

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Nov. 16, 2008

SEEDS OF A SOWER

As we move toward Thanksgiving, I have much for which to be grateful as I consider our congregation:

- Leaders who take their commitment seriously and faithfully fulfill their responsibility to serve;
- Many who see a need and take the initiative to respond without being asked;
- Members who visit, call, and care for one another;
- Staff members who are accomplished and gracious in offering their ministries;
- Folks who come upon a creative idea for ministry, invite others to join in, and offer a new and meaningful ministry for the congregation;
- Affirming words of appreciation that are spoken to one another;
- The warm hospitality offered to newcomers, inspiring them to actively participate in our Christian community.

Specifically, I am most recently grateful for:

- Your enthusiastic and gracious hosting of the Winter Nights Shelter, offering food, tutoring, activities, companionship, laundry services, and a Halloween party;
- Many hands that accomplished much-needed deep cleaning in the kitchen, sanctuary, of windows, as well as items to enhance the safety of our campus;
- The intergenerational Men's breakfast with the youth preparing the meal for 35 men;
- Many creative talents assembled for the Traditional Tea and boutique, which has become not just a fundraiser, but a friend-raiser and fun-raiser;
- The growing anticipation for Bethlehem Experience and the creative hard work that is already taking place in preparation.

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Thank You for your joyous partnership in ministry.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

TOWER NOTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The deadline for second Tower Notes in November will be **TUESDAY, NOV. 25**. There will only be ONE Tower Notes issue in December on **THURSDAY, DEC. 11**. We will go back to our normal schedule in January.

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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.

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New Members

John and Heather Alger became members of LUMC on October 19, transferring their membership from Oak Park UMC, Illinois. John is an at-home dad, caring for their children, Grace and Russell. Heather is employed by Citibank in San Francisco. Grace is a seventh grader at Joaquin Moraga and Russell is a fourth grader. Prior to settling in Moraga a year ago, they had most recently lived in England.

Missy Kozacik joined the church on November 16. A resident of Lafayette, Missy is married to Al and they have an adult daughter. She works for McGraw-Hill Publishing. Living with Missy is her mother, Margaret Harto, a long-time member of the United Church of Christ, in which her husband served as a pastor.

Lynn Sabatini also became a member on November 16. She is the sister of Pat Doughty, and aunt of Michelle and Beth Doughty. Following a long residency and career in Fremont, Lynn retired in Lafayette. Her favorite activity is taking cruises!

**the Bethlehem Experience
IMPORTANT DATES**



Set Construction

Please bring, if you can: hammers, saw (crosscut or skill), jig saw - plywood blades, power drill & bits, tape measures, square, staple gun, extension cords - (and 2 to 3 prong converters), socket wrench with ratchet (1/4", 5/16", 3/8", 1/2", etc.), and a carpenter's pencil.

Hang Gossamer Ceiling	Sunday, Nov. 16 th	1:00PM to 5:00PM
Begin Set Construction	Saturday, Nov. 22 nd	9:00PM to 5:00PM
Set Construction Continues	Saturday, Nov. 23 rd	9:00AM to 3:00PM
Construction/Booth Setup w/ Props Placed	Saturday, Dec. 6 th	9:00AM to 3:00PM

The Set Construction Crew under the direction of Steve Breashears and Karen Chelini will meet at other times as needed to complete the transformation of the Fellowship Hall into the Bethlehem Marketplace.

Costume Fitting and Individual Line Help As Needed

Sunday, November 30th, 11:45am - ?

Final Touches to Set and Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 7, 3PM to 6PM

BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Dec. 12, 13 and 14, Tours from 5:30PM to 9PM* (Last tour Begins at 8PM)
(Guests Arrive at 5:15PM for first tour)
(Cast members plan to be at the church from 4:30PM to 9PM)

Booth Take-Down Monday, Dec. 15, 9AM - 12 PM

Set Take-Down Monday, Dec. 15, 5PM to Finish

"TAKE A BOOK OR TWO OFF THE CART THIS SUNDAY!"



The seasonal books are available for check out. Just sign you name, date and phone number. There is no time limit

BAY AREA CRISIS NURSERY **Wrapping Thing Up At The Bay Area Crisis Nursery**

A delightful holiday volunteer opportunity – Gift wrappers are needed to wrap presents for the children from 12/7 through 12/22. Four sessions daily – 9-11 a.m., 12 noon-2 p.m., 3-5 p.m., 6-9 p.m. Call or email the crisis nursery to sign up 925-685-6633 or events@bacn.info. Maximum of 12 people per session; maximum two sessions per group. Children even young ones welcome with adult aupervision – 1 adult for every four children. We provide the gifts, wrapping supplies and refreshments. If you can provide wrapping paper, gift bags, boxes, tissue, ribbons, bows and tape we would be most appreciative! Please contact us if you would like to donate new toys and clothes for gifts.

TRUE AND FUNNY STORY

The following was found in a recent issue of Readers Digest in the “true and funny stories” section. It was submitted by Gil Vieira who was our pastor from 1982-1990.

“When my back seized up, I called my doctor’s office, explaining that I was a minister and was in too much pain to deliver my sermon. Could they help.

The woman on the other end asked me to hold. The next thing I Heard was a loud voice announcing. ‘I have a minister on the phone who can’t stand to preach!’”



Happy Birthday

2	<i>Coralee Dailey</i>	15	<i>Jason Gendron</i>	21	<i>Gus Keeble</i>
5	<i>Jim Curtis</i>	16	<i>Levi Johnson</i>	22	<i>Caralyn Woodruff</i>
7	<i>Shelby Davis</i>		<i>Samya Johnson</i>	25	<i>Dominique Eyl</i>
8	<i>Kaitlin Bove</i>		<i>Kate Kintner</i>	26	<i>Kooshan Ghaziani</i>
	<i>Carole Linson</i>		<i>Peter Kintner</i>		<i>Hugo Jegoux</i>
9	<i>Jacob Welcomer</i>		<i>Dana Nakamura</i>	28	<i>Pat Falcone</i>
10	<i>Mildred Cox</i>		<i>Mason Walters</i>	30	<i>Michael Falcone</i>
	<i>Gloria Duffy</i>	17	<i>Madison Calhoun</i>	31	<i>Bruce Gerringer</i>
	<i>Mary Henderson</i>	18	<i>Barbara Peters</i>		<i>Lauren Williamson</i>
11	<i>Jean Follmer</i>	19	<i>Anna Davis</i>		
	<i>Ruth Wilcox</i>		<i>David Grayson</i>		
13	<i>Wendell Pleis</i>		<i>Micheline Reeder</i>		
14	<i>Rayma Jeanne Price</i>		<i>Lorraine Sawdon</i>		
			<i>Erin Wilmanns</i>		

Wedding Anniversaries

22	<i>Hannelore and Raymond Heizer</i>
27	<i>Daisy and Paul Persons</i>
28	<i>Lindy and Idris Evans</i>
29	<i>Sue and Paul Renno</i>

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DECEMBER FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
December are

Canned fruits and pasta.

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

Thank You

Dear Fran,

I would like to tell you how thankful we were to receive the gift cards you sent to our church. We were able to give them out to many needy families and individuals in our congregation. They were very blessed and touched by the generosity that your church family showed to them. Please pass this thank you on to all that shared and God Bless.

*In Christ's Love,
Kelly Dischler
First Presbyterian Congregation
Orange, Texas*

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LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Church Council Minutes – Tues., Oct. 21, 2008

MEMBERS Present: Greg Horner, Dean Coons, Pat Porter, Pastor Lori, Pat Hershey, Tom Henderson, Doug Cowden, Ginny Cowden, Carol Slatten, Ginny Leavitt

At 7:32 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Hershey with Joys and Concerns, and an opening prayer. The minutes of the September meeting have not yet been finalized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Ginny Leavitt reminded all that the Bookkeeper was on vacation, thus there would be no Financial Report. However, she felt that we were in good shape based on the Sunday Receipt reports. Finance Committee submitted a request for an exception to the Endowment Policy. After much discussion, the request was tabled until the next Council meeting so that there could be more input from the Endowment Committee. Also at that time, it was asked that we clarify the difference between "memorials" and "bequests". We should also consider if it is time to evaluate the Endowment Policy. The goal of Council will be to review/revise if necessary/approve the Policy.

•Ginny reported that there had been two Stewardship letters sent out. It is hoped that all pledges will be in by November 2. It is the intent of the Finance Comm. to submit a balanced budget by All Church Conference. The committee requested a November meeting change with Finance meeting on Nov. 4, and Council on Nov. 11 for this purpose.

•Ginny displayed the Julia White created Holiday Boutique/Traditional Tea flyer, and asked people to take one if they knew some place it could be posted. She encouraged

the Council to give their support and plan to attend. It was recommended that Julia email a PDF to Paul Welcomer for posting on our Website.

••Finance submitted the following policy for adoption by Council:

"The Church will only reimburse expenses if reimbursement vouchers are submitted within the calendar year in which the expenses are incurred, except that reimbursement vouchers for expenses incurred in December may be submitted up until January 15 of the following year." (Cowden, D, Cowden, G) Motion carried.

Trustees: (Greg Horner reporting) Greg reported that they have appointed a Courtyard Comm. of Ray Peters, Mason Walters, Chen Yin Noah, Robyn Roberts, Randall Husch, with Alistair Shearer, consulting. The uneven spots in the courtyard have been ground down as a temporary fix. The All Church Clean-up Day is Nov. 1. Trustees are looking into insulation in the Education Building. The parking lot lights are working. The painting in the nursery has been done. The church and preschool were inspected by the Fire Marshall this week, and the kitchen hood and duct system needs to be redone by Jan. 23, 2009. This is an unplanned expense.

SPRC: Pat Porter reported on the requests that had been submitted to Finance for budgeting purposes. There was discussion about the need for a Youth Director, as we greatly value the youth program within our church.

Lay Leadership: Pastor Lori reported that the committee continues to work on the slate to present at All Church Conference.

Program Council: Pastor Lori highlighted Winter Nights, in progress with great participation, Bethlehem Experience, planning underway, and the Youth's open invitation for their Halloween Party.

There was no Old Business to come before the Council.

New Business: Ginny Leavitt gave the annual Joyful Beginnings Preschool report. Joyful finished its 13th year in the black, although it was a tighter year with slightly less than anticipated enrollment, and unbudgeted expenses (bookkeeper and worker's comp). This year is off to a good start with better enrollment, just one under what was anticipated and one more staff member than previously. Ginny pointed out that Joyful is our largest contributor in facilities use, but also helps financially in other ways that benefit the church and its programs. The interest free loan given the church when it fell short of expenses for the painting project is nearly paid off by writing off a \$100 a month.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations discussion was postponed.

Communications: Dean Coons said the forms for reservations to the Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving Breakfast at Temple Isaiah are available. The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at Our Saviors Church this year.

Pat Hershey adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m. with a reminder that the next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, November 11.

Submitted by Ginny Leavitt

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 **Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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