

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

February 3, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

During the season of Lent we will catch a glimpse of the experiences biblical characters had with Jesus in the gospel of John. Their lives were transformed by their relationship with Jesus. Jesus comes to transform our lives as well. We are invited to ever deepening relationships with Jesus. Frequently it is difficult for us to put our faith into words. We can “walk the talk,” but we are hesitant to “talk the walk,” to witness to our faith, to share our “God moments,” to tell others how Jesus makes a difference in our lives.

In a recent message I encouraged us to consider our own faith stories during the season of Lent. These are the ideas I suggested for pondering our own experiences of God's presence in our lives:

- List significant people, events, and experiences in our lives.
- Search for trends or patterns among them and ask how God was active in these.
- What is our understanding of our relationship with Christ?
- What theological concepts have been illumined by our life experience?
- What commitments have we made as a result of our faith?
- Has a sense of Christian vocation developed?
- What has contributed to maturity and growth in our spiritual life?

A practice we might try during the season of Lent is a daily exercise called the Examen of Consciousness. It helps us become aware of God's presence in our lives. Near the end of each day, pause for about five minutes of quiet and ask ourselves two questions:

- For what moment today am I most grateful?
- For what moment today am I least grateful?
- There are many other ways to ask the same questions:
- When did I give and receive the most love today?
- When did I give and receive the least love today?
- When did I feel most alive today?
- When did I feel life draining out of me?
- When today did I have the greatest sense of belonging to myself, others, God, and the universe?
- When did I have the least sense of belonging?
- May we grow in our consciousness of Christ's love and God's presence in our daily lives.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



Experiencing Christ's Love in Worship Lent 2008

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

Experiencing Jesus: Choosing Life with God, Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, February 10 Experiencing Jesus: New Birth

Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17

Sunday, February 17 Experiencing Jesus: Thirst-Quenching Water

Psalms 42; John 4:5-42

Sunday, February 24 Is the LORD Among Us?

Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11

Guest Preacher, The Rev. Dr. Charles Tinsley, Chaplain of the Juvenile Detention System for Contra Costa County

Sunday, March 2 Experiencing Jesus: Fresh Vision

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Holy Communion

One Great Hour of Sharing with special offering for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

Sunday, March 9 Experiencing Jesus: Love is Stronger than Death

Psalms 130; John 11:1-45

Scout Sunday – All Girl and Boy Scouts are invited to wear their uniforms
Girls Scouts assisting with Worship Leadership

Sunday, March 16 Palm and Passion Sunday

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Thursday, March 20 Holy Thursday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Experiencing Jesus: A New Covenant of Friendship

I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Holy Communion

Friday, March 21 Good Friday 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Sanctuary open for prayer and reflection

Sunday, March 23 Easter Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 with Brunch

Experiencing Jesus: The Joy of New Life

Matthew 28:1-10

A GATHERING OF GARDENERS



Pastor Lori is gathering folks who like gardening to help add some color and sparkle to our church landscape for the spring season. We'll gather on Monday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Maggie Mae Lounge. We'll walk the church campus and share some ideas for planting annuals, pruning bushes, etc. Then we'll start to work, weather permitting! Bring your garden tools and gloves! Hopefully this will become an active, working team of gardeners who continue care for our plant life on the church campus. Let the church office or Pastor Lori know if you are interested in the Gardening Ministry Team.



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 (roddbar@comcast.net) if you would like to join us. Payment is necessary by Sunday, February 10 to secure your reservation.



Thank you all so much for your prayers and support to us and to our daughter, Sue Flagg, on the death of our granddaughter, Casey Davisson. We are very appreciative of the love and caring shown by so many of you through your calls, cards, food, attending the memorial service, and assisting Nancy Flood and her excellent reception team. Pastor Lori was a wonderful guide to us through an event no one ever wants to face. How fortunate we are to be a part of such a caring church family.

David and Julia White

LENT AND EASTER TRIVIA

Until the 4th century CE, Easter and Pentecost were the only two holy days that Christians observed. Easter Sunday was the main day of celebration, formally recognized by the *Council of Nicea* in 325 CE. Pentecost Sunday was also observed as a less important holy day, 7 weeks/49 days after Easter. Other occasions related to Jesus' execution were gradually added to the church calendar.

Lent is a period of spiritual preparation for Easter which traditionally emphasized fasting, penance, and prayer. It was originally established by various Christian groups as an interval ranging from a few days to several weeks. It was eventually fixed in the 8th century CE at 40 days. The number 40 is one of many symbolic numbers with religious significance in the Bible. Jesus, Moses, and Elijah each spent 40 days in the desert. Among Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians, Lent lasts for six and a half weeks, before Easter, excluding Sundays, which are "little Easters." Among the Eastern Orthodox churches, it is a full eight weeks, because Saturdays and Sundays are not included.

Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 20, the nominal date of the Spring Equinox. Easter Sunday can fall on any date from March 22 to April 25. The year-to-year sequence is so complicated that it takes 5.7 million years to repeat. The next time that Easter will fall on March 22, the very earliest date possible, will be 2285! If the date of Easter does not follow Passover, Eastern Orthodox churches delay their Easter—sometimes by over a month. The season of Easter lasts 49 days, ending with the celebration of Pentecost on the 50th day after Easter Sunday.



Round About LUMC

Keaton Chia is a Mechanical Engineering junior at Cal. He is captain of the Cal Archery team. Last year the team medaled in all seven of its competitions and is currently ranked sixth in the nation. He hopes to compete in the 2012 Olympics.

Joe Darrell is serving as a Volunteer in Mission at the Centro Rural Metodista (Methodist Rural Church) in Quesada, Costa Rica from February 2-23. The Center serves as a site for religious retreats for Costa Rican adults and youth. The Center is also the base for Christian participation in the nearby villages and a federal prison. The outreach includes many activities which are directed toward raising the health and well being of the local people. Each year several VIM teams from the USA visit the Center and participate in the outreach activities. The teams take part in Vacation Bible School, new church construction, medical treatment, eye glass fitting, and other related activities." Joe is serving with VIM teams from South Ashland (Kentucky) United Methodist Church and Millers United Methodist Church from Owings Mills, Maryland.

CHURCH LIBRARY



THEY JUST KEEP COMING IN -3 more donations will be on the CART in Fellowship Hall this Sunday.

Small Miracles II, Heartwarming Gifts of Extraordinary Coincidences by Yitta Halberstam & Judith Leventhal

The Great Adventure, A Devotional Journey of the Heart, Soul and Mind by Clairmont, Johnson, Meberg, Swindoll Walsh, & Wells.

How to Really Parent Your Teenager, raising balanced teens in an unbalanced world by Ross Campbell, M.D. (published 2006)

CHECK 'EM OUT!



Put this on your calendar!!

ALL CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT AT MONTE TOYON

APRIL 26-27

THEME:

" Playing in God's Presence" with Proverbs 8;22-31 NEB



WANTED FOR LUMC LIBRARY - an "old" computer to put in a library program. We just need the monitor and tower. This would be for all LUMC members to access a list of the books in our library that Brenda Cook has graciously catalogued. There are over 200 presently listed and she is still working on it. Contact Barbara Levander, 284-7687 or rodbar@comcast.net if you can help.



The Northern California Welsh Community
invites you to join us at our

St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

a musical celebration of traditional hymn singing

When: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 2, 2008

Where: Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette (www.thelumc.org)

Conductor: Popular Los Angeles musician Rhiannon Evans Acree will lead the congregational singing in both Welsh and English. A fluent Welsh speaker, she has regularly conducted at Welsh singing festivals in Los Angeles and other western cities, and coordinates the music for the Welsh Church of Los Angeles.

Organist: Donna Llewellyn Swanson, organist and hand-bell choir director at Los Gatos Methodist Church, will be the accompanist. Donna's early musical training was in Detroit with Gordon Young, the well known organist and composer.

Te Bach: A *Te Bach* (little tea) will follow in the church social hall. Coffee and tea will be provided. Donations of Welsh cakes and finger food would be appreciated.

For further information, contact
Idris Evans at (925) 283-0912
or by email at lorite@gte.net



From San Francisco (24 Eastbound)

Take Oak Hill Road Exit
Turn Right
Turn Left on Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Turn Right on Moraga Road
Church will be on right side
955 Moraga Road

From Sacramento (24 Westbound)

Take Central Lafayette Exit
Stay to the Right on the offramp
Follow ramp to the Right onto 1st St
Turn Left on Moraga Road
Church will be on right side
955 Moraga Road



WASNC
WELSH AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
www.wasnc.org

**Lafayette United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting - January 15, 2008**

Present: Chairperson Pat Hershey, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Robyn Roberts, Carol Slatten, Pat Porter, Jack Cotteral, Tom Henderson, Ginny Cowden, and Secretary Kurt Teichmann

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Chairperson Pat Hershey, who gave a prayer of thankfulness. She noted that to save paper, the final Church Council ("CC") Minutes would today, and henceforth, not be distributed at the CC Meetings because they had already been distributed to CC members. The minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Lay Leadership Report -No specific report. The Committee has several positions to fill.

Finance Committee Report - Carol Slatten distributed the December financial reports as prepared by David White. Carol noted that 2007 Total Income was \$50,000+ over budget! December income alone was \$10,000+ over budget. Total Church income for the year was \$379,296. Carol noted that Members' Pledges were \$8,000 below budget but that Non-Pledged Givings were approximately \$39,000 above budget.

- Carol noted proudly that all 2007 apportionments and askings had been paid. There was a carryover of approximately \$30,000 to 2008. In addition, the Christmas offering exceeded the budgeted outreach amount by approximately \$1,700; the Finance Committee approved applying the excess to pay some small 2008 apportionments that qualified as outreach. The position of Treasurer is unfilled.

Staff Parish Relations Committee Report - SPRC Chairman Pat Porter reported that organist Royetta Rule had given her notice to leave effective January 13th. SPRC has placed an ad in an organist's newsletter. The process to find a replacement is underway.

- The Church has engaged a bookkeeper, Toni Hessler, on a contract basis. The cost of her expected 5 hours/week is included in the 2008 budget.

- SPRC has reaffirmed the salary increase to our Director of Music as previously approved.

Program Council Report - Pastor Lori reported that Teresa Gerringer has penciled in December 12-14 for the Bethlehem Experience.

Trustees Committee Report - No report as a new Chairman will not be elected until the Trustees' 1/28 meeting. Most importantly, the Maggie Mae Lounge is not leaking. Joe Darrell was given some credit in this regard.

Old Business - None.

New Business - None.

Communications - Chairperson Hershey said that Lafayette Downtown Strategy was trying to be pro-active about planning for the City. Pastor Lori said that she has been invited to interview with City leaders on 1/25. She felt that she would be representing the church and so wanted to know what CC would suggest. It was agreed that increased parking and improved traffic flow were important. Jack Cotteral said that

more senior housing, especially near the church, was desirable. The consensus was that Pastor Lori should also talk to young families to learn of their priorities for Lafayette.

Lafayette will hold its 2/12 Community Workshop in our Fellowship Hall. Pastor Lori has offered to have the meeting hosted by the church in our Fellowship Hall. The Council considered this a chance to have new people visit our church as an opportunity.

The next meeting will be on 2/19. Chairperson Hershey said that it could be a combined meeting with the Finance Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kurt F. Teichmann, Church 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, February 14, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone....	925-284-4765
Fax.....	925-284-5170
E_Mail.....	lumc@pacbell.net
Web Site.....	www.thelumc.org