

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

July 12, 2009

Seeds of a Sower

Most of us are familiar with Coffee Breaks – a 10-15 minute regular break in the workday routine to rest, attend to personal needs, make a phone call, etc. One of my devotional books recently suggested that we take an Awe Break routinely throughout the day.

We frequently begin Sunday worship with opening acts designed to call our attention to God's presence and center ourselves in that presence for our time of worship. We are invited to enlarge our vision beyond our own little worlds and gaze in awe and wonder at the vastness of God's creation and yet the intimate relationship God desires with each of us.

Frequently our daily lives are run by many needful demands and activities. We rush through the days rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment several times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

This summer I am praying for one of my fellow Regents at the University. Astronaut Jose Hernandez is scheduled to fly on the Space Shuttle *Discovery* for a mission to the International Space Station in August! Several times throughout the day, I find myself thinking of Jose and the awesome view of the earth he will see from space. From that angle, I see our planet as small and fragile, its life systems so delicate and in need of careful balance. I feel a great sense of wonder as I consider the miracle of the human body and other creatures made by God. These Awe Breaks remind me of God's presence, of the wonders of God all around me, and of the smallness of my life. I am grateful to be in relationship with such an awesome Creator who knows me.

I encourage you to take time to pause throughout the day for Awe Breaks. Enjoy the laughter of children. Admire the intricate movements of the human body. Gaze at a towering redwood tree. Feel the presence of God in your very being. Delight in the glory of God around you and within you!

*Why should I wish to see God better than today?
I see something of God each hour of the twenty-four, and each moment then;
In the faces of men and women I see God, and in my own face in the glass;
I find letters from God drop't in the street – and every one is signed by God's name,
And I leave them where they are, for I know that whereso'er I go,
Others will come punctually forever and ever.*

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

NEW WORSHIP TIME 10:00 a.m.

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.



STITCH-IN-TIME

Stitch-in-Time will meet at 1 pm on Wednesday, July 22nd in the home of Nancy Flood (520 McBride Drive, Lafayette). Stitch-in-Time is a group of women who enjoy working on crafts and sharing Christian fellowship. We will again be making greeting cards. You are welcome to come whatever your skill level. Please let Nancy Flood (283-3409) or Ginny Horner (284-9585) know if you can attend.



Easter Offering Appreciated



Thank you for your gift to mission. We acknowledge with gratitude your gift of \$200 for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund.

Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer
General Board of Global Ministries

United Methodists are stepping up to provide a tangible response to the HIV/AIDS crisis through the **United Methodist Global AIDS Fund**. The \$8 million goal represents a \$1 commitment of every United Methodist in the United States. It supports education, prevention, care, and treatment programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund does not overlook the crisis in the US. About one million people are infected in the US and more are added to that number each day. The plan specifies that 25 percent of what each annual conference raises should be used in that conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects.

TOWER NOTES NOTICE

Please send your email articles to Mary Henderson, tomaryh@comcast.net, for the next Tower Notes issue only. The deadline is noon on July 23.



Where Do You See God this Summer?

Take a photo – sketch a drawing – write a poem!

Send it in for our **Annual Homecoming Sunday Celebration**

Sunday, September 13, 11:15 a.m. after worship

Send photos to David White at dandjw@comcast.net.

Submit drawings or paintings for scanning or bring them to hang on a bulletin board.

Let Pastor Lori know if you have written a poem or reading to share about your experience!



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.



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



MORE BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

I was caught by these titles and maybe there is one here, on the book cart or in the library that might catch your eye and interest. Check it out! (Barbara Levander)

"Mom's Trapped in the Minivan" by Cynthia Sumner

This is a survival guide for the middle years - that of six-to eleven-year-old period prior to the arrival of your teen when your child is socially and intellectually advancing at a lightning pace.

"What Herbie Left Behind" by Peggy Wilber

Faith Kids books can be a great benefit to children not only in the areas of moral and spiritual development but also in the area of literacy.

"The 23rd Psalm for the 21st Century, a jewish shepherd's story" by Lon Solomon
Lon unwraps the most famous six verses in the Bible. He is like Moses and King David, all are Jews for Jesus who can put "shepherd" on their resume'.

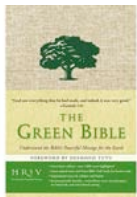
"The Ten Commandments of Dating" by Young & Adams

If you keep the ten commandments of dating, your relationships will run more smoothly, you will protect yourself from the pain of contemporary dating pitfalls, and you will be on your way to building living, lasting relationships. (Hey, Mom and Dad, does this look good for your teen??)



Dear Pastor Lori and LUMC,

Thank you sooo much for the Green Bible. I love the idea that the church is being environmentally conscious! I can't wait to take it to my dorm room next year! Annie Shearer



(Our High School seniors were given *The Green Bible*, a green-letter edition with over 1,000 verses on creation highlighted. It includes a Green Bible Trail Guide for further study and inspirational essays by scholars and leaders. The binding and pages are also environmentally friendly – cotton/linen cover, recycled paper, soy-based ink and water-based coating.)

If You Were Preaching.....

As Pastor Lori is planning our worship life and themes for the upcoming year, she is interested in your ideas for sermon topics and/or issues of the Christian faith about which you may have questions. The following categories may help inspire ideas, but your suggestions do not necessarily need to fit any category below.

Questions of Faith – what do Christians believe about...; how can I understand....

Bible – issues about the Bible, what the Bible says about..., particular books or characters or verses in the Bible

Relationships – how can I cope with....

Social Issues, Current Events – how do we apply our faith to specific issues...

Other

Books, Movies, Periodicals, etc. you recommend

Name _____ (optional)

You may place this form in the box in the sanctuary; hand it to Pastor Lori; send it to the church office; or email Pastor Lori directly at sawdon2@pacbell.net. Thank You!

Happy Birthday

2 Carol Miller
3 Rebecca Teichmann
Jessica Zischke
4 Shelley Harding
10 Michele Miller
11 Beth White
12 Raymond Heizer
Sophia Loughran-Smith

13 Rod Levander
15 Jacob Partlow
16 Paul Gendron
17 Nat Beeman
18 Debbie Nakamura
19 Evan Heptig
Debbie Newcomb
Jared Schroter

20 Zachary Dashner
21 Peter Heizer
23 Veryl Shaffer
24 Michael Gerringer
Cindy Tornow
25 Jim Straw
28 Jordan Davies
31 Janine Crowe

Wedding Anniversaries

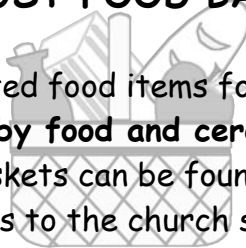
6 Chen Yin and Randy Noah
12 Leslie and Chuck Murray
14 Nancy and Jack Cotteral
17 Leiola and Richard Walter
18 Chris and Dean Coons
21 Ginny and Doug Cowden
28 Martha and Bruce Gerringer



AUGUST FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for August are
baby food and cereal.

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



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, July 23, 2009**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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