

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

December 16, 2007



SEEDS OF A SOWER



God's Love Made Visible in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ – that's the essence of the Christmas celebration. We celebrate how God's love became tangible in Jesus' healing touch, words of comfort, and deeds of compassion.

As disciples of Jesus, the Body of Christ today, we are called to make God's Love Visible today through our living and giving. I am touched by the many ways in which this congregation makes God's love visible in a multitude of ways. You offer one another personal support with phone calls, rides to worship and church events, visits to home and hospital. Recently a few folks responded to a sudden request to help a church member move furniture. The choir met early one evening before rehearsal to sing Happy Birthday to Therese Amidon on her 100th birthday! Members show up on the church campus throughout the week to process checks, prepare Sunday school material, pray for our church and extended families, water poinsettias, tend the garden, repair things that break, count the Sunday offering, attend meetings, plan programs, bring food for the Food Closet. The high level of commitment shown by our church family is astounding and exciting.

I celebrate the ways in which you make God's Love Visible in our faith community, in our community at large, and to the world. I rejoice at the generous sharing of talent, resources, and expertise. It is a privilege to be in ministry with you.

May the Light of Jesus Christ continue to shine bright from this lighthouse of faith!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



THE ADVENT SEASON Preparing for the Coming of Christ

Worship

Sunday Mornings at 8:30 or 10:30
10:45 Sunday School for Children and Youth

Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24
5:00 p.m. - Family Worship Service
11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship Service with the Choir and special music



Round about LUMC

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **Dixie Lewis** on November 28. Our prayers are with her husband, **Bob**, and their three children.



SUNDAY SHCHOOL

Teachers, helpers and parents: There will be Sunday school classes on December 23 and 30th.



United Methodist Women

Start the new year off with the first meeting of UMW on Thursday, January 3, 2008. We will gather in the Fireside Room at 11:00 a.m. for our meeting, fellowship and lunch. Please bring a sandwich for yourself. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided. I'll see you there!

You're Invited
to the
INSTALLATION CELEBRATION

for
Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez
Bayview District Superintendent

Sunday- January 27, 2008
3:00 p.m.

Fairfield Community UMC- 1875 Fairfield Avenue, Fairfield, CA
94533

A carpool will leave LUMC at 2:00 p.m. Let Pastor Lori know if you'd like to attend.



KUDOS TO THE CONGREGATION!

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank the congregation for your generous and timely gifts to our church and its mission this calendar year. Because of your diligence, paying the monthly bills has not been a problem, and although we were not able to budget all of our apportionments this year, being able to meet that obligation at year's end is looking very positive. (I will update you on that the first of the year!) Also, on Tuesday night, Dec. 11, the Church Council approved a balanced budget for the New Year. Once again, this was because of the timeliness of your generous pledges. As Robyn Roberts, Stewardship Chair, reported, your gifts for next year were more that \$20,000 above last year's. However, our expenses were also up, so once again, we have a balanced budget, but not all requested apportionments are as yet budgeted. (Forgot to turn in your pledge card??? It is not too late!) With best regards, Ginny Leavitt, Finance Chair.



JANUARY FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
January are
**Paper towels and
baby food.**

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

MEMORIALS

Ten more armchairs, for Fellowship Hall, were purchased in memory of Jo Anne Rocksvold and Helen Parrish. We thank the family and friends who contributed to their memorial funds.

Memorials Committee



THANK YOU TO OUTGOING CHURCH LEADERS

Several persons are completing their terms of office on Church Committees and Ministry Teams at the end of the year. We are grateful for their service in these areas:

Mary Hobson – Church Council Secretary
Ginny Cowden – Staff Parish Relations Member and Chairperson
Kurt Teichmann – Staff-Parish Relations Committee Member
David White – Church Treasurer
Paul Persons – Finance Committee Member
Joe Darrell – Board of Trustees Chairperson
Jim Brown – Board of Trustees Secretary
Chen Yin Noah – Board of Trustees Member
Dean Coons – Committee on Lay Leadership Member
Nancy Flood – Worship Committee Chairperson

Leaders and Ministry Team members for the new year were elected at the Church Conference. A listing is available in the church conference packet and will be in the new church directory published in January.



Dear Lafayette Methodist Church Members,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful cards and wishes for my birthday. Although I wasn't feeling so good, I had a wonderful time. Thanks to all of you.

*Sincerely,
Sally Stan*

Thank You

A great big Thank You to the many folks who assisted with the Creche Around the World Exhibit. The people who provided nativity sets for display: Lorri Sullivan, Barbara Tilton, Fran Smith, Dean Coons, Mary Henderson, Judy Stillman, Pastor Lori, Virginia Black, Jeanette Shearer, the Fowler family and the Husch Family. The sound engineer: David White; Childcare: Jill Shibuya and Helen Harding; Set-up and security: Robyn Roberts, Nancy Flood, Celeste Graham, Barbara Tilton, Jackie Carson, Cheen Chow and Bunny Gruhn; Kitchen support: Ginny Leavitt and Gloria Pleis; cookie makers: Maureen Straw, Karen Chuck, Lori Loughran-Smith, Martha Cervantes, Jane Smith, Jeanette Shearer, Mary Teichmann and Virginia Black. Those who viewed the exhibit seemed to enjoy it.

Mary Hobson and Carol Slatten



LUMC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Praise the Lord our membership is growing. As noted at the December 2nd Annual Conference, we grew from 278 to 303 professing members in the last year.

We are very concerned about every member, especially when we don't see someone at church. We don't have a formal follow up system and so ask that individual members contact those whom you miss at service to see if they are okay, and let them know of our concern and that we miss them.

Thank you, Vic Smith

*On another note, we have lost track of the whereabouts of Barbara Johnson. Please call the church office (284-4765) if you have any information about her.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT

MARK THE DATES ON YOUR NEW 2008 CALENDARS

APRIL 26-27

AT

MONTE TOYON AT APTOS, CA.



JANUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2	Becky Straw	12	Sue Renno	22	Skye Dailey
4	Sarah Newcomb	15	Joseph MacDannald		Peter Husch
5	Teresa Gerringer		Carol Slatten	26	Nancy Lennstrom
	Celeste Graham		Emily Slatten	27	Selma Johnson
	Matt Keeble	17	Doug Cowden	28	Ian Walters
	Rachel Lennon	18	Phillip Makinson	30	Ryan Chan
	Warren Makinson	19	Qing Inglis		Paul Ghaziani
9	Jim Brown	20	Scott White	31	Matthew Teichmann
	Carlton Walter				

Happy Anniversary

4	Ginny and Greg Horner
5	Laurel and David Hill
7	Julia and David White
12	Cindy and Tom Tornow
16	Janice and Del Kolbe
19	Sandy and Pat Porter



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....	The Reverend Lori Sawdon
Pastor e-mail.....	Sawdon2@pacbell.net
Director of Music Ministry.....	Ronald Sutherland
Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....	Royetta Rule
Office administrator.....	Lorri Sullivan
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, January 10, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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