

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

July 29, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

Recently the Vatican and Pope Benedict XVI issued a statement reiterating a document titled "Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church," issued in 2000. Briefly summarized, the Vatican document, says that while it recognized other denominations as "ecclesial bodies" through which God can work, all churches except the Catholic Church were "deficient" because they didn't recognize the pope's infallible authority and did not stand in direct, historic line of succession from the Apostle Peter.

In response, officers of the Council of Bishops distributed a statement recently that clarified a United Methodist understanding of the denomination's standing as an authentic Christian church. As teachers of the church, the bishops argued that The United Methodist Church qualifies as authentic because of its emphasis on sanctification (holiness) and its conviction that it stands spiritually in line with apostolic succession.

United Methodists and Catholics have been in dialogue for more than 40 years, since shortly after the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, also known as Vatican II. The full text of the bishops' statement follows.

Response Of The Council Of Bishops Of The United Methodist Church To The "Certain Aspects Of The Doctrine Of The Church" Issued By Pope Benedict XVI

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has welcomed the Roman Catholic Church as a dialogue partner for over forty years. As sisters and brothers in Christ we are also living out partnership in God's mission in places all around the world. The two ecclesial bodies have reached clarity on several major theological issues including "grace," "sanctification" and "justification." We find John Wesley's "Catholic Spirit" as our starting and continuing point of dialogue.

We find nothing new or radically different from classical Roman Catholic ecclesiology in the Pope Benedict XVI's "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church," June 29, 2007.

The Pontiff, because of all the writings since Vatican II, felt a need to clarify the phrase “that the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church subsists in the Catholic Church.” The meaning and definition of the word “subsists” was a major clarifying theme of the statement. In classical Catholic ecclesiology Benedict XVI affirmed with Vatican II that elements of “sanctification and truth” are operative in other churches, but since these churches are not in communion with Rome, they do not fulfill the nature of “Oneness.”

We, as heirs of Wesley, affirm in our liturgical introduction to the creeds that “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, Apostolic and Universal.” We believe that apostolicity is based on the faithfulness of the Church through the ages rather than on historical succession.

As viewed by the Roman Catholic Church, what is The United Methodist Church? It is our understanding that all the positives remain in our relationship. According to Catholicism, we are baptized. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We show evidences of sanctification, that is the holiness of the Church.

We lack in their view certain aspects of unity and catholicity. Nonetheless the Holy Spirit has “not refrained from using [us] as instruments of salvation,” as stated in Question Three of the Pope’s Responses.

We have a teaching of apostolic succession, but it hinges on faith, not historic linearity.

We do not consent to the specific Roman view of Petrine succession, but we share with Rome the revered memory of the successors of the apostles, and understand ourselves to stand within that succession.

In their view, we are not “churches” in the full sense, because we lack from their viewpoint the mark of oneness and sacramental priesthood and the fullness of the Eucharist. We understand ourselves, by God’s grace, to share in the fullness of the Church through faithful ministry and mission, and the Table of the Lord. That is a difference we can continue to explore. Someday we pray that this difference will be overcome.

As United Methodists, we share in the pain of the brokenness of Christ’s Body and prayerfully long for unity around the Table of the Lord. Until then, we live out of John 17:11 and Jesus’ prayer that all his followers may be one, and we affirm Article VI of our Constitution compelling the Council of Bishops to lead the Church in the search for Christian unity. In that spirit, we look forward to our continuing dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church.

(Signed)

Bishop Janice Huie, President, The Council of Bishops

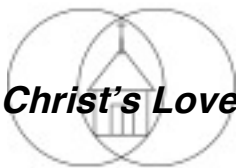
Bishop William B. Oden, Ecumenical Officer, The Council of Bishops

Bishop Ernest Lyght, Secretary, The Council of Bishops

Bishop Roy I. Sano, Executive Secretary, The Council of Bishops

United Methodist NeXus, July 25, 2007

www.umnexus.org



Experiencing Christ's Love through Worship

August 5 - 8:30 Traditional Worship with Pastor Lori preaching, "Quality Time with Jesus" Luke 10:38-42

10:30 Celebration of Vacation Bible School with worship led by *SonForce Kids*

August 12 - Pastor Lori preaching, Psalm 63:1-8, I Corinthians 10:1-13

August 19 - Rev. Gil Vieira preaching

August 26 - Worship led by Sierra Service Project Team sharing their week of mission in Central Los Angeles



SUMMER SUN DAY SCHOOL

HELP NEEDED: 2 ADULTS for our child safety measures on 8/12 and 8/26. Call B. Levander (284-7687)

Puppets continue to be active this summer.

* On July 29 the hand puppets purchased in spring gave action and voices to the story "JESUS WASHING FEET". The children of preschool-5th grades then solved puzzles for prizes.

* On August 12 Sean Noah and Kathleen Emerson will be the action and voices for the puppets telling 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.



Around About LUMC

Pastor Lori recently spoke with Frank Raggon. Frank and Martha moved to Redding in November to live close to their son. Their Lafayette home sold so quickly that they did not have time to say good-bye to all their friends here. After a long search, they finally have purchased a home in Redding. Their new address is: 4713 Maple Trail, Redding, CA 96003.

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!



Madeleine Trouerbach was recognized as July Methodist of the Month for her service as our Recycling Steward. Madeleine collects the recyclable plastics and cans we bring to the church and takes them to Berkeley, where she receives more money for them. Her efforts have more than doubled our income to the church budget from recycling: in 2005 we earned \$180.62 from recycling; in 2006 \$592; and by June 30, 2007, \$150!

Richard Sabotka was recognized as July Methodist of the Month as he moves to Concord. On Sunday mornings he has often started the teapot for hot water, turned on the lights, and swept sidewalks before worship.



TOWER NOTES ON LUMC WEB SITE

The Tower Notes is on our church's Web Site www.thelumc.org. You can download it for dialup or broadband.

Many people do not receive the Tower Notes by mail in a timely manner. Getting it on the Web Site you will not miss any events or news at LUMC.

Please notify the church office by phone 925-284-4765 or email lumc@pacbell.net if you want to get your Tower Notes on the Web Site and do not need it mailed to you.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

Any church is as strong as the faith and commitment of its people. Believing that every person has a gift, an interest, a skill, the Committee on Lay Leadership is seeking your assistance in matching your gifts with ministry opportunities in the life of our congregation. Please take a moment to express your interests in this sheet. Return it to the "Gift Box" at the back of the sanctuary. We'll be in touch! Thank you.

_____ As WORSHIP is so central to our spiritual life together, I would like to help design and coordinate ways in which we worship God. Committee meets 7-9 times a year.

_____ Our church has a great ministry to share. I'd like to help a new HOSPITALITY TEAM reach out to newcomers and make them feel welcome in this church family. Meets 7-9 times a year.

_____ I am interested in our OUTREACH to the community, especially to those who are hungry, seeking homes, etc. The intersection of our faith with social issues is important. Team meets 10 times a year.

_____ I'm excited about planning all-church events, such as potlucks, picnics, parties, fun nights, etc. I'd serve on the PROGRAM COUNCIL. Meets 6-9 times a year.

_____ I believe CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and spiritual formation are vital to a healthy church. I want to support this ministry in some way: teacher, small group leader, class helper,

_____.

_____ I've got a good head for numbers. I could help in the ministry of FINANCE in counting money, or as a committee member. Committee meets 10 times a year.

_____ Our church facility and grounds are looking good and I want to help continue that effort. I might serve as a TRUSTEE and/or as a handyperson around campus. Board meets 9-10 times a year.

_____ Supporting our church staff is a ministry I might enjoy and/or I have some personnel expertise to share. Committee meets 9-10 times a year.

_____ I like to hold a sense of "the big picture" and am interested in the CHURCH COUNCIL that gives oversight to all our ministries. Meets 10 times a year.

Other Ministries I'm interested in serving:

_____ Usher	_____ Bulletin Boards	_____ Friendship Time Host
_____ Visiting	_____ Gardening	_____ Provide Meals for Families
_____ Greeter	_____ Organizing Events	_____ Transportation to Worship
_____ Musician	_____ Audio/Video Team	_____ Newsletter Assembly
_____ Drama	_____ Kitchen Cleaning	_____ Small Group Leader
_____ Publicity	_____ Maintenance	_____ Web Management
_____ Computer	_____ Decorating	_____ Office Volunteer
_____ Watering	_____ Photography	_____ Other _____

My Name: _____

Please place this completed form in the "Gift Box" in the sanctuary or mail it to the church office, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549 or email lumc@pacbell.net.

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 _____



Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Class

Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Course is open to all Widows and Widowers. Fall enrollments are now being accepted – can start up to 3rd week. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$5. Please call the contact at the church below to register.

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
September 25th – November 27th
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette
Contact: Bev Fellows 925-283-8722

Project Homeless Connect 2

October 16, 2007

9AM - 3PM

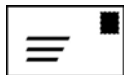
**Willow Pass Center
2748 East Olivera Road
Concord, CA 94519**

We need your help for a one-day, one-stop shop to offer a variety of services to people experiencing homelessness, connecting them with benefits, medical care, substance abuse and mental health counseling, social services, housing and shelter.

We need volunteers and service providers to help:

- complete applications for medical care & dental care
- provide employment services & placement
- provide mental health & alcohol & other drug counseling & referral
- greet and route people
- provide translation
- serve food
- provide legal assistance & referral
- provide massage, foot care & pet care
- provide wheelchair repair
- provide educational classes
- provide domestic violence counseling & referral

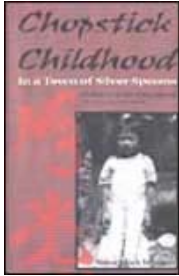
Visit the website at cchealth.org or contact Contra Costa County Health Services Homeless Program at 925-313-6124. Pastor Lori volunteered in Richmond last year. It was a worthwhile investment of time.



A letter of thanks has been received for the gift of \$150 to the Global HIV/AIDS Program Development Fund of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. This contribution from our Easter Offering is part of \$8 million United Methodists have committed to raise by 2008 (that's \$1 per United Methodist). 25 million people have died of HIV/AIDS; 40 million are currently infected; 16,000 people are infected daily. Thank you for helping to offer the gift of new life to others.

CHURCH LIBRARY – BOOK REVIEW

“Chopstick Childhood”, Nona Mock Wyman



Some of you may know Nona Mock Wyman. For over thirty years she has run a successful business on North Main St. in downtown Walnut Creek. It was not her business experiences but her stories shared of her life growing up an orphan in the Ming Quong Home in Palo Alto that prompted friends and relatives to encourage and support Nona in the writing of her story. The book took five years in the writing and was for Nona, (who never had the desire to go to college), her bachelors' masters' and Phd degrees all in one. Since the completion of “Chopstick Childhood”, Nona has been asked to speak at bookstores, colleges and women's groups. She speaks, like she writes, simply, clearly and directly. Her life story is especially interesting to younger Chinese-Americans who have no idea that there were refuge/orphanages in the Bay Area for Chinese children since the 1930's. Most of the children were surrendered by their parent/parents, who visited on Sundays, because of financial inability to provide for them. Some girls sought refuge in the Chinatown home in San Francisco running from the American and Chinese men who had brought them from China and thought they were property. They hid in the coal bins in the cellar to avoid discovery. Nona was the youngest child to be taken in at Ming Quong in Palo Alto at the age of two and one half years. She never saw her mother again. It has been a life long process to locate relatives and friends to piece together a life story. All that could be provided by the Presbyterian women who lived, taught and administered the home was that she was brought there due to an emergency. From the heart rending cry “Mah” at the traumatic wrenching from her mother to Nona's remarks at age 63 of friends, family and life you will be touched by her love, gratitude and faith.



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

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, August 9, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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