

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

September 16, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

These weeks of September in worship we are opening our hearts and minds in order to grow in our understanding of and relationship with other major world religions in our neighborhood and in our world. The ministry of hospitality is a vital thread in our Christian faith tradition. I read the following quote in the San Ramon Valley UMC newsletter:

The Christian practice of hospitality is the practice of providing a space to take in a stranger. It also encompasses the skills of welcoming friends and family to our tables, to claim the joy of homecoming. To welcome the stranger is to acknowledge him as a human being made in God's image; it is to treat her as one of equal worth with ourselves – indeed as one who may teach us something out of the richness of experiences different than our own” (Ana Maria Pineda, Santa Clara University).

It is in this spirit that we examine the Jewish High Holy Days and the Muslim month of Ramadan as they occur simultaneously this fall. It is an opportunity to look at the best of other traditions. There are ways in which we are similar and ways in which we differ. We have some similar emphases and some different emphases. Unfortunately there are those in every tradition, including Christianity, who distort the essence. Therefore it is important for us to be discerning about the resources which guide the understanding of our own tradition and those of other religions.

Let us pray for the peace of our world and the deepening faith of all God's people.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

JUST AROUND THE CORNER! **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 _____

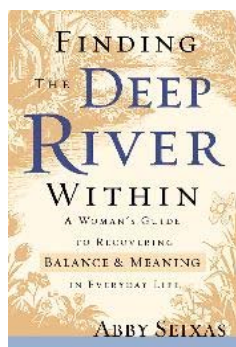
I would be willing to help with the food prep for the Luncheon _____

I WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE HORS D'OEUVRES _____

NAME _____ Phone _____



Deep River Group for Women
Alternate Wednesdays beginning September 26, October 10 & 24, Nov. 7....
7:30-9:00 p.m. Maggie Mae Lounge
Led by Ellen Walters and Lori Sawdon



Feeling frazzled? Too much to juggle? Longing for some time for yourself? Here's an opportunity to stop, rest, and renew. Together we will pause from our frantic pace and dip into the Deep River of our inner selves and dwell in the healing presence of God. Give yourself the gift of this experience.

Our resource will be *Finding the Deep River Within: A Woman's Guide to Recovering Balance & Meaning in Everyday Life*, by Abby Seixas. Paperback copies will be available to the public Sept. 28, after our first meeting. We will order copies for purchase in the church office or at the second group session.



CROP Hunger Walk

Jr. Hi Youth will participate in the CROP (Community Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk sponsored by Church World Service on Sunday, October 7th. Youth will walk about 4 miles in Walnut Creek starting at 1 p.m. at Civic Park. Each youth and adult who is walking will get sponsors and the money raised will help fight hunger and poverty around the world. 25% of what is raised will go to the Winter Nights Program in which our congregation is participating. If you would like to sponsor a youth please contact them on Sunday morning. If you would like to walk, please contact Judy Stillman 933-9351. Our goal is to raise \$1000.



Sunday, September 30 9:30 a.m.

LUMC Fireside Room

Presentation by Louise Bourassa, CCIH Executive Director

CCIH's major project is the Garden Park Apartments on Lisa Lane in Pleasant Hill. This is a permanent supportive housing program with on-site services for at-risk families. LUMC has been a sponsor of the Garden Park Apartments, offering apartment furnishings, tutoring, and minimal financial support. It is a thriving, growing, and very needed ministry. Take this opportunity on Sept. 30 to hear more.

Following is a portion of a letter recently received from Louise Bourassa, Executive Director, and Julie Mason, Volunteer Coordinator of CCIH:

I am writing to express Contra Costa Interfaith Housing's sincere thanks and appreciation for supporting the Golden Park Apartments' youth to attend the Sonforce Kids Vacation Bible Day Camp. We were very grateful that these eight children had the opportunity to participate in this wonderful camp. LUMC has been the only faith community to provide full scholarships to vacation Bible school. We greatly appreciate your generosity.... The children who did participate really enjoyed their time at your camp!! We hope that members of your community came away with some satisfaction that they made a difference in our children's lives.

Our thanks to Sue Renno, our fabulous VBS Director, who extended the invitation and our mission in this way.

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS



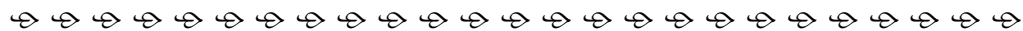
If you have your donation ready you may turn it in to Ginny or Jeanette at any time, the earlier the better for the best presentation. If you have your things, but are fussing with how to present them, not to worry. We have a volunteer who is ready and able to present it for you. Just turn them in to Jeanette, or Ginny. She also makes up neat gift certificates, so once again just give your idea to Jeanette or Ginny. Still needs the "right idea" – how about tickets to a sporting event, gift certificate/goods from a business where you have connections, a service that you can offer that would be a benefit to others, such as handyman, tutoring, lessons in your forte, driving, ---- let your imagination take over! There is still plenty of room for more baskets – pet lovers, food, video night baskets, etc. are just a few ideas that have been popular in the past. OR how about helping with the hors d'oeuvres? Just let Ginny know you'd like to make one of your favorites! Ginny Leavitt 284-7857, or Jeanette Shearer – 284-9093



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It takes a church to pass on God's word!! Many Thanks to all who helped with combined Sunday school classes during the summer: Virginia Black, Carol Zuckerman, Janet Sategna, Helen Harding, Karin Husch, Ginny Cowden, Margaret Kintner, Tiffany Grayson, Lynn Rocksvold, Maureen Straw, Cathy VandenBerghe, Mary Teichmann, Judy Stillman.

Congratulations to Kennedy Kim, Dylan Lane, Jenna Curtis, and Nathaniel Welcomer who received their Bibles on September 9th. There will be a "How to Use Your Bible" study on 10/21 and 10/28 at 10:15 in room 8 for all 3-5th graders.



Round About LUMC

We are grateful to additional musicians who provided special music during the summer months, including **Megan Berti, Jan Davis, Joseph MacDannald, Sierra Service Project Team, Ronald Sutherland, and Charles Guiam**

Stefan Miller is playing "Sasha" in Contra Costa Musical Theatre's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" from October 5 through November 4.

Birthday wishes to one of our college youth, **Sarina Woo**, who celebrates her 21st birthday on September 25. She is attending college in Ithaca, New York.

Barbara Breashears shared a worship bulletin from Central UMC, in Stockton, her parents' congregation. It was Sierra Service Project Sunday.

Some of our families have moved to other areas of the country due to job transfers: the **Gendron** family to Houston and the **Singleton** family to North Carolina. We send them on with our love and blessings. While they move on, we welcome new folks into our church family.

LUMC STAFF UPDATES

We welcome **Royetta Rule** as our new **Church Organist**. Royetta is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance. For 17 years she serves as Organist/Pianist/Asst. Director/Composer at El Sobrante UMC. She enjoys composing free hymn accompaniments and singing in small women's choruses.

We welcome **Reena Burton** as our new **Director of Youth Ministry**. Reena is a student in the Master of Divinity program at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Her home church is the Community Church of Sebastopol, where she spent her youth and later volunteered as a youth counselor. She has spent several summers as a camp counselor at Camp Cazadero owned by the United Church of Christ. She attended college at Sonoma State University and New College, earning a degree in the Humanities with an emphasis on Art and Social Change. She has worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs in San Francisco and traveled in Costa Rica and Mexico.

With Reena's employment, we are finally able to grant a long-time request of **Judy Stillman**. Judy has joyfully served as our Director of Youth Ministry for a number of years. Annually she has requested that someone else be offered the position, but we have had to return to ask Judy to continue the ministry. We are grateful for the dedication, time, energy, love, joy, enthusiasm Judy has given to our youth over the years. She will continue in background support for a while, but also allow Reena space to offer her unique gifts to our youth ministry. We're likely to see Judy swinging a hammer on the next Sierra Service Project team! Thank you, Judy! We appreciate you and your faithful service to LUMC!

Assisting Judy this past year was **Terry Miller**, a young adult who grew up in our own LUMC youth program. Terry has moved to Oregon State University to continue his education, with a dream of becoming a high school teacher and coach. Terry has a passion for youth and assisting in their wholesome development. Our youth have greatly benefited from Terry's leadership and role model.

Another young adult serving among us was our Summer Organist, **Charles Guiam**, an Organ Scholar from Pinole UMC. Charles has gone to school at UC Irvine. He was grateful for the opportunity to experience a formal church role with us this summer.

The opportunities that LUMC has offered Terry and Charles have planted seeds for their future ministry in the church of Jesus Christ. This is a gracious, welcoming congregation that offers persons of all ages opportunities for service and growth.



Membership Orientation
Sunday, October 21
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Maggie Mae Lounge

Persons interested in joining the membership of the church or learning more about the United Methodist Church are welcome to attend.

**SILENT AUCTION LUNCHEON
LUMC'S "NOT TO BE MISSED" FUNDRAISER EVENT
OCTOBER 7**

(All proceeds go to the GENERAL BUDGET
for the Mission of our Church)

ADULT LUNCH (and Youth over 11) - \$10 per person

Includes buffet hors d'oeuvres, sit down/served entrée, rolls, dessert, and beverages

ENTERTAINMENT

KIDS MEAL (11 and under) - \$5 per child

Special kid pleaser meal served with supervised care on the playground for the duration of the event

OPPORTUNITIES TO BID ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS THROUGHOUT THE EVENT - ALSO,
LIVE AUCTION DURING LUNCHEON! Do your Christmas shopping early, or find that special
gift/service that is just what you wanted!

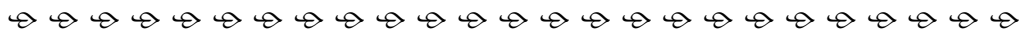
Any questions – call Ginny Leavitt – 284-7857

PLEASE TURN IN THIS FORM/WITH CHECK, payable to LUMC, SILENT AUCTION, TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE, OR IN THE COLLECTION PLATE BY SUNDAY, September 30

_____ # of adults at \$10 each

_____ # of kid meals at \$5 each

Name _____



All-Church Workday

Saturday, October 13
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon



LIBRARY

HAVE YOU SEEN THE IMPROVEMENTS IN ROOM 9?? While you're there take out a book :)

OCTOBER



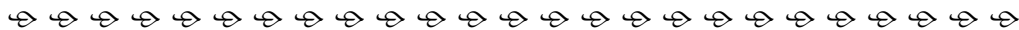
2 David MacDannald
3 Alexander Grayson
Ron Kain
5 Clay Vryens
6 Peter Hartshorn
7 Linda Berti
Don Keeble
8 Barbara Falkenberg
Dot Feist
9 Gavom Beeman
Armand Johnson
Leslie Murray
Paul Renno Jr.

10 Natalie Reeder
Robyn Roberts
11 Kristen Darrell
12 Claire Breashears
13 Julia Partlow
14 Kathleen Emerson
16 Tom Henderson
17 Chris Chuck
18 Travis Oakley
21 Nathaniel Welcomer

22 Jillian Bove
Dale Kari
David Shelley
Hilary Smith
24 Gavin Schroter
25 Stephannie Tornow
27 Megan Berti
28 Sharon Chia
30 Elizabeth Emerson
Frank Wilking



4 Roseann and Gary Beeman
11 Virginia and Dick Black
17 Patricia Hershey and Joe Darrell



Thank You

A big thank you to all who participated in our Homecoming potluck lunch! What delicious food – and a wonderful variety. Our Methodist cooks certainly lived up to their outstanding reputation. Very special thanks go to Laurel Hill, who not only wrote our cheers and led them with the help of Helen Harding, Ronald Sutherland and Jim Straw, but she was tireless in the kitchen, keeping food warm or cold, as needed, and she and her husband David stayed until every dish was washed and put away. Thanks also to Ginny and Doug Cowden for managing the beverage table, to those who helped put the food out, and clear tables – and to our great helpers who helped take things down. We hope all of you made a few new friends, got better acquainted with others, and had a good time.

Your Homecoming Organizers

Fundraiser for Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter
and debut of *Heroes Arise*,
a novella and parable by Laurel Anne Hill

Lafayette United Methodist Church (LUMC) Fellowship Hall
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA

Saturday, October 13, 2 - 4 pm

The Winter Nights Program provides a clean, safe and warm facility at night and a daytime services center from mid-October through April for homeless families with children and for homeless seniors. The program will serve up to 30 persons at any given time. Congregations throughout central and east Contra Costa County (including Lafayette United Methodist Church) take turns providing space, meals and volunteers. But this worthy program can't survive on volunteer efforts alone. Funding is essential. Here's a chance to contribute and have fun, too.

Please join award-winning author Laurel Anne Hill, Charlotte Cook from KOMENAR Publishing and Gwen Watson from Winter Nights on the afternoon of Saturday, October 13. Laurel will read from *Heroes Arise* and provide insight into her creation of fictional characters and worlds. Gwen Watson will answer questions about Winter Nights. The event will include refreshments and live music.

Admission prices may be paid in advance or at the door. Advance payment will assist us in planning refreshments and reduce delays at the door.

\$30 per person (includes one hard-cover copy of *Heroes Arise*; \$16 is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.)

\$45 per couple (includes one hard-cover copy of *Heroes Arise*; \$31 is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.)

Advance Registration Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number or email: _____

Number who will attend on October 13:

_____ individuals at \$30 per person _____ couples at \$45 per couple

Total amount enclosed: _____

Please write checks to "LUMC." Add "Winter Nights" on the memo line. Please mail to LUMC as follows:

Lafayette United Methodist Church
Attn: Winter Nights/October 13
955 Moraga Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

LUMC POOLED INCOME FUND

HOW DOES IT WORK?

John and Jane, ages 65 and 65, have decided that they would like to provide a lasting memorial and permanent support for LUMC, but they have determined that it would be more beneficial to them to do this during their lifetimes rather than waiting to do it by their Wills.

John and Jane write a check for \$10,000.00 to the LUMC Pooled Income Fund and sign a one page gift agreement. Immediately they RECEIVE these benefits:

FIRST, an INCOME TAX DEDUCTION in the amount of \$3,720.90. This will SAVE them about \$1,230.00 in income taxes. That means that the \$10,000.00 contribution really only cost them \$8,770.00.

SECOND, INCOME FOR LIFE and then income to the survivor of them for life.

At the present time the income they receive will be about 7% of the value of their contribution each year. That is \$700.00 per year.

The life expectancy of John and Jane is 26.2 years. Multiplying the \$700.00 per year times the 26.2 years life expectancy, John and Jane would expect to RECEIVE BACK from the Pooled Income Fund \$18,200.00. That is \$8,200.00 MORE THAN THEY CONTRIBUTED to the Pooled Income Fund.

When you consider the actual cost of the contribution of John and Jane was \$8,770.00 (subtracting the cash income tax saving of \$1,230.00 from the contribution value of \$10,000.00), the \$700.00 per year is really almost an 8% return.

When John and Jane have passed on they will have left a lasting memorial to LUMC in the amount of \$10,000.00

No wonder they call this the GIFT that GIVES BACK. It is a WIN – WIN situation for John and Jane and a big WIN for LUMC also.

If you would like to see how a gift made with stock instead of cash can give you another WIN, or if you have any other questions, please call the church office.



Boutique
Grace United Methodist Church
Sat., Oct. 13 – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
19901 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

Fabulous Gift Choices: Baskets, Candles, Designer silver jewelry, Stamping supplies, Scrapbooking & Custom Framing, Gourmet Chef & Cooking Goodies

Also: Handcrafted items, International gifts which support mission work, 2008 Entertainment Books

Café & Bake Sale – Relax with a cup of coffee or tea and homemade baked goods or enjoy a light lunch. Baked goods also available for carryout.

OCTOBER FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
October are
spaghetti and sauces.
Food baskets can be found at both
Entrances to the church sanctuary.



COMMUNITY EVENTS TO WHICH LUMC IS INVITED:

East County United: Marching Against Hate
Sunday, September 23, 1:00 p.m. check-in
Antioch City Hall
2nd and H Streets, Antioch

This event is being organized in support of the Islamic Center of the East Bay, after the August 12th arson of their building, and in support of the Golden family of Brentwood, whose home was attacked and vandalized. The march will go from the City Hall and end with a rally at a location to be announced. It is possible that a previous rally will be held in Brentwood at 12:00 noon. Be on the alert for details. If you would like to help, or want more information, contact Will McGarvey at 925-439-9361 or willymac4@comcast.net.

Holy Convergence III
Sunday, September 30 2:00- 5:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran Church
3201 Tassajara Rd., Danville

Join many Contra Costa congregations for this family event celebrating the many fall religious celebrations of the season. There will be music, food, crafts, discussion, dancing, labyrinth walking, face painting and more. For more information, contact 925-648-7000.

Project Homeless Connect
Tuesday, October 16 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Willow Pass Center, 2748 East Olivera Rd., Concord

Your help is needed for this one-day, one-stop shop to offer a variety of services to people experiencing homelessness, by connecting them with benefits, medical care, counseling, social services, shelter, and other services. You can complete applications, greet and route people, provide transportation, serve food, or provide services. To volunteer, contact 925-313-6124 or ProjectHomelessConnect@hsd.cccounty.us. Pastor Lori volunteered last year in Richmond and plans to volunteer this year!

LIMA Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Worship
(LIMA – Lamorinda Interfaith Ministry Association)
Wednesday, November 23 7:30 p.m.
Tempe Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd.



NEVADA-SIERRA DISTRICT CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

August 21, 2007

Dear Rev. Lori Sawdon and Congregation,

On behalf of the Nevada Sierra District, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for the donation your church has made to the Lake Tahoe Fire relief effort in the amount of \$685. Together, we have raised \$15,992.95 which will be used for long-term relief. Our Disaster Response Team, made up of Rev. John Ruby, Revs. Rob and Dixie Jennings-teats, Rev. Pete Nelson and Rev. Kathryn Dunning, has been meeting with representatives for long-term relief in order to determine the needs of the residents affected by the fire.

We will continue to send updates as they occur. Please know how grateful we are to you and yours. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,
Jerry D. Smith, Superintendent



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....	The Reverend Lori Sawdon
Pastor e-mail.....	Sawdon2@pacbell.net
Director of Music Ministry.....	Ronald Sutherland
Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....	Royetta Rule
Youth Director	Reena Burton
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, September 27, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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E_Mail.....	lumc@pacbell.net
Web Site.....	www.thelumc.org