

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

January 31, 2010

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

SEEDS OF A SOWER

We continue to mourn the tragic devastation experienced by the nation of Haiti. The stories of people desperate for food and water are heart-wrenching. The tasks of clearing the rubble and rebuilding is overwhelming. A week after the earthquake I had two humbling experiences.

At a Board breakfast meeting, one member came in asking about the latest news on Haiti. I remarked, "It has mostly fallen off the front page of the newspaper, its place uprooted by politics." A sad but true commentary. When so many human lives, not only in Haiti, but in our nation and around the world, are at risk, our leaders continue to be focused on political power and control. Too easily do we lose sight of our moral values. Do we truly have the endurance to support the Haitians, the unemployed and homeless, the residents of the Gulf Coast, our war veterans, the Iraqis, the Rwandans for the long haul? Moreover, do we have the commitment to make sacrifices so that the basic needs of all of God's children might be met. Let us pray that they do not fall from the front pages of our prayer lists or compassion or solidarity.

I had my first opportunity to speak with the astronaut who was aboard the Space Shuttle flight in August. I asked Jose what was most meaningful about the experience. He replied, "From space the view of earth is so spectacular. You cannot see the borders between countries – it is all one planet. I wish that all of our world leaders could have that view. It would inspire them to work together for the good of all the world's people."

This is also God's vision of the world, a planet without boundaries between nations and peoples; a garden of plenty to feed all who hunger; people of various talents and cultures delighting in their diverse gifts. May we boldly grasp the vision of God and actively participate in making it a reality on earth.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

Experiencing Christ's Love through Worship

February 7

Holy Communion – “Goldmines for Growth: Grappling with Guilt” Psalm 51

February 14

“Goldmines for Growth: The Losses of Life” 2 Samuel 1:1-5, 11-12

February 21

Pedro Barrera, a volunteer with Heifer International, will be our guest preacher



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).



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thursday, February 4

Celeste Graham will show pictures and discuss her recent trip to Malaysia and Indonesia. She will share her treks to Buddhist, Hindu, Moslem and Christian sites. Please join us at 11 a.m. for the program and lunch. Lunch will be provided; a \$4 donation is recommended.

Upcoming UMW event: March 4th Easter basket preparation.

Encounters with Jesus

Lent at Lafayette UMC 2010

Ash Wednesday Worship February 17, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Begin the holy season of Lent in worship, renewing our response to Jesus' invitation, "Follow me," John 1:43-51.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship will focus on several biblical characters and their life-changing experiences with Jesus.

Lent Devotional Books with devotions written by our own church family will be available on Sunday, February 14 for your spiritual growth during the season.

Lent Small Groups for Spiritual Formation

Tuesdays, 12:30-2:00 p.m. starting February 16 – Church Library – Judy Stillman, leader

Sundays, 8:45-9:50 a.m. starting February 21 - Church Library – Pat Hershey, leader

Using the book, *Gospeled Lives*, by John Indermark, we will revisit encounters with Jesus by biblical characters in Matthew, Mark, and Luke to find our own-life changing responses. Christ's call leads to a continually unfolding story of faith for each of us. Daily readings include scripture, reflections, and prayer. Each group is six weeks.



PIZZA/BOARD GAME NIGHT ALL CHURCH ACTIVITY



Fireside Room
Friday, February 19 -- 6 p.m.
Come, enjoy a pizza supper, and
play some old/new games

STITCH-IN-TIME



Stitch-in-Time is a group of people who meet together on the third Thursday of the month at 1 pm to work on crafts and enjoy Christian Fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us, no matter the skill level. When we meet, there is a group project that you can join or you can bring your own project and enjoy the company. Our next meeting is February 18th at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. Please join us.

The items made by the Stitch-in-Time group are offered for sale at church fundraisers. If you can't come to our meetings, but like to make things that could be sold at a fundraiser, please contact Ginny Horner (925-284-9585 or vhorner@earthlink.net). We have some wood items that need painting and could use someone with that skill.

We work with donated items and we could use everyone's help there. Items that we use and would appreciate being donated are cotton fabric, cotton batting, buttons, old wool sweaters (can have holes), yarn, ribbon, beads, old jewelry, plain cotton dishtowels, and canning jars.

Thanks for your support.



ENDOWMENT MONEY AVAILABLE

The Endowment Committee has reviewed the investments for the past year and we have grant money from the Inreach and Outreach Funds. From the Inreach Fund of \$2263, ten percent is returned to principal, fifty percent (\$1132) goes to Trustees and the remaining \$905 is available for application by groups to be used in the church. For the Outreach Fund after 10% goes back to principal there is \$250 available for charitable grants outside the church. Applications for grant money are available in the church office from Lorri Sullivan.



FOOD DONATION BASKETS

Times are tough for many of our neighbors and friends here in Contra Costa County. In order to help alleviate hunger here at home, one of the easiest and most effective things we can do as a congregation is to make sure our food donation baskets are filled every week with non-perishable food items (canned fruits & vegetables, soup, boxed pasta, etc.) so that we might help The Contra Costa Food Bank keep their stocks up. Most of us here at LUMC have plenty of food and for that we should be thankful. We should also be thankful that we have this opportunity to help those in need. Please find the food donation baskets (one is located in the west entrance to church and the other has been moved to Fellowship Hall) and help us to fill them up!



Around About LUMC

It was a joy to celebrate the baptism of **Peter Thomas Shephard** on January 16. His parents are **Tom Shephard and Angie Seitz**; his sister is **Helen**. His family was here from various parts of the country for the special occasion!

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **Caralyn Woodruff** on January 21. A brief remembrance of Caralyn was held during worship on January 31. At her request, a memorial service will not be held. We will miss her gentle spirit, warm smile, and beautiful music.

Meng Ward started the new year with a trip to her homeland, the Philippines, to attend her high school reunion. This was her first trip back since 1988! **Donna and Chuck Walls** are enjoying a trip to Peru, including Lima, Macchu Picchu, and Cusco.



THANKS FOR LUMC'S GENEROUS SUPPORT

As of January 24, LUMC friends and members have contributed \$2,012 to UMCOR for disaster relief in Haiti. UMCOR is working with the Methodist Church in Haiti to provide immediate relief and conduct ongoing relief and recovery operations that include food distribution, access to clean drinking water, medical assistance, and the rebuilding of homes and schools.

LUMC VIM team members and church members have contributed \$1,795 to El Centro Rural Metodista in Costa Rica! You are a generous congregation. Joe Darrell flew to Costa Rica on January 29 to serve with two UMVIM teams prior to the arrival of our Lafayette team on February 19. Celeste Graham, Greg Horner, Dale Newcomb, Judy Stillman, Pastor Lori and Joe will all return on February 28. The team appreciates your support, prayers and excitement about our mission! Muchos Gracias!



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!!



Tractor and Truck Depart for Angola

LUMC contributed \$800 to the 2009 Annual Conference Offering designated for the purchase of much-needed equipment for the Agricultural Training Farm near Porto Quipiri, north of Luanda, in West Angola. Thanks to the generosity of CA-NV United Methodists, the John Deere tractor (with Accessories) and 2004 Ford F250 pick-up truck were due to depart the port of Savannah, Georgia on January 21!

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 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'm 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



APPRECIATION EXPRESSED FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County Executive Director Rev. Brian Stein-Webber writes: *Thank you so much for supporting our work in 2009 with your total gifts of \$3,604.80. Despite the severe downturn in the economy, individuals and congregations and organizations (such as you), have been faithfully generous.*

Thanks to you, our "ministering together" will continue, through the chaplaincy of Dr. Charles Tinsley, the travels of the Singing Messengers, the advocacy of the Social Justice Alliance and the Health and Faith-in-Action Committee, the efforts toward interfaith understanding and cooperation, and the prayer and action toward a richer and more just common life.

Jo Luck, President and CEO, Heifer International writes: *I want to thank you for giving so generously through the Heifer International gift catalog. Your gift of \$2,390 to Heifer is another opportunity to help a family lift themselves out of poverty and begin a journey toward a brighter future.*

When you support a family in need, you are actually helping an entire community. With Heifer's unique cornerstone of Passing on the Gift, each recipient becomes a donor just like you, by passing on the gift of their animal's first offspring and training to another family in their community.

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, February 11, 2010**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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