

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

April 127 2008

Seeds of A Sower

The Council of Bishops and leaders of various agencies across the United Methodist Church are proposing to General Conference four areas of focus for the denomination. Guiding questions that have led to these areas of focus were:

What is the United Methodist vision for living Wesley's principles – doing no harm, doing good, and loving God?

How does that vision enable us to fulfill the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

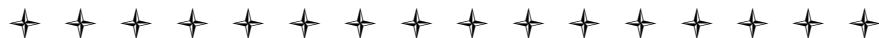
The areas of focus are:

1. **Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.** The church must recruit young people for ministry and provide them with the skills necessary to be effective in this new time of opportunity. That includes women and people of color the world over. Similarly, we must offer leadership training for lay people who are in ministry in countless ways.
2. **Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.** If we are to remain faithful to our commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new faith communities, seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship.
3. **Engaging in ministry with the poor.** As an expression of our discipleship, United Methodists seek to alleviate conditions that undermine quality of life and limit the opportunity to flourish as we believe God intends for all. As with John Wesley, we seek to change conditions that are unjust, alienating and disempowering. We engage in ministry with the poor, and in this, we especially want to reach out to and protect children.
4. **Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.** Conditions of poverty cause illness and death. The lack of access to doctors, nurses, medications and appropriate facilities is deadly, especially among those who live in conditions of poverty. But the diseases of poverty are not inevitable. We believe the people of The United Methodist Church can play a significant role in educating others about diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, and treating and preventing their devastating effects.

These are bold initiatives, but certainly congruent with our Wesleyan heritage. As we pool our resources of time, talent, and treasure as a denomination, we can make a difference in the world today, as we have in the past. They have the potential for enabling us to transcend our disagreements and unite us in meaningful mission. These areas provide direction not simply for The United Methodist Church at-large, but can also provide guidance for the mission of each local congregation, including ours!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



NEWCOMER AND NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

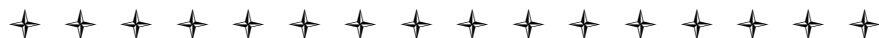
Curious about what United Methodists believe?
Interested in membership at LUMC?

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.



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!



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



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



M&M's PROGRESSIVE DINNER

We will start at the Levanders at 5:30 PM on Saturday May 17 for appetizers and then progress to the Cowdens for the main course and end the evening at the Whites for dessert. Call Ginny Cowden (284-7026) for your food assignment, either an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. Ginny will provide the main course. Hope you can join us! If you have any questions please call Ginny.



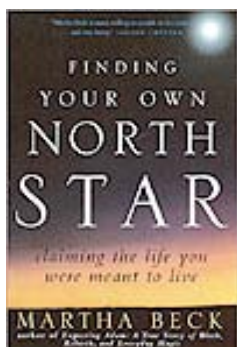
Now that I have some extra time, I logged in to our eScrip account, and found that 27 of our 42 supporters have not yet renewed!!! Thus all those purchases you are making are not being credited to the church's account! Please consider renewing TODAY! If in doubt about if you have renewed contact me. Ginny Leavitt 284-7857

NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO eSCRIP NEEDED

If you are not enrolled in eScrip, or enrolled years ago with your child's school, and you are no longer apart of that organization, considered being a part of our church supporters. If you are new, that means that participating merchants make a contribution to our church every time you make a purchase on a registered card. The church's ID number is 140622383. To enroll online, just go to eScrip.com and follow the directions, or call 1-800-801-4973. If you have any questions, please call me – Ginny Leavitt 284-7857



DEEP RIVER WOMEN'S GROUP CONTINUES



The Deep River Women's Group meets monthly the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Maggie Mae Lounge. Our purpose is to assist one another in tapping into the Deep River of our essential selves and God in order to find balance and meaning in our lives. In addition to a time of sharing and support, we use a resource as a guide. On May 21 we will begin using Martha Beck's book, *Finding Your Own North Star: Claiming the Life You Were Meant to Live*. With humor and practical wisdom, she helps us reclaim the essential self which has often been overshadowed by the social self.

New members are always welcome. We are understanding of conflicting schedules, but folks are welcome to drop in and participate as they are able. Facilitators are Pastor Lori and Ellen Walters, MFT.



Do you have someone graduating soon? Please let the church office know the name of your graduate, name of the high school or college, future plans, degrees, majors, etc. We will be honoring those graduates on June 1.



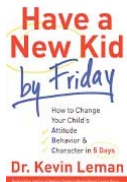
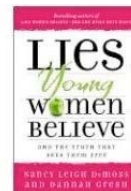
LIBRARY

Thanks, Blanche Cancel, for the review and donation of Thomas Merton's books, "The Seven Story Mountain" and "A Thomas Merton Reader".

If you have read a book from our library that you would like to recommend to others, tell Barbara Levander so we can let everyone know.

Featured on the **BOOK CART** through May:

"Lies Young Women Believe and the truth that sets them free" by Nancy deMoss and Dannah Gresh. Wendy Levander Moran, a mother of three girls, read this one and highly recommends it.



"Have a New Kid by Friday, How to change your child's attitude, behavior & character in 5 days" by Dr. Kevin Leman, author of "Making Children Mind without Losing Yours"



Round About LUMC

Celeste Graham and **Carol Slatten** recently visited Laramie, Wyoming, where they visited First United Methodist Church and St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral. They were very impressed by the hospitality of the Episcopalians, who offered all their Sunday visitors a home-baked loaf of bread! Anyone interested in starting such a ministry here?!

FROM SOW'S EARS TO SILK PURSES!

This past weekend, thanks to the fabulous efforts of a wonderful crew, we turned your castoffs to the Rummage Sale into nearly \$6,300 for the mission of our church! Thank you - for donating your goods, for all the efforts of the workers, for those who sustained us with food, to each and every one of you who contributed to this project! It was GREAT! Ginny Leavitt



Stitch in Time??



I am starting a group of sewers to learn and share techniques for making crafts, quilts, clothes, etc. I hope that you can come to the first organizational meeting and contribute ideas. The first meeting will be announced soon. Please let me know if you are interested in learning, teaching or donating fabric. The goal is to make some items for the boutique in November.



Ginny Horner
925-2849585
vhorner@earthlink.net



LOOKING AHEAD!

As we were wrapping up the Rummage Sale, some of us got to thinking about ideas for a Fall Fundraiser (see, working together IS Fun!). We have had calls for an ENCORE of the Wonderful HIGH TEA that we had year before last. We were thinking that we could do some other things in conjunction with that --- if we could get the interest going! We could do a Boutique --- we could invite Outside Vendors to be a part (it was suggested that we ask Dottie Vieira to come with her doll clothes. People also enjoyed the candles that Madeleine had from Indonesia). We could maybe even have a table of a few Silent Auction items. We are OPEN to ideas, even more, we are open to people who are excited about our planning, and will say that they could make something for us, or could help in other ways. I'll look into available dates, but we were thinking possibly early November. Let's talk it up --- and see what we can put together for another fun fellowship event for the mission of our church. Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857





Vacation Bible Day Camp

July 14 - 18, 9 - 12 noon
At Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette
(Across from the Lafayette Library)
Ages 3 - 15, \$50 each
284-4765



Crafts, music, games, stories and snacks!
Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends.

Visiting a theme park,
Learn to make good decisions.



"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve."

Joshua 24:15, NIV



LUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2008

Present: Chairperson Pat Hershey, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Robyn Roberts, Carol Slatten, Ginny Leavitt, Pat Porter, Dean Coons, Jack Cotteral, David Inglis, Tom Henderson, Ginny Cowden, Doug Cowden, Vic Smith, Secretary Kurt Teichmann
Also Present: Greg Horner representing Trustees

The minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus. Going forward, it was agreed that correction and reaching approval by email was the most efficient way to finalize Committee Minutes. It was also agreed that if there were substantive issues with the minutes, it would be preferable to delay finalization of the Council minutes and have the minutes discussed at the next Church Council Meeting.

Staff Parish Report Pat Porter said that the Committee had received a guidebook of national statistics of pay for various church positions. The guidebook is extensive but may not reflect California compensation levels. The Committee is still trying to get more local data for compensation of church administrators and custodians. Porter noted that Custodian Jason Cano has requested leave from June through August to take educational courses. He has found substitute Brian Swayze. The question arose of who would clean and wax the Ed Building and Fellowship Hall floors and when. Porter will follow to be sure it is done before this summer.

Lay Leadership Report No Report

Finance Committee Report Ginny Leavitt reported that the Church continues to be in very good financial position. YTD pledges are nearly \$4,000 over budget. There was an increase in non-pledged giving in March causing the YTD total to exceed budget by \$1,300. Other-use-of-the-church income exceeded budget as well. The Easter offering of \$4,005 exceeded the budget estimate of \$2,350. In addition, there was a rollover from principally 2006 but also 2007 totaling \$33,600. Expenses were \$4,000 under budget. Tempering all this good financial news is that some members make their annual donation in January skewing the giving and a false impression of greatly increased giving. The budget includes only a portion of our annual apportionments, which we would like to fund in full again this year. Not included is \$24,000 Conference Askings, which are more discretionary, but which we hope to fund in a sense of Christian compassion.

•Ginny Leavitt further reported that our new bookkeeper continues to get better and better. Leavitt noted that we are no longer using "Profit and Loss" but are using Revenues, Expenses and Net Income. This is more appropriate for a non-profit organization. Our outside auditor has met with our bookkeeper, Pastor Lori and Ginny Leavitt and had very minor review matters. The Auditor promised to final her audit within 6 weeks.

Trustees Committee Report Greg Horner stated that the Trustees could put all available funds into church facility repair and improvement. He reported that Trustees had bought additional tables for the rummage sale. Repairing the lighting in the parking area is the top priority. Trustees has started obtaining bids tied to descriptions of scope of work to be done. Remaining work to be done at the parsonage include landscaping and repairing the irrigation system. The fascia on the outside wall of the Fellowship Hall needs to be repaired; two contractors' proposals have been submitted. Joyful Beginnings Pre-School has agreed to pay for repainting their three rooms of the Education Building. Trustees is planning to engage our landscaping firm to keep the parking lot clean for an additional \$40/month. Increased supervision of this contractor's work is planned.

Program Council Report No Report

Stewardship Committee The Finance Committee including Ginny Leavitt has begun to form a committee. Robyn Roberts has agreed to chair it.

Old Business

Roberts's Rules of Order were briefly discussed. Pastor Lori expressed her desire that all committee meetings reflect our experiencing God's Love. It was suggested that we often think of "What would Jesus Do." It was generally agreed that we should raised our consciousness of the God Question, that the Holy Spirit is with us so that our meetings can be a spiritual experience.

New Business

Our District Supervisor has encouraged us to contact inactive members to try encourage them to become active again or, if not, to purge their names from our membership rolls. A list of 35 people was reviewed. Pastor Lori noted that we do not have an Evangelism & Church Growth Committee. It was agreed this would be beneficial. Anyone interested in working on such a committee should contact Pastor Lori.

Communications

The City of Lafayette has set 4 dates for residents to make recommend-ations for its Downtown Strategy. Those dates are May 1,3,12, and 17. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By

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.....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, May 8, 2008**