

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

September 13, 2009

LUMC Youth Ministry Update

LUMC has a rich tradition of vital youth ministry that has made a significant impact on the lives of many young people. We are in the midst of transition as one chapter of our youth ministry closes and a new chapter begins. Here's what's happening.

Where We've Been

Judy Stillman has long been an integral member LUMC's youth ministry. Her gift for working with teens and organizational skills has enabled the congregation to long depend upon Judy to direct all dimensions of the youth ministry.

For three years Judy has spoken to Pastor Lori of her desire to transition out of youth ministry. This request has been shared with Staff Parish Relations Committee, who has responsibility for staff positions in the life of the congregation. In response to Judy's request, attempts were made to hire a new Director of Youth Ministry, but none of those were long-term relationships.

Among the lessons from those experiences is that the church lacked a solid support structure of adult leaders to sustain the youth ministry and support the Director of Youth Ministry. One person alone cannot direct, coordinate, recruit volunteers, and lead programs, especially in a mere 10 hours a week.

In November 2007, a Youth Ministry Team was formed with Teresa Gerringer as the convener. Youth and adults were invited to be a part of the team to facilitate the youth ministry program. Judy agreed to be a coach on the team, sharing the wisdom of her experience over the years while training others to take on responsibilities.

In the fall of 2008, Judy announced to the youth that it would be her final year of youth ministry. Over the year she would phase out, decreasing her responsibilities from coach to cheerleader to spectator.

As a new school year begins, Judy is moving on to lead adult small groups for our church family. A celebration of Judy's ministry with the youth is being planned for the Thanksgiving weekend. We are grateful for her generous and able service to our youth over the years.

The New Chapter Begins

This Fall of 2009, the oversight of the various aspects of the Youth Ministry falls under the **Youth Ministry Team** – youth group, Sunday school, confirmation, and Sierra Service Project. Active members of the Youth Ministry Team are:

Teresa Gerringer (convener)	Rosalind Faries	Madison Gerringer
Chris Kintner	Tom Kintner	Gretchen Placzek
Jeff Sawdon	Lori Sawdon	Jill Shibuya.

The professional skills of this group include a licensed clinical social worker with a specialty in serving youth and a school board member with a wealth of experience in serving youth. Other interested parties are invited to participate. Let Teresa Gerringer know of your interest.

In addition to the Youth Ministry Team, the following persons have agreed to serve our youth ministry:

Senior High Sunday School – Beth White

Middle School Sunday School – Margaret Kintner, Chris Martin, Debbie Newcomb

Sierra Service Project Coordinator – to be determined

Confirmation – Pastor Lori will lead a team for spring 2010

The team was led in a visioning retreat in June by the CA-NV Conference Director of Young Peoples Ministries, Kelly Newell. Additional adults with an interest in youth ministry also attended the retreat: Beth White, Mark VandenBerghe, Lynn Sabatini, and Greg Horner. The team has been guided by *Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why most youth ministry doesn't last and what your church can do about it*, by Mark DeVries.

The Youth Ministry Team recognizes the need for young adults who can relate to the teen culture to be faith mentors and role models for our youth. It also recognizes the need for a solid support structure of volunteers to manage the operations of the youth ministry. Our primary goal at this time is building the infrastructure to support the ministry. Volunteers will continue to provide the ministry. We are working to equip volunteers for their service.

It Takes a Village

Ministries are always enhanced when they are team based. There are multitudes of ways in which you can participate in youth ministry:

- share a talent, skill or hobby of interest;
- share the gift of music;
- lead recreational games;
- suggest or lead us in a service project;
- integrate youth into other areas of the church life;
- pray for our youth and Youth Ministry Team;
- serve as a confirmation mentor.

Contact Teresa Gerringer or Pastor Lori if you have a gift to offer.

We are grateful for our church family's loving embrace of children and youth! **You do make a difference** in growing healthy lives.

Deepening Our Discipleship Through Small Groups

How is it with your soul? This was a question early Methodists frequently asked of one another to encourage growth in the faith. This fall we offer two small groups to deepen our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Tuesdays at 12 noon, starting Sept. 15 led by Judy Stillman

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. starting Sept. 16 led by Pastor Lori Sawdon
Books, *A Blueprint for Discipleship: Wesley's General Rules as a Guide for Christian Living*, are available in the church office or after worship.



BUZZ GROUPS

(formerly Sunday School Classes PreK-5th grades)

KINGDOM SAFARI, GOD'S TOP 10 LIST, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT are titles for the Fall quarter illustrating that GOD IS LOVING.

Themes are Creation, 10 Commandments, Criminals and Prisoners. Already some of the teachers have experienced the excitement with these materials.....less paper, more action!!

BUZZ GROUP LEADERS: PREK-KINDERGARTEN - Martha Cervantes and
Roseann Beeman

FIRST GRADE - Meng Ward, Jill Shibuya and Carol Zuckerman

SECOND GRADE - Nancy Sanders, Sharon Chia and Tonja Marcus

THIRD/FOURTH/FIFTH GRADES - Teresa Gerringer, Katherine Welcomer and
Mark Emerson



NOT FOR GAMBLING!!.....DICE ARE NEEDED FOR GAMESto
determine the spaces to move around the game board.

If you have any size dice you can donate, please leave in the church office in an envelope with my name on. Thanks, Barbara Levander

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, September 19, 8:00 a.m.

LUMC Fireside Room



"The History of the Bible: The New Testament"

Presented on DVD by University of North Carolina Professor Bart D.
Ehrman

Coordinators: Kurt Teichmann and Henry Kim



Experiencing Christ's Love through Worship
September Theme: The Leading Causes of Life

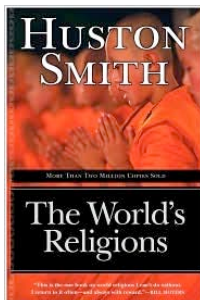
We are fairly familiar with the leading causes of death, such as cancer and heart disease and we do our best to avoid these. However, what are the leading causes of life that nurture health and are "preventive medicine"? We'll explore the things that generate the wholesome, abundant life God desires for each of us.

Sept. 20 Generations of Love: Blessing Genesis 12:1-3, John 1:16, 1 Peter 3:8-10

September 27 Not Just Wishful Thinking: Hope Psalm 42:1-5, Ephesians 1:15-23



WORLD'S RELIGIONS SEMINAR SERIES



Are you interested in other religions? Have you wondered what the Koran says? Celeste Graham will offer a seminar class starting September 20th right after church and again on October 11th after church. Huston Smith's 50th Anniversary Edition of The World's Religions (Plus) (ISBN9780061660184) will serve as the basis for discussions. The first session will discuss Islam with other class subjects chosen by the group. Please let Celeste know if you will be attending and purchase (\$11.55 at Amazon.com) and

read the chapter on Islam by the first class. Celeste can be reached at: 925-676-7525 or cqgraham@yahoo.com.



Ken Mansfield will give an organ recital on Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (49 Knox Drive, Lafayette). The program includes works by Bach, Widor and Mansfield. A free will offering will be received. All are invited.



**NEW FORMAT FOR
SILENT AUCTION ALL CHURCH FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 after church service**



Come in to Fellowship Hall after church to see /bid on the array of donated items. A few items already donated – Christmas Tree, any size delivered, Coffee basket, Tea Basket, Tennis Anyone, Celebration Basket, Vintage necklace, Longaberger Basket, Baby Basket etc.

Think about early gift buying for the holidays! As you browse, nibble on a selection of hors d'oeuvres. Have a cup of coffee or a glass of punch! Purchase some jams! Don't forget to check back on your bids!

Sit down for some dessert and enjoy the humor of Jim Straw for the Live Auction. After bids close check out with your bid winners/jams, etc. at the Cashier Table. Have to leave early? We will hold your item for you should you be the high bidder!

Haven't let Ginny know what your donated item is – call– 284-7857, email ginleavitt@comcast.net or drop a note/form in the church office or offering plate!

Could you contribute some hors d'oeuvre?? Let Ginny know she can count on you.

Item to donate _____

Make a hors d'oeuvre _____

Name _____

**CONTRA COSTA
CROP Hunger Walk 2009
HIKE FOR THE HUNGRY**



Co-sponsored by
The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
And Church World Service
October 18, 2009

Sunday 1:00 PM, Walnut Creek, Civic Park

WE'LL WALK RAIN OR SHINE!!!!!!!!!!

The walk is 4.2 miles long. We'll be raising money to help feed the hungry in our community and around the world. Please contact Jill Shibuya at 284-2826 or jes3134@yahoo.com for more information.



**LUMC PONY EXPRESS
Stewardship Campaign**



“You will be enriched in every way for great generosity” II Corinthians 9:11a

Each year in the fall, LUMC conducts a stewardship campaign to be able to have a sense of our expected income for budgeting purposes for the following year. Two thirds of our income is from pledges/giving. The remainder is from use of our buildings, fundraisers, special giving, etc. This income funds everything that we do at our church – our staff/administration and related expenses, our apportionments /outreach, our building maintenance/ insurance/taxes /utilities , our programs. Etc. It is through your generous giving that we have been able to maintain all that we do even in these tough economic times!

This year we are using the “Pony Express” rather than “snail mail” to get the pledge/giving cards to you. This means that each of you can be a “rider” and help deliver the mail for LUMC (We realize this would be difficult for the some of you with health issues or living in outlying areas, so we will still rely on the US Postal Service for you.) For the rest of you, I hope you will join in the spirit and pass the saddle bags on to a church neighbor. The process is a simple procedure – and directions will be readily available. Should you not be able to participate during the run, (mid to late October) early pledges will be cheerfully accepted, and your name will be crossed off of your trail boss' list.

Happy Trails to you,
Ginny Leavitt, Stewardship Campaign Chair

OCTOBER FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
October are

spaghetti and sauces.

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



OCTOBER

Birthdays

2 David MacDannald	10 Natalie Reeder	22 Jillian Bove
4 Martha Kozacik	Robyn Roberts	Dale Kari
5 Clay Vryens	11 Kristen Darrell	Hilary Smith
6 Peter Hartshorn	Katherine Welcomer	24 Margaret Kintner
7 Linda Berti	12 Claire Breashears	Dale Newcomb
Don Keeble	13 Julia Partlow	Gavin Schroter
8 Barbara Falkenberg	14 Kathleen Emerson	25 Stephannie Tornow
Dot Feist	Elizabeth Follmer	27 Megan Berti
9 Gavin Beeman	16 Tom Henderson	28 Sharon Chia
Armand Johnson	17 Chris Chuck	30 Elizabeth Emerson
Leslie Murray	18 Travis Oakley	
Paul Renno	21 Nathaniel Welcomer	

Wedding Anniversaries

- 4 Roseann and Gary Beeman
17 Patricia Hershey and Joe Darrell

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, September 24, 2009**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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