

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Aug. 31, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

Many of us have grown beyond school years when the long leisurely days of summer promised weeks of vacation. However, the start of the school year and the Labor Day weekend still seem to mark a new beginning of sorts for many of us. It is a season for renewal of activities and commitments that bring meaning to our lives.

Such is also true for the church. We invite you to attend our Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 7. During worship we will gather around the Lord's Table together and following worship we will gather around the meal table together. It is a time to renew friendships and make new acquaintances. It is an opportunity to state that the church family is an important part of our lives. We'll have some fun in sharing photos of our summer activities.

This fall our congregation will have a special focus on Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. It will offer us an opportunity to remember core practices that Jesus calls us to undertake as a community of faith. These practices are:

**Radical Hospitality - Passionate Worship - Intentional Faith Development
Risk-Taking Mission and Service - Extravagant Generosity**

It is important for us to intentionally evaluate our performance of these practices. There is always room for growth and improvement. It is too easy to become complacent and assume that status quo is good enough. Christ deserves quality ministry.

I invite your enthusiastic and open-minded participation in this focus. The potentials for the enrichment of our ministry and life together are great. Come to worship! Read the devotional booklet at home! Share in the mission of the Winter Nights shelter! Offer your ideas and input as focus groups are formed!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



FALL EVENT
CATCH THE SPIRIT!
Homecoming Sunday - September 7th
Worship at 8:30 and 10:30
All-Church Potluck at 11:30

Come and worship with the LUMC team, welcome back the choir, and enjoy great food and fellowship. If your last name starts with A-L, please bring a main dish for 8-10. Those whose last names begin with M-R, please bring salad for 8-10. Last names beginning with S-Z, please bring a dessert for 8-10. Plan to come home to God and our church family! There's a place at the table for you!



TOWER NOTES

Ginny Cowden will not be editing the Sept. 11th Tower Notes. **Please email your articles to Mary Henderson at tomaryh@comcast.net.** Ginny will resume editing articles for the **Sept. 25th** Tower Notes.



KUDOS TO STITCH IN TIME!

Stitch in Time, an inspiration of Ginny Horner's, has met a couple of times monthly for the past several months to create some clever items for the Holiday Boutique on November 15. Some attendees bring ideas that others can help make. Some people bring their own projects to work on, because not only is the time spent helping the Boutique it is also a great social time. Even those who say they are not very creative are found a job to do, cutting fabric, ironing fabric, or whatever is needed to make someone else's project go more smoothly. So if you, too, would like to be a part, look for the next scheduled gathering. And THANKS" Stitch in Time" for coming up with such clever, and creative items that will wonderful gifts for the Holidays! You are special indeed!
Ginny Leavitt

FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS



This summer the world delighted in watching the Olympic athletes participate in one of the highlights of their careers. It took years of practice for those athletes to be selected to represent their countries at the Olympics. Many are setting their sights on the 2012 Olympics in London. Each day involves disciplined practice to perfect their skills and talents.

Similarly being formed as disciples of Jesus Christ is a lifelong venture. It requires the focused and intentional practice of spiritual disciplines that teach us the lifestyle of Jesus. These practices are important not only for individuals, but also for congregations to share together.

This fall Lafayette United Methodist Church is focusing on Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. They are:

**Radical Hospitality - Passionate Worship - Intentional Faith Development
Risk-Taking Mission and Service - Extravagant Generosity**

We invite your participation in a variety of ways:

- Sunday morning worship at 8:30 and 10:30
- At-home devotional readings using *Cultivating Fruitfulness* – books available after worship for every household
- Church-wide Service Project – Co-hosting Winter Nights Shelter October 13-27 at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, Lafayette
- Focus groups on specific practices will be announced at a later date

Join our church community in our focus on growing a vital, fruitful congregation!!



STITCH-in-TIME



The last four scheduled meetings for Stitch-in-Time are Thursday September 18th at 1 pm, Saturday October 18th at 10 am, Thursday October 30 at 1 pm and Saturday November 8th at 10 am. All meetings are in the Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome to attend. You can bring your own project or work on a group project. We are making crafts to be sold at the boutique on November 15th. If you have any suggestions for projects or questions, call Ginny Horner at 925-284-9585.

ITEMS FOR THE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Thank you to you who have been making items on your own for the Holiday Boutique. Your efforts are most appreciated! If you have finished items, or will be finishing ahead of time, you are welcome to turn that in to me for storage. Ginny Leavitt – 284-7857



AROUND ABOUT LUMC

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of Boardman Moore on August 26. A Celebration of Life will be held at LUMC in September. Our prayers are with his wife, Betty, and son, Buzz.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!!

Sunday, September 21 from 3:00 to 5:00 Pastor Lori will offer an Orientation for persons interested in membership at Lafayette United Methodist Church. We'll get acquainted, learn some history and beliefs of the United Methodist Church, and share the specific history and ministries of LUMC. New members will be received on Sundays, September 21 and 28 and October 19 and 16. Let Pastor Lori know if you are interested – 284-4765 or sawdon2@pacbell.net.



THANK YOU FROM

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has written to thank LUMC for donations earlier in the year sent to aid in disaster relief. They are grateful for the following donations:

Myanmar Emergency	\$1,310
China Earthquake	\$ 100
Sudan Emergency	\$ 150

When you make a donation to UMCOR, 100% of the funds go directly to disaster relief.

High Tea & Holiday Boutique
November 15, 2008



The High Tea and Holiday Boutique will be here sooner than you think! Is your calendar starting to fill up with fall activities (back-to-school, family, church, and sports dates)? Be sure to save time for this "don't miss" event!

The much requested multi-course High Tea experience will be returning for one afternoon only, with seatings at 12 noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. Early reservations are advised, as this event will be offered to the public. Seats are \$20 each, two for \$35, and \$130 for a table of eight. Call Ginny Leavitt at 925-284-7857 for reservations.

The Holiday Boutique will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will showcase many one-of-a-kind creations, perfect for the gift-giving season. "Grandma's Attic" will feature specialty items, such as vintage fabric.

Our new tea cafe will be available to provide a relaxing pause from your shopping adventures.

Outside vendors are welcome and should contact Ginny Leavitt.



TOWER NOTES ON LUMC WEB SITE

The Tower Notes is on our church's Web Site www.thelumc.org. You can download it for dialup or broadband.

Many people do not receive the Tower Notes by mail in a timely manner. Getting it on the Web Site you will not miss any events or news at LUMC.

Please notify the church office by phone 925-284-4765 or email lumc@pacbell.net if you want to get your Tower Notes on the Web Site and do not need it mailed to you.



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 signup 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



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Following are community events listed in the Interfaith Council news.

Looking Beyond 9/11

Thursday, September 11, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Wesley Center
902 Danville Blvd., Alamo

Father Tom Bonacci, Catholic priest and advocate for interfaith work (and a board member of I4C) will speak on the purpose of interfaith dialogue, especially toward world peace. There will be discussion and refreshments. This event will lead to visits to individual faith communities through the fall (St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church - 9/14, 10:00 a.m., Shiva-Vishnu Temple - 9/24, 7:00 p.m., San Ramon Islamic Center - 10/3 time TBA, Phap Vuong Temple - 10/12, 1:00 p.m., and Congregation Beth Chaim - 10/14, 6:30 p.m.). For more information, contact www.srvumc.org or 925-837-5243.

Partners in Planning

Friday, September 19, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, Assembly Hall
1304 Roman Way, Martinez

The County's Area Agency on Aging is featuring presentations and resources to help senior service providers build and strengthen their advocacy capacity. For information, contact Nhang Luong at 925-335-8783. Registration is required by September 12.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....The Reverend Lori Sawdon
Pastor e-mail.....Sawdon2@pacbell.net
Director of Music Ministry.....Bunny Gruhn
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, Sept. 11, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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