

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

October 11, 2009

SEEDS OF A SOWER

We are in a season of prayerfully making our financial commitments to LUMC for the new year. I am aware of the expenses incurred by the church throughout the year and some of the limitations placed upon ministry as we seek to live within our means. I am also very mindful of the generosity of this congregation in sharing your treasure, time, and talent. I am deeply grateful for every ounce of service poured into our many ministries and into the administrative work that undergirds our ministry. I pray that you find great joy in your service to and through the church.

In this season of commitment, my primary reflection is upon the gifts of faith and discipleship, the cultivation of which is the primary mission of the church. As my family shepherds my mother-in-law to the end of her earthly life, we are strengthened by the faith that has been nurtured by local congregations throughout our lives. We take our care-giving responsibilities seriously because our Christian values teach us to love one another and to “go the extra mile” in serving those in need. We are grateful for expressions of compassion from the church family, to all who listen to our experience and offer their supportive presence in this journey. We are grateful for our faith in God which provides a solid foundation and anchor in the midst of life’s storms.

The gift of faith is priceless. We cannot put a value on it. We can rejoice in its presence in our lives and participate in sharing the gift of God’s love with others. We can deepen our trust in God through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. May the priceless gift of God’s grace and love inspire our living and our giving.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

 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



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.

**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



**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.



ORGAN RECITAL

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.



NOVEMBER Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 3 | <i>Chor Jee Chow</i> | 13 | <i>Sophia Lennon</i> | 24 | <i>Martha Preuss</i> |
| | <i>Nancy Flood</i> | | <i>Patty Renno</i> | | <i>Thomas R. Woo</i> |
| | <i>Jillian Smith</i> | 14 | <i>Nancy Cotteral</i> | 25 | <i>Suzanne Heizer</i> |
| | <i>Donald Walter</i> | 16 | <i>Cathy VandenBerghe</i> | | <i>Zoe Inglis</i> |
| 7 | <i>Mark VandenBerghe</i> | 18 | <i>Kelly Hartshorn</i> | | <i>Katie Vanderliet</i> |
| | <i>Jessica Warner</i> | | <i>Sue Kibby</i> | 26 | <i>Brian Chuck</i> |
| 8 | <i>Karen Chuck</i> | 19 | <i>Isaac Inglis</i> | | <i>Tucker Loughran-Smith</i> |
| 9 | <i>Lissa Heptig</i> | 20 | <i>Sean Noah</i> | 27 | <i>Juliette Eyl</i> |
| | <i>Daisy Persons</i> | 21 | <i>Nicole Porter</i> | | <i>Meng Ward</i> |
| 10 | <i>Kendra Dillard</i> | 23 | <i>Donna Partlow</i> | 28 | <i>Bill Linson</i> |
| 12 | <i>Rebecca Grubman</i> | | | | <i>Ellen Walters</i> |
| | | | | 29 | <i>Mia Monopoli</i> |

Wedding Anniversaries

- 6 *Nancy and David Sanders*
16 *Martha Cervantes and Warren Makinson*



NOVEMBER FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
November are

**Canned green beans, sweet potatoes
and cranberry sauce.**

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

Farmers' Market Notes of Thanks

Thank you for your generous sharing of your parking area. This critical piece made it possible for the Lafayette Farmers' Market to bring healthy foods and a deeper sense of community to hundreds of people.

Members of the Sustainable Lafayette Committee

A note of sincere gratitude and thanks for your willingness to allow the use of your parking lot during the 3 week pilot Lafayette Farmers' Market. It was a key component to the success in executing the challenging logistics of the market site.

Jessie Neu, Executive Director,
Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets



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.



LUMC Church Council Meeting September 15, 2009

Members present: Chairperson Pat Hershey, Ginny Leavitt, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Dean Coons, David Inglis, Ginny Cowden, Tom Henderson, Doug Cowden, Lynn Sabatini, Carol Slatten, and Secretary Kurt Teichmann.

Also Present: Chris Coons

The meeting began with sharing of Joys and Concerns. Chairperson Hershey officially opened the formal meeting at 7:33 with a prayer.

Finance: Chairperson Leavitt reported that pledged giving was down \$5,710 YTD through the end of August. This figure was somewhat better than the July comparison. Non-pledged giving was \$12,162 YTD above budget although this number is influenced by a one-time gift of \$10,000. Plate offerings were a thousand dollars below budget. Use of the church revenue was \$1,433 above budget, however, Futures Explored had already paid its charge for the year. It was also noted that Acalanes will be cutting back from 3 ESL classes to 2 reducing future rental income. Total Income for the 8 months was \$4,568 above budget. It was expressed that this is a better position than the church is usually in at the end of summer when members get behind on their giving. Leavitt noted that Total Expense was \$38,482 below budget largely because a budgeted \$11,000 for property/liability insurance bill has not come due, trustees has under spent a budgeted \$11,833 for building maintenance. This was purposeful as the Trustees are striving for a big carryover for the big courtyard project for next year. Chairperson Leavitt noted that we have not paid for the annual audit report since we have not yet received it. She plans to call the auditor soon concerning a delivery date.

Stewardship: Chairperson Leavitt reported that the Stewardship Committee had organized a Pony Express approach to the annual pledge drive. Trail bosses had been chosen. The kickoff will be October 4th. Plans for the silent auction are set. Instead of a ticketed lunch, there will be no entry fee and complimentary hors d'oeuvres for every attendee to increase attendance and hopefully participation.

Trustees: Pastor Lori reported that the creek-clean up has been completed, at least for now. The City can inspect and review the situation at a later time. 20 church goers were counted at the project. Chairperson Hershey applauded the great work of these men and women. The names of all helpers are to be listed in the next "Tower Notes."
•The church organ pedals are showing their 35-year old age. Sometimes the organist can accidentally hit an extra random note. Trustees agreed that the organ is important and authorized a \$4,600 repair. It was decided that an article be placed in "Tower Notes" announcing that church goers who feel strongly about the organ may want to donate personally to the repair.

Staff Parish: Pastor Lori reported that SPRC were recommending that our custodian have only one supervisor and that be the Pastor who is regularly on site. SPRC will discuss this with Trustees before any decision is made.

Lay Leadership: Pastor Lori reported that Jill Shibuya has offered to be co-treasurer with Carol Slatten. Jill will be an unpaid volunteer. This will save almost \$7,000 for a bookkeeper. Our present bookkeeper, Toni Hessler, has agreed to cut back to only doing Joyful Beginnings books.

Endowment: Doug Cowden reported that the endowment has been increasing this year versus declining last year. He plans a meeting in October.

Old Business: None

New Business: Youth Ministry: Pastor Lori said again that Judy Stillman had asked to be retired from this responsibility 3 years ago. In response, Judy and Theresa Gerringer have written a guidebook on youth ministry. More immediately important is that a team has been in place for a year and a half. The new format with responsibilities was launched last Sunday. It was reported as a great team.

- It was questioned how the membership of this year's youth group compared to the past. The answer was that membership this past year was down, possibly because of a decision to combine the high school with the junior high school classes. The two are going to be split again this coming year.

- Joyful Beginnings is starting its 15th year. The first students are now graduating from high school! The Income and expense report ended with a surplus last year. Enrollment is slightly down for the coming fiscal year, particularly the Tuesday/Thursday classes. The school is tightening its belt. Ginny Leavitt proudly stated that the school's By Laws and Procedures are now in place. Church Council expressed appreciation for Ginny's 15 years of service. The church needs high chairs for various events in the Fellowship Hall; Dean Coons offered to contribute one.

- Contra Costa Interfaith Housing sent us a letter thanking LUMC for past support. The organization helps the homeless and at-risk families. The letter asked us for commitment for renewal of our continuing support of \$250/year. The request was sent to the Outreach Committee for consideration.

Chairperson Hershey closed the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kurt F. Teichmann, Church Council Secretary



Kazzy the Camel Has Died



Kazzy the camel has graced our Bethlehem Experience the past several years. We have learned that Kazzy died September 17 at the age of 9. A camel's average life expectancy is about 30 years. Kazzy was a therapy camel who lived in Sonoma Valley. Her guardians were Rob and Robin Lyons. She had a rare medical condition that came on suddenly and defied the efforts of an exemplary team of veterinarians at UC Davis who tried to save her.

Throughout history, camels have developed the reputation for being surly and cantankerous, often

spitting, biting and kicking. The UC vets all agreed that they had never met any camel quite like Kazzy, who was routinely calm, gentle and tranquil.

Kazzy, a female Bactrian (two hump) Asian camel, was only three-days-old when the Lyons brought her to Lyon Ranch above Sonoma. She fit right in with their cadre of mostly special-need and rescued animals, including ZZ Top, the zebra-donkey hybrid; Hump-free the one humped camel, who is also trained for therapy visits; Muppet, a miniature horse; Kingsley, an exotic African Savannah cat; an emu and dozens of large parrots including cockatoos and macaws, to name only a few.

"I had heard that a camel from Cornell University had been trained for therapy purposes and my Mom was in a care home not responding to anything unless an animal was brought in," Robin Lyon said, adding she was determined to do something to help shut-ins.

Kazzy - who would grow to more than seven feet at the shoulder and weighed more than 1,750 pounds - made 1,060 visits to senior facilities in the greater Bay Area. She was trained to fold her legs and sit when visiting the frail and sick; and in the most loving and gentle way, she would lay her head tenderly on a person's chest or bedside, without knocking over a thing.

Kazzy was also the star attraction in parades, at fundraisers and in schools where she touched the hearts of many who had never seen a camel before and knew nothing about them, except perhaps from films like "Lawrence of Arabia."

Kazzy has visited the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco Opera, WillMar Center for Bereaved Children, Northern California Special Olympics, the John Muir Medical Center, Alta Bates Hospital and Becoming Independent, along with the many nursing homes and hospitals. She rode up and down in elevators without balking.

Both Lyons said that watching Kazzy bring so much joy to so many people gave them as much pleasure as Kazzy was giving to others. "She knew just what to do, when and how. She knew she was there to soothe people and give them a different experience, allowing them to live in the moment, and escape - for just a while - the suffering. It meant so much to them," Robin said.

The Lyons don't want those who knew and loved Kazzy to suffer over her loss, but to remember her legacy and think about all the lives she touched and all the joy she brought to so many who will never forget that they kissed, or were kissed by a camel.

Kazzy will live on in the hearts of thousands of us.

This story was adapted from an article in the Sonoma News found at
<http://www.sonomanews.com/articles/2009/10/07/news/doc4ac160a61ad6a219765511.txt>



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....	The Reverend Lori Sawdon
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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, October 22, 2009**

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