

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

November 11, 2007

SEEDS OF A SOWER

I'm aware that this fall many folks have significant personal or professional issues to face which have created stress in their lives. In recent conversation with one member, we spoke of simplification as a helpful response to stress. Sometimes we need to lower our expectations in order to reduce the pressure in our lives. More people are getting better at saying, "No, not at this time." One of the consequences for a volunteer organization such as the church is that there will be fewer activities. That may not be all bad. We will want to focus our energies wisely in the most strategic events that help us fulfill our mission of EXPERIENCING AND EXPRESSING CHRIST'S LOVE. Asking how an event fulfills that purpose can assist us in determining what should take priority in our ministry.

It is unfortunate that we generally expect the holiday season we are embarking upon to be a stressful time. There will be extra events to attend, special meals to prepare, cards to send, gifts to purchase, and more. Perhaps the antidote to holiday stress is simplification. Is it necessary to fix that traditional side dish that Grandma always used to make, but which nobody really enjoys now? Would a personal handwritten note be as meaningful to a neighbor as a plate of homemade cookies?

A memorable experience of simplification was the two months our family lived in an apartment while waiting for our new house to be completed in Merced when I was appointed to the church there. Most of our belongings were in storage. We lived in a two bedroom furnished apartment with basic kitchen utensils, a few toys and books, a portable stereo, and clothes. It was freeing not to have so much house and yard to tend – but we were also happy to have more space and a yard to enjoy once our home was finished. The experience of simplification was refreshing. At the same time we grew in deep appreciation of all of our rich blessings.

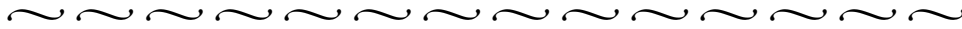
May simplicity help you discover the true meaning of the holy-days we celebrate.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

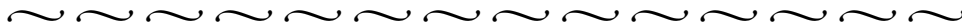
We are claiming God's vision for the life of our church in 2008! To make the dream for our future a reality, you are invited to participate in the ministry and mission of LUMC through your financial support. We would appreciate if you would turn your pledge card into the church office or place it in the offering plate by November 18, 2007! Thank you!!



BLESSING OF THANKSGIVING CARDS AND LETTERS

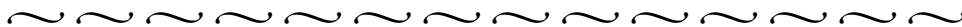


Our congregation has a tradition of offering a blessing upon Thanksgiving cards and letters of thanks and appreciation to family and friends. On Sunday, November 18, you may bring these cards and letters, stamped and addressed, to worship for a blessing. Afterwards they will be stamped with a message 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.



LUMC Thanksgiving Worship

Sunday, November 18, 2007

8:30 a.m. Intimate and informal worship

10:30 a.m. Family worship for all ages with drama and
the construction of an Ebenezer!
Sunday school for preschoolers only

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



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



POINSETTIAS



You may add to the beauty of our worship this year by donating toward our flowers. The flowers will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 9, through Christmas Eve. All gifts will be noted in the bulletin on Sunday, December 23, 2006.



Suggested amount \$10

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

(In memory of)

(In honor of)

Enclosed is my check made payable to Lafayette United Methodist Church
for \$_____ for Christmas worship flowers.
If you wish to donate your flowers, please check here _____.

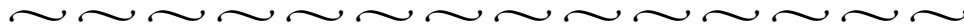


TOWER NOTES NOVEMBER & DECEMBER DEADLINES

Some of the deadline dates for the Tower Notes have been changed for November and December.

The **November deadline** will be the fifth Thursday, **Nov. 29**, instead of the usual fourth Thursday.

There will only be **one Tower Notes** in December, **Thursday, Dec. 13**.



WARM WINTER NIGHTS

Thank you to all who participated in hosting the 37 residents of the Winter Nights Shelter. It truly was an all-church event with folks involved in preparing meals, cleaning the kitchen, working with children, tutoring students, sleeping overnight, providing food, moving furniture, and more. Robyn Roberts led the effort with her organizational efforts and leadership every night.

Should you like to continue your support of the Winter Nights Shelter, there are two ways to do so.

- 1) Financial donations are most welcome to cover the \$133,000 for six and a half months. Funding has been received to keep the shelter open through mid-December. Checks may be made to Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Memo: Winter Nights Shelter, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94597.
- 2) Tutors are needed for the beginning learners, middle level students and high school. 2 adults have also asked for help with learning how to read. An orientation/training session will be offered once a month to folks who volunteer to tutor whether at their own site when the families are there AND/OR to those wanting to work with the children on a regular basis where ever the kids are staying. Contact Sue Phalen at suephalen@earthlink.net or 935-2586 if you want to volunteer.

The shelter website is www.cccwinternights.org.



Installation Service for New Bayview District Superintendent

Sunday, January 27, 3:00 p.m.

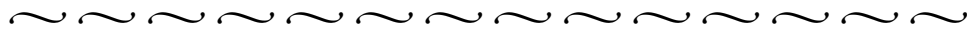
Community United Methodist Church

1875 Fairfield Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

A carpool will go from LUMC.

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.



LUMC Youth Ministry Update

In May, Judy Stillman, our long-time Director of Youth Ministry, requested that the church find a new Director of Youth Ministry. She is not able to do all she used to do, i.e., ski; she wants to spend more time with grandchildren in Colorado; and she is now looking toward hip surgery. In response to Judy's request, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee advertised in the congregation and other venues, seeking a new Director. Following appropriate interviews and reference checks, the position was offered to Reena Burton. After a few weeks, Reena realized that the expectations were more than she could meet at this time in her life.

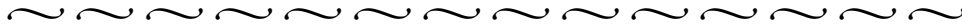
Staff-Parish Relations Committee wants to honor Judy's request to retire, but recognizes that the congregation needs some transition time before folks are able to receive new leadership which may bring different ideas. Therefore, a Youth Ministry Team is being formed of volunteers to guide the youth ministry through this academic year. Teresa Gerringer will convene this team. Youth will be invited to share in leadership. Judy Stillman will be a member of the team, sharing her experience and knowledge. A team approach will offer the entire congregation more ownership of the ministry and sharing of responsibility. Please talk with Teresa Gerringer if you are interested in serving the youth in some way.

We are grateful that some have already offered their services as members of this youth ministry team. Others will be invited, either as team members or to offer particular gifts or talents. As time moves forward, we will continue to assess the best way to offer leadership to our youth ministry. We intend to continue LUMC's legacy of strong, vital, dynamic youth ministry.

Christmas Luncheon

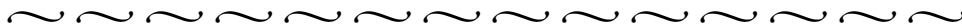
All women of the Church are invited to join with the United Methodist Women for a Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 6, 2007.

We will begin with some spiced cider, sing carols and enjoy a special lunch. Join the fun in the Fireside Room at 11:00 a.m. I hope to see you there!



A Vignette from Winter Nights Week!

We have twin little boys who have mohawk hairdos and like to play in the Fireside Room. The boys are named Mark and Dean. Last evening I was in the Fellowship Hall for a moment when Dean came running to his mother wide-eyed and excited saying "Mom, Mom, there's a man here with my *same name!!!*" Like all good mothers, she said, "Really, show me!" So Dean went running back to the Fireside Room with his mother in tow to show off our very own Dean Coons as Exhibit A! Dean and Dean! I'm quite convinced that despite all the fun little Dean had playing in the Fireside Room, the very best thing of all was meeting another person with a quiet laugh and a good nature who just by coincidence shared the same name a generation or two apart!



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.

Round About LUMC

Two of our long-time beloved members are celebrating significant milestones on Nov. 29. **Sally Stan**, an architect who designed part of our church facility and many Lafayette home, will be 90 years young. **Therese Amidon**, our oldest church member, will be 100. Both Sally and Therese are experiencing health concerns and are at home. Cards are most welcome. Brief visits are often welcome; please call beforehand to see if it is a good time to visit.

Madison Gerringer will be performing in Town Hall Theater's *The Miracle on 34th Street*.

Stefan Miller is performing in *Cats* at the Willows Theatre Nov. 12 - December 30.



DECEMBER Happy Birthday

2 Coralee Dailey	15 Jason Gendron	20 Angela Field
5 Jim Curtis	16 Kate Kintner	21 Gus Keeble
7 Shelby Davis	Peter Kintner	22 Bill Whitten
8 Kaitlin Bove	Dana Nakamura	Caralyn Woodruff
Carole Linson	Mason Walters	25 Dominique Eyl
9 Jacob Welcomer	17 Madison Calhoun	26 Kooshan Ghaziani
10 Mildred Cox	18 Barbara Peters	Hugo Jegoux
Gloria Duffy	19 Anna Davis	28 Pat Falcone
Mary Henderson	David Grayson	30 Michael Falcone
11 Jean Follmer	Micheline Reeder	31 Noelle Chow
Ruth Wilcox	Lorraine Sawdon	Bruce Gerringer
13 Wendell Pleis	Erin Wilmanns	Lauren Williamson
14 Rayma Jeanne Price		

Wedding Anniversaries

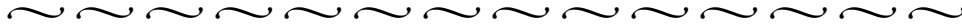
22	Hannelore and Raymond Heizer
27	Daisy and Paul Persons
28	Lindy and Idris Evans
29	Sue and Paul Renno

DECEMBER FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
December are

Canned fruits and pasta.

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



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 29, 2007**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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