

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

February 25, 2007

New Bayview District Superintendent Appointed

After six years as the District Superintendent of our Bayview District, Rev. Jim Lockwood-Stewart is retiring as of July 1. Bishop Shamana has announced the appointment of Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez as our next District Superintendent.

Bishop Shamana writes, "After earning her B.S. degree at the University of California at Davis in International Agricultural Development, Renae served as a US-2 Church and Community Outreach worker in Fresno's Latino community. Renae graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1984, becoming a full member of the California-Nevada conference in 1986, the first Latina clergywoman raised in our conference to receive ordination and full membership. Churches benefiting from Renae's leadership include Central UMC in San Francisco, First UMC, Palo Alto, and Lake Merritt UMC in Oakland. Renae is currently in her ninth year as Lead pastor at First UMC in Walnut Creek.

Renae has given leadership to our conference, including the Conference Nominations Committee, as well as the Board of Ordained Ministry, where she has helped to develop the new Council of Clergy Development. Renae has been elected a delegate to General Conference three times and served in the areas of Religion and Race and Church and Society at the general church level. The Western Jurisdiction has seen her involvement in Hispanic ministry and indigenous community development.

Renae is married to Paul Extrum-Fernandez, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at the Pacific School of Religion. They have two daughters, Elana, attending U.C. Santa Barbara and Daniela, a senior at Las Lomas High School.

As your Bishop, I know Renae will bring a wealth of experience and gifts to the Cabinet, and I welcome her to this covenant we share. Renae shares, 'I feel at home because I am! The Bay View District is my homeland and I feel privileged to serve its rich diversity of congregations. I hope to lead our District to the fore in the revitalization of our Conference through effective pastoral leadership and congregational witness for our times.'"

We are grateful for Jim's leadership on the District and look forward to the gifts Renae brings.



Remember to change your clocks on Saturday night as this year DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME starts early on March 11. "Spring forward" one hour in March and then "Fall back" an hour in the Fall. See you in church on time!



F.Y.I.

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.



ON THE BOOKCART



"In Every Pew Sits a BROKEN HEART" by Ruth Graham

I just finished reading this and feel that other authors were more expressive in reviewing this wonderful book. Barbara Levander

"Warning: This book should only be read by imperfect, flawed people in serious need of God's amazing grace. Thank you, Ruth Graham, for having the courage to bare your soul and then lead others back toward God's welcoming arms." Philip Yancy, author of "Where Is God When It Hurts"

"You hold in your hand a tool (the book) that will help you whether you are hurting or seeking to minister to one who is hurting. By sharing openly from her own experiences of heartache and by offering practical insights founded on biblical truth, Ruth Graham has provided a resource that both equips us to pursue wholeness and leads us into the arms of the only One who can make us whole." Dr. Gary Smalley, author of DNA of Relationships.

MENS BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 17

8:00-9:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Nancy Lennstrom

Topic: Islam



EASTER CELEBRATION FLOWERS



Would you like to have a part in our floral celebration of Easter? Our altar will bloom with lilies and tulips, and we will again have a beautiful garden in Fellowship Hall to enjoy our Easter Brunch. Lilies or tulips are \$8 each, or you may wish to contribute toward the Easter garden. All gifts will be recognized in the bulletins on Easter Sunday. Please wait until after 10:30 a.m. service to pick up your plant.

Easter Lilies/Tulips - \$8.00 Each

Please fill in the following information:

Donated by _____ Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to LUMC

I prefer to give _____ for other Easter Decorations
(Deadline for ordering is, Sunday, April 1, 2005)



"IN THE LIBRARY"



Now on CD's -----the Bible is available on the shelf between the inside doors. Faith Comes By Hearing; the Bible New and Old Testaments, Audio Drama with Music and Sound Effects Listening plans are also available for you use.

HOLY WEEK



Sunday, April 1 - PALM SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
10:30 - Palm Processional begins in courtyard



Thursday, April 5 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 P.M. Holy Thursday Worship



Friday, April 6

7:30 p.m. - Worship led by our youth



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 8

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. - Easter Brunch
10:00 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt for Children



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.



RETREAT

The All-Church Retreat will take you into the redwoods of Aptos community for 24 hours of relaxing, relating, renewing and refreshing on SATURDAY, APRIL 28/29. We will start our "DANCE WITH STARS" at 11A.M. on check in at Monte Toyon Retreat Center. With lunch, dinner, bed/bath and breakfast provided, the cost per families of 3 is \$175 (\$195 after April 1); families of 4+ is \$200 (\$220 after April 1). Plans for the activities are in progress. More information/registration forms are on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. More questions??: Barbara Levander 284-7687



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



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 30 - AUGUST 3**

LUMC - 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 \$1850, 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 DirectorJudy 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, March 8, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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