

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

January 10, 2010

Our New worship schedule of 10:00 a.m. continues all year long!

Seeds of a Sower

Thank you to all who graciously and willingly participated in making our Advent and Christmas season meaningful. The M & Ms Fellowship group has faithfully decorated our sanctuary for years. Many shared poinsettias. The choir and musicians spent extra time preparing music for the season. Stitch-in-Time hosted a Super Souper Sunday with delicious soups and pies, crafts, and homemade gift items. Children, youth and adults enjoyed sharing carols at several homes.

The year-round and yearend giving of the congregation has been very generous. We met all our financial commitments for 2009, including those we had not budgeted!! Volunteers have contributed significant time in the area of youth ministry and finance, lightening staff expenses in those areas. We are starting 2010 in a fiscally healthy condition. Thank you for your extravagant generosity.

We have a solid foundation of ministry. The New Year presents opportunities for us to deepen our faith and explore God's call on our ministry together. Last fall I attended a retreat for clergy in our conference. Rev. Doug Anderson shared some sobering statistics about the United Methodist Church.

- ✓ In 1968 at the time of the merger of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, there were 10.9 million United Methodists in our country, which had a population of 200 million.
- ✓ In 2009 our membership was 8 million in a country with a population of 300 million.
- ✓ There are United Methodist Churches in 95% of the counties in the United States, a solid base from which to reinvigorate growth.

Rev. Anderson suggested that one of the reasons for the decline of the United Methodist Church is that we are more preference-driven than purpose-centered.

Preference-driven Churches make decisions based upon the preferences of the politically powerful. They ask the **Me question**: What do I want? How can I get my way?

Purpose-centered Churches consistently and prayerfully discern God's way. They ask the **God question**: What is God calling us to do? It is not about you – It's about God. The church, the Body of Christ, belongs to God. What is God's purpose/desire/mission for our life together? Purpose-centered churches are focused on developing spiritual leaders to the point that

the mission of God becomes more important than one's own comfort or preference when it comes to decision-making, program planning, and new ministry initiatives.

I encourage you to ruminate on the difference between Preference-driven and Purpose-centered Churches. Which type is LUMC? How can we move more fully toward Purpose-centered?

In this New Year, may we seize the opportunity to grow in our awareness of God's way for our individual lives and for our ministry together.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



EXPERIENCING CHRIST'S LOVE THROUGH WORSHIP

Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

January 17 *Goldmines for Growth: The Darkness of Depression* Psalm 38
The Sacrament of Baptism

January 24 *Goldmines for Growth: The Dis-Ease of Busyness* Mark 2:23-38
Bring your cell phones, PDAs, smart phones, calendars, for a Blessing!

January 31 Intergenerational Worship – The Fifth Sundays the worship service is designed to be inclusive of children and youth to introduce them to the fullness of the worship experience.

Reception of New Members



Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance

Monday, January 18, 12:00 noon

Walnut Creek Community Center

Civic Park, corner of Broadway and Civic, Walnut Creek

We gather once again for our re-dedication to the principles of community and non-violent social change espoused by Dr. King. The inspiring speakers will be Marianne Williamson and the Rev. Philip Lawson. There will also be wonderful music. For more information, contact Natalie Russell at 925-934-0759.

Core Values/Critical Issues: Healthcare Reform

Sunday, January 24, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Shell Ridge Community Church

200 La Casa Via, Walnut Creek

The Jewish Community Relations Council and the Interfaith Council are collaborating to sponsor this program and dialogue to explore the current status and importance of healthcare reform. The keynote speaker will be Pat Snyder, Ph.D., R.N., followed by a panel discussion of religious leaders. Bring some food to share for a potluck dinner afterwards. RSVP or address questions to Myrna David at 510-318-6417 or myrna@ifed.org.



NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Please let Pastor Lori know if you are interested in joining LUMC.



BUZZ GROUPS ATTENDANCE

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT FOUR????

Sunday school classes happen even if only one child shows up. Last quarter 4 children were recognized for exceptional attendance. The winter quarter will end February 28. 4 more children will be selected for recognition.....will they be yours???



Pastoral Letter issued by United Methodist Bishops

The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church have written a pastoral letter, "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." The letter addresses the crisis experienced by God's creation, especially pandemic poverty and disease; environmental degradation; and the proliferations of weapons and violence. Copies of the letter may be found at www.hopeandaction.org or be requested from the church office.

The LIBRARY has some comfy chairs, good lighting and lots of books. Venture into room 9 for a look around. You may even find something you want to take home to read.

Coming soon: a list of books available that continue on the theme of the Sunday morning sermons: Goldmines for Growth.



COSTA RICA VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

February 2010

Five LUMC members and Pastor Lori will participate in a Volunteers in Mission team in Costa Rica in February. On February 19 Celeste Graham, Greg Horner, Dale Newcomb, and Judy Stillman will join Joe Darrell, who departs January 29. The team will serve with 22 members of the Rockville Presbyterian Church in Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina!

Our VIM team will be working at El Centro Rural Metodista, www.costaricamethodist.org/farm.html. The Center serves as a site for religious retreats for Costa Rican adults and youth. The center offers ministry to nearby villages and a federal prison. Each year several VIM teams from the U.S. take part in Vacation Bible School, new church construction, and medical treatment. The Center was founded in the early 1950's by Bishop George Miller, who later became pastor of Lafayette UMC!

We invite your participation in our Mission to Costa Rica!

Come to a **Rain Forest Event** on **Sunday, January 24 at 11:15** after worship. A simple lunch of Costa Rican fare will be served; donations accepted. The team will share more about the mission site and Costa Rica.

- Contribute to a collection of tools the team will take and leave at the mission. Used or new tools are fine, as long as in good condition.

hammers	tool belts (leather or sturdy material)
screwdrivers	electric drill (110volt, heavy duty)
carpenter squares	pliers (all sizes, locking grip especially useful)
carpenter levels	Swiss Army, Leatherman or similar type knives
new electric drill bits	tape measures, metal
crowbars	paint brushes
wood chisels	box cutters
- Offer financial support to support the ministry of the center and the construction of VIM teams. Checks may be payable to LUMC, designated "Costa Rica VIM."
- Pray for our team, that we might be faithful servants of Jesus Christ. Pray for El Centro Rural Metodista and its ministry.

Gracias! Joe, Lori, Celeste, Greg, Dale, Judy

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT YOUTH FUNDRAISER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 7th, 8–9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Tickets will be on sale after church on Sunday, January 24th & 31st, \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Everyone is invited to support the SSP youth for their summer trip to Klamath, CA.

Bring your family, relatives, neighbors and friends for a delicious pancake breakfast with all the fixings. To help us estimate food quantities please purchase pre-sale tickets.

Watch for our upcoming fundraisers...Easter See's Candy (March 21 & 28), Parents Night Out (April date TBA) and Car Wash (May).



February

Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 <i>Leiola Walter</i> | 8 <i>Lisa Murray</i> | 18 <i>Raymonde Crowe</i> |
| 2 <i>Jennifer Holtz</i> | 10 <i>Roseann Beeman</i> | <i>Maddie McPhail</i> |
| 3 <i>Josephine Jegoux</i> | <i>Ray Peters</i> | <i>Jeff Sawdon</i> |
| <i>Lucie Jegoux</i> | 11 <i>Sam Ghaziani</i> | 20 <i>Nicole Dible</i> |
| 4 <i>William Breashears</i> | <i>Bradley Miller</i> | 21 <i>Tracy Davis</i> |
| <i>Joe Darrell</i> | <i>Terry Miller</i> | <i>MacIver Follmer</i> |
| <i>Paul Renno</i> | <i>Chen Yin Noah</i> | 23 <i>Lori Sawdon</i> |
| <i>Melanie VandenBerghe</i> | 12 <i>Julie Zischke</i> | <i>Annika Shear</i> |
| 5 <i>Lauren Corcoran</i> | 13 <i>Ginny Leavitt</i> | 24 <i>Jeanne Gianakos</i> |
| <i>Mark Wendland</i> | <i>Fred Youngmans</i> | <i>Donna Walls</i> |
| <i>Meredith Coons</i> | 14 <i>Robyn Corcoran</i> | 25 <i>Del Kolbe</i> |
| 7 <i>Sandy Porter</i> | 15 <i>Catherine Sinnott</i> | 26 <i>Lynne Rocksvold</i> |
| | | 27 <i>Greg Horner</i> |
| | | 28 <i>Hanna Straw</i> |

Wedding Anniversaries

- 11 *Karen and Brian Chuck*

FEBRUARY FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
February are
soup and rice
Food baskets can be found at both
Entrances to the church sanctuary.



Round About LUMC

We share the joy of **David and Julia White** who are now the proud great-grandparents of **Stella Jane Sarager**, born in Mesa AZ on December 3, 2009, weighing 7 lbs. 3 ounces, and 19 inches long. They made a quick trip to greet Stella.

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **Ann Kritscher** on December 22. Ann will fondly be remembered as a faith mentor to many. A Celebration of Ann's life was held on January 2.

Traveling Methodists who have worshiped while away and shared bulletins with Pastor Lori include **Maureen Straw** (Christ Church, UM, New York City); **Bob and Mary Hobson** to see son Mike's family light the Advent candles at Los Gatos UMC); **Chris and Dean Coons** visiting their son's church, Atascadero UMC; **David and Julia White** visiting their son's church in Georgia (St. John's Creek UMC).



NEW CALENDAR??.....

FRESH BLANK PAGES.....

FILLING UP FAST.....



STOP AND PUT THIS DOWN:

"APRIL 24-25 LUMC ALL CHURCH RETREAT"

AT MONTE TOYON CONFERENCE GROUNDS

NEAR SANTA CRUZ AND THEN COME THAT WEEKEND!!

A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY FOR LUMC IN 2010

The New Year has arrived and so has the time to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. This directory, to be done by Olan Mills, will help us connect names with faces. We haven't had a new pictorial directory since 2005.

Please mark your calendars. The photography dates will be May 5, May 6, May 7 and May 8. Signups will begin on Sunday, March 7, following the morning worship service. I'll announce additional details in the February issues of Tower Notes.

In the meanwhile, please check your listing in the most current LUMC non-pictorial directory to be sure all your information is correct. I'll have copies of the listings and will be taking changes during friendship time on January 31, February 7, February 21 and February 28.

Additionally, I'll need volunteers to help with signups, reminder phone calls and to assist me on the days of photography. I would also like good-quality photographs of church activities taken during the past 1-2 years. See me after morning worship or call me at (925) 254-9146.

I've very excited about coordinating a new pictorial directory for LUMC and I hope all of you will participate. Our new directory won't be complete without you.

Laurel Anne Hill



A BIG THANK YOU to all of the people who made Souper Holiday Sunday on December 6th a success. It would not have been "souper" without the soup makers, pie makers, boutique contributors, craft makers, kitchen staff (all men), set up crew and clean up crew. The event raised \$3000 for the courtyard fund. The event also brought people together in Christian fellowship as they ate together, shopped together, made crafts together and worked together. Thank you for your participation.

Many Thanks

*I feel very grateful to have been in this church family for more than 30 years and thank you so much for your generous monetary gifts, the special Sunday of my official retirement, the Faith Sculpture of Jesus and the children and the photo album and letters of memories. I, too, have memories of mission trips, ski trips, Confirmation classes, Lock-Ins, Sunday night discussions and dinners, singing SSP songs and working with youth learning how to care for others and loving God. Directing and leading youth for the past 15 or so years has been a great joy and inspiration to me and needs no compensation. However, I have put the money aside to help me with our mission trip to Costa Rica in February. I don't know if I can handle a mission trip with only adults, but I'll give it a try. Thank you for a very special time in my life. Blessings to you all,
Judy*



LUMC writes our own LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET!

YOU are invited to make a contribution. We are hoping for 48 entries!

THEME: *Encounters with Jesus*

WHAT: Write a brief devotion, story, or verse about encountering Jesus. It might be:
a reflection on a particular scripture passage that means something to you;
a personal experience in which you felt Christ's presence;
a reflection on what Jesus means to you;
a quote which inspires you to deeper discipleship;
a place you have visited which inspired you.

If you are an artist, you might submit a drawing that speaks of your spirituality.

WHEN: Deadline for submission is Sunday, January 31. Lent begins Wednesday, February 17!

Booklets will be available Sunday, February 14.

HOW: Email your submission to lumc@pacbell.

Mail your entry to LUMC, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549.

Place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Bring it by the church office Monday-Thursday, 8:00-noon or 1:00-4:30 p.m.

THANKS TO OUTGOING LEADERS!

As the New Year begins, we have several persons who have completed leadership terms in the life of the church. We express our gratitude to them for offering their skills, time, talent, prayers, and service to the ministry of Jesus Christ through LUMC.

Church Council Chairperson – Pat Hershey
Finance Committee Chairperson – Ginny Leavitt
Board of Trustees Chairperson – Randall Husch
Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson – Pat Porter
Church Council Member – Doug Cowden
Board of Trustees – Brian Chuck, Meng Ward, Tom Woo
Committee on Lay Leadership – Ellen Walters
Permanent Endowment Fund Committee – Bob Hobson
Staff-Parish Relations Committee – Teresa Gerringer, Tom Henderson
Joyful Beginnings Preschool Council – Jean Follmer

A new list of leaders is available in an updated church directory in the church office or after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



LUMC Minutes of the Church Council Meeting of December 15, 2009

Members present: Chairperson Pat Hershey, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Ginny Leavitt, Robyn Roberts, Ginny Cowden, Randall Husch, Doug Cowden, Lynn Sabatini and Secretary Kurt Teichmann.

The meeting began with sharing of Joys and Concerns. Chairperson Hershey officially opened the formal meeting at 7:33 with a prayer. The November 17, 2009 Church Council minutes were presented. Motion for approval made by Ginny Leavitt and seconded by Doug Cowden. Approved unanimously.

Finance: Chairperson Ginny Leavitt reported that Pledged Giving was above budget \$1,500 for November but is still \$5,700 below budget for the year. Of that figure, \$1,600 was caused by two church members passing away. Non-Pledged Giving was up \$1,800 for the month and \$14,500 for year to date. Plate offerings are down \$1,000 YTD from the budget. These three categories combined stand at \$7,800 over budget. Use of church continues above expectations. Church event fundraisers are now under budget. Total Income is now at \$13,400 above expectations.

•On the expense side, Administrative/Office continues to be well under expended, \$13,300 for the year. Programs are \$3,000 under expended. Professional expense is \$3,400 below budget primarily because Jill Shibuya has begun taking over the bookkeeping. The annual certified financial statements have been paid for but the

reimbursement from Joyful Beginnings for its 1/3 share is not yet reflected. Pastor's expense is on budget. Total Net Income is \$41,500 better than budget but note that we have planned \$18,000 of that to carryover to 2010. Still the financial news is very positive.

- The 2010 Budget was presented with some minor changes from last month's presentation. Motion to approve made by Doug Cowden. Seconded by Randall Husch. Approved unanimously.

- The 2008 Church financial statements have been reviewed and certified by a qualified person who is not a CPA. The Finance Committee is comfortable that everything is presented, as it should. The reviewer, Joyce Cape, made some procedural recommendations for next year. Chairperson Leavitt recommended that we continue her services for next year. Leavitt added that volunteer Jill Shibuya, as Co-Treasurer, has rapidly become proficient in her bookkeeping role.

- The Finance Committee approved the following people to sign checks on the Endowment Fund accounts: Rod Levander, Jill Shibuya or Doug Cowden. Checks on LUMC's general accounts may be signed by one of: Lori Sullivan, Tom Henderson, or Carol Slatten.

Trustees: Chairperson Husch reported that Trustees had met 12/14/09 ending an uneventful year. Their most exciting news is that there will be a carryover of about \$8,900 for the large courtyard project. The only unexpected events were the Fire Marshall requiring the kitchen stove hood to be replaced and the need to replace an organ pedal. The courtyard and the parsonage will be the priorities for next year, i.e. if there are sufficient funds for the courtyard.

Staff Parish: Outgoing Chair Pat Porter said there was no report this month. Ginny Leavitt said that next year SPRC should do a review of the by-laws and the Employee Handbook to ensure it covers various employee situations. SPRC should also compare present procedures with those prescribed by the Handbook.

Lay Leadership: Nominations and Leadership Development: It was noted that Meng Ward was unable to continue on Trustees so there is a vacancy.

Program Council: Incoming Chair Ginny Leavitt reported that 6 church members including Pastor Lori are embarking on a VIM trip to Costa Rica. They leave on February 19.

Endowment: Doug Cowden reported that the Committee will soon have new account statements on their investments. They then can determine what in-reach and out-reach grants that can be made. Investments are 40% in equities and 60% in various mutual funds.

- A proposed revised version of the Endowment Policy was distributed. In the past, all undesignated gifts to the church were sent 100% to the Endowment Fund. The proposal would change this to allow Church Council to decide what portion of future undesignated gifts will be sent to endowment and what portion to any other current needs. In addition, the proposal would update the covenants to reflect current practices in administering the Endowment Fund. Church Council reviewed the proposal and unanimously recommended that it be presented to a Church Conference for

consideration and adoption. The District Superintendent would call a Church Conference for this purpose.

- Church Council reviewed and accepted a new form to be made available to individuals planning a gift to the church, which will assist them in designating the use of the funds.

- There is to be a “Tower Notes” article covering the proposed changes to the Endowment Policy and the new form for designating planned gifts to the church.

Church members will be able to pick up a copy of these documents in the office to see the revisions. In connection with the announcement of this year’s grants from the Endowment Fund in the spring, Church members will also be invited to a meeting to learn more about the Endowment Fund, including the proposed changes to the Policy.

Old Business: None

New Business: The Church Council unanimously recognized outgoing Chairpersons Ginny Leavitt (Finance), Randall Husch (Trustees) and Pat Hershey (Church Council) for their excellent work.

Chairperson Hershey closed the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kurt F. Teichmann, Church Council Secretary



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

Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, January 28, 2010**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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