

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

May 27, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

The ending of the school year tends to bring changes to many lives: students moving to higher grades, sometimes even new schools; young adults graduating and moving on to the working world or higher education. Change is a constant factor in our lives.

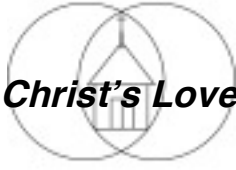
Recently I listened to a podcast of a KQED Forum featuring the authors of a new book titled, *This Is Not the Life I Ordered: 50 Ways to keep your head above water when life keeps dragging you down*. One of the chapters is called, "Learning to Live with Change." The authors suggest a series of questions to shape the "first response" to life-changing events. The questions help them stay focused on constructive responses instead of panicky reactions.

- *What's the Good News in This Situation? The question itself tells your mind (and your attitude) that there is a positive side just waiting to be uncovered. The question focuses mental energy on finding an optimistic instead of a pessimistic interpretation.*
- *What Actions Could I Take That Would Benefit All Involved? The question reminds you that while you may not control what's happened, you control how you respond to what's happened. It helps you concentrate on actions that serve you and others instead of going to the "dark side" and wallowing in how unfair or undeserved this situation may be.*
- *Who (or What) Could Help Me Out in This Situation? The question helps you remember that you are never alone. The world is filled with people who can help you resolve your issues if you'll just ask for assistance. (pp. 140-141)*

These questions might be helpful to all as we move through the changing seasons of life.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



Experiencing Christ's Love through Worship

Sunday, June 3 Trinity Sunday with Holy Communion
Recognition of Graduates

Sunday, June 10 Music Ministry Sunday

Sunday, July 8 Jazz in July at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall
Featuring the Kurt Ribak Quartet, offering soulful, eclectic and accessible original jazz!
8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our regular Sunday school year ends June 24. For every Sunday in June teachers are preparing lessons and things to do. Remember to bring your children to church. Also invite one of their friends!

SPECIAL PUPPET SHOW: June 24 in Room 7 for children grades 1-5.
There will be a class for the pres school in Room 1 as usual.



ORGANIST FAREWELL



Sunday, June 17 will be Ruth Onstadt's final Sunday as LUMC's Organist. We would like to honor Ruth and show our appreciation for the fine music she has offered over her tenure with LUMC. If you would like to contribute to her farewell gift, please put your check in the collection plate, or send to the church office, and indicate "Ruth's gift." Ginny Cowden, SPRC Chair



June Tower Notes

Ginny will be out of town on the 2nd (June 14) and 4th (June 28) Thursdays of June, so please submit all articles via e-mail to the Hendersons (tomaryh@comcast.net). You may also leave a hard copy of an article in the Tower Notes folder at the church office by noon on Thursday.

Bayview District Superintendent Retirement Celebration

Sunday, June 3 at 4:00 p.m.
Taylor United Methodist Church
1188 12th Street, Oakland, CA
(510) 444-6162
Meet at LUMC at 3:15 p.m. to Carpool

Rev. Jim Lockwood-Stewart has been our District Superintendent for six years. He is also retiring and completing over 40 years of ministry. Cards and letters reflecting upon the impact Jim's ministry has made upon your ministry can be brought to the event or left in the church office before the event.

A Retirement Benefit Concert
featuring

Jim Lockwood-Stewart, Bassoon
Andrew Stewart, Piano
Barbara Stewart Hoff, Piano

To Support the work of
The Wesley Foundation
Serving U.C. Berkeley

Program will include music of Mozart, Hindemith,
Vaughn-Williams, Schubert and Saint-Saens

Friday, June 8, 2007 8:00 p.m.
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
902 Danville, Blvd., Alamo, CA
Admission Free- Donations requested
(Checks payable to "The Wesley Foundation" designated "Retirement Benefit"
will support the work of the Wesley Foundation serving U.C. Berkeley)



SAVE THE DATE!! UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



All women of the Church are invited to join with the United Methodist Women for a picnic lunch on Thursday, June 7 at 11:00 a.m. We will gather at the home of Janet Sategna, 566 Arrowhead Drive, Lafayette. The program will be "Grandma's Apron". Plan to show an apron to the group and be ready to tell us the story of your apron. Bring a salad or dessert to share with others. If you need transportation or have any questions, please call Nancy Flood at 283-3409.

A special offering will be received on June 3 and June 10 to support the Conference Offering. If you wish to make a donation, please label your donation envelope with the words CA-NV Advance Special # 814.



Celebrating Our Diversity and Unity in Christ through sharing

Each year, those attending Annual Conference Session are invited to bring gifts designated to support the ministries and missions of the California-Nevada United Methodist connection.

This year's traditional Conference Offering is truly an act of celebration of the diverse cultures within our Christian faith family and of Christ's example to us.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Romans 2:1,4

This year our Conference Offering will be shared equally with our growing Angola Partnership and our ministry of solidarity for victims of extra-judicial killings in the Philippines.

California-Nevada partners with West Angola United Methodist Conference to provide:

- Pastoral Support for pastors and their families,
- Food, Health and Education to children & youth,
- School and Library Construction in a rural village,
- Community-Based Primary Health Care Training for village health care workers, and
- English As a Second Language short courses



Make a difference...be a Partner! CA-NV Advance Special # 814

Our giving helps to carry out the task of education and advocacy concerning the violence in the Philippines, where 835 people have been victims of extra-judicial killings in the past five years. Among them: more than two dozen church people and clergy, including a United Methodist pastor.



On March 2, 2007 members of the Cal-Nevada UMC Conference, just back from a 10-day fact-finding mission to the Philippines, commemorated World Day of Prayer by standing with their brothers and sisters of the Church of Christ on the steps of the California State Capitol. They held roses and posters of victims.

Sharing is ministry

It is one of the many ways we put our faith into action.

"We are working out our mutual, collective salvation - understanding that our salvation is bound up in our support and solidarity of each other. None of us is free until we are all free."

- Rev. Michael Yoshii, co-coordinator
Cal-Nevada UMC Philippines fact-finding team



The California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Passion in Jesus Christ



Compassion for All



Congratulations, Graduates!

Marisol Carrillo is graduating from Acalanes High School and is attending beauty school.

Kristen Darrell is graduating from Acalanes High School and will attend the University of Puget Sound.

Drew Dashner is graduating from Campolindo High School and will attend the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Jamie Durringer is graduating from Campolindo High School and will be a pre-med biology major at the University of Oregon.

Elizabeth Emerson is graduating from Acalanes and plans to attend Sonoma State University.

Phillip Makinson is graduating from Campolindo High School....

Stefan Alexander Miller is graduating from Campolindo High School and will be attending DVC in the fall as well as participating in local musical theater productions.

Jacob Pleis graduates from Granite Bay High School and will attend University of Oregon.

Zacharay Pleis graduated from the US Naval Academy as an Ensign with a B.S. in Ocean Engineering. His first assignment will be working with the Navy soccer team and running the obstacle course for incoming Plebes. In September he will be stationed in Pensacola, FL for two years, where he will begin flight school training as a Navy pilot. Zach will serve with the Navy fleet for five years.

Mary Renno is graduating from Acalanes High School and plans to attend UC San Diego next fall.

Paul Renno, Jr., is receiving a Master's in Business Administration from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern, and plans to work at a management consulting firm in San Francisco next fall.

David Shelley is graduating from Campolindo High School and will attend DVC next fall.

Jillian Smith will be graduating from Acalanes High school in June. She will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as a business communications major.

Becky Straw graduated from Columbia University with a Master's in Social Work and a concentration in International Social Welfare and Social Enterprise Administration. She interned in UNICEF's division of Water, Environment and Sanitation and is hoping to work for an international non-profit.

Jake Walenter is graduating from Acalanes High School and will be attending DVC this fall.

Ian Walters is graduating from Acalanes High School and will be going to UC Davis in the fall.

Julie Zischke is graduating from Acalanes High School and will be going to UC Santa Barbara.

AROUND ABOUT LUMC

Congratulations to **Kristen Darrell** and **Mary Renno** who received their Gold Awards from Girl Scout Troop 3109 on May 27. This is the highest award presented by the Girl Scouts of America. **Karin Husch**, **Pat Hershey**, and **Sue Renno** were recognized as Outstanding Leaders by Girl Scouts. The Girl Scout Council of the San Francisco Bay Area presenting the President's Award to the LUMC for generously allowing Lafayette Troops and the Association to use our facilities and resources.

May Methodists of the Month include all the **Rummage Sale workers**. What a team worked throughout the week sorting and selling loads of treasures. We are grateful to all who lent their time and efforts.

Spencer Davis and **Jacob Partlow** were recognized as May Methodists of the Month. They have provided childcare for younger siblings of confirmands while parents were in group discussions. We are grateful for their faithful presence and entertainment of the children!

Church programs and brochures have been received from **Greg and Ginny Horner**, who attended worship at Estero Bay UMC, Morro Bay; Catalina UMC, Tucson, Arizona; and First UMC, Roseburg, Oregon! **Ann Kritscher** received a bulletin from Grace UMC, Millersville, PA, where she grew up and was married. **David and Julia White** attended worship at Johns Creek UMC, Johns Creek, GA, and a Tricentennial Celebration of Charles Wesley's birth at Dunwoody UMC, Dunwoody, GA!

As you travel this summer, consider including worship in your Sunday schedule. You can find United Methodist Churches around the world at www.umc.org. You can find some of the places United Methodists are in mission around the world at <http://gbgm-umc.org/advance>.



JAZZ in JULY

Sunday, July 8

8:30 Traditional worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 Jazz Worship in the Fellowship Hall

11:30 Picnic Lunch in the Courtyard



The Jazz worship will be led by Kurt Ribak Quartet. Kurt Ribak (pronounced REE-bok, like the shoes) is a bassist who has played at the Fillmore Jazz Festival; San Francisco Jazz Festival; Yoshi's; Pearl's; First UMC, Pt. Richmond; Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. His trio currently plays every Friday, 7 to 10 PM at Prima Ristorante in Walnut Creek. Their first CD, "Kurt Ribak Trio," is in print. The group includes piano, upright bass, drums, and saxophone. Come for an experience of soulful, eclectic and accessible original jazz!

Director of Youth Ministry

Lafayette United Methodist Church

We are seeking an enthusiastic, dynamic, faith-filled director of an active youth ministry involving 50 middle school and high school youth. Our mission is to assist youth in experiencing the love of Christ and expressing it in their daily lives.

The Director of Youth Ministry coordinates

- Sunday morning Christian education;
- Sunday evening youth groups with fellowship, food, recreation, programs;
- local service opportunities
- communication of youth events.

Hours: 10-12 hours per week

Start Date: August 1, 2007

Salary: \$850 a month

Contact: Rev. Lori Sawdon

Interested applicants should send a resume and letter of interest to:

Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road

Lafayette, CA 94549

Phone: 925.284.4765

FAX: 925.284.5170

E-mail: LUMC@pacbell.net



LIBRARY

Once again Room 9 is clear for classes and library use. Brenda Cooke has been continuously cataloging our collection (in her "spare" time) so that we will have a list of what is available and a specific place on the shelves for each book. More donations are coming in each month. In July the library cart will have a full change of selections.

The latest is from Connie L. Van Berkel, who was the speaker for LUMC women on May 9th. Her book, "Choose High Road Victories" gives a nuts-and-bolts approach to business and professional success for the Christian woman. Whether entering the workforce for the first time, or looking for encouragement and focused strategies at the highest levels, this book will challenge you to examine your walk with God, while re-defining your goals, strategies, and principles. Jeanette Shearer can tell you more about Connie, herself.

RUMMAGE SALE - WIN-WIN SITUATION

During the Rummage Sale, the comment was made to me – "Why not just ask everyone to give an additional \$30, then you wouldn't need to go to all this work to have a Rummage Sale?" My response to that is "Writing a check doesn't build Community, working together on a project does!" We did more than just hold a Rummage Sale in Mid May – we worked together, we laughed together, we teased each other, we ate together, we prayed together, we got to know each other better, – and we raised money not only for the mission of our own church, but for several other charitable organizations, too. First, so many of you got your closets, garages, etc. cleared of no longer needed articles, articles that are now being used, many of them by people who might not be able to afford them otherwise. We sent two floor fans upstairs to the Ed. Building for use on those hot days, some items went directly to the kitchen, baskets were set aside for Christmas, Easter, and the Silent Auction, some very nice items were saved for the Silent Auction, 15 bags of clothing went to Goodwill (before we even opened the Sale – more about that next year!), left-over children's clothing and equipment went to the Oakland Museum's fundraisers, some books went to Books for Barrios, some items went to the Rescue Mission, to Herrick Hospital, Friends Outside, Lincoln Child Center, The Garret (John Muir Hospital's Thrift Shop), and lastly all other leftovers were packed and taken by members of our neighbor church, Christian Community Church, for their Rummage Sale on June 2. Yes, the Rummage Sale was work, and I did get tired, but it was a very rewarding experience, and as you can see, we did much more than raise \$4600 for LUMC.

With love and much gratitude to all of you who gave so generously of your time and energy! Maybe next year, others, too, would like to be a part of this great experience! Ginny Leavitt



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 30 - AUGUST 3

What is Vacation Bible School? It is a day camp for kids, ages 3 through 8th grade, to be held at our church, July 30 through Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon. The children will be divided by age, preschoolers, kindergarten and first graders, second and third graders, fourth and fifth graders, and middle schoolers. Each group will have an adult and teen as class leaders. We open with wonderful, fun, happy singing, lead by Sarah Mohr and her guitar, and a skit, lead by our teenagers, and a mission moment where we share such things as books or food items with those less fortunate than ourselves. We then move to classrooms for a Bible story and discussion, and then spend the rest of the morning at stations, doing crafts, eating snacks, playing games, singing again, and watching more skits. We end with more songs and prayer. The preschoolers, of course, have their own program to fit their age, in the preschool rooms. The middle-schoolers, of course, also have their own program, in which they actually participate in different daily mission projects, such as sorting food at the Food Bank or hosting a party for Las Trampas Inc. From 75 -100 kids usually participate, and it is an exciting week. This year our theme is SonForce Kids - Special Agents for God, and our Bible verse is Joshua 1:9, "Be strong

and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." What a wonderful message for our children today! The church will be fully decorated in a space-age manner, complete with planets and spaceships. We invite all the children of our church to participate, and their friends. In fact, it is open to all children. Call the church office, 284-4765, or Sue Renno, 284-5173, to register or for more information.



EASTER BLESSINGS CONTINUE

The congregation's Easter Offering totaled over \$3,400, and has been sent to assist several ministries and agencies offering new life to others. Thank you letters have been received from several.

From Rev. Tarah Trueblood, Executive Director of Wesley Student Center at UC, Berkeley, a campus ministry of the UMC since 1925:

Thank you very much for your generous gift of \$300....We are now building toward our three year goal of \$270,000 to sustain general operations while we develop plans for a new residential facility for students.

From Louise Bourassa, Executive Director of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, which runs the first permanent supportive housing program for homeless families in Contra Costa County, providing a home for 27 formerly homeless families:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) to thank you for the generous donation of \$250....We are delighted to have Lafayette United Methodist Church as one of our member congregations....We look forward to our continued partnership in addressing the complex issues of family homelessness in Contra Costa County.

From Rick Eaton, Executive Director of Sierra Service Project, providing mission opportunities for youth and young adults since 1975:

On behalf of the board and employees of Sierra Service Project, I want to thank you for the annual donation of \$100....Because of this generosity, SSP has been able to keep our fees relatively low and provide scholarships to young people with limited financial resources. We are looking forward to another amazing summer of service on four Indian reservations, in South Los Angeles, and in Honduras. We currently have over 1,500 youth and adults registered to participate in our 2007 projects!

Twenty five youth and six adults from LUMC will attend SSP in South Los Angeles the week of July 15-21!!

Lafayette United Methodist Church Council Minutes - May 15, 2007

The meeting began at 7:30. Those present were: Pat Hershey, Joe Darrell, David Inglis, Tom Henderson, Ginny Leavitt, Doug Cowden, Ginny Cowden, Dave White, Carol Slatten, Pastor Lori Sawdon, and Mary Hobson.

Joys and concerns were shared. Chairperson Pat Hershey led us in prayer. The minutes of April 17, 2007 were distributed. Joe Darrell moved that the minutes be approved. David White seconded. All approved.

Pastor Lori led a devotional based on one of the 10 signposts from Christianity for the Rest of Us. In Goleta Presbyterian Church in California, the pastor says that they have a polyculture, and many different ways of being Christian. Pastor asked if we are open to diversity. Discussion followed. She reminded us that Diversity is a signpost of renewal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Parish Relations - Ginny Cowden reported that the shortfall related to the Clergy Pension Plan and Pastor Lori's salary is not as large as anticipated. Ginny moved to rescind the motion made at last month's meeting regarding extra compensation. Carol Slatten seconded and all approved.

Lay Leadership - no report

Finance Committee - Ginny Leavitt reported that the Stewardship Committee was being formed and Robyn Roberts and Pat Hershey will represent Finance for that committee. Finance Committee has requested that people submit a request for reimbursement for expenses rather than take it out of the income from any activity, so there will be a paper trail. We have a preliminary audit from Joyce. Ginny also reported that Finance Committee approved another Candle Workshop for October, 2007. There have been two requests for "matching funds"-- Ronald Sutherland for music software, and Worship Committee for Jazz in July. The Endowment Committee sent out grant forms. Monies are available for requests.

Treasurer's Report - Dave White passed out the Treasurer's report. We are in good shape as of today. He also reported that he upgraded the computer program to Quick Books 2007.

Trustees - The projects discussed at the April meeting have been completed. No meeting is scheduled for June or August.

NEW BUSINESS - Pat and Pastor Lori agreed that we did not need to meet in June or August, but this would be subject to change if needed.

- There will be a Rummage Sale preview on Thursday night of this week.
- To honor the retiring District Superintendent, Jim Lockwood-Stewart, there will be a Farewell Celebration on June 3rd at 4pm at Taylor United Methodist Church in Oakland, as well as a concert at San Ramon Valley UMC on June 8th. The concert will feature Jim playing the bassoon, with his son Andrew also participating. The concert will support the work of the Wesley Foundation.

Since there were no other communication items, Ginny Leavitt moved the meeting be closed. Doug Cowden seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Hobson, Church Council Secretary

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, June 14, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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