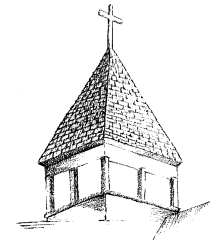


LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sept. 28, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

One of the most sacred passages in the life cycle is that of death. We also find it one of the most difficult passages about which to talk. The experience of passing from earthly life to eternal life can be made easier for oneself and one's family if our desires are shared before that time. This includes the kind of care we would like to receive at the end of life, as well as ways in which we would like family and friends to remember and celebrate our lives.

Included in this edition of Tower Notes is a Funeral and Memorial Service Planning Form. The intent is to assist you in considering how you would like your life remembered. Having designed and led many memorial services over the years, I have found that families are grateful when their loved ones have left some instructions such as these. Families truly desire to respect the wishes of their loved ones; not knowing those wishes adds to the grief and pain of loss. One way to be kind to your family is through the sharing of this information.

Ideally every adult will complete the form. Additional forms are available at the church at Friendship Time and in the office. Keep the form in a place at home where it will easily be found when needed. Please consider sharing a copy with me to be kept in a safe place in the church office. I'm also available to talk about your desires.

Our Memorial Reception Team has recently hosted three receptions after memorial services. I am grateful for the hospitality so graciously and generously offered by this team and others assisting. The families served have expressed their appreciation not only for the food, but also for the opportunity to greet family and friends who have come to offer their support. This ministry of hospitality touches many hearts in a time of loss. Thank you.

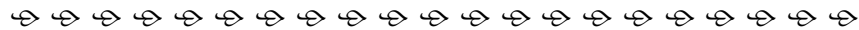
Blessings,

Pastor Lori

HURRICANE RELIEF

As always, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is on site in Texas and Louisiana to assist in recovery from Hurricane Ike. Contributions can be made to LUMC, designated "Hurricane Ike"; the church will forward them to UMCOR.

Fran and Vic Smith's goddaughter and her family just moved to Orange, Texas. Their move was held up by the hurricane. Jennifer's husband, Mike, is the new pastor of the Orange Presbyterian Church. The church roof leaked and water drenched the inside of the building; the basement was flooded. Several church members have suffered damage at their homes. Jennifer has suggested that gift cards for Home Depot, Lowe's or Walgreens could be useful to church members. Gift cards can be brought to worship or the church office and Fran and Vic will send them to Mike and Jennifer for their church family.



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.



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!!!!

WINTER NIGHTS SUPPORT

For every copy of Laurel Hill's book, *Heroes Arise*, sold at Orinda Books between September 13th and October 31st this year, a donation of \$10 will be made to Winter Nights. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square in Orinda. Their telephone number is (925) 254-7606. People should call before going to Orinda Books, in case the store has had to reorder. *Heroes Arise* is now out in trade paperback. Laurel has received positive feedback from readers as young as nine and as old as ninety. It is an award winning book!

"There's No Place Like Home!"

You are invited to a dinner and a performance by jazz legend Pete Escovedo at the first major fundraising gala to support the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. It is Saturday, November 1 at 6:00 p.m. at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette. The cost is \$125 per ticket or \$1,000 for a table for 8. We are one of several supporting churches of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. Call Joanne Schweibinz at 925.323.5537 jschweibinz@comcast.net to purchase tickets.



Friendship Time Preparation

Our Church Family enjoys conversation and refreshments before and after worship together. Mary Hobson and Carol Zuckerman continue to set-up three months of the year each. We are grateful for their faithful service in this way. Worship Committee is seeking some creative ways in which to make the set-up happen in the remaining six months.

Basic responsibilities include:

Arrive by 7:30 a.m. Sunday or set up Saturday and use a timer;
Start coffee, hot water for tea, and prepare lemonade;
(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 October or December, please let the church office know: 284-4765 or lumc@pacbell.net.

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



Calling All Saints!!



**It's Autumn! Time to spruce up our church campus for
the coming of a new holiday season!!**



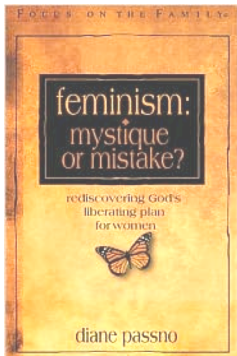
Come join us for **Fall Church Clean Up Day** on
ALL SAINTS DAY
Saturday, November 1st
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Bring your buckets, cleaners, gloves, and elbow grease
Help clean out the Halloween cobwebs
And enjoy saintly goodies, coffee, hot apple cider,
and warm fellowship!!

MORE NEW BOOKS

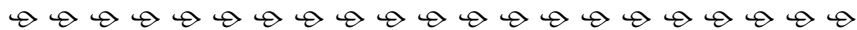
LOOK FOR THESE ON THE LIBRARY CART -TOP SHELF!!



Feminism: Mystique or Mistake? By Diane Passno

In 1963 Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* sparked a feminist revolution. The time has come to evaluate its legacy. Has feminism stayed true to its original nineteenth century goal of gaining fair treatment for women? If so, why do millions of women in mainstream America feel so little in common with feminism or the controversial causes it now embraces? Diane Passno, executive vice president at Focus on the Family, gives a candid critique of today's feminist movement and shows how it has affected every level of society.

While acknowledging feminism's initial appeal for equality, she strips away the veneer of the current movement – and reveals the cost to women and their families over the past four decades. Diane's insightful analysis brings clarity to the confusion women often feel, as it sorts through the mixed messages our culture gives and reveals the liberating plan God has had for women all along.



ARE YOU THE BETTER HALF?



Research shows that one-half of Californians would consider attending a Marriage Education class to gain relationship skills. Which half are you? We invite you to attend a Marriage Encounter weekend, October 24-26, 2008 in the Sacramento area.

Research also shows that couples who attend Marriage Education programs report increased intimacy and satisfaction with their relationship. Life is sometimes full of undiscovered riches right within our grasp. Here is another opportunity to help us gain the promise for health, wealth and happiness.

The next weekend is scheduled for October 24-26, at the Best Western Venetian Court Hotel, Rancho Cordova, California, near Sacramento. For information and registration contact: Gary & Phyllis Varney, 916-371-5019, gvarney@yahoo.com or www.encounter.org

The registration fee is \$75.00. The balance of the cost is on a donation basis so the program is open to all couples regardless of income.

*Timeless Traditional Tea
Holiday Boutique
Saturday, November 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
LUMC's All Church Fun(d)raiser
Many Opportunities to Participate!*

Bring you family and friends!

Reserve your places for the Traditional Tea – seatings at noon, 2p.m, 4 p.m. (Guys, this is not just for ladies – the men who came last time felt that they were more than satisfied!) Seating is limited to 40 at each seating, so be sure to get your reservations in to Ginny Leavitt – 284-7857 -- \$20 each, or 2 for \$35. Reserve a table for 8 for \$130!

Do you enjoy baking, etc.? Look for ways that you can share in the food preparation (see separate sign-up or call Sande Hubbs)

Plan your holiday shopping list – you will have an ample choice of gifts to buy at the Holiday Boutique! Think of hostess gifts as well as for a special someone. There will be many handcrafted items from pot holders to place mats, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, knitted items -, scarves, baby items, etc., eco-friendly shopping bags, tote bags ,jams and jellies, and much more! In addition, we will have some outside VENDORS, with their special offerings, including Dottie Vieira and her doll clothes, Discovery Toys, Madeline's Indonesian candles, Longaberger baskets, Blanche's knitted items, and MORE.

Participate in the Mini Silent Auction - we have Wendell's Bird House (more like Bird Mansion!) and a Beautiful Hand-made Quilt! Look for a preview of these in late October!

If you made items to donate on your own, be sure to get those to Ginny Leavitt as soon as possible so that they can be properly showcased!

Don't have much time to spare – consider Boutique shopping and then a nice cup of tea at the Tea Café!

Are you going to be out of town or unable to participate in any of the above ways, but still want to be a part? Would you like to sponsor a tea table? You can donate \$50 and a table will be designated in your name, or someone you want to honor!

WATCH THE TOWER NOTES AND CHURCH BULLETIN FOR MORE DETAILS! Do circle the date, and plan to attend!

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:

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

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

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

<u>Live Background Music</u>	<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.



Endowment Committee Notes

We are pleased to inform everyone that our church has received a very generous gift of \$97,101.88 from the estate of Walter and Virginia Hoadley. The money has been placed in the Inreach Endowment Fund. We will have more about the Hoadleys and what their gift means to us in the next tower notes. We are very appreciative of their generous gift.

The endowment Committee currently has money available for grants for this year: \$359 for church programs or special purchases and \$414 for outside church contributions or missions. Applications are available in the Church office.

We still have two cemetery plots and two niches for ashes at the Oakmont Cemetery that were donated to the church. If anyone is interested in purchasing the plots or niches call Doug Cowden 925-284-7026

ELAM BROWN SOCIETY

On September 20, 1994, Lafayette United Methodist Church established the LUMC Endowment Fund to help ensure the financial future of our church. Contributions to the Endowment Fund can be made directly with outright gifts designating that they go to the Endowment Fund or can be made with various planned giving methods such as our Pooled Income Fund or a Charitable Remainder Trust. Such gifts can also be made by a bequest in one's Will. Contributions can be made with stocks, bonds, life insurance or real estate.

Everyone who contributes to the LUMC Endowment Fund automatically becomes a member of the Elam Brown Society. The Elam Brown Society was created to recognize those who have made these special gifts to the Endowment Fund or have designated LUMC to receive a bequest from their Wills. Elam Brown was, of course, the founder of Lafayette and an early member of our church. You will be hearing more about the Elam Brown Society in the near future.

The latest contribution to the Endowment Fund has come from the Charitable Remainder Trust of Walter and Virginia Hoadley. In addition we have five donors to our Pooled Income Fund. The payments from the Pooled Income Fund to those donors are in the 7% annual payout rate.

At the present time the Endowment Fund has assets of approximately \$169,500.00. In addition, there are assets of more than \$80,000.00 in the LUMC Pooled Income Fund which will eventually go to the Endowment Fund. Grants from the Endowment Fund are made each year for projects which are not otherwise funded by our annual budget. Part of these grants are made for worthy projects within the church and part for worthy charitable causes outside the church. Since the inception of the Endowment Fund, over \$14,000.00 has been distributed for worthy projects within and outside the church community.

Are you already a member of the Elam Brown Society? If you have made a provision in your Will, Revocable Living Trust or Charitable Remainder Trust for LUMC you are already a member of the society. We would like to know if you have done such planning so you can be included in the activities of the Elam Brown Society.



FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICE PLANNING FORM

Each church member is encouraged to complete this information as a guide for your family and pastor. Consider discussing your plans with your family and pastor. Keep this form in a safe place at home, a place known to those who will need the information after your death. It may not be easily accessible in a safe deposit box. Make copies for your family. You are also encouraged to send a copy to the church office.

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth

Veteran's Serial #

1. Please notify the following relatives of my death.

Name_____Relationship

Address_____Phone

Name_____Relationship

Address_____Phone

Name_____Relationship

Address_____Phone

2. Please notify the following friends.

Name_____Relationship

Address_____Phone

Name_____Relationship

Address_____Phone

3. Please put notice of my death in the following newspapers:

Name

Name

4. The mortuary I prefer is

Address_____Phone_____ I have

☐ have not ☐ made pre-paid arrangements.

5. I have ☐ have not ☐ signed the donor card authorizing the giving of parts or organs.

6. I prefer that my body be cremated ☐ buried ☐.

7. I prefer immediate cremation with a Memorial service ☐

I prefer a funeral service with the casket open ☐ closed ☐.

8. I would like the service to be held: (check one only)

- ☐ Church only
- ☐ Church and graveside/mausoleum
- ☐ Church and private graveside/mausoleum
- ☐ Mortuary only
- ☐ Mortuary and graveside/mausoleum
- ☐ Mortuary and private graveside/mausoleum
- ☐ Graveside/mausoleum only
- ☐ Other:

9. I have ☐ have not ☐ secured space in a cemetery or mausoleum.

Name_____Lot or Space #

Address_____Phone

10. I have ☐ have not ☐ made a will. It is located in
My lawyer is

11. If possible, please include the following selections in my service:

Scripture Passages

Hymns by the congregation _____
Special Music

Prelude/postlude organ selections _____
Family members or friends to read and/or speak

Other suggestions

12. I am eligible or military honors ☐. My discharge papers may be found
I would like military honors at the church service ☐ cemetery ☐.

As I realize that situations change and some of my requests may not be feasible, I
expressly grant my survivors the right to use their own best judgement, and to make
changes as necessary in completing final arrangements.

Signature

Date

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date and place of birth :

Family information (parents, siblings, marriage(s), children, grandchildren:

Education and Honors:

Employment/Professional positions and Accomplishments:

Church Membership:

(Former) Church affiliations:

Church offices, leadership positions, and activities:

Other memberships, affiliations, and activities:

Hobbies, special interests, personal characteristics, commitments:

Other:

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, Oct. 9, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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E_Mail.....lumc@pacbell.net
Web Site.....www.thelumc.org