

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Oct. 12, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

At a recent meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of the Pacific, I was asked to offer a closing word of inspiration. A few minutes prior the Investment Committee had just reported on our significant losses. During the week many of my colleagues on the Board had been anxiously checking their PDAs for the latest news from Congress and the stock market. Several of their businesses were suffering the impact of the economic crisis hitting the nation. I realized that while their businesses were in turmoil, my business has the opportunity to thrive, for we are in the business of faith and hope.

I shared a story about Winston Churchill. In 1945 he unbelievably lost the election in England and became extremely depressed. His wife, Clementine, tried to comfort him, saying it was probably a “blessing in disguise.” Churchill replied, “If it is a blessing, it is very well disguised.”

The blessings of our nation’s current financial crisis are still well disguised. My hope is that we will be reawakened to what is truly of value in the lives we have been given. It is an opportunity for us, on multiple levels – personal, community, corporate, national – to evaluate our priorities and values. We may rediscover the wisdom of Jesus who teaches that the meaning of life is found in loving God, loving our neighbor, as well as caring for ourselves. Fulfilling these commands does not require the material and financial wealth that our culture tends to tout as the source of “the good life.”

The Chinese symbol for crisis can mean either danger or opportunity. The outcome is highly dependent upon our response to crisis. While we must be wise and prudent in our financial dealings, we are also people of faith. Our faith is the ultimate foundation of our lives. When everything else is in turmoil around us, people of faith continue to know that the richer blessings of life are found in relationship – relationship with God, with one another, and with the wondrous creation God has designed.

Cherish the blessings given you, for they are found in small and large ways all around us each and every day.

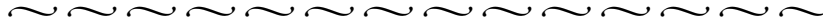
Blessings,

Pastor Lori

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.



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.



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!!



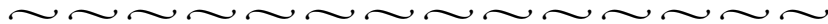
**It's Autumn! Time to spruce up our church campus for
the coming of a new holiday season!!**



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!!



MEN'S BREAKFAST
Saturday, November 8, 8:00-9:30 a.m.



Our own Joe Darrell will share slides and stories about his Volunteer in Mission trip to Costa Rica in January/February. Joe has also done some work with CA-NV VIM in Fernley, Nevada. He recently attended the Disaster Response Training held by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

*Timeless Traditional Tea
Holiday Boutique
Saturday, November 15, 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.

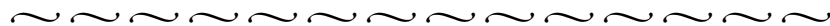
Participate in the Mini Silent Auction - we have Wendell's Bird House (more like Bird Mansion!) and a Beautiful Hand-made Quilt! Look for a preview of these in late October!

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!



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!!!!

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.

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### ***NOVEMBER FOOD BASKET***



The suggested food items for  
November are

**Canned green beans, sweet potatoes  
and cranberry sauce.**

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

## **MORE NEW BOOKS: LOOK FOR THESE ON THE LIBRARY CART -TOP SHELF!!**

### **The Devil's Inbox by Barbara Laymon**

The life of faith presented with a clever twist of The Screwtape Letters.



Here is an insightful, informative, and clever survey of the Christian life. Modeled on C.S. Lewis's The Screwtape Letters, Laymon's book presents the life of faith with all its ups and downs, joys and temptations. The devilish Anesthesia communicates with tempter-in-training Termite via e-mail. We meet Termite's "victim" as a young woman and witness her struggles with faith throughout the stages of her life.

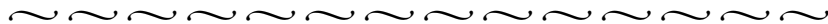
### **A Closer Look at Dr. Laura, On Target or Off the Wall? By Tom Allen**

"Here are comparisons between "Dr. Laura Schlessinger's popular tell-it-like-it-is philosophies with Scripture. This well-balanced book successfully parallels the two, offering readers new insight into her viewpoints." (Beverly LaHaye, Concerned Women For America)

Known for her fearless attacks on immorality and irresponsibility, this "blond latter-day version of Moses on the mountain" insists on sexual relations only within marriage and other "Victorian" ideas. What makes this Queen of Talk Radio tick? Are her values as biblical as she claims? Just which way does Dr. Laura point? And why do so many resonate with her message?

### **Eve and Her Sisters, Women of the Old Testament by Yona Zeldis McDonough and paintings by Malcah Zeldis**

Sarah, Rachel, Deborah, Ruth, Esther.....Here are fourteen women of the Bible---wives, mothers, and daughters, but also prophets and judges, warriors and queens---whose names and deeds echo through history. By stressing the human aspects of their stories, author and artist bring these women vividly to life. It is a magnificently illustrated, simply told book of biblical vignettes for readers of all ages to enjoy.



### **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wednesday, November 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Sponsored by the Lamorinda Interfaith Ministry Association



Area congregations will gather to give thanks as a community. A joint choir will be rehearsing at 6:30 if you would like to join. The service will be followed by a Pie Social! We are invited to bring a pie or cultural dessert to share. An offering will benefit Winter Nights.

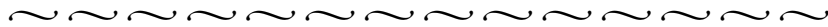
## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

We were blessed to welcome six new members into our congregation on September 28.

**Alex and Gretchen Placzek** have a one-year old daughter, Gretchen. Alex grew up in Lafayette and they have returned to make this their home. Alex works for Dreyer's Ice Cream in marketing. Gretchen is a clinical social worker working at a group home. She has joined our Youth Ministry Team.

**Chuck and Donna Walls** moved in June from Wooster, Ohio, where they had resided for over 30 years. In retirement they have come to be closer to their two sons who live in San Francisco. Chuck worked in manufacturing and Donna served students at the College of Wooster. They have a rich history in the Wooster United Methodist Church.

**Eric and Karen Schroter** have been active at LUMC for several years, supporting the youth ministry, Vacation Bible School, and Joyful Beginnings. Eric is a civil engineer. Karen manages their family life with three active children, Gavin, Stephanie, and Jared.



## NOVEMBER

### Happy Birthday

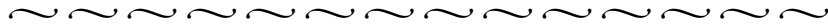
|    |                          |    |                           |    |                              |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 3  | <i>Chor Jee Chow</i>     | 13 | <i>Sophia Lennon</i>      | 24 | <i>Martha Preuss</i>         |
|    | <i>Nancy Flood</i>       |    | <i>Patty Renno</i>        |    | <i>Thomas R. Woo</i>         |
|    | <i>Jillian Smith</i>     | 14 | <i>Nancy Cotteral</i>     | 25 | <i>Suzanne Heizer</i>        |
|    | <i>Donald Walter</i>     |    | <i>Mandy Sheehan</i>      |    | <i>Zoe Inglis</i>            |
| 6  | <i>Jean Wright</i>       | 16 | <i>Cathy VandenBerghe</i> |    | <i>Katie Vanderliet</i>      |
| 7  | <i>Mark VandenBerghe</i> | 18 | <i>Kelly Hartshorn</i>    | 26 | <i>Brian Chuck</i>           |
|    | <i>Jessica Warner</i>    |    | <i>Sue Kibby</i>          |    | <i>Tucker Loughran-Smith</i> |
| 8  | <i>Karen Chuck</i>       | 19 | <i>Isaac Inglis</i>       | 27 | <i>Juliette Eyl</i>          |
| 9  | <i>Lissa Heptig</i>      | 20 | <i>Sean Noah</i>          |    | <i>Meng Ward</i>             |
|    | <i>Daisy Persons</i>     | 21 | <i>Nicole Porter</i>      | 28 | <i>Bill Linson</i>           |
| 10 | <i>Kendra Dillard</i>    | 23 | <i>Donna Partlow</i>      |    | <i>Ellen Walters</i>         |
| 12 | <i>Rebecca Grubman</i>   |    |                           | 29 | <i>Mia Monopoli</i>          |

### Happy Anniversary

- 6 *Nancy and David Sanders*  
16 *Martha Cervantes and Warren Makinson*

## Lafayette Seniors Bazaar

LUMC Fellowship Hall  
Thursday, November 13  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Many handmade items,  
including homemade plum jam;  
lemon pudding cakes and cookies, etc.



### 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

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008**

### LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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