

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

May 17, 2009

Seeds of a Sower

The Easter season of new life will soon evolve into Pentecost, the day when the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples and followers of Jesus so that the good news of God's love would continue to spread. It did indeed spread like wildfire in those days.

Here's Eugene Peterson's take on the impact of Pentecost from *The Message*: *That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.*

What a great summary of the life of the community of faith: spiritual growth with others, shared ministry and leadership, worship and communion, unity in prayer. These are the very elements that enrich and enliven the Christian community.

These days life seems to pull us in many different directions, claiming our time and energy. Pentecost is a great day to renew our commitment to our membership in the Body of Christ. When one member is absent, we all suffer. When all are present, all are enriched in our life together.

Holy Communion is one of the mystical ways in which the Holy Spirit unites us. As with meals shared with family and friends, communion is a meal shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ. A deeper bond is formed as we break bread together, recommit our lives to following Christ, and pray for the community of faith as members arise to partake of the bread and cup.

In light of recent health concerns, I want to inform you that our communion servers are supplied with sanitizers for hand washing just prior to serving communion. The servers are instructed to break pieces from the loaf or hand pieces to recipients of communion, to insure that only one person handles the bread. If your immune system is weak and you are reluctant to partake of the bread and cup, you may still come forward to receive a blessing from the servers.

I'm looking forward to the renewing winds of the Spirit this Pentecost.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

**M&M'S
PROGRESSIVE DINNER
May 30, 5:30 p.m.**



The Cowden's are planning a progressive dinner starting at Julia and David White's home with hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 PM. We will progress to the home of Ginny and Doug Cowden for the main course and end the evening with dessert at the home of Nancy Flood. Please call Ginny Cowden, 284-7026, for reservations and food assignment.



Pentecost Sunday, May 31

We will celebrate the birthday of the church on May 31. Wear red, orange, or yellow to signify the tongues of fire that lit upon the disciples, endowing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2)!

Celeste Graham has donated new red paraments (altar cloth and bookmark) for Pentecost in memory of her mother-in-law, Jeannette Melcher Graham. Red reminds us of the tongues of fire symbolic of the Holy Spirit, which lit upon the believers at Pentecost, baptizing them with the Spirit of God.



Reaching Out to Assist at the Family Shelter

On Monday and Tuesday June 1 and 2, the Outreach Team will be providing dinner at the Mountain View House family shelter. We will need dinner rolls, milk, chips, mild salsa, guacamole and juice. We also need two additional servers to assist on Monday night June 1 at 6:00 at Mountain View House. The food can be brought to the church on Sunday, May 31. The exact quantities needed will be communicated to you about a week ahead of time as the population at Mountain View House is subject to change. If you can help, please contact Robyn Roberts at church or at 299-0250.



- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Patricia Hershey | 11 Peter Vanderliet | 21 Jack Cotteral |
| 2 Tanner Burke | 13 Alicia Hill | Christopher Kintner |
| Tom Woo | Chris Newcomb | John Kintner |
| 3 Jacquie Kolbe | 15 Fran Smith | Pat Porter |
| David White | 16 Jacqueline Miller | 22 Dean Coons |
| 4 Nicholas Brown | Frank Raggon | 24 Evonne Soon |
| David Smith | 17 Linda Curtis | Celeste Warner |
| 5 Helen Harding | 18 Juliett Gendron | Sara Woo |
| Emily Shearer | Julia Husch | 26 Skyler DeMartini |
| Lizzy Straw | Trevor Martin | 27 Roger Falcone |
| 6 Gretchen Placzek | Martha Raggon | Kalene Sanders |
| 7 Keaton Chia | | 29 Matthew Hartshorn |
| 8 Russell Alger | | 30 Jan Davis |



- 5 Martha and Frank Raggon
- 9 Barbara and Rod Levander
- 11 Julie and Brad Lennon
- 12 Chor Jee and David Chow
- Fran and Vic Smith
- 16 Maureen and Jim Straw
- 18 Barbara and Ray Peters
- 20 Heather and John Alger
- Donna and Chuck Walls
- 24 Sara and Tom Woo
- 25 Anne and Mark Vale
- 27 Jan and Tracy Davis
- 29 Meng and Greg Ward

JUNE FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for June are
jello and macaroni.

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



JOIN THE FUN!!



All women of the Church are invited to join with the United Methodist Women for a picnic lunch on Thursday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m. Once again we will gather at the home of Janet Sategna, 566 Arrowhead Drive, Lafayette. Bring a salad or dessert to share with others. If you need transportation or have any questions, please call Nancy Flood at 283-3409.



Round About LUMC

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **Virginia Thomas**, beloved wife of **Wes Thomas**, on April 20, following a long illness. Shortly thereafter Wes was hospitalized for a week; he is home regaining his strength.

We also sorrow upon the death of **Velva Knox** on April 24 from a stroke. Velva's sister, **Mary Lewis**, writes: "Velva enjoyed going to your church so very much. Thank you for your love, caring, support and kindness. She enjoyed all of the "goodies" that you served after service. Thank you for being in her life. It meant so much to her."

Congratulations to **Kalene Sander's** volleyball team which has made it to the regional competition. **Peter and Kate Kinter** are entered in the World Odyssey of the Mind Championship for the third time! Congratulations! This is the fourth time their mother, **Margaret**, has led a team to the World competition! Way to go, Margaret! **Hilary Smith** received her Girl Scout Gold Award on May 17. **Jacob Partlow** will receive his Eagle Scout award on May 30. His project was installing a sprinkler system in LUMC's front garden.

Jim & Jean Strathdee in Concert

Internationally honored hymn and songwriters, worship leaders and concert artists, Jim and Jean's works are published and sung on six continents. Their music is an offering of hope and encouragement for all people, bringing a message of compassion, justice and healing. Bring your whole family and join us for a time of singing together that is joyful, playful, prayerful and always heartfelt.

Lafayette Christian Church

584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette

June 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Free, donations welcomed. Dessert and coffee afterward



LUMC RECYCLING EXPANDS

This month LUMC has embarked upon an expansion of our recycling program. You will notice blue recycle containers throughout the buildings. These containers are marked with signs indicating what is recyclable and what is not. Please note: this is a bit different than our home recycling!!

The following items can be deposited in the blue recycle containers:



Aluminum and Tin Cans, Aluminum Foil and Pie tins, Aerosol cans (empty and punctured only), Small Metal items, All Plastic Containers #1-#7 (lids ok), Glass Bottles and Jars (all colors), Magazines/Newspapers, Phone Books, Fax, Copies and Computer Paper, Carbonless Forms, Manila Folders and Envelopes, Paper Boxes, Cereal and Shoe Boxes, Cardboard (cut to fit in cart).

The following items cannot be recycled here:

Metal Pipes or Plumbing fixtures, Garbage and Organic or Green Waste Materials, Styrofoam, Plastic bags, Hazardous waste, Restroom Waste, Ceramics, Window glass, Mirrors, Batteries, Electronic waste, Needles and Lancets.

Not only is this good stewardship of the environment, but it also assists our financial stewardship. Instead of paying for 3 yards of trash removal at a cost of \$415 a month, we will pay for 2 yards of trash removal and 1 yard of recyclables for a cost of \$337 a month, a savings of \$58 a month!

Please be conscientious in this endeavor. We don't want to spend the savings on additional custodial care to sort the trash from recyclables!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Scopes & Sequences of our present curriculum - we do have a plan!!

Preschool Older Elementary

Rock Solid is a comprehensive overview of the Bible for preschoolers through older elementary children, covering the major stories of the Bible over three years. Each week, the children encounter a Bible story, helping them to understand the Scripture and apply it to their daily lives. The outline of Bible stories follows the church year, so children fully experience stories of Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

2009/2010

Spring: **March:** Lent/Easter
April: Lent/Easter
May: The First Christians
Summer: **June:** Children Making a Difference
July: Old Testament Miracles
August: New Testament Miracles
Fall: **Sept.:** Joseph
Oct.: Moses
Nov: God Forms a People
Winter: **Dec.:** Advent/Christmas
Jan.: Touched by Jesus
Feb.: Healed by Jesus

2010/2011

March: Lent/Easter
April: Lent/Easter
May: Paul Tells the Good News
June: On the Road with Paul
July: The Land Jesus Knew
Aug: Stories of God's People
Sept: Judges & Kings
Oct: A United Kingdom
Nov: Stories from the Exile
Dec.: Advent/Christmas
Jan: Stories Jesus Told/Parables
Feb.: Teachings of Jesus

2011

Spring: **March:** Lent/Easter
April: Lent/Easter
May: Good News Travels Fast
Summer: **June:** Feasts & Festivals
July: Women of the Bible
Aug: Peacemakers



THE WAY OF PRAYER Makes a Difference

During Lent several members of the congregation participated in a spiritual formation experience using the Companions in Christ book, *The Way of Prayer*. This was funded by our adult education budget. Here is a reflection from one group member:

The *Way of Prayer* was a wonderful, spiritual experience for me. Not one to go to many small group offerings at LUMC, this one was an eye-opener. The leadership and study book were terrific and my spiritual life has been immeasurably strengthened by this experience. Thank you for offering it.

LUMC LIBRARY (ROOM 9 and BOOK CART)

"Soul Feast" An invitation to the Christian spiritual Life by Marjorie J. Thompson has been donated to our library by Sue King, who was the speaker at the All Church Retreat. FIND IT ON THE BOOK CART!!



"As I went through the pages of this book, I could feel the strong yet gentle guidance of its author. Marjorie is clear, specific, and direct, but she does not impose, push, or manipulate. She simply invites us to create the space where the life of God in us can be nurtured and brought to fruition. Our busy lives make it hard for us to create free time or space for God. "Soul Feast" shows us that the disciplines of the spiritual life are meant to offer creative boundaries to that empty space within and among us, so that we can acknowledge it without fear and allow God to transform there our stony hearts into hearts of flesh." from the forward by Henri J.M. Nouwen



FALL FUNDRAISER FOR THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH!



As summer rapidly approaches, keep our SILENT AUCTION scheduled for October in mind! Think about what you could contribute, and watch for summer sales! All types of baskets could be made up – a "Day at the Beach" Basket, Bath and Body Basket, Sports Basket, Family Fun Night Basket, Time for Tea Basket, Reader's Delight Basket, Chocolate Lovers Basket, Scrapbooking Basket, the ideas are limitless. Just let your creative juices flow! Also, if you have a business that you frequent – how about asking for a donation for our church?? Just keep LUMC's SILENT AUCTION in mind as you go about your daily activities! Any questions, please contact Ginny Leavitt – 284-7857



With Passion in Jesus Christ, Compassion for All . . .

... we designate our 2009 Conference Offering
for purchase of a John Deere tractor for West Angola.

Our Conference Offering this year will go to our West Angola Partnership – designated for purchase of a John Deere tractor, disc plow and cultivator for the Agricultural Training Farm near Porto Quipiri, north of Luanda.

The JD 5425 Utility Tractor is an 81hp 4WD commercial-grade tractor. It will be shipped directly to West Angola from Savannah, Georgia.

Along with the tractor, our Conference Offering will provide a:

- 3 point 3 gang disc plow
- 3 point 8' disc
- 3 point A-frame/toolbar/shank setup for row crops
- 3 point tilt and swing scraper
- 6' x 8' single axle field trailer



Donations received beyond the cost of the equipment will be used to buy trees, quality seed stock and hand tools.

The equipment will be instrumental in getting the planned Agricultural Training Farm up and running. The farm will provide jobs locally, increase food abundance and availability and serve as a demonstration farm to teach improved agricultural practices to the surrounding community and beyond.

Once crop production and markets are established, the food and profits for the agricultural production will provide financial support for the missions and ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Angola once was an exporter of food, but after 3 decades of civil war food prices are extremely high – and Luanda now is ranked the world's most expensive city.

With 70% of the people earning less than \$1 per day, it is the youngest citizens who suffer most.

Porto Quipiri was the site of a refugee camp where 10 children died every day. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) was instrumental in improving conditions at the camp and when the refugees were allowed to return home, many decided to remain in Porto Quipiri. They built a Methodist Church/school building there which continues to serve the new community that they created.

Bishop Gadspar Domingos of the West Angola Conference believes the Agricultural Training Farm will further grow the region and that by training farmers in sustainable agricultural methods it can benefit rural and urban Angolans for generations to come.

Through the Conference offering, the churches of California – Nevada can play a vital role in this re-development.

Please support our continued partnership with the West Angola United Methodist Conference – give to the Agricultural Training Farm Tractor Project.

Please make checks out of LUMC and put "Annual Conference" in memo section.

LOOKING FOR SUMMER FUN, SERVICE and SPIRITUAL GROWTH!

Check out these opportunities!

Vacation Bible School July 13-17 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Church Camps offered by the California-Nevada United Methodist Conference

Varied Dates – Great Locations – All Ages and families

Check out the website www.cnumc.org/camping

Volunteers in Mission needed in California, the U.S., and around the world

Check out the website www.cnumc.org and click the link to UM Volunteers in Mission



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, May 28, 2009**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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