

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

October 28, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

It is wise to be prudent about how we invest our money. We want to make sure that our funds are invested where they will grow, thrive, and make a difference.

Throughout our marriage Mark and I have chosen to make our largest charitable contribution to the church. The investment we make in the church is larger than what we spend on entertainment or vacations for the year, for the spiritual dimension of our lives adds immeasurable value. We give more away than we spend on food or clothing because we cherish the riches of faith far more than we do material items.

We give because we see how our investment pays dividends in the faith that is grown in young lives through worship, Sunday school, and youth events. We have personally benefited from experiences in small groups and retreats which have shaped our spiritual lives. Oftentimes we have offered our time and talent to such events and been blessed by the faith quickened in other lives. We are grateful for relationships in the congregation that have enriched our lives. We delight in the insights about life and faith shared by youngsters and by the pearls of wisdom spoken by nonagenarians.

We appreciate the outreach of our local church beyond itself, for we know that some of our financial resources are pooled with those of other local churches. Together we are at work offering hope and relief in areas of disaster; in mission in hovels of poverty around the globe; imparting education to enable human lives to flourish. We could not do these things alone, but together through the United Methodist Church we are making a far larger impact on the world.

We invest in the church because it has a vision of the reign of God where peace and justice flourish. The world needs the church to remind us that there is a better way of life and living, a way that values human life and the created world, a way that contributes to the well-being of all creation.

I pray that you also find the church worthy of a wise and generous investment of time, talent, and treasure.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

A SUDDEN MOVE: The Kindergarten through 2nd grade class has moved from room 7 to ROOM 6. Since this room is not used by the weekly ESL classes, it is convenient for Sunday school teachers to have some continuity in displaying things that they can leave from week to week.

10 Bean Bags: Carolyn Kain, a quilter, has put together bean bags to be used by our Sunday school classes for various activities in and out of the curriculum. Thanks, Carolyn!!



TIME CHANGES NOV. 3-4

Remember to set your clocks back an hour!



**Sends Emergency Help to
California-Pacific Annual Conference**

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has responded with an emergency grant to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to aid those affected by the wildfires in Southern California. UMCOR is in close contact with Bishop Mary Ann Swenson as the situation develops and will continue to provide support and relief in the aftermath. Donations made to UMCOR go directly to relief work. You may make a donation with a check to LUMC, designated "Fire Disaster." Thank you for your generous support.

Warm Winter Nights Shelter

LUMC will host the Winter Nights Shelter for up to 30 persons seeking housing from Nov. 5-12. We will need to provide dinner meals; foodstuff for breakfast and lunch (cereal, milk, bread, peanut butter, etc.); activities for children and youth nightly and on the weekend; and two persons to sleep on site nightly. If you are able to serve in this ministry, please contact Robyn Roberts today after worship or at 299-0250 or 3roberts@comcast.net.



Don't forget that it is that time of year to renew your eScrip! The easiest way is to go online www.escrip.com and click on "renewal"- or you can call 1-800-592-0942! You can also let me know that you would like me to renew for you! Have never joined eScrip? It is not too late, just go online and follow the directions! Ginny Leavitt - 284-7857

BLESSING OF THANKSGIVING CARDS AND LETTERS



Our congregation has a tradition of offering a blessing upon Thanksgiving cards and letters of thanks and appreciation to family and friends. On Sundays, November 11 and 18, you may bring these cards and letters, stamped and addressed, to worship for a blessing. Afterwards they will be stamped with a message indicating that they have been blessed by our congregation and are sent with God's love. We will mail them from the church office the day after worship.

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Saturday, November 17
8:00-9:30 a.m.

Jim Floyd, a former member of LUMC, will share his experiences as a Volunteer in Mission in the Gulf Coast and Africa.

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



CHURCH LIBRARY



Donations just keep coming in. The Book Cart is overflowing and new shelves in Room 9 are filling up.

The latest in reading for the younger set (Middle and High School):

1. **O Whillikers in the Hall of Champions** (by the Best-Selling author of the "Left Behind" book series, Tim LaHaye)
2. **Stolen Secrets** (by another Best-Selling author, Jerry B. Jenkins and Chris Fabray) Bryce and Ashley Timberline wonder what their stepdad is hiding. As they discover more about his past, the twins fear all is not as it seems.
3. **Daniel Colton Kidnapped** (by Elaine Shulte) Daniel strikes a bad bargain. Now he must outsmart his captors.
4. **Blind Spot** (by Chris Fabray) Jamie Maxwell's dad is NASCAR driver Dale Maxwell. He believes Jamie has what it takes to be a champion.
5. **A Carnival of Secrets** (by Paul McCusker -Focus on the Family Published)
"Come in, my dear," the strangely dressed woman urged. At that moment, Patti knew she never should have let her curiosity get the best of her.

These books will be on the cart Nov. 4. **CHECK THEM OUT!!**

All-Church Conference Sunday, December 2, 4:00 p.m.

Our new Bayview District Superintendent, Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez, will preside at our annual Church Conference on Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 p.m. This will be Renae's first opportunity to meet our congregation and leaders and to hear about the vital ministries of the congregation. We will highlight church ministries and do the essential business of the church, including electing leaders and committee/ministry team members for the new year and setting the pastor's compensation. All are welcome to attend. All church members have a vote at the Church Conference.

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SILENT AUCTION WRAP-UP!

Thanks to all of you who participated in any way - for ensuring that we had a very successful - and fun - Silent Auction! We made \$5,300 for the mission of our church! Kudos to all --- Ginny

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Congratulations to **Laurel Hill** upon the publication of her book, *Heroes Arise*. She is sharing it at many trade shows. She was invited to speak at the World Fantasy Conference! Her book reading debut raised over \$1,000 for the Winter Nights Shelter.

Thank you to **Sally Stan** for the generous donation of a new refrigerator for our church kitchen. Joe Darrell carefully researched the possibilities and found a refrigerator that offers maximum capacity for the space available in our kitchen. We are grateful for this gift, which will enable us to continue lots of Methodist meals together!

Welcome New Church Family Members

With the joyous sacrament of baptism, we have welcomed five persons into the family of God. **Blake**, age 3, and his sister, **Brooke**, age 3 months, **Tollen** were baptized on October 14. They are the children of Troy and Victoria Tollen, residents of Orinda. On October 28 we baptized **Lizzy, Mac, and Jean Follmer**. Lizzy is in the first grade at Springhill School. Mac is a student at our own Joyful Beginnings Preschool. **Jean** and **Chad** recently moved their family to Lafayette from Texas. Chad and Jean have united with the church in membership. Jean is an at-home mom and Chad is a commercial insurance broker. Welcome to the LUMC family!

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.



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.

LUMC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 16, 2007

Attendees: Pat Hershey, Joe Darrell, David White, Tom Henderson, Carol Slatten, Robyn Roberts, Ginny Cowden, Pastor Lori Sawdon, and Mary Hobson

Council Chairperson Pat Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:35. Joys and concerns were shared and Pat led us in prayer.

Approval of September minutes

REPORTS

Staff Parish - Chairperson Ginny Cowden handed out the 2008 Pastor's Compensation Benefits and Reimbursements Report. Included in the Compensation Report are figures for health insurance. Because Pastor Lori continues to utilize private insurance, Staff Parish expects a saving of over \$1,000 compared to the insurance offered by the Conference. Pat Hershey brought up an adjustment to the Pastor's compensation pension which the Council was planning to make in 2008 due to a change in calculating

pastoral benefits by the Conference. Tom Henderson moved that we make this adjustment by adding \$365 to the Pastor's compensation as a merit increase. David White seconded. All approved. The new total would be \$52,890. Joe Darrell moved that we accept the Staff Parish report with the added amount. Robyn Roberts seconded. All approved.

Lay Leadership - Pastor Lori reported that the Lay Leadership committee is continuing to work on addressing challenges posed by transitions in various leadership positions.

Finance - David passed out the Treasurer's Report. He reported that a Stewardship Campaign is being planned for October 21-November 18. He reported that the Finance Committee authorized him to apply earnings from investment accounts to offset some minor negative numbers in the 900 accounts. He also said that September was a good month and we will likely meet 2007 financial goals. Non-pledged giving has been high and we are in good shape in operating cash.

Program Council - Robyn Roberts reported that Winter Nights will be hosted by our Church November 5-12. She said that volunteers are needed. Robyn explained Winter Nights as a rotating shelter for homeless families. Families arrive at 5:30pm. each weeknight. Dinner is served at 6:30. Bedtime is at 9:30. All participants leave at approximately 6:30 am after having breakfast. The host church offers food, shelter, and activities. The maximum number of participants is about 30 people. The families stay through Monday morning and leave after breakfast. The families will be here for one week and they will be housed in the Fellowship Hall. Robyn asked for prayers for the participants and volunteers. People are needed to help with dinner, to run activities for children of different ages, and to stay overnight.

Pastor Lori reported that our church will be hosting the traditional Lafayette Chamber of Commerce breakfast before Thanksgiving on November 16. It will be catered by Dave's Cuisine and be held from 7:30 to 9 am.

Carol Slatten reported that the Crèche Display will be held on Saturday, December 8 from 1-3:00 and Sunday, December 9 from 12-2:00. Cookies and hot cider will be available in the Fireside Room. Help will be needed setting up and making and serving refreshments. The displays will be held in Fellowship Hall. Robyn volunteered to help.

Trustees - Chairman Joe Darrell reported that the Trustees met on October 8. He said that they are within budget. A new refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen, thanks to a generous donor. A clean up crew of 10 people met on Sat., Oct. 13 and replaced plants outside, cleaned and replaced cabinet doors in the kitchen, cleaned the pews and polished the wood, repaired drywall, blew debris from the parking lot and washed windows.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

David White brought up a request for keyboard use at worship. Pastor Lori will attend to this.

COMMUNICATIONS

Community workshops are being held regarding future development of Downtown Lafayette. Pastor Lori will try to make sure that we have a LUMC presence at the meetings to monitor developments and help people become aware that our church is helping the city in many ways.

Robyn said that there will be a Stewardship letter in the mail in which the theme will be announced, and there will be speakers during the services. Tom Henderson suggested we have an article in Tower Notes also.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm. The next meeting will be held on November 20.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Hobson, Church Council Secretary

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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
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, November 8, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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