

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

March 30, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

I pray that you, like me, are still basking in the joy of Easter Sunday morning. The powerful story of resurrection is inspiring in itself, but this community of faith embodies the spirit of the risen Christ in ways that make the story come alive among us. I am grateful for your generous participation in providing for the Easter brunch, the garden setting, the music, the Easter egg hunt, the Easter lilies, and a joyous worship celebration.

In coming weeks the United Methodist Church will likely be making news headlines. 2008 is the year of our quadrennial General Conference, to be held April 23-May 2 in Fort Worth, Texas. The General Conference is composed of up to 1,000 lay and clergy delegates representing United Methodists from around the world. The theme is "A Future with Hope."

General Conference is the only body that officially speaks for the United Methodist Church. Delegates revise *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*, which contains more than 300 statements of the church's stance on social justice issues. Delegates also approve plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the United Methodist Church, formed by a merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church.

United Methodists from outside the United States will be more visible than ever at General Conference 2008. Of the 992 delegates, 278 (29% of the total) will come from outside the U.S., representing the global nature of our denomination. Nigeria and North Katanga (in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) conferences will send the two largest delegations. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia will address the assembly April 29. In the past decade, church membership in Africa has increased by 244 percent, to 3.1 million members. We are growing in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet bloc nations, and among Korean Americans and other ethnic groups in the United States.

For the first time a young person's address has been added to the conference schedule. Six young people will give a presentation on the first full day of General Conference. This is part of an intention effort to embrace young people in the denomination. The average United Methodist is 57 years old. United Methodists under age 18 account for 4.6 percent of church membership. The number of ordained and commissioned elders under age 35 is a mere 850 in the U.S.

I'll be sharing more about General Conference in future issues and in worship. Please add to your prayer list the delegates to General Conference and the bishops, including our Bishop Beverly Shamana, who will be presiding. Let us pray for a spirit of unity in the denomination, and discernment and energy for the participants.

Easter Blessings,

Paster Lori



APRIL 6 - SPECIAL VEGGIETALES PRESENTATION IN LOWER FIRESIDE ROOM 11:40 A.M. - 12:15 "AN EASTER CAROL", PART ONE starring Bob, the tomato and Larry, the cucumber. Ebenezer Nezzer is out of control! Filling London with plastic eggs, he's on a rampage to make Easter "bigger than ever!" But just how hard can his mechanical chickens work before they're....well, fried? In just one unforgettable day and night, Cavis and Millward and a music box angel named Hope must convince Nezzer that Easter is about more than just candy and eggs. Inspired by Dickens's Christmas classic, this very special VeggieTales film explains why millions of Christians around the world celebrate Easter past, present and future. **FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH!!**

APRIL 13 - SPECIAL VEGGIETALES PRESENTATION IN LOWER FIRESIDE ROOM 11:40 A.M. - 12:15 "AN EASTER CAROL" PART TWO



Interfaith Music Festival

Sunday, April 13

2:00 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church

2100 Tice Valley Blvd.

Walnut Creek, Ca

LUMC's Choir will be singing several of their anthems.



SPREAD THE WORD!

Tell your neighbors, friends, co-workers and relatives; the Sierra Service Project (SSP) youth will be hosting an eWaste fundraiser at the church Saturday, April 19th and Sunday, April 20th from **10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** both days.

What is an eWaste fundraiser? It is a collection of *electronic waste* to be recycled. Help our environment and help our SSP youth earn funds to travel this summer to work on reserves in Indian Valley, California and Rock Point, Arizona.

Acceptable items FREE to recycle:

Monitors, TVs, Laptops, Cell phones and Ink jet cartridges.

Other acceptable items (nominal fee):

Printers, CPU, Stereos, Copiers, Fax machines, Cameras, MP3 players, DVD players, Audio cassettes, Radios, iPods, Speakers, Mice, Keyboards, Battery chargers, Wire, Clock radios, Routers, Hard drives, Mother boards, Headsets, VCR, Microwaves, Video cameras, Palm Pilots, Game controllers, Game stations, Tape recorders, Answering machines, Fluorescent bulbs and Dry batteries.

It's spring cleaning time! Clean out your closets and garages and recycle your eWaste. Pick up is available! Contact Karen Schroter (945-6845) for pick up needs and questions.



NEWCOMER AND NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Curious about what United Methodists believe?
Interested in membership at LUMC?

Pastor Lori is hosting an orientation for Newcomers to the church and for those interested in becoming members of the church. They will be offered:

Sunday, April 6 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Our time together will include a brief history of the United Methodist Church, the core beliefs of Methodism, and the history and ministry of LUMC. If you are interested but cannot attend at these times, Pastor Lori is happy to visit your home for a time to share.

New Members will be received into the congregation during the services of worship on April 13, April 20 and additional dates. For more information or to express your interest, contact Pastor Lori at 284-4765 or sawdon2@pacbell.net.

ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19
Preview Party for church families, Thursday eve.



Are you in to cleaning out those closets, the garage, etc? . Then think of the church's annual RUMMAGE SALE and know with your help and contributions, it can be the biggest and best yet! We can take all sorts of items for sale, except, please, no heavy overstuff furniture or big appliances! In other words, anything so heavy, it takes a crew to move it! Clothing is accepted but remember it should be clean and in good condition. (Team logo shirts do not sell!) It would be best if you bring your goods to donate after church on Sunday, April 13, or during the first three days of the week during church office hours. Should you need to bring items early, call me. We have some arranged storage. Remember, your discards are often someone else's treasures.

We will be setting up for the sale during the days of Monday through Thursday. If you can spare some time to help, with set up or during the sale days, please let us know by filling out the separate flyer (in this Tower Notes or in the Sunday bulletin starting after Easter), or give me a call. Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857



Round About LUMC

Rev. Kathy Makus, daughter of Dale Kari, is pastor of First UMC, Ellensburg, WA. The story of her call to ministry is featured in the national publication, The United Methodist Portal. It is on our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or can be found at www.umportal.org – search for Makus.



Thank you to Cheen Chow, her crew, and those who provided food for our Easter Brunch. Everything was delicious! Thank you also to those who shared their plants and arranged the Easter Garden, especially Mt. Diablo Nursery & Garden who donated six 5 gallon plants. It was beautiful! Special thanks to Linda Berti who acquired all of the lilies for the display in the Sanctuary. Lovely!

FRIDAY, April 18 AND SATURDAY

PREVIEW PARTY for CHURCH FAMILY THURS. EVE.

Nancy Flood

Registration form (Complete and return to church office with payment.)



WADSWORTH PUBLISHING

JOSHUA
AND THE CITY

JOSEPH F. GIRZONE
Author of NEVER GIVING

An Invitation to hear Tex Sample

Noted Author, Theologian, Story Teller

May 9 and 10 at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
Friday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. "The Practices of Transformation"
Saturday, May 10. 9 a.m. to noon "Getting the Story Right"
"The Craft of Discipleship"

Reservations at 925-837-5243; Fax 925-837-2763; rdunn@srvumc.org



2008 Summer Church Camps

Sponsored by the California-Nevada Conference,
The United Methodist Church

www.cnumc.org/camping



Among the offerings are:

For students entering 3rd – 6th grades:

Toyon Kids Camp, July 13-18

Super Kid Camp at Lodestar, Wilseyville, CA, July 20-26

For students entering 7th-9th grade

Alive Now! At Donner Mine Camp, June 22-27

Camp Quest at Monte Toyon, July 13-18

For students entering 9th-13th grades

Lodestar Senior High, July 27-August 2

Senior High Backpack in the Tahoe Area July 30-August 3

Also available: Adult & Family Camps, Special Needs Camps



Two camps, Alive Now! and Camp Quest, are directed by young adults whom Pastor Lori knew as children and youth in former churches she served! Church camp has a powerful impact on lives, offering lasting memories, meaningful friendships, and transforming experiences with Jesus.



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.



Vacation Bible School

at

Lafayette United Methodist Church

As they participate in fun-filled activities, children will discover important choices everyone must make: Choose to BELIEVE that Jesus is God's promised Savior, Choose to ACT and care for others, Choose FORGIVENESS from Jesus, Choose to OBEY Jesus even when it's hard and Choose JESUS as our guide and source of wisdom!

Crafts, storytelling, songs, games and snacks!

Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends.

When: Monday through Friday, July 14-18, 9:00am - 12:00 noon
and

Thursday evening, July 17, 7:00 pm, Ice Cream Social

Who: Children entering preschool - entering 7th grade.

Cost: \$50 per child

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To pre-register please return to:
Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette
284-4765

Please enclose a check made payable to LUMC.

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Parent or Guardian's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____



The Marriage Encounter Weekend Couple's Retreat, May 16-18 Still Going After 40 years of Service

Why? Because survey after survey support the idea that Marriage and Family are people's most precious life value, yet over 50% of new marriages and 65% of second marriages fail. We all know the value of taking care of our \$25,000.00, car and a \$300,000.00 house. Yet are these really as valuable as our spouse and family?

We encourage all couples to put some time into their relationship at a Marriage Encounter Couple's retreat. Under the leadership of Rev. Jerry & Sue Angove, and Glenn and Gwen Tilton, couples will learn practical tools to help bring a more intimate relationship between husband and wife by learning to practice God's love on a regular basis in our own lives.

Our annual spring retreat will be held May 16-18, at the Best Western Venetian Court Hotel in Rancho Cordova, (near Sacramento). The cost is \$75.00 registration fee. The rest of expense for the program materials, hotel room and meals are paid for on a donation basis. To register contact our Registration couple: Gary & Phyllis Varney, 916-371-5019, gpvarney@yahoo.com. Or you can register online at www.entcounter.org



DONATION

The church has recently received a donation from Frank and Martha Raggon of two Oakmont Cemetery plots. The church also has two additional niches that were donated several years ago. If any church members are interested in buying the plots or niches please contact Doug Cowden, chairman of Endowment Committee 925-284-7026. The proceeds will go to the Endowment Fund.



PLEASE RETURN

Thank you to someone who has taken down the curtains on the windows of the stairway of the Education building. We assume they are being washed and will be returned soon to the 3 windows now looking naked.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....The Reverend Lori Sawdon
Pastor e-mail.....Sawdon2@pacbell.net
Director of Music Ministry.....Ronald Sutherland
Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....Ken Mansfield
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, April 10, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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