are scheduled for March 18th - 24th and April 15th - 21st. Additional trips will be scheduled for October and November.

Persons interested in leading an UMVIM trip are invited to a training at SRVUMC on Saturday, March 24. Pastor Lori has more information.

Additional opportunities and information is available at the California-Nevada UMVIM website: www.cnumcvim.org. Perhaps God is calling you to a mission project for your vacation this year!



Around About Lumc

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of Bobbie Swift on February 4. Our prayers are with her husband, Gene, daughters, Pam and Cheryl, and their family. A memorial service was held at LUMC on February 10.

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.



DRAMA WORKSHOPS

Enjoy acting?

Want a lively worship experience?

Like to see the Bible applied to daily life?

Then perhaps you're interested in our emerging drama ministry. We have an opportunity for training and planning for additional drama opportunities in the life of the church. Rev. Pam Abbey, Director of *Acting in Faith*, will be present on Sundays, March 4 and 11, in the afternoons to lead a two-part workshop on drama ministry. We'll have some fun together, be creative, learn about the rich history of theater and the church, and practice some skits. Feeling a bit shy? Not certain this is for you, but curious? Come and learn more. There may even be a background role for you to play!

What: Drama Workshops

When: Sundays, March 4 & 11, 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Maggie Mae Lounge

How much: Free!!

RSVP: 284-4765 or sawdon2@pacbell.net

MARCH

Happy Birthday

3	Anna Grayson	15	Lorri Sullivan	24	Elizabeth Falcone
7	Johanna Peterson		Wesley Thomas		Michael Sanders
8	Ruth Onstadt	17	Max Grayson	25	David Hill
9	Steve Breashears		Margaret Kuhn	26	Stefan Miller
	Spencer Davis		Rafael Marcus		Caroline Welch Volk
	Hannelore Heizer	18	Spencer Davis	27	Charlie Eaton
11	Chris Coons	19	Bill Cooke		Lindy Evans
	Jenna Curtis	20	Sharon Whitten	28	Mary Teichmann
13	Matthew Ward	21	Jane Smith	29	Jax Gendron
		23	Christopher Eaton		Charles Heizer
			Matthew Eaton	30	Ronald Sutherland



11	Dorothy & Fred Younghans
26	Jeanette and Alistair Shearer
31	Kurt and Mary Teichmann



MARCH FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
February are

beans and pasta

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

ON THE BOOKCART

Blanche Cancel, who has been greatly helpful with book selection for LUMC Library, has donated 8 books for everyone's enjoyment:

LOOK FOR:

- The Wonderful World of Boys by Dr. James Dobson
- The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank Edited by Frank Pressler
- Buddy, the First Seeing Eye Dog
- Walking the Bible, A Journey Through Five Books of Moses - (The PBS series was based on this book.)
- Your Best Life Now, 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential
- The Comic Book Bible
- The Confident Woman by Joyce Meyer
- Christmas in the Manger - for small children (This one will be added to the Christmas collection.)



MANY THANKS to BLANCHE!!



"DANCE WITH STARS"

The All-Church Retreat, April 28-29, will take you into the redwoods of Aptos community for relaxing, relating, renewing and refreshing at Monte Toyon conference center. Activities are being planned for all age levels indoors and out. There will be several intergenerational events. The search for the GOLDEN PINECONE continues.

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR AND RESERVE THE DATE so you can join the fun! See the bulletin board at Friendship Time Sunday.



May 17 - 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

The Northern California Welsh Community
invites you to join us at our

St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

a musical celebration of traditional hymn singing

When: 2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 25, 2007

Where: Lafayette Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette (www.thelumc.org)

Conductor: Popular Bay Area musician Eryl Aynsley will lead the congregational singing in both Welsh and English. A fluent Welsh speaker, she coordinates music for the Welsh American Society of Northern California, has sung with choirs in Wales and the Bay Area, and is presently Administrative Director of Schola Cantorum.

Organist: Donna Llewellyn Swanson, organist and hand-bell choir director at Los Gatos Methodist Church, will be the accompanist. Donna's early musical training was in Detroit with Gordon Young, the well known organist and composer.

Te Bach: A *Te Bach* (little tea) will follow in the church social hall. Coffee and tea will be provided. Donations of Welsh cakes and finger food would be appreciated.

For further information, contact
Idris Evans at (925) 283-0912
or by email at president@WASNC.org



From San Francisco (24 Eastbound)

Take Oak Hill Road Exit
Turn Right
Turn Left on Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Turn Right on Moraga Road
Church will be on right side
955 Moraga Road

From Sacramento (24 Westbound)

Take Central Lafayette Exit
Stay to the Right on the offramp
Follow ramp to the Right onto 1st St
Turn Left on Moraga Road
Church will be on right side
955 Moraga Road

**On March 1, Welsh people
around the world
wear daffodils or leeks
to honor St. David,
Patron Saint of Wales.**



WASNC
WELSH AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
www.wasnc.org



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.



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 22, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone....	925-284-4765
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Web Site.....	www.thelumc.org