

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

May 11, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church met in Fort Worth around a wooden communion table fashioned of trees destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The Conference began on the 40th anniversary to the day of the when the Evangelical United Brethren Church united with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church.

In the ten days of meetings, the assembly approved a \$642 million denominational budget for the next four year. Four areas of focus for the immediate future are:

- Developing principled Christian leaders.
- Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.
- Engaging in ministries with the poor.
- Improving global health, especially attacking the killer diseases of poverty.

William H. Gates Sr., co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, thanked the denomination for being a partner in the *Nothing But Nets* campaign to eliminate malaria in Africa. More than \$20 million has been raised since the campaign began in 2006.

A hymnal revision committee was created to bring a proposed hymnal to the 2012 General Conference.

Delegates urged U.S. lawmakers to ensure that immigration laws don't tear families apart, and they advocated for "full protection of all workers." Stating that Israel continues to violate international law by building a wall on Palestinian land, the conference called upon Israelis and Palestinians to uphold U.N. resolutions and International Court of Justice rulings. On the 100th anniversary of the Social Creed, delegates decided that a proposed new creed would serve the church better as a "companion litany."

The body generally retained the church's stances on homosexuality, including the declaration in the church's Social Principles that homosexual practice is "incompatible with Christian teaching."

Delegates opened the door to significant structural changes as the church works to address its increasingly global nature. It tweaked the denomination's mission statement to read: "The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

People who join United Methodist churches henceforth will promise to be faithful in "their witness" as well as in their "prayers, their presence, their gifts and their service."

These are just a few of the highlights. You can find more on the United Methodist website www.umc.org.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

**Liturgist Training Sunday, May 18
11:45-12:30 in the sanctuary following worship**

Jim Straw will meet with persons interested in serving as Liturgists for worship, assisting Pastor Lori in reading scripture and other parts of the worship. Preparation for worship leadership, review of the worship order, and use of the sound system will be reviewed.

**Celebration of Bishop Shamana's Ministry
Saturday, May 24, 2:00 p.m.
Central UMC, Stockton**

The California-Nevada Conference Committee on Episcopacy invites all clergy and laity to join our Conference family as we honor God's work through Bishop Shamana's ministry among us as our Episcopal leader for eight years. The event will include a time of fellowship, food and entertainment, followed by worship, music, and creative ritual.

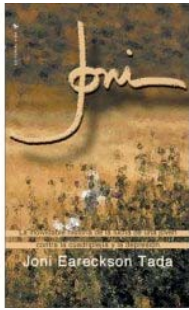
Stewardship Opportunities

Campbell's Soup Labels are collected as a fundraiser for a mission. We are in need of someone to properly prepare the labels for mailing. It would involve cutting the labels and sending them a few times a year. Please contact the church office if interested.



Table Refinishing. A small wooden table in the Fellowship Hall is in need of work to make it more secure and refinishing in order to look nice for use in our facility. If you have skills that you might share in this area, please call the church office.

LIBRARY



Look for Joni (pronounced “Johnny”) on the book cart next Sunday. “Joni Eareckson Tada, Her Story”, three bestselling autobiographies complete in one volume has been donated to our library, room 9.

“Through her public example, Joni Eareckson Tada has done more to straighten out warped views of suffering than all the theologians put together. Her life is a triumph of healing - a healing of the spirit, the most difficult kind. When she speaks about the problem of pain, we should all sit up and take notice.” Philip Yancey

“It was my pleasure to have Joni on the (Today Show) program. I shall never forget meeting her. What an inspiration.” Barbara Walters

“We have all waded through the verbal swamp of syrupy clichés as some sufferers over spiritualize their pain. We have also felt the hot breath of bitterness from those who refuse to accept and adjust to their disability. Joni represents neither extreme. In her book there is a beautiful balance between tough-minded reality and scripturally based theology.”

Dr. Charles Swindoll

eWaste SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT

Thanks to the many folks who brought used electronic equipment to the eWaste project, April 19th and 20th. Your contributions resulted in over \$1,500 toward the transportation expenses of our 35 youth and adults who are going to Sierra Service Project this summer to work on Indian homes. We will be renting 3 vans and paying for about 500 gallons of gas. Thank you, too, to Karen Schroter for the great job of organizing this event.

If you would like to contribute to our mission experience, we still have some expenses to cover. Some of our youth need help with paying the \$310 cost of the trip. You could loan us the use of your van in exchange for the use of the vehicle of one of our adults, or you could contribute tools or other building equipment to SSP. We are also collecting cell phones. Contact Judy Stillman 933-9351 to donate any of the above.

We have a group of 17 going to Indian Valley, near Quincy at the end of June and another 18 going to Rock Point, Arizona in July, where our own Terry Miller will be on staff. It is a life-changing experience for our young people.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude to our very precious church family for all who have kept my mother, Therese Amidon, in their prayers, sent cards for recovery and who visited her bedside. The most wonderful choir who sang "Happy Birthday" on her 100th Birthday at her bedside. The Christmas Carolers who serenaded her, those who extended their concern and best wishes and our attentive and kind Pastor Lori.

Thank you all for your love for my mother and me.

Sande Hubbs

FRIENDSHIP TIME

Ever wonder who prepares the lemonade, coffee, tea, and treats for Friendship Time following worship? We have several faithful servants who arrive early Sunday morning around 7:30 to prepare the beverages and set out the treats which they have purchased beforehand. Persons currently serving in this position are Karen Brown, Pat and Tom Farrow, Mary Hobson, and Carol Zuckerman. We appreciate their ministry of hospitality that makes our Friendship Time more tasty!

The Worship Team is seeking someone willing to be a member of this team. Each team member serves three months of the year. If you would be interested in serving in this ministry, please contact the church office or Jan Davis, Leader of the Worship Team.



2008 GRADUATES

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.

JUNE



- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Patricia Hershey | 10 Beth Ferree | 21 Jack Cotteral |
| 2 Tanner Burke | Christine Foster | Christopher Kintner |
| Tom Woo | 11 Peter Vanderliet | John Kintner |
| 3 Jacquie Kolbe | 13 Alicia Hill | Pat Porter |
| David White | Chris Newcomb | 22 Dean Coons |
| 4 Nicholas Brown | 15 Fran Smith | 24 Celeste Warner |
| David Smith | 16 Jacqueline Miller | Sara Woo |
| 5 Helen Harding | Frank Raggon | 26 Skyler DeMartini |
| Emily Shearer | 17 Linda Curtis | 27 Roger Falcone |
| Lizzy Straw | 18 Juliett Gendron | Kalene Sanders |
| 7 Keaton Chia | Julia Husch | 29 Matthew Hartshorn |
| 8 Russell Alger | Trevor Martin | 30 Jan Davis |
| Suzanne Cowden | Martha Raggon | |

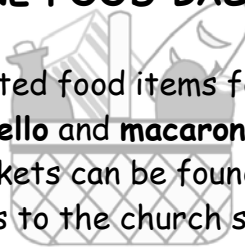
Wedding Anniversaries

- 5 Martha and Frank Raggon
- 9 Barbara and Rod Levander
- 11 Julie and Brad Lennon
- 12 Chor Jee and David Chow
- Fran and Vic Smith
- 16 Maureen and Jim Straw
- 18 Barbara and Ray Peters
- 24 Sara and Tom Woo
- 25 Anne and Mark Vale
- 27 Jan and Tracy Davis
- 29 Meng and Greg Ward

JUNE FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for June are
jello and macaroni.

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





Jazz in June Sunday, June 22

10:30 Worship

Fellowship Hall



Featuring the Tice Valley Jazz Band, led by Bob Sutherland

Enjoy the music of Dixieland jazz, sing some old favorites, and join in a hot dog picnic lunch following the service. If your last name starts with A-M please bring Dessert to share; N-Z bring Salads to share. Hot dogs, chips, and beverages will be provided.



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





Vacation Bible School

at

Lafayette United Methodist Church

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

.....

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_____

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

MONTE TOYON RETREAT REPORT

Weather - perfect. Food -good and plentiful. Rhododendrons - in full bloom. Companions - congenial. Games - challenging. Dancing - delightful. S'mores - scrumptious. Nighttime - restful. These were comments from some of the 44 who attended at Monte Toyon Conference Center April 27-28.



The families in Colonet Mexico wish to thank LUMC for its ongoing support! Last month, through the assistance and guidance of Vic and Fran Smith, LUMC provided \$200 to Frances Jackson to purchase food for families in Colonet. Frances filled 30 grocery bags with two pounds of sugar, flour, corn meal, rice and beans as well as a bottle of cooking oil and two cans of corn. Frances also made 244 bags of candy for the children. The food and candy was distributed at an event on April 30.

Several members of the congregation have accompanied Vic and Fran to Colonet with VIM construction teams. Through a generous donation from LUMC, the playground at the school in Colonet was paved. LUMC continues to express and share Christ's love with the families of Colonet.

EASTER OFFERING APPRECIATION

Our Easter offering given to LUMC totaled \$4,005. Thanks to your generosity, several area mission outposts have been the grateful recipients. Following are some of the letters received.

Dear Reverend Sawdon,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing to thank you and Lafayette United Methodist Church for the generous donation of \$250. We greatly appreciate this donation. We really value LUMC's ongoing support and look forward to our continued partnership as we address family homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Thank you for your generous support of this project.

Peace and blessings,
Louise Bourassa, RN, MS, Executive Director

Dear LUMC,

On behalf of the Sierra Service Project Board of Directors and the entire SSP community, I want to thank you and your congregation for the generous gift of \$100.

Sierra Service Project depends upon the donations of churches like LUMC. Our records show that this is the fifth year you have given generously to SSP. What an incredible blessing! Because of this generosity, SSP is able to keep our fees low, explore new programs and offer scholarships to low-income families and churches.

Peace and blessings,
Rick Eaton, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for contributing to the Winter Nights Shelter. As you know your financial support is critical to serving our homeless families and elderly. We appreciate very much your generous donation of \$500.

For six and a half months 71 homeless individuals were hosted by 33 congregations as the children went to school and the adults went to work or searched for jobs and applied for benefits with public agencies.

Gratefully,
Gwen Watson, Executive Director

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 23, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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