

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sept. 14, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

Our recent focus on Radical Hospitality raised awareness that first impressions of a church are generally established within the first minutes of arriving on campus. Research shows that visitors decide very quickly whether or not they are welcome in a house of worship. Here's a reminder of ways we can offer hospitality to newcomers:

The circle of 10: talk to and learn the names of everyone you don't know who is in a 10 foot radius of where you are sitting.

The rule of 3: Talk to people you don't know for the first 3 minutes after worship.

During worship, identify people you do not know and make a determined effort to talk to them within 3 minutes of the conclusion of worship.

Talk to people you don't know during greeting time.

If you're not certain if the person is new, try this: *Hi, my name is _____. Help me remember your name.* Then ask about jobs, hobbies, interests, places you and they have lived.

If they are new to the community, ask them if they have any needs or suggestions as they settle in.

Greet someone in the parking lot as you walk in or introduce yourself to those who are already seated when you walk in the sanctuary (if worship hasn't already started!).

Leave the parking spaces in the front entry for newcomers and disabled.

Help keep our campus clean and neat. Pick up a piece of trash as you walk in. Please don't dump things at the church thinking that someone might use it someday. I've been spending more time recently cleaning up messes and tossing clutter to keep our facilities looking tidy.

I received a nice compliment about our congregation from a clergy colleague who worshiped here while I was on vacation. He noted that several folks greeted his family and they felt genuinely welcome. Let's keep up the good work!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS



As of this writing 76 households in our church family have picked up the devotional book, *Cultivating Fruitfulness*. This book focusing on Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. They are:

Radical Hospitality - Passionate Worship - Intentional Faith Development

Risk-Taking Mission and Service - Extravagant Generosity

These practices will be highlighted in worship this fall as well as in focus groups to be announced. We hope to strengthen our practices of these spiritual disciplines as a congregation and enhance our ministry and outreach to our community and beyond.

Several books are still available. Stop by the church office during the week, pick one up after worship, or call the office to have one delivered to your home. We want you to participate in this all-church emphasis.



LAFAYETTE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21 Lafayette hosts their annual Art & Wine Festival. We anticipate that part of Mt. Diablo Road from Lafayette Circle to Dewing will be closed. This may necessitate a different travel route for some coming to worship Sunday morning. Plan ahead and leave home early!



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 26. Let Pastor Lori know if you are interested – 284-4765 or sawdon2@pacbell.net.



We Welcome Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. Takes his place as Resident Bishop of the San Francisco Area, California-Nevada Annual Conference, on Sept. 1, 2008. Bishop Brown is returning to this conference, from which he was elected to the episcopacy, after serving the Denver Area since 2000.

In 1973 Brown was ordained a Deacon in the Baltimore Annual Conference. He transferred to the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and was appointed as both pastor of a church and Director of Bethany House Ministries in Pittsburgh, a social service ministry for two housing projects. He next was appointed Senior Pastor at Warren United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh. While serving in Pennsylvania, he was ordained an Elder in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. Then, in 1979, he answered a national search for an associate conference staff position in the California-Nevada Annual Conference, and transferred there. Once in California, it was only six months later that internal staff changes opened the door to his stepping up to serve as Conference Council Director.

From this role of having program and administrative oversight for the conference, Brown was appointed just four years later to the superintendency of the Golden Gate District, the richly diverse area around San Francisco. Then – again, after only four years – he was given the charge of Taylor Memorial U.M.C. in Oakland, California. As the congregation was experiencing a significant turn-around, the Loma Prieta Earthquake and subsequent fires assaulted the Oakland community. Brown led the community's ecumenical disaster response, serving as chairperson of the Oakland Inter-religious Network.

Following an 11-year pastorate in Oakland, Brown was given a new challenge as Senior Pastor of the First U.M.C. of Bakersfield, California. Only two years into this pastorate, he was nominated and endorsed by the Annual Conference Session for the episcopacy. At the July, 2000 Western Jurisdiction Conference Sessions in Casper, Wyoming, he was elected a bishop of The United Methodist Church and assigned to the Denver Episcopal Area (covering Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and parts of Idaho).

In July, 2008, at the Western Jurisdiction Conference Sessions in Portland, Oregon, Bishop Brown was reassigned to the California-Nevada Annual Conference (covering northern California and Nevada).

Greeting Cal-Nevada after his eight-year absence, Bishop Brown says, "From what I have learned, you have been actively striving to gain clarity about the conference vision, 'Passion in Jesus Christ, Compassion for All.' I look forward to partnering with you to build on that vision as we continue to do the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

**Please join in extending a warm welcome to Bishop & Mrs. Brown
on their return to Cal-Nevada**

You are invited to attend one or more of these Welcome Celebrations

Saturday, October 4, 2 p.m. – Central UMC, Stockton

Installation of Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. as Resident Bishop of the San Francisco Area.

Sunday, October 5, 4 p.m. – Korean UMC of Santa Clara Valley, San Jose

Reception Honoring Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Saturday, October 11, 2 p.m. – First UMC, Carson City, Nevada

Reception Honoring Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST
LAFAYETTE MAYOR VISITS LUMC**



Mayor Mike Anderson of Lafayette is the guest speaker for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 20, 8:00-9:30 a.m. Come and receive the latest updates on the Downtown Strategic Plan, the city budget, road repairs, and more. Invite your friends and neighbors. You'll have a parking place so then you can go out to the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival!

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Thursday, October 2, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Lower Fireside Room**

UMW is pleased to announce that Joe Darrell will be showing slides and speaking about his recent VIM trip to Costa Rica. Please bring your friends and neighbors and join us for lunch followed by Joe's report on the Costa Rica Methodists.

FOLLOW-UP TO UMW

The United Methodist Women thoroughly enjoyed songstress Beverly Crane on Thursday September 4th. She entertained us with stories and songs of the thirties. Many were interested in contacting her for other events. Her phone number is 925-787-1571, website is <http://www.vocalforseniors.com> and her email is Beverly@VocalforSeniors.com

Carol Slatten

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, November 16 7:00 p.m. Annual Church Conference conducted by Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez, Bayview District Superintendent

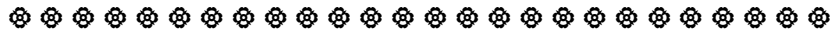
Friday-Sunday, December 12-14 BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE!!!!



STITCH-in-TIME



The last three scheduled meetings for Stitch-in-Time are Thursday 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.



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.

TO ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

You are cordially invited to join us in presenting our *Timeless Traditional Tea* on November 15, 2008

Opportunities to share in the experience are:

Food Donations

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Tea Cookies	_____	_____
Tea Sandwiches	_____	_____
Tarts	_____	_____
Lemon Curd	_____	_____
Scones	_____	_____
Nut and/or Fruit Bread	_____	_____

Decorations

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Fireside Room Set-up-Design	_____	_____

Kitchen Help

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Dishwashing	_____	_____
Serving	_____	_____
General Assistance	_____	_____

Live Background Music

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Piano	_____	_____
Flute	_____	_____
Violin	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

Please return to the church office.

For further information please contact Sande Hubbs at 283-3559.

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

LOOK FOR THESE ON THE LIBRARY CART -TOP SHELF!!

Toddler Time, 150 Easy Ways to Keep Them Busy, Safe & Happy by Melissa Bogdany



Do you wish for more hours in the day? Are you struggling to balance time with your toddler and life's other responsibilities? Are you looking for ways to keep your little one busy without television? Melissa Bogdany comes to the rescue with fun, safe and inexpensive activities that can be applied in a variety of settings. Toddler Time reveals how you can simultaneously educate and entertain your child and still have time to tackle that to-do list! Whether it's yogurt finger paint, noodle necklaces, sponge building blocks, or sidewalk art, this book contains valuable information that will benefit you and your child.

Parenting Isn't For Super Heroes by David Clarke, Ph.D.

Dr. Clark has helped countless parents discover the joy and rewards of raising children. In addition to maintaining a private marriage and family counseling practice, he leads seminars on parenting, emotional wholeness, and intimacy.

"If you really love your kids, take the time to read this book. It is a great combination of humor and Bible-based wisdom. Dr. Clarke's personal approach and creative strategies will help you raise healthy kids who love the Lord." David Arp, Marriage Alive International

Protecting Your Child Through Prayer by Karen Scalf Linamen

School violence, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and teen suicide....violent and sexual content in movies, music and TV. Our children face a dangerous world when they walk out the front door. And as parents we can feel helpless when it comes to protecting them from the influences of the world. But there is a way. It's time to stop worrying about your children and take action. Only God has the power to guard your children, and this book confirms and show how the prayers of a parent can help.

Seven Solutions For Burned-Out Parents by Dr. James Dobson

It's time to get off the train before it crashes. Dr. James Dobson, America's most trusted authority on the family, will show you that it is possible to slow the pace of life enough to enjoy your children and your day. It starts with saying no to "routine panic"--- --and yes to a more fulfilling life of peace and rest.

The Measure of Our Success , a Letter to My Children and Yours, by Marian Wright Edelman

A book to turn lives around, a compassionate message for parents trying to raise moral children, a tough and searching book that ought to be required reading for every young American.

The book speaks powerfully to the author's three sons about the mothering Marian Wright Edelman gave them-----mothering, she explains, that could not ignore other people's children who were in greater need. In the book's centerpiece, "Twenty-Five Lessons for Life," we're invited to listen as a loving and extraordinarily committed mother gives her children lessons to live by.

The Measure of Our Success is an open letter to all of America, and a timely message of hope and purpose for everyone.

OCTOBER

Happy Birthday

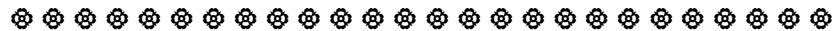
2 David MacDannald
3 Alexander Grayson
5 Clay Vryens
6 Peter Hartshorn
7 Linda Berti
Don Keeble
8 Barbara Falkenberg
Dot Feist
9 Gavom Beeman
Armand Johnson
Leslie Murray
Paul Renno Jr.

10 Natalie Reeder
Robyn Roberts
11 Kristen Darrell
12 Claire Breashears
13 Julia Partlow
14 Kathleen Emerson
Elizabeth Follmer
16 Tom Henderson
17 Chris Chuck
18 Travis Oakley
21 Nathaniel Welcomer

22 Jillian Bove
Dale Kari
Hilary Smith
24 Dale Newcomb
Gavin Schroter
25 Stephannie Tornow
27 Megan Berti
28 Sharon Chia
30 Elizabeth Emerson
Frank Wilking

Wedding Anniversaries

4 Roseann and Gary Beeman
11 Virginia and Dick Black
17 Patricia Hershey and Joe Darrell



MEMORIAL GIFTS DONATED

On Sunday, September 7 two gifts were received by the congregation. A green altar cloth and bookmark custom designed for LUMC were purchased with donations received in memory of Katie Martin, a longtime members of LUMC. A brass chalice and wafer plate were given in memory of Deborah Italiano, a good friend of Linda Berti's and others in the congregation. These are a nice complement to the new ceramic chalices and plates made in memory of Bob Crowe. We are grateful for these gifts which enhance the worship life of our congregation.



OCTOBER FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
October are

spaghetti and sauces.

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



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Following are community events listed in the Interfaith Council news.

Frances Moore Lappe on Living Democracy

Tuesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
55 Eckley Ln., Walnut Creek

Come hear this noted activist for social change and democracy, and prolific author. Her most recent book is *Getting a Grip: Clarity, Creativity and Courage in a World Gone Mad*. Suggested donation is \$12-20. For more information, contact 925-933-7850 or www.mtdpc.org.

Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion

Sunday, October 19, 3:00 p.m.

Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
1578 Kirker Pass Rd., Clayton

Noted author, Sara Miles will talk about, and sign, her new book, regarding her move from secular atheism to becoming a Christian. She is the founder of St. Gregory's Food Pantry in San Francisco. For more information, contact www.cvpresby.org or 925-672-4848.

LUMC Church Council Meeting, August 19, 2008

Present: Chairperson Pat Hershey, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Robyn Roberts, Carol Slatten, Ginny Leavitt, Pat Porter, Dean Coons, Jack Cotteral, David Inglis, Doug Cowden, Ginny Cowden, Doug Cowden, Secretary Kurt Teichmann

Also Present: Chris Coons

After the sharing of Joys and Concerns, Chairperson Hershey gave a centering prayer. She then opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the June 17, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

Finance Committee Report

Ginny Leavitt reported that the Stewardship Committee will be needing a budget for its fall pledge campaign.

- Leavitt reported that the Church pledge income was below budget for July, the first time this year. Non-pledge giving and plate offerings were once again above budget. Other income was on target. Leavitt noted that one member has begun designating her donation for Community Outreach so the church has created a new income/asset category for Missions-Community Outreach so that these funds can be tracked and used only for that purpose. Expenses through July were about \$19,000 below budget. Leavitt noted that Joyful Beginnings had reimbursed the church for workman's comp expense for Joyful Beginnings employees. On a YTD basis, the church net income is \$51,470 above budget.

- Leavitt reported that Joe Darrell had reviewed the church's investment accounts. He recommended that we close the Wachovia accounts and consolidate the accounts at U.S. Bank, which has been giving us excellent personal service and better interest rates. He recommended that the Smith Barney account be reduced to \$3,000 but kept open to facilitate disposition of any members' stock gifts. Motion to approve by Dean Coons, Seconded by Pat Porter. Approved unanimously.

- In conjunction with the deposit account review, Trustees had prepared a schedule listing LUMC's investment accounts. The signers on each account are listed by their church titles. It was agreed that this will facilitate updating accounts with changing of officers.

- Ginny distributed copies of the LUMC Finance Policy. This is a document that Finance Committee has been writing and editing over the last several months. It puts into writing in one document the financial policies of our church. The Policy was accepted by the Church Council and will be placed in the Office Policy Book

- A church member has suggested that the triangle plot behind the Fellowship Hall be fixed up as a memorial garden for deceased members and close relatives. It was agreed that any plans would have to be approved by the Conference which technically owns the property. Pastor Lori will discuss with the Conference. Dean Coons and Ginny Leavitt will ascertain what other local churches are doing.

Staff Parish Report

Pat Porter reported that Bunny Gruen will return as music director. She will attend the 10:30 Sunday services.

Lay Leadership Report

The Committee has started to meet and is developing nominations for church posts for the next calendar year.

Program Committee Report

The Worship Committee is planning a Homecoming on September 7th.

Trustees Committee Report

Joyful Beginnings and part of the nursery has been repainted. With a new color scheme, it almost looks new! The lighting in the parking lot has been replaced. There are new lights in the Pastor's Office.

Old Business - None

New Business

••Carol Slatten reported that she and Celeste Graham attended the Annual Conference. They were given a questionnaire to evaluate the Church's Vital Signs. A committee of 3 or 4 members will be selected to complete it. Pat Hershey, Pat Porter and Robyn Roberts volunteered for the committee.

••The book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations will be incorporated into 5 church services beginning in September. In addition, Church Council will review one chapter each at the next five CC meetings.

••Bishop Shamana sent a Thank You note for our church's overall support for her retirement celebration. This includes our financial contribution, Pastor Lori's work on a planning committee and the over 1,000 gourds we prepared for the celebration. Church Council recognized Pastor Lori for her hours of preparing gourd shards.

Communications

LUMC has sent a letter to developer Eden Housing supporting the need for senior housing and programs and stating LUMC's involvement and past contributions. The purpose was to assist Eden Housing in securing federal funding for its project.

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.....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. 25, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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