

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

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July 15, 2007

## SEEDS OF A SOWER

This summer as my continuing education experience I have embarked upon a relationship with a coach. While our congregation is in a healthy place, I am seeking to discern how to lead us into the future to deepen and enrich our ministry together.

One of the initial exercises I did was envision who I will be one year from now. It is a modification of a process described in *The Art of Possibility* by Benjamin and Rosamund Stone Zander. A professor at the New England Conservatory, Zander informed his class on the first day of the fall semester that each student already had an A for the year. The one requirement was that each was to write him a letter during the next two weeks. This letter would bear the date of the final week of class in the spring and be written from the perspective of looking back across the year. In the letter, the student was to tell the professor what had happened to him or her during the year that resulted in their extraordinary grade. The letter was to describe all he or she had become during the year.

This summer I invite you to find some quiet time in a space conducive to reflection. It's a year from now. You are looking back over the last year with a sense of satisfaction and pride. It has been a fabulous year of growth with personal and professional achievement. You sit down to write to your closest friends, describing the year. You begin,

"This has been an incredible year for me...."

What are the highlights?

What are the obstacles you had to overcome?

Who did you have to be in order to get to that place?

There is an underlying theme for the whole year – a thread that runs through it all—what is that thread?

Keep the letter handy where you will read it at least twice a month to keep your goals and vision in mind. Design the steps and call on the resources you need to make your vision a reality.

I'm available to talk with you about your vision – your personal goals, your hopes for our congregation, your spiritual journey.... You'll hear more about mine as time moves on.

Blessings,

*Pastor Lori*

  
***Experiencing Christ's Love through Worship***

**July 22** 8:30 Traditional worship in the sanctuary  
10:30 Family worship in the Fellowship Hall  
*Holy Heroes: Encouraging the Heart*  
with illustrations from *Charlotte's Web*

**July 29** *Holy Heroes: Lifelong Learning*



**Megan Elise Berti**  
Mezzo Soprano  
**Kennan Roberts Boswell**  
Piano – Organ



Friday, July 20, 2007, 8 p.m.

Sanctuary  
**Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church**  
10 Moraga Valley Lane  
Moraga, CA 94556

Program to follow “Classical” Music Format

Donation Requested  
Proceeds to Benefit Contra Costa Children's Chorus

# SonForce Kids

## Vacation Bible School Day Camp

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

In the SonForce Kids Headquarters, located on a satellite orbiting high above earth, agents will gather to prepare for their five daily missions:

TRUST! UNITE! TRAIN! FOLLOW! LEAD!

Agents will grow in their understanding of what it means to serve God with courage and strength, through Bible stories, Bible verses, singing, crafts, snacks, skits and games.



Get ready for an out-of-this-world adventure - SonForce Kids - Courageous kids on a mission for God!

All kids, Pre-School through Middle School, are welcome

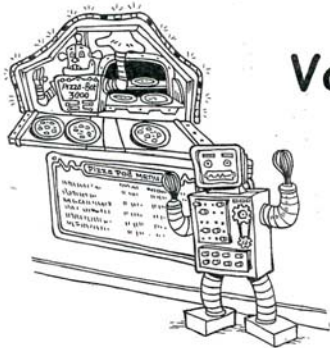
Bring a Friend!

July 30 - Aug. 3, 9 - Noon, \$ 50, Call 284-4765



## Stewardship Opportunity: Blood Drive Coordinator

Sunday, Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the bloodmobile will be on our church campus to receive donations of blood. We need someone to schedule donors, be our contact with the blood bank, and publicize the opportunity. If you are willing to share your time and talents in this way, please call the church office. And remember to eat your spinach and build up your blood to be a donor in September!

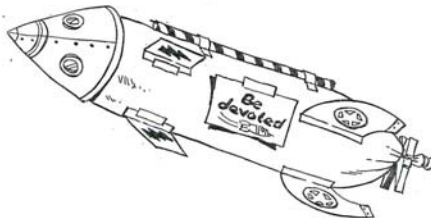


## Vacation Bible Day Camp

July 30 - Aug. 3, 9 - 12 noon  
At Lafayette United Methodist Church  
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette  
(Across from the Lafayette Library)  
Ages 3 - 15, \$50 each  
284-4765

Crafts, music, games, stories and snacks!  
Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends.

On A Mission For God  
Decoding, Joshua 1:9



Registration forms available in the Church Office.



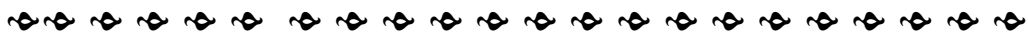
1 Ceharles Guiam  
2 Carol Miller  
3 Rebecca Teichmann  
Jessica Zischke  
4 Shelley Harding-Riggen  
6 Frank Turpin  
10 Michele Miller  
11 Beth White  
12 Raymond Heizer  
13 Rod Levander

14 Mike Hobson  
15 Jacob Partlow  
16 John Eaton  
Paul Gendron  
17 Nat Beeman  
18 Debbie Nakamura  
19 Evan Heptig  
Jared Schroter  
20 Zachary Dashner  
Madeleine Smith

21 Peter Heizer  
23 Veryl Shaffer  
24 Michael Gerringer  
Cindy Tornow  
25 Jim Straw  
29 Cecily Axtell  
Dick Black  
31 Janine Crowe  
Carolyn Kain



6 Chen Yin and Randy Noah  
12 Leslie and Chuck Murray  
14 Nancy and Jack Cotteral  
15 Cindy Zhu and Paul Zhang  
17 Leiola and Richard Walter  
18 Chris and Dean Coons  
21 Ginny and Doug Cowden



## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Last Sunday "Jonah" was interviewed and gave his side of the "Big Fish" story.

Puppets continue to be active this summer. On July 29 John and Chris Kintner, and Melanie VandenBerghe will be the action and voices for "Jesus Washing Feet". This will take place in Room 1 after the children's message.

On August 12 puppets will tell the CREATION STORY in Room 7. Children will have the opportunity to create a mural of God's "6 days".

On August 26 puppets will tell the story of "The Lost Sheep" in Room 7.

## SonForce Trivia

In Greenland, people dig up meteorites and use the iron in them to make tools.

So far, the largest asteroid found in the asteroid belt is as big as Texas. Its name is Ceres.

A comet's tail can be millions of miles long, but the amount of matter it contains is only the size of a grocery bag.



and another:



YOU ARE INVITED

SonForce Kids Celebration and Ice Cream Social

Thursday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m.  
LUMC Fellowship Hall



For You and/or the whole Family

and another:

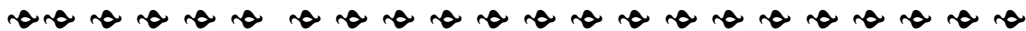


Please Join the SonForce Kids Mission Project



Donate SCHOOL SUPPLIES to Homeless Children at Bay Area Rescue Mission

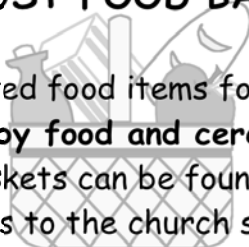
Bring them to Church on Sunday, July 22 and 29



## AUGUST FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for August are  
**baby food and cereal.**

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



## Around About LUMC

Congratulations to Esther Tan, Eduard Soon, Yvonne Soon, Yshel Lok, and Chef Thian Boon Leong upon the opening of their new restaurant, *Kopitiam*, featuring South East Asian cuisine. It is located at 3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd., next to Trader Joe's.



### ITS COMING, IT'S COMING! LUMC'S SILENT AUCTION – SUNDAY. OCTOBER 7



Have you an idea of how you would like to contribute to our second big fundraiser for the mission of the church? The Silent Auction Luncheon is a fun way to raise funds, and needs the talents of many! You could consider donating a basket to be auctioned – you can be as creative as you like - what about donating a service, such as computer help, tutoring, handyman chores, painting, babysitting, pet care, etc. What about a gift certificate from your place of business, a weekend in your vacation home? Let us know your ideas by calling Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857 or Jeanette Shearer, 284-9093 or by filling out the form below and turning it in at the church office, or just drop it in the collection plate on a Sunday!

I will help with the Silent Auction by donating:

A gift basket, \_\_\_\_\_ (type of basket, such as baby basket) I will prepare the basket myself \_\_\_\_\_, I would like to committee to prepare my donation \_\_\_\_\_

A Service \_\_\_\_\_ (type of service)

A gift certificate for \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to help with the food prep for the Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Many THANKS from the Education Commission to Blanche Cancel for her gift of the exciting and informative books, listed below, she donated to the Church Library.

"Freedom in Exile, the autobiography of the Dalai Lama  
"Chopstick Childhood", Nona Mock Wyman  
Rosa Parks, My Story", Rosa Parks

**For Younger Readers:**

"I have a Dream, The Story of Martin Luther King", M. Davidson  
"Harriet Tubman", M. Weidt  
"Frederick Douglas", C. Welch  
"Juliette Low", S. Aller  
"Susan B. Anthony", S. McPherson  
"Who Was Sacagawea?", J. Bloom Fradin  
"Who Was Anne Frank?", A. Abramson  
"Who Was Eleanor Roosevelt?", G. Thompson

The BOOK CART is now replenished and will be available at Friendship Time each Sunday. Take a little time before and after the service to browse. The LIBRARY, Room 9, will also be open; many more choices are there waiting for YOU.



**CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY AND UNITY IN CHRIST**

In her state of the Conference address, Bishop Beverly Shamana reminded all of the vision that our Conference affirmed at the beginning of this quadrennium and reiterated the themes that we have been committed to living: Passion for Jesus Christ, Compassion for All; Passion for the Mind of Jesus Christ and this year, Celebrating Our diversity and Unity in Christ. Next year it will be "Extending the Joyous Life in Christ." Our goal is to transform the world through the power of Jesus Christ. Global Praise provided the music for the worship services and songs were sung from other lands in the native tongue, scripture was recited in Tongan or Mandarin or other languages while the English translation was projected on the giant screens flanking the stage, Bishop Domingues of West Angola gave several speeches in Portuguese (a translator by his side) and "The Daily Connection" (a single sheet newspaper printed daily) was published in English, Spanish and Tongan. Greetings were offered by members of the Annual Conference whose first language wasn't English and at least 15 countries were represented.

Throughout the Conference Plenary Sessions ballots were taken to elect the 5 laity and 5 clergy who will represent our Conference at the General Conference in Texas next



year. Further ballots were taken for Jurisdictional Conference and Alternates. Our Conference makes a concerted effort to send a diverse delegation. By late Saturday the following had been elected: Clergy, Renae Extrum-Fernandez, Felicisimo Cao, Odette Lockwood-Stewart, Ted Virts and Dale Weatherspoon; Laity, Randall Miller, Susan Hunn, Rosa Washington Olson, Katherine Kim and Chuck Myer. Blanche Farnam, Karin Hilton, Betty Suzuki, Michael Herzog and Laddie Perez Galang were elected to represent the laity at the Jurisdictional Conference, Vickie Healy, Benoni Silva-Netto, Karen Oliveto, Siosifa Hingano and Dave Bennett will represent the clergy at the Jurisdictional Conference. Clergy Alternates: Michael Yoshii, Kham Dy Yang, Kristin Sachen, Kelvin Sauls and Elizabeth Brick. Laity Alternates: Katherine Parker, Connie Hunter, Robert Dunning, Bruce Petit and Laura Tower.

The fixing of appointments by the Bishop was performed throughout the Conference. We were excited and thankful to be able to lay our hands on Pastor Lori when her appointment was read by the Bishop. These small ceremonies are surprisingly moving.

Thursday evening a "picnic in the park" was organized to highlight mission opportunities. We were drawn to Peace Lamps for the Holy Land and heard about the Christian village of Taybeh on the West Bank that was struggling to survive. Through the sale of handmade lamps of peace the village is now self sufficient, has built a senior center and is providing work for the young people. We purchased a lamp for LUMC and will present it to the congregation.

One of the primary reasons for Conference is voting on recommendations that churches, staff and committees have drafted during the year. The budget was adopted along with recommendations about "Net Total Paid" and apportionment formula studies. Other items that passed easily included a call for the end to the US war and occupation of Iraq, support for universal healthcare (Sen. Kuehl's bill), support of the United Nations, support of the National Council of Churches, toward just and compassionate immigration reform, to name a few. A complete report of Conference is available on line at: <http://www.cnumc.org> A recommendation to oppose the appointment of a Methodist, Dr. James Holsinger as Surgeon General was brought to the floor of the plenary. Unfortunately Dr. Holsinger has repeatedly expressed his opposition to the inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people into the church as well as the larger society. He has also regularly misused science to justify this position. While the Conference affirmed his right to practice and advocate for his religious beliefs his long history of opposition to full equality for all and his regular misuse of medical science makes him ill-suited for the post of US Surgeon General. This recommendation was passed by the Conference body.

There were reports from all commissions, committees and programs of the California-Nevada Conference. A minister from New Orleans thanked the Conference for all it has done to rebuild and provide help to the Katrina victims. Our Conference sent the most work groups to the New Orleans area. T-shirts to "Save Darfur" were sold; money for

mosquito nets for Africa was solicited; luncheons and breakfasts were offered by UMW, Campus Ministry and MFSA with exceptional speakers at all.

Friday night we all gathered for a Memorial Service for clergy and spouses who have died since the last Conference. This year saw tributes to Lucille Wright, Verma Berry, Hamilton Boswell and Sandy York - all of whom many of us have known over the years. Dottie Vieira is part of the group in charge of this moving service.

Saturday night the members and many guests attended the worship service of ordination and consecration. It was wonderful to hear Bishop Warner Brown give the address as many of us there remembered his ministry in Oakland some years ago. It was fun to see Gil and Dottie Vieira and others whom we have met over the years.

We sincerely thank LUMC for sending us to conference and are happy to discuss any of the parts of it with you should you have questions or concerns.

Celeste Graham and Carol Slatten



#### **CHURCH STAFF**

|                                           |                          |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastor.....                               | The Reverend Lori Sawdon |
| Pastor e-mail.....                        | Sawdon2@pacbell.net      |
| Director of Music Ministry.....           | Ronald Sutherland        |
| Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....          | Charles Guiam            |
| Youth Director .....                      |                          |
| 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, July 26, 2007**

#### **LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION**

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