

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

June 29, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

At the recent California-Nevada Annual Conference in Sacramento, LUMC made the news!! Each year a statistical analysis of the 352 churches in our region is presented. For the 2007 calendar year, the average church membership is 236; average worship attendance is 111; average church school attendance is 25.

LUMC made several "Top Twenty" Lists!!

#14 in New Members through Profession of Faith – 20 (this was our confirmation class)

#14 in Number of Persons Baptized – 14 were baptized!!

#11 in Persons from Church School/Formation Groups Becoming Members – 20

#2 in Worship Attendance Gain – our average worship attendance increased by 36, from 131 to 167!! (Our 2008 worship attendance is averaging 165 each Sunday as of June 22.)

#16 in Worship Attendance Percentage Gain – 27% gain!

#13 in Church Membership Gain – overall a net gain of 19 members, a 7% increase from 284 to 303.

(FYI to complete the comparisons to the average church, our average church school attendance is 34!)

We also paid 100% of our Shared Mission Giving to the Conference and The United Methodist Church for the joint ministries we share locally and globally.

Congratulations, People of God! These are signs of your commitment to growing and serving as disciples of Jesus Christ! Worship is our primary gathering place as the family of God. In worship we are empowered and energized for our daily lives and service to God. We receive the prayerful support of one another's presence. Our spirits are lifted by music. In the absence of worship, our spiritual lives begin to atrophy. We can lose our faith bearings.

While the statistics are exciting and one sign of the health of the congregation, we can't afford to "rest on our laurels." Our Church Council members are reading a book called, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. The author, Bishop Robert Schnase, writes:

"Vibrant, fruitful growing congregations don't stop at practicing *friendly* hospitality, *helpful* service and mission, or *prudent* generosity. Their practices are extraordinary, exceptional, thorough, and extreme; they are *radical*, *passionate*, *intentional*, *risk-taking*, and *extravagant*....No church that is vibrant, fruitful, and growing performs its ministry exactly as it did in the 1950's, and no pastor leading such a congregation is practicing ministry as she or he did in the 1970s or 1980s. Effective congregations change, improve, learn, and adapt to fulfill their mission, and these words push us to rethink our basic congregational culture, organization, and practice."

Standing on a firm foundation, LUMC is a congregation that can meet that challenge to change, improve, learn, and adapt. I'm grateful to be appointed for a fifth year of ministry with you as we live into the mission to which God is calling us.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



CELEBRATE THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF RONALD SUTHERLAND



On Sunday, July 13, we would like to honor Ronald and show our appreciation for the fine music that he has led over his tenure with LUMC. If you would like to contribute to a gift for him, please put your check in the collection plate, or send it to the church office, and indicate "Ronald's gift."



STITCH-IN-TIME



The Stitch-in-Time group will meet in July on Saturday, July 12 at 10 a.m. and on Thursday, July 31 at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. We are working on crafts for the Boutique in November. Please show up and bring a project or work on an existing project. No experience is necessary, we are teaching each other as we work. Everyone is welcome. Ginny Horner is the facilitator.

CONGRATULATIONS 2008 GRADUATES



High School Graduates

Christine Chia graduated from Redwood Christian School in Castro Valley plans to attend UC Berkeley.

Lauren Darrell graduated a full year early from The Monarch School and plans to take a year to work before attending college.

Daniel Curtis graduated from Campolindo High School.

Michelle Doughty graduated from Campolindo High School and plans to attend California State University at San Francisco.

Allison Falkenberg graduated from Acalanes High School and plans to attend California State University at Chico studying Psychology.

Mackenzie Gerringer graduated from Acalanes High School and plans to attend Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA.

Chris Newcomb graduated from Acalanes High School and plans to attend U.C. Santa Cruz.

Kallie Pleis, granddaughter of Wendell and Gloria Pleis, graduated in Duvall, WA. and plans to attend Seattle University.

Mark Sanderson graduated from Acalanes High School.

Donald Walter graduated from De La Salle High School and plans to attend Sonoma State.

College Graduates

Dawn Feist graduated from Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital on May 23 with a degree in Registered Nursing.

Beatrice Kahunga, Virginia Thompson's caretaker, graduated from San Francisco State with a B.S. and plans to be a Registered Nurse.

Greg Newcomb graduated from Sonoma State and has a job with an accounting firm, Smith Perry, in San Francisco.

Patty Renno graduated with a B.A. in Psychology and History from UCLA. She will stay at UCLA, working on an advanced degree in Psychology and a research project on children's autism.

Sarina Woo graduated from Ithaca College in New York on May 18, with a B.S. in Business Administration and a minor in music.



Summer Vacation Photos!



We're preparing a slide show of YOUR summer vacation to show our church family on Homecoming Sunday, September 7! Send a photo with your family names and vacation location to David White at dandjw@comcast.net.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 6 and 13 there will be activities for children Preschool-5th grades in room 5 upstairs in the Education building after the Children's message.

July 20 all children are invited to stay in the Sunday service, which will be led by the Vacation Bible School children.

July 27 Families are invited to worship together in Fellowship Hall.

August Sundays there will be NO CLASSES for children. A table of materials (pencils, crayons, paper, puzzles, books) will be available in the back of the sanctuary. When the service is over, please return the materials to this table.



SonWorld

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

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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_____



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



Welcome New Members!

We welcome the Martin family into membership of LUMC. Chris, Tina, Trevor, and Samantha are residents of Lafayette and all are life-long Methodists. Chris works in sales of construction products and has been a frequent volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. Tina is an electrical engineer; she attended Sierra Service Project as a youth and now is returning as one of our adult advisors! Chris will be a freshman at Campolindo High School and Samantha is a seventh grader at Stanley.



An Evening with Africa University Missionaries,

Larry and Jane Kies

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Pie and ice cream will be served
Walnut Creek United Methodist Church
1543 Sunnyvale Avenue
Walnut Creek

Please RSVP to the church office (925) 934-4208
A freewill offering will be taken

Larry and Jane are both missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries assigned to Africa University, located just outside Mutare, the fourth largest city in Zimbabwe. Larry currently serves as technical advisor at the university assisting in the development of the university's farm and working to train a new generation of agriculturalists. Jane is currently teaching English at Africa University. They will provide information on the work being done in Africa. Here's an opportunity to hear how the United Methodist Church is in ministry around the world.



CIRCLE THE DATE!

LUMCs HIGH TEA/HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Saturday, November 15

FRIENDSHIP TIME PREPARATION

Many have noted the special nature of the fellowship time we have following worship. We have been fortunate to have had four different people set up Friendship Time early Sunday mornings, each serving three months of the year. Two of those are moving on. Thus we have immediate need for others to "fill the gap" during the month of August – and some permanent folks to serve after summer.

Basic responsibilities include:

Arrive by 7:30 a.m. Sunday

Start coffee, hot water for tea, and prepare lemonade

Purchase (and be reimbursed) muffins or light snacks

Set up snacks on trays

If you would be willing to take on this responsibility one Sunday in August, please let the church office know: 284-4765 or lumc@pacbell.net.

Sundays in need of this ministry: August 10, 17, 24, 31



RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE!



Are you remembering the church's recycling program --- plastic bottles, aluminum cans, ink cartridges, cell phones!!! Help your church and the environment the easy way!! RECYCLE! Recycle your money, too – Renew or sign up for eScrip and participating merchants will recycle some of your money spent in their establishments back to the church! The church's ID number for eScrip is #140622383. If you have any questions, contact Ginny Leavitt – 284-7857



CONFERENCE REPORT

EXTENDING CHRIST'S INVITATION FOR A JOYOUS LIFE . . .

. . . and creating an artful presence was the theme of this year's California-Nevada Annual conference held in Sacramento June 17 - 21, 2008. Pastor Lori, Celeste Graham and myself attended and thank you for your support. Legislatively it was a fairly quiet year due to the fact that the Quadrennial General Conference had just been held in April. Bishop Beverly Shamana is retiring this year so this was her last conference and much of the ambience was created by her artistic influence. Each day featured a different artist who created an "artful presence" with demonstrations of various art forms. The most fun aspects of this emphasis on art were the various moments during the conference when the entire group experienced "poetus interruptus" - several persons read a favorite poem about 4 times each day. There were three booths situated in the hall, the first being the "Art of the Family" tent featuring art from the Bishop, her mother and two sisters; "Gourd Blessings Area" where members were asked to write on a gourd shard (prepared by

LUMC) which the Bishop will use in a future work of art; and the "Artist in Residence" tent where each day a different artist was featured. Hilda Robinson, painter, Mark Bollwinkle, potter, Martina Young, dancer and Charlene Virts, weaver not only shared their work but allowed the delegates to participate through crayons, Play-doh, movement and string weaving during the conference.

This was the year for the Episcopal election. Methodist Bishops are a part of the whole church and they are elected and assigned at the jurisdictional level. Each Annual Conference elects its nominees for Episcopal election. This year there were 6 persons eligible for election. Five ballots were interspersed during the first two days and Rev. Thomas (Ted) Virts and Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez (our District Superintendent) were eventually elected.

Section assignments were randomly made prior to the conference and legislative items assigned to the sections. During section meetings assigned items were debated and votes taken with items receiving more than 85% yea or nay placed on the Consent Calendar that was later voted on without discussion by the entire body. Only two items were not on the consent calendar, Items 20 and 21 involving marriage equality in California and the intent of over 70 retired clergy to perform same gender marriages and Holy unions. Some of the items discussed and generally supported were withdrawal from Iraq, ending the death penalty, and supporting energy conservation.

Again this year the Fixing of Appointments was announced throughout the conference with our Bay View district reading occurring on Thursday afternoon. As each pastor's name is read he/she stands followed by laying-on-of-hands with all delegates participating while the Bishop leads prayer. Celeste and I made sure we were able to reach Pastor Lori and extremely thankful she was reappointed to LUMC.

Another highlight this year was the address by keynote speaker Jim Winkler the General Secretary of General Board of Church and Society. We were privileged to hear him again when we attended the MFSA dinner (and were greeted by Dean and Chris Coons). We also received greetings and send you greetings from Sarge Wright, Gil Vieira, Mark Wendland and Ruth Darling.

Saturday morning the conference accepted the Conference Nominating Report and Celeste Graham was elected to serve on the Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns. There were so many wonderful presentations, many videos, uplifting music and inspirational moments. Celeste and I attended the Bayview District dinner, the Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns luncheon, the MFSA dinner, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry luncheon, the UMW breakfast, and the Conference Committee on Reconciling luncheon - all of these featured special speakers and remarkably good food. Again we thank you for sending us.

Carol Slatten

EASTER OFFERING THANK YOU

The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church has expressed gratitude for our gift of \$200 for the Global HIV/AIDS Program of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund was established by General Conference in 2004 with a goal of raising at least \$8 million from 2005 to 2008.

Today we live in a world in which five people die of AIDS every minute and nine people more are infected by HIV. The General Board of Global Ministries has responded to the HIV/AIDS crisis through programs of awareness, care, and support. Awareness programs include health education workshops for youth, women, pastors, and lay leaders in United Methodist churches in the United States, Africa, Asia, and Latin America; HIV/AIDS focus papers and World AIDS Day resources. Care ministries include home-based care programs including distribution of the Healthy Homes, Healthy Families Kit in Africa and encouraging congregations to "Covenant to Care" by welcoming people with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. Support ministries include undergirding programs for children orphaned by AIDS, such as paying for their school fees and basic necessities, and assisting selected United Methodist Hospitals through a revitalization program.



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....The Reverend Lori Sawdon
Pastor e-mail.....Sawdon2@pacbell.net
Director of Music Ministry.....
Organist & Keyboard/Pianist..... Ken Mansfield
Office administrator.....Lorri Sullivan
Joyful Beginnings Preschool Director.....Dot Feist
Custodian.....Jason Cano

TOWER NOTES

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TOWER NOTES DEADLINE

2nd & 4th Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, July 10, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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