

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

April 14, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

As United Methodists gather for the 2008 General Conference beginning April 23, they will root their conversations in the concept of “holy conferencing,” an early Methodist principle set forth by John Wesley. They will seek to steer debate away from a more secular or political style that typically engenders division and conflict. The focus will be on mutual understanding of how to achieve the mission of the Gospel. The goal is to discern God’s will for the transformation of the world.

Following are the Guidelines for Holy Conferencing adopted for use at General Conference.

- Every person is a child of God. Speak respectfully.
- One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of anyone in the discussion.
- Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- Be careful how you express personal offense at differing opinions, or dialogue may be inhibited.
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that position.
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names or an excited and angry voice.
- Avoid generalizations about individuals and groups. Use specific evidence and examples.
- Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God, not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

These guidelines can be a helpful tool in all of our conversations. There are moments of tension in all relationships. The polarization we are currently experiencing in society might be diminished if we were willing to follow these guidelines. Even if the other party in a conversation is unaware of these specific guidelines, if we follow them, we can reduce the tension in a situation. I commend them for our use in the congregation, in our families, and in all our conversations.

Let us pray that our delegates to General Conference might engage in holy conferencing of the highest Christian standards and be led to discern God's will for our mission and ministry.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



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 10am-4pm 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 [\$5 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.

ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19

Preview Party for church families, Thursday eve.

ATTENTION COMMITTEE / EVENT CHAIRS

Do you need to know about any budgeted funds for your committee or event? If so, please contact the Finance Chair, Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857. Also the monthly finance reports are available in the church office after the Church Council meetings (usually the 3rd Tuesday night).

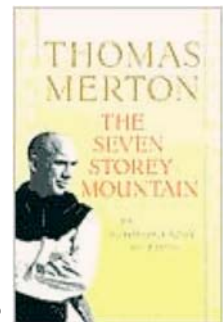
Around About LUMC

Virginia Thompson has moved her residence to Salem Lutheran Home. Her address is 2361 E. 29th St., Care Center 119, Oakland, CA 94606. Her phone remains the same: 925-283-2955. That's correct; she can maintain the 925 area code in Oakland! She would appreciate your visits, calls, cards, and prayers.

Did you see the great article Jean Follmer wrote about **Dot Feist, Director of Joyful Beginnings Preschool** in *Lamorinda Weekly*? If you missed it, read it on the bulletin board at church on Sunday!

CHURCH LIBRARY New Additions

"The Seven Storey Mountain", an autobiography by Thomas Merton
"A Thomas Merton Reader", Thomas P. McDonnell



"When a man enters monastery he has to stand before the community and formally respond to a ritual question, Quid petis?

What do you ask? The answer is that he seeks mercy. The mercy of God and of the Order, The Order has been patient with me, God has been merciful to me, and more, countless readers have given me a gift of friendship and love which is to me precious beyond estimation."

Sixty years after its publication "The Seven Storey Mountain: is still being read. More than 600,000 copies have been printed including twenty foreign language translations. Thomas Merton, (writer, scholar, teacher, monk, contemplative), concludes his autobiography with the words "Sin finis libris, non finis quarendi", (Let this be the ending of the book but by no means the end of searching). Readers continue to search his voluminous writings (poems, essays, journals). A Thomas Merton Reader is an excellent collection.



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|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Marisa Monopoli | 17 Pat Stull | 26 Madeleine Trouerback |
| Paul Persons | 19 Stephanie Schroter | 28 Martha Gerringer |
| 6 Jeanette Shearer | 21 Michelle Doughty | Kennedy Kim |
| Daniel Zhang | Richard Walter | Brendan Rigger |
| 7 Delaney Park | Daniel Warner | 29 Christine Chia |
| Maureen Straw | 22 Sande Hubbs | Nancy Sanders |
| 9 Sarah Warner | 24 Victor Smith | Greg Ward |
| 10 Martha Cervantes | Diane Viera | 31 Ken Barton |
| 11 Nicole Zhang | 25 Kelly Noah | Carol Lu Zischke |
| 15 Jordan Rigger | | |
| Janet Sategna | | |
| Mark Sawdon | | |

Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 Lissa and Mark Heptig
13 Jackie and Mark Wendland
29 Kelly and Peter Hartshorn
Lori and Mark Sawdon

NURSERY



Helpers are needed each Sunday in the Nursery. Helen Harding has been providing excellent childcare for several years, but another adult is needed also as we implement our "Safety for children/youth" policy. Please contact Helen or Barbara Levander, 284-7687.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

IT'S SO SIMPLE, by Harold Thomas. New library book

A presentation of God's Plan of Salvation. Mr. Thomas wrote this book because he wanted every reader to know and accept Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior. It is the most important decision of your life. More important than whom you choose to marry.

"You definitely will experience an earthly death, but...God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Vic Smith

"The author, Harold Thomas was in a Bible study group I attended. He gave me his book and I have been very grateful."

Wes Thomas

MAY FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for April are
canned meats (tuna, chicken, stew).

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

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.

No Greater Love

A cantata of the life of Christ by John W. Peterson
Presented by the Lafayette United Methodist Church Choirs



Directed by Ronald Sutherland

Kenneth Mansfield, Organist

Sunday, May 4th, 2008

10:30 AM worship

A great Sunday to invite friends and family!

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. It will be offered on:

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 this time, Pastor Lori is happy to visit your home for a time to share.

For more information or to express your interest, contact Pastor Lori at 284-4765 or sawdon2@pacbell.net.

Organ Recital by Kenneth Mansfield

Sunday, May 11

5:30 Evensong

6:15 Recital followed by a festive reception

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

Parking in parish lot at Durant and Ellsworth

Admission free, donations accepted

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

HEROES ARISE Book of the Year Award Finalist

Last October, many of you supported my combined author debut and fundraiser for the Winter Nights Shelter. With your help, we raised \$1,100.00 for that homeless shelter program. Now I have a wonderful announcement. "ForeWord Magazine" has chosen HEROES ARISE as a finalist for its Book of the Year Award for 2007 (science fiction and young adult categories). The winners will be announced at Book Expo America in Los Angeles on May 29. This is a significant honor and I wanted to share my excitement with you.

Laurel Anne Hill



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.



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 _____

LUMC Minutes of the Church Council Meeting

Of March 18, 2008

Present: Chairperson Pat Hershey, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Robyn Roberts, Carol Slatten, Ginny Leavitt, Pat Porter, Dean Coons, Doug Cowden, Tom Henderson, Ginny Cowden, Secretary Kurt Teichmann

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The members expressed several joys. Chairperson Hershey gave a centering prayer. The minutes of the February 19th Church Council Meeting and the Charge Conference were both approved unanimously.

Finance Committee Report Ginny Leavitt reported that the transition of bookkeepers is going well. Some accounts, particularly smaller ones, are being consolidated to make the reports shorter and more readable. She said that we are in good financial shape. Pledges are over budget. Non-pledge giving is down but this is always tough to budget. For the first two months, Total Income is almost \$46 thousand over budget but this includes \$33,000 rollover from 2007. Expenses are \$3,204 less than budgeted. Net Ordinary Income is approximately \$49 thousand over budget.

••Ginny Leavitt said that any questions concerning particular fund balances should be directed to her. She will write a notice for Tower Notes so that people will know whom to ask. Ginny said that she would leave some Balance Sheets with Lorri Sullivan so that people may be able to see the accounts for themselves. The Committee has decided to retain our auditor of the past two years for one more year. Though this auditor is increasingly expensive, she knows our accounting and has done fine work on our reports. Ginny noted that the audit of our 2007 books would be starting soon.

SPRC Report Pat Porter reported SPRC wants to match our new organist Ken Mansfield's salary with that of former organist Royetta Rule's starting salary. Mansfield has performed well so far and has higher credentials than Ms. Rule. Church Council expressed concurrence without dissent.

••Pat said that SPRC plans to survey other churches our size in our area to determine how much they are paying their staffs. If LUMC is paying below its peers, SPRC will address any disparities.

Lay Leadership Report No Report

Program Council Report No activity to report

Trustees Committee Report In the absence of a Trustees' representative, Pastor Lori reported that most of the church and education building's gutters have been cleaned. Trustees is looking seriously at the lighting of the parking lot. Several lights are out. But if workers are to change lights using a cherry picker, there may be additional needed work that could be done at the same time. Separately, Trustees is getting bids to repair the fascia on the back of the Fellowship Hall facing the picnic tables. The Trustees were very happy with the Work Day turn out and the work that was completed. Trustees have met with the owner of our landscaper who concurred that his employees were not fulfilling all of their landscaping obligations. A noticeable improvement has since been observed. Pat Hershey expressed appreciation for the good work done; she particularly cited how attractive the new decorative bark looks.

Old Business The ways to recognize visitors were discussed. It was agreed that we should all try to introduce ourselves to any people we do not know at church. We want to show that we want to get to know them.

New Business Chairperson Hershey read a letter from the Church Conference reporting that Beverly J. Shamana plans to retire August 31st after 8-years as our Bishop. The letter included a request that we make a 1 1/2 minute video to thank her. This is to be a surprise. It was agreed that Carol and Robyn would talk to Ron Sutherland and David White about how to get this done. Motion to make a \$250.00 gift from funds already in the Special Gift 068G Fund, an In-and-Out account to the Conference for Bishop Shamana's Retirement Celebration expenses was motioned by Ginny Leavitt and seconded by Robyn Roberts. Passed unanimously.

Pastor Lori reported that there was an increasing need for Stephen Ministers. We once had qualified 8 some years ago but now have only four: Ginny Leavitt, Chris Coons, Judy Stillman and Maureen Straw. The Stephen Ministers are trained to be supportive listeners without trying to be problem solvers. Any LUMC members and attendees are invited to seek them out if they feel they may need such support. The growing need may also be solved by training church members to call on home-bound members. Pastor Lori said she would think about this matter and discuss with other churches on their approaches to answering this need.

Pastor Lori distributed an article entitled "Who is Robert? And Why Do We Follow His Rules, Anyway?" Henry Robert, a Trustee of a First Baptist Church in Massachusetts wrote his rules to help him run his church meetings. The article also discussed how one church held meetings to discern God's will.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted By Kurt F. Teichmann, Church Council Secretary

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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 24, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fax.....925-284-5170

E_Mail.....lumc@pacbell.net

Web Site.....www.thelumc.org