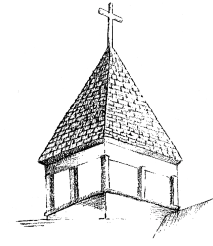


LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

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February 15, 2009

## **SEEDS OF A SOWER**

In the world of professional baseball it's time for spring training. Players come out of winter hibernation to prepare for a new season. They devote several weeks to training in order to present their best effort on opening day and throughout the season.

The season of Lent is like spring training for Christians. It was developed in the early church as a time of preparation for baptism, traditionally celebrated at Easter. Converts to Christianity spent months learning about the Christian faith in order to claim their identity as followers of Christ. During Lent the practice of spiritual disciplines was increased as they began the final phase of preparing to "die and rise with Christ..." as baptism is sometimes described.

The penitential aspect of Lent did not become dominant until the late 5<sup>th</sup> century when most baptisms were of infants, not adults, and the need for the catechuminate diminished. The rituals of Lent turned from preparing to renew our identity as followers of Christ by shedding those things that keep us from that journey.

This season of Lent we are seeking to reclaim that ancient focus of learning to live as resurrected people. We are called to live our lives as if death will never have the final say. We seek to let go of things, not as punishment, but as a way of freeing ourselves to focus on the things that really matter the most. In this way, the discipline of fasting is about feeding our spiritual life, not being enslaved by other things.

As our nation lives with increasing anxiety about our economic condition, our Lenten focus will ground us in the spiritual discipline of prayer. Prayer is an anchor which can sustain us when chaos swirls around us. We invite your participation in worship and other special events during this holy season that your faith might be renewed and strengthened for the living of these days.

Thank you for the surprise birthday celebration and gifts for my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in January. I was touched by your generosity. Our family looks forward to the trip to Santa Barbara during an upcoming school break.

Blessings,

*Pastor Lori*



## **Lent 2009: A Prayer-Full Life**

**Ash Wednesday, February 25, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Taize Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

Taize is an ecumenical community in France. This community's prayerful style of music through musical chants has become a moving spiritual experience around the world. This evening we will join in singing, prayer, and receiving the ashes that mark us as disciples of Jesus who desire to change our lives and grow in godliness.

### ***The Way of Prayer***

Small Group Experiences in Spiritual Formation

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., starting Wednesday, February 25 after the Taize worship

Fridays, 9:00-10:30 a.m., starting Friday, February 27

Sundays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., starting Sunday, March 1

These small groups offer an opportunity to learn and pray various styles of prayer. We will pray with music, pray by heart, pray by gaze, pray with our bodies, pray with scripture, pray for others, and more.

Sign-ups and books are available at Friendship Time or in the church office.

### **Lenten Quiet Day**

**Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

Take time out from your hectic life to stop and reflect upon God's presence in our lives. We'll practice prayer together and center ourselves for the Lenten journey to the cross and resurrection with Jesus.



### **Seeking Housing and Hospitality for Covenant Players**

Sunday, March 8 the Covenant Players, a Christian drama troupe, will be leading our worship services. We will need to provide lodging and meals for four persons on Saturday and perhaps Sunday evening. If you would like to host one or more of the Covenant Players, please let the church office know. They have interesting stories to tell about their call to ministry and their travels around the world with Covenant Players.

The Northern California Welsh Community  
invites you to join us at our

# St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

a musical celebration of traditional hymn singing

**When:** 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 1, 2009

**Where:** Lafayette United Methodist Church  
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette ([www.thelumc.org](http://www.thelumc.org))

**Conductor:** Bay Area musician, Eryl Aynsley, will lead the congregational singing in both Welsh and English. A native Welsh speaker, she coordinates music for the Welsh American Society of Northern California, has sung with choirs in Wales and the Bay Area, is presently Executive Director of Schola Cantorum and sings with Sine Nomine.

**Organist:** Donna Llewellyn Swanson, organist and hand-bell choir director at Los Gatos Methodist Church, will be the accompanist. Donna's early musical training was in Detroit with Gordon Young, the well known organist and composer.

**Te Bach:** A *Te Bach* (little tea) will follow in the church social hall. Coffee and tea will be provided. Donations of Welsh cakes and finger food would be appreciated.

For further information, contact  
Idris Evans at (925) 283-0912  
or by email at [loriteassociates@comcast.net](mailto:loriteassociates@comcast.net)



**From San Francisco (24 Eastbound)**

Take Oak Hill Road Exit  
Turn Right  
Turn Left on Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Turn Right on Moraga Road  
Church will be on right side  
955 Moraga Road

**From Sacramento (24 Westbound)**

Take Central Lafayette Exit  
Stay to the Right on the offramp  
Follow ramp to the Right onto 1st St  
Turn Left on Moraga Road  
Church will be on right side  
955 Moraga Road



**On St. David's Day, March 1,**  
*Welsh people around the  
world wear daffodils or  
leeks to honor St. David,  
Patron Saint of Wales.*



**WASNC**  
WELSH AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
[www.wasnc.org](http://www.wasnc.org)



## **Prescription Glasses Wanted/Needed!**



Your old glasses can be recycled! And since they will be recycled to a Third World Country, you can know you have helped the effectively blind to see which may allow them to work and support their families. Please bring your old prescription glasses to the Church. There should be a Lions Club collection box near the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. Or give them to Lions Pat Porter or Kurt Teichmann. The March 21st Men's Breakfast Contingent is planning to clean and polish these glasses for distribution in the Third World. So get your old glasses and those of your nearsighted friends in now!



## **A VALENTINE TO THE LUMC CONGREGATION!**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to express our appreciation and gratefulness to this congregation for its faithful support financially of our church and its programs. Over the past two years you have given generously so that we have not only been able to meet all our obligations, including 100% of our Givings and Askings (Apportionments), but we have been able to carryover funds to the next year.

Because of the generosity in the past, and the conservative nature of our spending, we have a balanced budget for the year 2009, a balanced budget that includes a 3% COLA for our most appreciated staff.

The number of pledges and the total amount of the pledges for the year 2009 is less than it was in the year 2008, but with the carryover, we start this year in a good position with a reasonable balanced budget.

Thank you for your faithful support. We are all well aware of the economic situation that we are facing, and the position it puts us in. Your support is a blessing indeed!

In Faith,  
Ginny Leavitt, Finance Chair

## LUMC Financial Policy

It is the policy of the LUMC Finance Committee that all appeals for funds, whether by a group, committee, or individual, and whether as a fundraiser or a direct appeal, be first submitted to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee's regular meeting date is the second Tuesday of each month. Should you have any questions, or would like to submit an appeal, please contact Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857.



## MARCH

### Happy Birthday

|    |                  |    |                   |    |                |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 5  | Blake Tollen     | 13 | Matthew Ward      | 25 | David Hill     |
| 6  | Maddy Beeman     | 15 | Lorri Sullivan    | 26 | Stefan Miller  |
| 8  | Chadwick Follmer |    | Wesley Thomas     | 27 | Lindy Evans    |
| 9  | Steve Breashears | 17 | Rafael Marcus     | 28 | Hanna Carter   |
|    | Spencer Davis    | 18 | Eric Schroter     |    | Mary Teichmann |
|    | Hannelore Heizer | 19 | Bill Cooke        | 29 | Morgan Faries  |
|    | Campbell Zeigler | 21 | Jane Smith        |    | Jax Gendron    |
| 11 | Chris Coons      | 24 | Elizabeth Falcone |    | Charlie Heizer |
|    | Jenna Curtis     |    | Michael Sanders   |    | Greg Newcomb   |
| 13 | Matthew Ward     |    |                   |    |                |

### Happy Anniversary

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 26 | Jeanette and Alistair Shearer |
| 31 | Kurt and Mary Teichmann       |



## MARCH FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for  
February are  
**beans and pasta**

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

## **ALL CHURCH ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE! APRIL 17TH AND 18TH**

Start thinking of all those items that you don't use any more, and then think LUMC's annual RUMMAGE SALE! Watch for more details in the next publications! Plan on being a part of this special church fundraiser! There is a role for you - from donating your goods to being a part of the action! Any questions - contact Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857



### **MONTE TOYON, ALL CHURCH RETREAT, APRIL 25-26**



Former member of LUMC, SUE KING will be the inspirational leader. Sue has three years of pastoral experience, a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and 18 years of corporate experience as a computer programmer. She and her husband, Warren, lived in the Middle East for more than two years where they enjoyed unique opportunities for cross cultural experiences and faith formation. They founded and operate the non-profit organization, Faith Exploration, which provides the public with additional opportunities for Christian Education. From 1984 until their move overseas in 1996 and Sue's pastoral experiences beginning in 2001 they were active members of the Lafayette United Methodist Church.

#### **THEME: "RENEWAL OF THE HEART: More Than Illusion"**

When renewing our hearts we often depend on light-hearted devices to demonstrate the serious side of life, the mechanical to illustrate our emotions, and the visual to reveal the unseen. The three sessions of "Renewal of the Heart" will investigate God's truths about the formation of our hearts through the fun, slight of hand, and demonstration of magic tricks.

A heart renewed under the guidance of God's graciousness is full of peace and is well prepared for all situations in life. Such a heart responds to life with goodness and is capable of bringing remarkable harmony to all pursuits and daily activities. The retreat sessions will explore the interaction of our endeavors with the unseen action of God. Together these influence and shape the depths of our being and impact all who cross our path.

Saturday Afternoon Session: "Addressing Our Wills"

Saturday Evening Session: "Addressing Our Needs"

Sunday Morning Worship: "Addressing God"

Registration forms/fee schedule will be available Sunday, February 29.

## **LUMC Minutes of the Church Council Meeting of January 20, 2009**

**Present:** Chairperson Pat Hershey, Carol Slatten, Ginny Leavitt, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Tom Henderson, Robyn Roberts, Pat Porter, Doug Cowden, Jack Cotteral and Secretary Kurt Teichmann

- After the committee members shared joys and concerns, Chairperson Hershey opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. with a Centering Prayer. The minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted by consensus.

- The Committee discussed the second chapter of the book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. The chapter was on "Passionate Worship." It was agreed that the services conveyed an authentic, alive, creative and comprehensible worship. It was almost universally agreed that the sermons greatly contributed to this. It was also noted that the positive, alive attitude of the congregation conveyed this feeling to the rest of the congregation.

**Finance Committee:** Ginny Leavitt reported that 2008 ended in a very, very fine fashion. The Church paid all of its expenses, apportionments and askings and still had \$53,110 roll over to 2009. She noted that of that figure, \$33,600 was actually a rollover from 2007. That figure also included \$7,290 in rent from Futures Explored which was more extraordinary income than regular income.

- Leavitt said that 15 to 18 pledges had not been received even though follow up contacts had been made. So these former pledges were not being counted on in the budget.

- Finance determined that their budget justified a 3% COLA raise to all employees. This amounts to approximately \$10,000 for the year. Finance recommended a 3% COLA increase to all employees. Motion by Hershey, Second by Doug Cowden. Approved unanimously. It was noted that the pastor's increase must be approved by a Charge Conference. We will ask our District Superintendent to authorize LUMC to schedule a Charge Conference to consider the salary increase.

- The request by the Finance Committee for an exception to the Endowment Policy, which was tabled at the October meeting, has been withdrawn. The Endowment Committee has finished its consideration of the exception proposal. The Church Council has agreed to appoint a committee to review the Endowment Policy as a whole.

**Trustees:** Pastor Lori reported that an organizational meeting was held last week. Randall Husch was named Chairman and Mason Walters Vice Chairman. Corrine Roberts was selected to be secretary. Pastor Lori said that working with the Fire Marshall on the fire suppression system had resulted in an acceptable compromise. LUMC agreed that rather than upgrade our fire suppression system at an estimated cost of \$4,000 and pay for \$300 annual inspections, we would not cook anything greasy on the stove. This limitation would principally affect the Men's Breakfast program.

**Staff Parish:** Pat Porter noted that SPRC had recommended the 3% COLA for all staff members. There is a need to confirm that adults are not to consume alcohol prior to or during driving or supervising youth. The goal is to have this added to our Safe Ministry Policy of 2005. The UMC District will be consulted to see if there already is adopted

verbiage to cover this issue. This is also to be discussed with Teresa Gerringer, Barbara Leavander and Judy Stillman.

**Lay Leadership and Program Council:** There were no reports.

**Endowment Committee:** Chairperson Hershey recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to determine if the 1994 Endowment Policy was still appropriate and adequate. It was consensually agreed.

**Old Business:** Jack Cottrel provided copies of a proposed alcohol policy to the Chairperson. This was distributed and was briefly discussed. Motion to have the CC to review and consider modifications to a draft alcohol ban policy so that a subsequent CC meeting can adopt the wording of a proposed policy to be submitted to a Church Conference for consideration for adoption. Made by Jack Cottrel, Seconded by Doug Cowden. Approved unanimously.

**New Business:** Our District Superintendent is hosting opportunities for training in various areas. The church is looking for volunteers for mission teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Church Council Secretary, Kurt Teichmann



## 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, Feb. 26, 2009**

## LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Telephone.... | 925-284-4765     |
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| E-Mail.....   | lumc@pacbell.net |
| Web Site..... | www.thelumc.org  |