

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

March 2, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

Recently the question was posed to me by a longtime Methodist: "When did we start calling clergy 'pastors'? We used to call them 'ministers'." I could not give a specific date, but I used the opportunity as a teaching moment!

In the past fifteen or twenty years, the United Methodist Church has been intentional about reclaiming the ministry of all Christians. A few Christians are set apart for specific ministries of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. These are those who are called by God and recognized by the church for ordained ministry. I have received that call, responded to it, and had the call affirmed by the church (in a rigorous process of examination!). However, that does not mean that I am the only minister of the church.

Jesus calls all Christians to share the Good News of God's great love. Each of us has unique gifts which we are called to use in the service of Christ.

Our United Methodist *Book of Discipline* says, "The heart of Christian ministry is Christ's ministry of outreaching love. Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ **by a community of Christians** that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship. **All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood** in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment."

The word "pastor" evokes images of a shepherd tending a flock, offering guidance and providing nourishment. The ordained minister/pastor is called to equip the congregation with spiritual sustenance and with skills to be in ministry to the world. The pastor isn't the only one in ministry. As ministers all, a congregation has a far greater outreach to the community and the world.

During the past few months many members of our congregation have suffered greatly and been in need of care and compassion. We have and continue to experience several transitions in leadership. I have focused my pastoral care on families in the midst of crisis. I have entrusted the care of church family members to the community for you to visit, call, send cards, and express Christ's love. I have focused my administrative leadership in areas undergoing transition. More stable areas of the church life have received less of my attention. I am grateful for your partnership in this way. We are the church together. I depend on the offering of your gifts in order for the full potential of Christ's ministry among us to be realized.

Blessings, *Pastor Lori*

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 16 Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
10:30 – Palm Processional begins in courtyard



Thursday, March 20 Holy Thursday Worship

7:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Worship
Experiencing Jesus: A New Covenant of Friendship



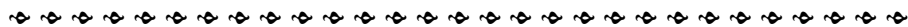
Friday, March 21 Good Friday 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

12 noon – 2 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer and reflection



Sunday, March 23 Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
Experiencing Jesus: The Joy of New Life
9:30 a.m. – Easter Brunch
10:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt for Children



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We're expanding! The Kindergarten class will be meeting each Sunday in room 5. The 1st/2nd graders will meet in room 6 for their class each week.



Would you like to have a part in our floral celebration of Easter? Our altar will bloom with lilies, and we will again have a beautiful garden in Fellowship Hall to enjoy our Easter Brunch. Lilies are \$10 each, or you may wish to contribute toward the Easter garden. All gifts will be recognized in the bulletins on Easter Sunday. Please wait until after 10:30 a.m. service to pick up your plant.

Easter Lilies - \$10.00 Each
Please fill in the following information:

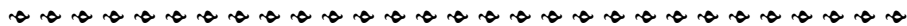
Donated by _____ Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to LUMC

I prefer to give _____ for other Easter Decorations
(Deadline for ordering is, Sunday, March 16, 2008)



CHURCH LIBRARY

Just in time for EASTER 5 children's books have been purchased from the library fund and are on the cart in Fellowship Hall.

"What is Easter" by Lillie James, a lift-the-flap book

"Jesus", a Bible pop-up book



"The Easter Story" retold & illustrated by Carol Heyer

"I'm Thankful Each Day" by P.K. Hallinan

"Let There Be Light" poems and prayers for repairing the world,
compiled and illustrated by Jane Breskin Zalben

Spring Cleaning

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection,
not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime."

~ Martin Luther



It's time to breath new life into our church campus!!!

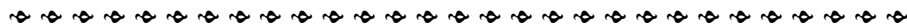
Come join us for Church Clean Up Day on

Saturday, March 8th - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Bring your buckets, cleaners, gloves, gardening tools,
and elbow grease

And enjoy morning pastries, coffee, and good fellowship!!



Lafayette Seniors

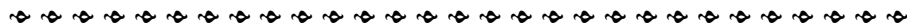
The Lafayette Seniors would like to invite members of LUMC and friends to their luncheon and play on March 13th. The show will be "I Remember You" presented by The Vagabond Players at 12 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10. Call Lorrie at 925-934-1401 no later than March 3, if you would like to attend.

Around About LUMC

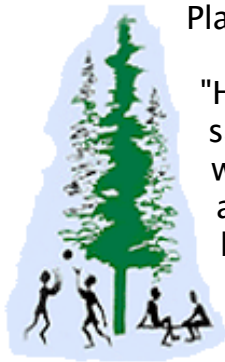
Congratulations to **Doug and Ginny Cowden** upon the birth of a new granddaughter, **Tessa Rose**, born February 20.

Nate Cox, son of **Jackie Carson and Alan Cox**, will be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor on March 8. Nate's Eagle project was building a path near the Lafayette Reservoir.

Julia and David White recently attended worship at Grace United Methodist Church, Mesa, AZ, and brought a worship program.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT APRIL 26-27



Playing in God's Presence: Fun and Games for the Childlike Spirit

"Human beings are made in the image of God, which means the same creativity that brought forth the beauty and majesty of the world resides in each one of us. Using a variety of theatre games and improvisation exercises, we'll send our poor overworked left brains 'on retreat', and let our playful right brains out for a romp! Experience fun, teamwork and laughter as we release our spontaneous, God-given creativity." says Pam Abbey, coordinator of discussion/action sessions.

Activities are being planned for all age levels indoors and out at Monte Toyon Conference Center near Aptos just east of Santa Cruz. There will be several intergenerational events; last year Ginny Leavitt took her grandchildren, who are insisting on going again this year.

Possession of the Golden Pinecone will again be a challenge.

For more details and registration forms, take a look at the bulletin board in Friendship Time or ask those families who attended last year. (Husch, Kintner, Ward, VandenBerghe, Chelini/Robertson, Davis)

JOYFUL BEGINNINGS

Looking for a Preschool, or know of a friend who is??? Then consider our own Joyful Beginnings, now enrolling for its 14th year. We currently have openings available in our T, Th class or our Pre-Kindergarten class. Any questions, do call Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857 or contact the Preschool directly – 284-1143.

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*Dear LUMC families and friends,*

*I want to thank you for your prayers, support and concern for my nephew Danny. His recovery is nothing short of a "miracle" as things looked so bleak when the accident first occurred. I am pleased to share with you, that although his recovery will take some time, he is in therapy and working toward return to school.*

*Gratefully, Dot Feist*

# Save the Date

**Come to SonWorld Adventure Park  
for the Adventure of a Lifetime**

We are excited about Lafayette United Methodist Church's  
Vacation Bible Day Camp  
July 14 - 18, 2008

## ORGANIST SEARCH UPDATE

Royetta Rule resigned her position as Organist as of January 13. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee formed a search team to seek a new organist. In the interim, we have been served by several pianists and organists. We are grateful to those who have offered their gifts of music: Xiomara DiMaio, Gail Burnett, Charles Blue, Ken Mansfield, and our own Bunny Gruhn and Ronald Sutherland.

Staff-Parish joyfully announces that Ken Mansfield has accepted the permanent position. He will begin after Easter and be present in worship with us Sunday, March 30.



## ALL CHURCH ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Thinking of spring cleaning? Then it is time to think about sharing all those useable cast-offs with the church for our Annual Rummage Sale to be held the weekend of April 18th.



Items may be brought to the church starting after church on Sunday, April 13. If you need to clear out your items sooner, contact Ginny Leavitt. Some storage space is available. Watch for other ways that you can be a part of this fundraiser to benefit the mission of our church! Working together on a project is a great community builder!



## Peace Rally – March 15

You are invited to join in a peace march and rally to take place in Walnut Creek on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This “Surge for Peace” is the community’s way to find a voice for peace in our time. The event will at 11 a.m. at the Walnut Creek Bart station. Participants will walk together to Civic Park. At noon, there will be live music, speakers, food and more. This is a great experience for people of all ages and faiths to stand with each other and give expression to their hopes for a peaceful resolution to the war in Iraq. If you are interested in being a part of the day, check out the web site at [www.surgeforpeace.us](http://www.surgeforpeace.us).

## *Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Class*

**Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. March 25<sup>th</sup> –May 27<sup>th</sup>**

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church - 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, Call

Call 925-283-8722 or 510-530-5311 to pre-enroll

Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. This course is open to all Widows and Widowers. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$5.

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## **LUMC CHURCH COUNCIL & CHARGE CONFERENCE MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

Members attending: Pat Porter, Dave Inglis, Tom Henderson, Mason Walters and Corinne Roberts, representing Trustees, Carol Slatten, Dean Coons, Ginny Cowden, Lori Sawdon, Jack Cotteral, Doug Cowden, Pat Hershey, and Ginny Leavitt.

Also in attendance: Carol Lu Zischke

Pat Hershey, Chair, convened the Church Council meeting at 7:50 p.m. with Joys and Concerns, and Prayers. The minutes as distributed by email were considered approved. Jack requested that the Final Minutes be labeled "Final" before distribution. A few moments were spent on Church Life -- "How are we doing 'experiencing and expressing Christ's Love'?" It was suggested that we need a better way of recognizing new people in our congregation.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** -- Ginny L. reported that we are nearly finished with the transition of our bookkeeping procedures. Toni Hessler, newly hired bookkeeper, is working to be familiar with our needs and how best to meet them. Reports may look slightly different. Finance Committee will be evaluating these and may request changes. Ginny, as Chair, will meet at least monthly with Toni before the Finance Committee meetings. Ginny distributed the Profit and Loss Statements as well as the Balance Sheet. The Church finances are in very good shape for the beginning of the year, especially the cash flow. This is in part due to some prepaid pledges, but mainly to a very large rollover from 2007 (\$33,000+) and that was available after paying all our 2007 apportionments and askings. Finance will be working on the description/accounting of the Designated Funds on our Balance Sheet (900s) for better description and utilization of these funds. The Committee is looking for a new auditor, located in our area.

**Trustees** -- Randall Husch is the newly elected chair of the Trustees, but because of family emergencies was unable to attend the meeting. Representing the trustees was Mason Walters, vice-chair, and Corinne Roberts, secretary. Trustees had a recent walk-thru of the church facilities and have begun a priority list to focus their attention. First priority is cleaning the gutters, particularly in the Education Building. That should

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