

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

September 27, 2009

Seeds of A Sower

Recently the *Contra Costa Times* "Religion & Ethics" page had an article titled, "Clergy look to Web for sermon inspiration." The pastor interviewed said that of the 38 weeks he preaches a year, he has original ideas for half. The other half he finds on the Internet, taking what other preachers have done and tweaking it for his congregation. It is true that you can find a multitude of ready-made messages on the Internet, some for free, others for a fee.

The article prompts me to share with you the process I use in preaching. During the summer I planned my message themes through Easter. Throughout the year, I seek to offer a variety: biblical interpretation, Christian beliefs, spiritual practices and growth, pastoral care, and enhancement of the church. The current, *Leading Signs of Life*, was inspired by the title of a book, but it is not a book of sermons. The month of October will focus on United Methodism, some history, our beliefs, and our global mission. In November we'll explore the book of Job. For the season of Advent, the theme is from a favorite Christmas carol, "The Hopes and Fears," based upon scripture readings from the lectionary, a three year cycle of readings covering 70% of the Bible. In the new year, I'll offer a series, "Goldmines for Growth," focusing on the challenges of life that present opportunities for our personal growth. During Lent we'll visit biblical stories telling of encounters with Jesus to consider our own relationship with Jesus.

In preparing I start with the scripture or scriptures related to the specific theme. I discern the message from scripture that God has for people in our time and context. I reflect on the message during the week, consulting a wide variety of resources: prayer, Bible commentaries, journals, books, and yes, the Internet! I've annotated many of the books I've read, filing items for later use and I make notes throughout the week. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday hopefully it all coalesces in a meaningful message to inspire the discipleship of the people.

Preparing a message is a spiritual process that ideally takes 15-20 hours per week, usually in bites of 15 minutes to 3 hours of time. Although I may read or listen to sermons of other preachers, I do not just tweak their ready-made material. I use an illustration or take a point or idea from another, but never an entire message. Integrity is an honorable value for me. I am responsible for what I preach, so it must be of me and relevant to the current time and context. I very rarely use a sermon I have previously preached. I've grown since then, the time and setting are different, and God is still speaking.

God's Word is fresh every morning! May you be inspired and challenged by the fresh Word of God!

Blessings,

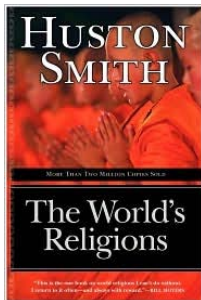
Pastor Lori

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

East Bay Regional Parks are our local treasures and photographer Stu Selland will present a program in word and image on these sites. Please join UMW at 11 a.m. Thursday, October 1st in the Lower Fireside Room for Stu's presentation. Bring your lunch to enjoy after Stu's program and invite your neighbors to join us.



WORLD'S RELIGIONS SEMINAR SERIES



Does detachment sound interesting to you? Would you like to explore Buddhism? Sunday, October 11, right after church in the lower fireside room Celeste Graham will lead a session on Buddhism. Please read the chapter on Buddhism in the Huston Smith book, The World's Religions and come prepared to share your thoughts. You don't need to have attended the Islam class to come to this class. If you have questions call Celeste at 676-7525 or cqgraham@yahoo.com.



New Members Welcome!!
Sundays, October 18 and 25
10:00 Worship

We will be receiving new members into the congregation. Let Pastor Lori know if you are interested. She is happy to come to your home and visit with you to introduce you to the church.



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.

Youth Ministry Happenings!

Join the youth, grades 6-12 each Sunday at LUMC!

10am - Jr. Hi. Sunday School in Room 9 following the Children's Message
10am – Sr. Hi. Sunday School in the Youth Room following the Children's Message

6pm to 7:45pm – Youth Group – Meet in the Fellowship Hall –
Reconnect with friends and adult leaders at the beginning of a new week.
There are discussions, Bible lessons, games, and, of course, a chance
to hang out over a great dinner provided by parent and church volunteers.

Upcoming Special Events in October!!

October 11 – SSP Sunday – Come hear about Sierra Service Project and the opportunities
for Summer 2010

October 18 – Crop Walk – Start getting your sponsorship pledges now, and
the join us at Heather Farms at 1pm for a 4 mile walk to end hunger.

October 23 at 6pm to October 24 at 9am – Junior High Lock-In – Halloween Party Setup,
Photo Scavenger Hunt, Sardines & a Movie
{Bring \$5 for snack & breakfast}

October 25 – 5:30pm to 6pm – Trick or Treat for UNICEF – Youth will lead groups of
youngsters to pre-defined neighbors for trick or treat
6pm to 7pm – Halloween Party & Hot Dog Dinner –
Games of all kinds with prizes, and a hot dog family dinner!!
Freewill donation requested.



The Youth Need You!!

Volunteers are needed to pray for the youth, lead discussions,
provide meals, lead the youth in games, crafts,cooking, sewing, finances,
if you can lead it, the sky's the limit. If you are interested in
being a part of providing a caring, intergenerational
youth ministry for the LUMC teens, there's a place for you!

For more information, please contact Teresa Gerringer, 925-943-7911. If you'd like to be
put on the youth ministry email list,please send an email
to Teresa at tgerringer@comcast.net, and we'll keep you
in the Youth Ministry loop.

October Youth Calendar

Jr. Hi & Sr. Hi

Oct 4	10am to 11am Jr. Hi. Sunday School - Rm. 9 - Margaret Kintner Sr. Hi. Sunday School - Youth Room - Beth White 6:00 - 7:45PM Jr. Hi & Sr. Hi Youth Group Discussion Leader: Pastor Lori Fellowship: Chris Martin Dinner: Ward & Partlow
Oct. 11	10am to 11am Jr. Hi. Sunday School - Rm. 9 - Margaret Kintner Sr. Hi. Sunday School - Youth Room - Beth White 6:00 - 7:45PM Sr. Hi Youth Group Discussion: Gretchen Placzek Fellowship: _____ Dinner: Chuck & _____
Oct 18	10am to 11am Jr. Hi. Sunday School - Rm. 9 - Margaret Kintner Sr. Hi. Sunday School - Youth Room - Beth White 11am - 12:30pm - All Church Silent Auction - Youth Item 1:00pm - Crop Walk - Civic Park Coordinator: Jill Shibuya 6PM-7:45PM SSP Night Discussion/Fellowship: Karen Schroter & Judy Stillman Wear your SSP shirt!!! Dinner: Gerringer & _____ Halloween Party Signups-Signup to Help with Games, Etc.
Oct 23-24	6pm Friday night - 10am Saturday Morning - Jr. Hi Lock-In Halloween Party Setup/Photo Scavenger Hunt/Movie/Sardines Coordinator: Teresa Gerringer Chaperone: _____ & _____
Oct 25	10am to 11am Jr. Hi. Sunday School - Rm. 9 - Margaret Kintner Sr. Hi. Sunday School - Youth Room - Beth White 5:30PM-7:30PM UNICEF Trick or Treat/Halloween Party Halloween Games and Party - Peg Fenner Hot Dog Dinner: Alger & _____

 LUMC PONY EXPRESS
Stewardship Campaign
PONY EXPRESS RUN STARTS OCTOBER 11
to be completed by **OCTOBER 27**

"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



ON THE BOOK CART!!



"Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak" is a little book with 10 important principles for loving family relationships. Dr. Robert E. Fisher, PH.D., is a pastor, counselor, conference speaker, and church leader as well as author of books/articles on family life.

Learn how you and your family can build/rebuild relationships: (1) Stop Talking and Start Listening, (2) Think Before You Speak, (3) Speak the Truth in Love, (4) Disagree, But Don't Argue, (5) Control Your Response, (6) Confess Your Faults, (7) Practice Forgiveness, (8) Eliminate Nagging, (9) Be Constructive, Not Critical, (10) Leave Vengeance to God.

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 _____



Thanks to the Creek Cleanup Crew!!

Saturday, September 12 a great crew turned out to clean up the creek running through our property. At least two tons of concrete was removed from the culvert and creek, as well as trash and tree limbs. We are grateful to the following participants: John Alger, Brian, Karen, & Lauren Chuck; Joe Darrell, Michael Gerringer, Randall & Peter Husch, Henry Kim, Warren Makinson, Ray Peters, Pat Porter, Corinne & Amelia Roberts, Jeff Sawdon, Vic and Fran Smith, Jim Straw. Scott Loughran-Smith generously disposed of the large piles of debris!

**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.



New Organ Pedalboard to be Installed

Our sanctuary pipe organ is 35 years old and is beginning to experience some mechanical wear. Our organist, Ken Mansfield, has recommended that a new pedalboard be installed, as the current one is very sensitive to the touch. Trustees has agreed to replace the present pedalboard for the cost of \$4,600. Trustees approved the expense from the church maintenance budget. Church Council agreed to inform the congregation. Should you wish to make a donation toward this expense to enhance the music life of our congregation, you may make a check to LUMC and designate it for "Organ." Thank you.



Seeking Christmas Crafts



Do you have a special family craft that you might like to introduce to the congregation? Yule log, Advent wreath....

Sunday, December 6 we are planning a Christmas craft making event after worship. We are seeking a few families who might prepare supplies for a craft and invite others to make one for their home. If you have an idea or can lead a craft, please let Pastor Lori know.

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, October 8, 2009**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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