

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

June 28, 2009

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT
JUNE 17-20, 2009 SACRAMENTO CONVENTION CENTER**

Celeste Graham and I thank LUMC for the opportunity to attend and participate in Annual Conference this year. Each year the Bishop and leadership team design the flavor that will color the experiences the clergy and laity have. (Last year was about artistic expression and ways to worship God through the arts.) This year the focus was on creating a transformative experience through worship, growth opportunities and inspiration with prayer woven throughout all proceedings. A new element this year was eight workshops that provided concrete learning experiences in demographics, outreach, Angola partnerships, youth ministry, *Rethink Church*, and fruitful practices. Celeste and I were introduced to “MissionInsite” – an Internet resource that our church can access free of charge (the conference pays for it) that can provide data about the population around Lafayette. This website is used by corporate America and may prove useful to our church. We plan to explore the possibilities this summer and will share our findings with the Church Council in the fall.

Bishop Warner Brown addressed the conference with his state of the church speech. He reminded all that our primary task is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. “This is the time to welcome new people, new opportunities and new ways of doing things.” As you know, LUMC has been able to pay its apportionments in full for the last few years but many other churches have not been doing so well. (Several congregations have closed their churches.) In light of the economic crises facing all persons, the Bishops have cut their salaries, the Conference office has made cuts to staff and salaries and our apportionments for 2010 will be lower next year. All churches were exhorted to commit to paying their apportionments so that the United Methodist Church can begin to “repair the gate and welcome the exiles home.” As part of the downsizing of structure, “circuits” have been formed to assist the District Superintendents whose ranks have been cut by one full position. Rev. Renee Extrum-Fernandez will continue to be our D.S. and Rev. Joanne Peterson (Tice Valley UMC) will serve as our Circuit Leader and assist with Church Conferences.

All of above happened on Wednesday and we were more than ready to attend the Communion Service that evening.

Thursday morning after worship service we attended our assigned sections where we discussed, amended, and voted on various resolutions involving retiree benefits, budget and social justice issues. Celeste was asked to be a Section Secretary by Rev. Mark Zier (St. Mark's, Orinda) who was in charge of finding three leaders for each of the nine sections – a monumental task. There were few contentious issues this year but that was balanced out by our necessity to vote Thursday evening on the 32 amendments to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church, approved by the 2008 General Conference, but needing affirmation by each Annual Conference. In the end all were approved, but the outcome will not be known for some time as every vote in the denomination will be counted individually. Our conference votes tended to be in the neighborhood of 480 for and 125 against. Thursday night our session was adjourned at 11 p.m. with the next session to start at 8:30 Friday morning.

The highlight on Thursday was the Journey of the Saints. This worship service recognized the lay, clergy and clergy spouses who have passed away since the last conference. Our own Rev. Dick Black was one of the saints whom we honored that afternoon. In addition, this year the service included clergy entering retirement and those beginning conference positions as newly commissioned and ordained leaders. Three young, vital young female clergy (Stacy Current, Victoria Schlitz and Kristin Marshall) gave wonderful homilies that provided hope and inspiration for all.

Many of you know Rev. Lee Williamson and will be delighted to hear that he was awarded the Melvin Talbert Award from Bishop Brown. The Rev. Kristin Stoneking (UC DAVIS) received the Francis Asbury Award from the General Board of Higher Education. The most exciting award for LUMC was the conferring of the Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly Peace and Justice Award to Dean and Chris Coons from the Methodist Federation for Social Action and the Board of Church and Society. Several Bishop's awards were given during the convention to outstanding laity. The Conference Nominating Committee asked Celeste to serve as Secretary for the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CCUIC).

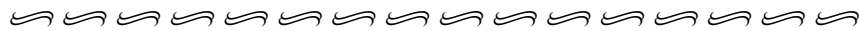
During the conference the youth collected money for the "Nothing by Nets" project that provides mosquito netting for the prevention of malaria. By Friday morning they had raised \$1,900 and were well on their way to the \$2,500 goal they had set for themselves. This year's Annual Conference offering was used for the purchase of agricultural equipment for West Angola. LUMC sent \$800 toward the JD5425 John Deere commercial-grade tractor, disc plow, cultivator and used Ford pickup. More than enough was collected and it was wonderful to be able to vote to send the excess collected to support the salaries and pensions of the Methodist clergy in West Angola. LUMC sent more than three times as much as in years past and we thank you for that.

Methodists always fill the breakfast, lunch and dinner hours with special get-togethers and this year was no exception. Pastor Lori was in charge of the University of the Pacific luncheon which I attended while Celeste helped the CCUIC host their luncheon upstairs at one of UMC's nearby (although it was eight blocks from the convention center). The Bishop's reception was a lovely affair on the balcony of the convention center and again, Pastor Lori was a major organizer of the party. We attended the UMW breakfast Saturday morning at 6:45 a.m. also held at that UMC down the street. Even though we spent a lot of time sitting in legislative sessions we managed to do a great deal of walking! Video snippets of much of the conference are available at:

<http://ourchurchvidoes.com/95691/cnumc/>

Amid all the concerns and budgetary gloom the conference gave us much to think about and even more to be thankful for. Again, the most meaningful ceremony was the Setting of Appointments and Celeste and I were able to lay hands on Pastor Lori as she was assigned to LUMC for another year. Our church has much to be proud of and we will all be expected to continue to live up to this year's motto: Passion in Jesus Christ, Compassion for All.

Thank you,
Carol Slatten



NEW WORSHIP TIME BEGINNING JULY 5, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 5 10:00 Family Worship with Baptism and Communion
"Words to Live By: The Gold Standard of Life" Matthew 7:12

Sunday, July 12 "Words to Live By: Six of Life's Most Important Words"
Colossians 3:13

Sunday, July 19 Vacation Bible School Sunday, led by our VBS children and youth

Sunday, July 26 10:00 a.m. **JAZZ IN JULY!**

Featuring the Joyful Noise Jazz Band in the Fellowship Hall



Followed by a Potluck meal. Please bring something to share according to your last name:

A-R Salad

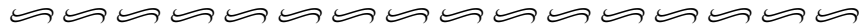
S-Z Dessert

Hot dogs, chips, and beverages will be provided.

Church Campus Watering



We are in need of a few folks to hand water plants on the church campus not covered by the sprinkler system. If you are willing to share this responsibility with a few others, please call the church office and we will schedule you.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

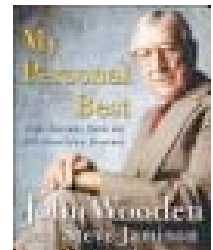
Dates to Remember

- July 5** - Family service: children remain with parents in service
- July 12** - Sunday Fun: Room 6 (after children's message) ages K-5
- July 19** - VBS Program: children remain with parents in service
- July 26** - Jazz in July: Children remain with parents in service



ON THE BOOK CART

Recently donated for your inspiration: "My Personal Best, Life Lessons from an All-American Journey", by John Wooden with Steve Jamison. In this captivating book, basketball coach John Wooden reveals the educational journey he took throughout his legendary life, from his earliest days on a small Indiana farm to the glory of his historic record-setting UCLA dynasty. Throughout "My Personal Best", Coach Wooden introduces us to the men and women who shaped him and the many important life lessons they taught along the way.

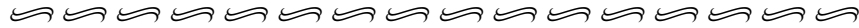


Tremendous THANKS to David Inglis for setting up the computer and Brenda Cooke for putting together a "Windows" program that we can use without a degree in computer technology!!!

Ask Barbara Levander during Friendship time for a demonstration of "how to find a book" in the Library.

Around About LUMC

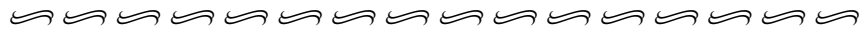
The memorial service for Frank Wilking will be held Saturday, July 11 at 3:00 p.m. at the Vista Room at Hillside Clubhouse. Staff at the Rossmoor gate will give directions.



FREE Summer Reading!



Several books from previous adult small groups are available in the Fellowship Hall before and after worship. You are welcome to take them for your personal devotional reading.



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

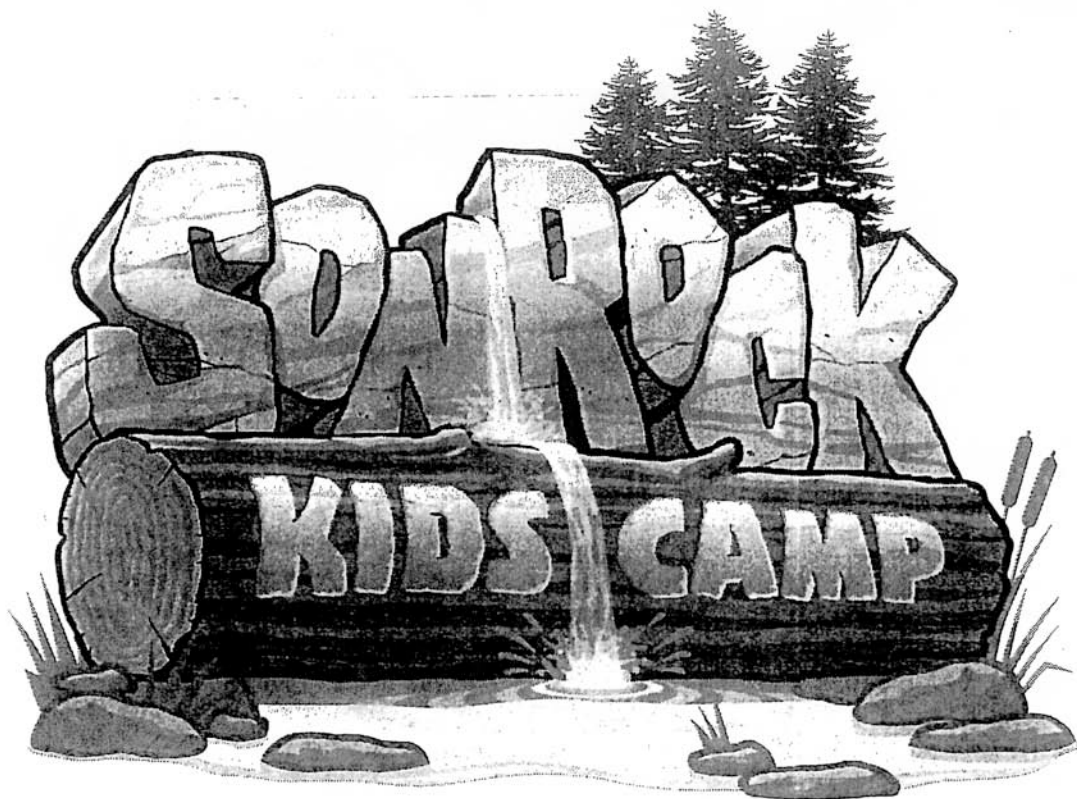
Volunteers in Mission needed in California, the U.S., and around the world

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



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



Vacation Bible Day Camp

July 13 - 17, 9 - 12 noon
At Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette
(Across from the Lafayette Library)
Ages 3 - 15, \$50 each
284-4765

Crafts, music, games, stories and snacks!
Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends!

Don't miss the fun at SonRock Kid's camp!

This camp ROCKS!

WHERE KIDS BUILD THEIR LIVES ON THE ROCK: JESUS!

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

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TOWER NOTES DEADLINE

2nd & 4th Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, July 9, 2009**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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