

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

January 13, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

I am grateful for the participation of many in making our Advent and Christmas season meaningful. The M & M's fellowship group is faithful about decorating our sanctuary for the seasons. Many contributed poinsettias. The choir, Praize Teenz, and the youth offered uplifting and inspiring gifts of music. The Christmas Creche display was a contemplative way to remember that Jesus is the Savior of the world and known by peoples around the globe. Youth and another group sang carols to those unable to come to worship services. Many offered gifts of drama in the lighting of the Advent candles and to make the Christmas story come alive.

Advent is the season to "prepare the way of the Lord." This past Advent the Trustees "prepared the driveway for the parsonage!" The driveway, garage floor, front walkway and porch were removed and replaced with new concrete. Greg Horner led the project with great efficiency and excellent communication. Trustee members even came out on two Saturday mornings in December to help move the garage items in and out. I am grateful for this congregation's faithful stewardship of the home you own as the pastor's residence.

Your Christmas and yearend and yearlong financial gifts have been generous. We were able to meet all of our financial commitments for 2007, including \$38,000 in mission giving that we had not been able to budget!! Thank you for your generosity. We are beginning 2008 in sound financial condition and an opportunity to continue our growth. Average Sunday worship attendance in 2007 was 167, an increase of 7 over 2006!

As we begin this new year, I share with you three simple rules designed by John Wesley for the people called Methodists.

1. Do No Harm, avoiding evil of every kind.
2. Do Good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all.
3. Stay in Love with God through worship, prayer, Bible reading, holy communion, and service.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

TOWER NOTES DEADLINE CHANGE

The next Tower Notes deadline will be Thursday, January 31, the 5th Thursday. There will be no Tower Notes on the usual 4th Thursday. February we will be back to the usual 2nd and 4th Thursday deadlines.



MARTIN LUTHER KING CONVOCATION FOR WORLD PEACE

JANUARY 21, 7:30 PM

An interfaith peace service with speakers from Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, and Christian traditions.

**Omega West Dancers and
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Choir
singing the words of Dr. King. The public is invited.**



Wesley Center at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church,
902 Danville Blvd., Alamo



Ash Wednesday Worship Services

Wednesday, February 6
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Begin the 40 days of the season of Lent with a brief service of reflection and contemplation. Lent is a season in which we are invited to spend intentional time in spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, service, and study.



***Thank you** to all of my friends at LUMC for prayers, cards, condolences and expressions of love on the death of my sister-in-law, Belinda.*

Cheen Chow and family

PRAY The Bible

The Monday morning group which meets at 8:30 a.m. in Room 9 for about an hour will again gather starting January 14th. All are welcome as we start this new year. We will start with reviewing several possibilities for discussion including Jesus by Marcus Borg, and Wholeness, a Serendipity study. The leader is Judy Stillman.



M & M's Event

"Moonlight and Magnolias" at the Lafayette Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street on Sunday, February 17, 1:45 p.m. The comedy depicts a fanciful version of how the script for "Gone With the Wind" was created, with Selznick locking screenwriter Ben Hecht and director Victor Fleming in his office for a week, with Miss Poppenghul standing guard outside, coming in only to bring in bananas and peanuts for sustenance. Cost: \$29 or \$26 for seniors (62 yrs) if we have 10 or more the group rate will be \$24. After the play, join the Levanders at their home, 3142 Indian Way, for snacks and beverages.

Contact Barbara Levander as soon as possible, 284-7687, or by e-mail (rodbar@comcast.net) if you would like to join us. Payment is necessary by Sunday, February 10 to secure your reservation.



Round About LUMC

Congratulations to **Donald Walter**, a member of the De La Salle football team, upon winning the State Championship!

Emily Shearer participated in the State Championship for Cross Country in the fall.

Rev. Pam Abbey, a frequent guest preacher at LUMC, is performing in *Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother*, at the Leshner Theater, Jan. 18, 19, 20, & 25, 26, 27.

"THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING"



This VeggieTales movie is an illustration of how God calls each of us to live a life of adventure and trust Him to do in us and through us what we cannot do on our own. The movie defines a hero as someone who does what's right "even when it is really, really hard." Even more important, it illustrates that God calls each of us to a great adventure. The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything opens in theaters nationwide on January 11, 2008.

A flier (can be colored) is being sent home with Sunday school children January 13. Consider it a good way to have fun with your children and discuss the movie over ice cream afterward:)



New Choir Stoles Consecrated

The choir has received the gift of new stoles to wear with their robes, consecrated on Sunday, January 6. The stoles were purchased with memorial funds given in memory of Dorothy "Dottie" Younghans. Dottie was a member of the choir for 53 years, singing as a tenor. As a faithful member, she was an anchor of the choir. Her wit and humor were well loved by all. The stoles worn around the neck remind us of the yoke that Jesus invited his disciples to take upon themselves. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me" (Matthew 11:29a). Worship leaders, including the choir, acolytes, and pastor, wear the stoles as a reminder that they are servants of Jesus. The colors represent the various church seasons: White in Christmas and Easter; Green for Epiphany and Ordinary Days; Purple for Advent and Lent; and Red for Pentecost.



FEBRUARY FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
February are
soup and rice

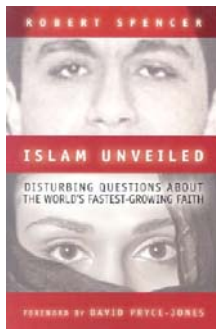
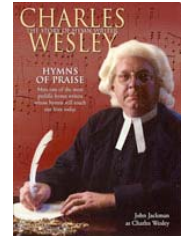
Food baskets can be found at both
Entrances to the church sanctuary.



Church Library

If you have a Christmas book checked out, please take time to finish it and return it to LUMC Library, (Room 9).

Hymns of Praise, The Story of Hymn Writer Charles Wesley, DVD has been donated by Carol Slatten. John Jackman plays the part of Charles Wesley. In Wesley's time, congregational hymn singing was a revolutionary idea. Anglican churches had marvelous choirs, but the congregations rarely sang. Everything changed when brothers John and Charles, on their way to Georgia, were inspired by a group of Moravians singing vibrant German hymns.



Islam Unveiled by Robert Spencer. "Robert Spencer has explained very ably some of the misconceptions about Islam. The reader will be greatly enriched in understanding Islam and how Muslims act, in light of the attacks on America." Dr. Anis Shorrosh, author of *Islam Revealed*

"Robert Spencer's attempt to unveil what most do not want to say about Islam is inspiring and informative. What do Muslims believe, and why do they believe as such? Spencer's is the first successful attempt at revealing this matter." Daniel Ali, founder and president of the Christian-Islamic Forum, Inc. (Ali converted from Islam to Christianity in the mid 90's.)



ALL CHURCH RETREAT

MARK THE DATES ON YOUR NEW 2008 CALENDARS

APRIL 26-27

AT

MONTE TOYON AT APTOS, CA.

February



1 <i>Leiola Walter</i>	8 <i>Lisa Murray</i>	18 <i>Raymonde Crowe</i>
2 <i>Karen Peterson</i>	10 <i>Roseann Beeman</i>	<i>Maddie McPhail</i>
3 <i>Josephine Jegoux</i>	<i>Ray Peters</i>	<i>Jeff Sawdon</i>
<i>Lucie Jegoux</i>	11 <i>Sam Ghaziani</i>	21 <i>Tracy Davis</i>
4 <i>William Breashears</i>	<i>Bradley Miller</i>	<i>MacIver Follmer</i>
<i>Joe Darrell</i>	<i>Terry Miller</i>	23 <i>Annika Shearer</i>
<i>Paul Renno</i>	<i>Chen Yin Noah</i>	24 <i>Dorcas Channell</i>
<i>Melanie VandenBerghe</i>	12 <i>Julie Zischke</i>	<i>Jane George</i>
5 <i>Lauren Corcoran</i>	13 <i>Ginny Leavitt</i>	<i>Jeanne Gianakos</i>
<i>Mark Wendland</i>	<i>Fred Youngmans</i>	25 <i>Del Kolbe</i>
6 <i>Meredith Coons</i>	14 <i>Robyn Corcoran</i>	26 <i>Lynne Rocksvold</i>
7 <i>Sandy Porter</i>	15 <i>Catherine Sinnott</i>	27 <i>Greg Horner</i>
		28 <i>Hanna Straw</i>

Wedding Anniversaries

- 11 *Karen and Brian Chuck*
28 *Virginia and Wesley Thomas*



LUMC Church Council Meeting - Dec. 11, 2007

Attendees: Pastor Lori Sawdon, Dean Coons, Carol Slatten, Doug Cowden, Robyn Roberts, Joe Darrell, Pat Hershey, Tom Henderson, Jack Cotteral, Mary Hobson.

REPORTS

Finance - Robyn Roberts moved that the budget submitted by Finance Committee be approved by the Church Council. Doug Cowden seconded. All approved. A copy of the 2008 budget as approved is attached.

The Finance Committee also recommended that the following end of year expenditure priorities be set:

1. Trustee Funds : If budgeted Trustees monies from 2007 are not spent by year end, move these funds to Trustees 900 Account for 2008
2. Unpaid Apportionments (Approximately \$23,670)
3. UMPIP (Approximately \$950) Make a Discretionary Employer Contribution to the UMPIP on behalf of all eligible employees, of 2% of salary. If funds are insufficient to make a contribution on behalf of all eligible employees, make a contribution on behalf of all employees who themselves contributed during 2007, up to a maximum of 2% of salary.
4. Askings (Approximately \$8,214)
5. Any Additional Funds –Carry Over to 2008

Joe Darrell seconded. All approved.

Trustees - Joe told us about the work being done on repaving of the Parsonage driveway, garage floor and patio. Greg Horner and Mason Walter planned and helped with getting contractors for the project. The trustees helped empty the garage. Joe said that trustees will work on a new slate of officers in January. Church Council members expressed appreciation for all that the trustees, led by Joe, have done this year.

Staff Parish - A team was recruited to interview people for the position of bookkeeper. The Staff Parish Committee met with the new District Superintendent, Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez, on Dec. 2nd, before the Annual Church Conference.

Lay Leadership - Doug Cowden has agreed to be the new Endowment Chair.

Program Council - Carol Slatten reported that the Creche Display was enjoyed by all who attended. Attendance was low on Saturday, but many came after church on Sunday. She recommended however, that we not do it too often due to the amount of effort, and relatively low interest. Pat said it was spectacular, and much appreciated.

Pat reported that we received the Treasurer's Report, and finances seem to be in good order.

Old Business- none

New Business-none

Pat thanked all who participated on the Council and said that the next Council Meeting would be on January 22. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Hobson, LUMC Council Secretary

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....The Reverend Lori Sawdon
Pastor e-mail.....Sawdon2@pacbell.net
Director of Music Ministry.....Ronald Sutherland
Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....
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 31, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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