

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

September 30, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

One of the items I like to read in the fall is the Mindset List created by Beloit College. The list identifies experiences and events horizons of students who are first-year college students, most of whom were born in 1989. It is an effort to identify the worldview of 18 year olds in the fall of 2007. The complete list of 70 items is found at www.beloit.edu. Here are a few items on this fall's list:

1. What Berlin wall?
2. Humvees, minus the artillery, have always been available to the public.
3. They never "rolled down" a car window.
4. They may confuse the Keating Five with a rock group.
5. They have grown up with bottled water.
6. General motors has always been working on an electric car.
7. Nelson Mandela has always been free and a force in South Africa.
8. Pete Rose has never played baseball.
9. Rap music has always been mainstream.
10. "Off the hook" has never had anything to do with a telephone.
11. Russia has always had a multi-party political system.
12. Women have always been police chiefs in major cities.
13. Wal-Mart has always been a larger retailer than Sears and has always employed more workers than GM/.

I read the list because it reminds me that we all have different experiences, and hence, varying perspectives on life. In a multi-generational congregation, it is important to remember that we have wide-ranging outlooks. A song that touches the heart of one person may irritate another person. An experience that energizes one person may be meaningless to someone else.

As the *Body* of Christ, made up of a *community* of people, it is important to be mindful of the needs of others, as well as aware of our own preferences. There are various dimensions to our worship experiences, but it is not likely that every element of worship will be meaningful to anyone. There are varied activities in the life of the congregation, but few people come to them all. Yet because the church is more than an individual, we can rejoice that others are touched by the Spirit of God in ways that don't speak to us. The Good News of God's love is for sharing, not hoarding.

I rejoice in a congregation that looks beyond personal preferences and that has a larger vision of a community of people with varying interests and needs, yet the common goal of growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. I rejoice in our respect for the multitude of ways in which God is made known. Who knows, some 80 year olds might take to likin' rap music!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

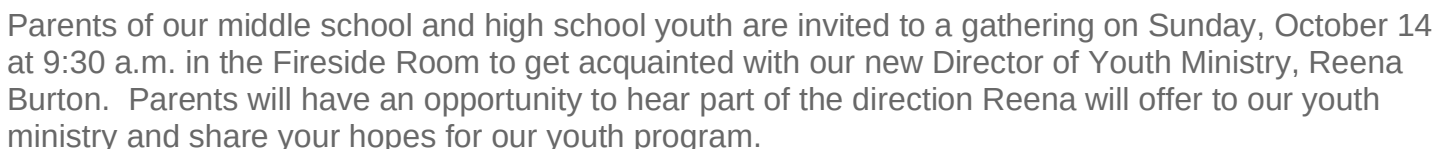
(All proceeds go to the GENERAL BUDGET
for the Mission of our Church)

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

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

Any questions – call Ginny Leavitt – 284-7857

Name _____



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

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

Pastor Lori and the Hospitality Team invite any persons interested in membership in Lafayette United Methodist Church to get acquainted with leaders of the congregation, the mission of the church, and the United Methodist Church. Those interested in joining as members will be received during Sunday worship on one of the following Sundays.



COMMUNITY EVENTS TO WHICH LUMC IS INVITED:

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.



It's true. A simple shoebox can make a world of difference to a child. Especially when it's an Operation Christmas Child gift filled shoebox. Children enduring poverty, disaster and disease can experience God's love through your generosity.

You may bring your own filled shoebox plus \$7 for shipping by November 4. Or the LUMC youth is again offering an "easy shopping" alternative! For \$20 a gift filled shoebox will be packed for you. You add shipping for \$7 and a personal note or photo if you'd like and you're done! All proceeds go to the youth Sierra Service Fund. Box labels, lists of suggested items and prefilled box orders will be available after Sunday services on October 21 and 28. Any questions, call Renee at 639-1438.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



All 3rd-5th graders are invited to learn "How to Use Your Bible" in Room 8 at 10:15 A.M. on Sundays, October 21 and 28. Bring your Hands On Bible with you.



BEHIND THE SCENES

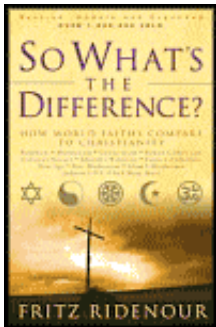
Mary Hobson has been making copies of child activity pages and gathering crayons for little children to use on during the Sunday morning service. Thanks, Mary.

If you are a parent with a fidgety child, ask the ushers for a page or two.



CHURCH LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

"So What's The Difference", Fritz Ridenour



Recently some of our LUMC members participated in an interfaith walk in support of a Muslim community, which had suffered damage to their mosque from vandalism and arson. Sadly, as we look back at world history religious differences were dealt with persecution and violence. Every day we learn of ongoing terror between Sunni and Shiite Muslims whose point of difference is which is the correct lineage from the prophet Mohammed.

The question we must ask ourselves is, can we live side by side with peoples of other faiths and belief systems and work together with them on projects for the common good? The answer is yes! Will this require that we take down our cross which is central to our faith and redefine Jesus? No! Nor would we expect Buddhists to disavow reincarnation or their concept of the originating source or anyone else their tenets to get along with us. The answer to the question of a possible stumbling block to interfaith relationships is Information/Knowledge of the other and here it is in Fritz Ridenour's outstanding book "So What's The Difference". This book can be read as a handbook looking up various belief systems or cover to cover. I prefer the former. The information on the other faiths is accurate giving the origin, history, beliefs and practices of each and is delivered in a factual unbiased manner. A must see!

Review by Blanche Cancel



BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Centers of the Pacific has sent a letter expressing appreciation for LUMC's support of the community blood program and the willingness of donors to share this life saving gift. Five units of blood were collected at the drive on Sept. 16.



THE CRECHE AROUND THE WORLD

Do you have a Nativity Set you'd like to share? December 8 and 9 LUMC will host an open house of The Creche Around the World. This display will feature miniature nativity sets from many countries and will be open to the public.

Please contact Mary Hobson (maryhobs@yahoo.com) or Carol Slatten (cslatten@comcast.net) if you have a question or will share your treasure.



Holy Land Tour

Karen Brown is going on a Holy Land Tour March 7-16, 2008. She would enjoy other church members joining her on this tour. If you are interested see the website for the tour.

<http://www.spiritualheritagetours.com/holylandtour/default.asp>



LUMC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 11, 2007

Attendees: Pat Hershey, Joe Darrell, David White, Dave Inglis, Doug Cowden, Ginny Cowden, Dean Coons, Chris Coons, Robyn Roberts, Carol Slatten, Ginny Leavitt, Tom Henderson and Mary Hobson

Meeting Called to Order - Council Chairperson Pat Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m. Joys and concerns were shared and Pat led us in prayer.

Approval of July Minutes - Dean Coons moved to approve the July 17, 2007 Church Council Minutes. David White seconded the motion. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Parish - Ginny Cowden reported that the Staff Parish Committee suggested that employee files be kept in the Pastor's office. She moved that the files be kept under lock and key in the Pastor's office. Tom seconded the motion and it was approved. Ginny reported that an organist has been hired. Her name is Royetta Rule. Also, a Director of Youth Ministries, Rena Burton, was hired.

Lay Leadership - Robyn Roberts reported that Lay Leadership is continuing to meet to fill positions before our Annual Church Conference.

Finance - Ginny Leavitt, Finance Chairperson, moved that we pay up to \$4400 of our unbudgeted apportionments. Finance Committee had approved this suggestion at their meeting. Joe Darrell seconded the motion. All approved.

Program Council - No report

Trustees - Joe Darrell reported that the trustees are well within budget. They have scheduled a Clean up Day for Oct. 13, and are hoping for at least 15 people to show up. Coffee and pastries will be served. Dean brought up Winter Nights program will be held that afternoon, but Joe said there would not be any conflict. He said the Trustees authorized the purchase of a new refrigerator for the kitchen. This will be paid for by a donation from a generous member. Jason did a "bang up" job cleaning and waxing the fellowship hall and kitchen.

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