

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

March 14, 2010

Seeds of a Sower

One of the “buzz words” in educational circles is Experiential Learning. In contrast to cognitive learning of academic knowledge, experiential learning is meant to effect personal change and growth upon the student. Qualities of experiential learning include personal involvement, self-initiation, and evaluation by the learner.

As we consider Jesus’ teaching style, he included both cognitive and experiential learning in mentoring his disciples. Sometimes they sat at his feet while he taught, the typical posture of a rabbi when teaching. Other times they were out in the field meeting the people, laying on hands for healing, entering into dialogue, dining with those in need of God’s grace.

This Good Friday, April 2nd, we are offering an opportunity for experiential learning. The traditional Stations of the Cross are pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion of Christ. Early beginnings of the tradition may be traced to the Via Dolorosa, walked by the earliest pilgrims to Jerusalem. The Via Dolorosa is the route that Jesus took between his condemnation by Pilate and his crucifixion and burial.

During the Middle Ages it was impossible for pilgrims to journey to Jerusalem; at that time a “spiritual” Way of the Cross became increasingly popular. Since the end of the seventeenth century the Stations of the Cross have been found in nearly every Roman Catholic Church. The number of stations has varied from 7 to 12 or more. In the 18th century the fourteen stations known today became standard.

The purpose of the Stations of the Cross is to offer people of faith an opportunity to make a spiritual pilgrimage through the scenes of Christ’s suffering and death. Our Worship Team is designing an experiential Journey to the Cross for our congregation and guests on Good Friday. Participants will receive a guidebook for each of the stations, with meditations and questions for your personal reflection as you share the Journey to the Cross with Jesus. Plan on an hour to walk through the experience. We offer a daytime opportunity from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. and an early evening opportunity from 5:00-7:00 p.m., so you can stop by on your way home from work!

We pray that this Lenten Journey will bring you closer to Jesus Christ. As we share in his suffering, we are assured that he shares in our suffering as well.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

Encounters with Jesus Lent 2010

From biblical days people have had life-changing experiences as they have encountered Jesus in their daily lives. God's transforming power continues to be available to us today through the presence of the risen Christ.

This Lenten season, we will encounter Jesus anew through worship, scripture, small group sharing, and devotional reading. May your spirit be attentive to the Spirit of God.

March 21 John 11:1-6, 17-44 Mary and Martha share their grief with Jesus

March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday – Communion

John 18:5-27; 21:15-19 Peter the Imperfect denies Jesus

April 1 Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

John 19:25-27 The Beloved Disciple is commissioned by Jesus

April 2 Good Friday 12:00-2:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Journey to the Cross Jesus invites you to Journey to the Cross with him. Interactive centers based on the traditional Stations of the Cross will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. Pilgrims on the journey will be given prayer guides to lead them through an activity at each station. Plan on spending at least an hour moving through the Stations of the Cross in solidarity with Jesus on this holy day.

April 4 Easter Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (note time change for this day only!)

9:30 Easter Brunch

10:00 Easter Egg Hunt for children

John 20:1-18 Mary Magdalene meets the Risen Christ

April 10 John 20:19-29 Thomas believes in Jesus

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*The **Worship Team** needs a standing mirror for the Good Friday Journey to the Cross. If you have one you could loan for two days, please contact the church office.*

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United Methodist Women – April 1st – 11 a.m.

The LUMC VIM Team will join us Thursday, April 1 at 11 a.m. A DVD will be shown and there will be lots of opportunity for informal questions and explorations of the experiences of Joe Darrell, Greg Horner, Judy Stillman, Celeste Graham and Pastor Lori. We look forward to seeing you there. Lunch will be served and a free-will offering taken. Mark your calendar now!

All Church Workday – Saturday, March 20th – 9:00 - Noon

Join us for Spring Cleaning to make our Church Campus SHINE in Easter Glory!!

Some projects you might choose:

Dust cobwebs, sanctuary furnishings

Wash artificial trees

Power wash moss on bricks

Wash windows

Minor painting projects

General gardening – weeding,
trimming

Parking lot trash patrol

Launder curtain valances in kitchen
and Sunday School hallway

And MUCH MORE!



STITCH-IN-TIME

The Stitch-In-Time group is meeting on the third Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting is on March 18th in the Fireside Room. The group project for this meeting will be Petite Pockets for Pompous Purses. You can come and join in the group project or bring your own project and ideas to work on. The group project is designed in a way that each person can have a job, no matter the skill level.

ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17

Preview Party for church families, Thursday eve., April 15



Are you in to cleaning out those closets, the garage, etc? . Then think of the church's annual RUMMAGE SALE and know with your help and contributions, it can be the biggest and best yet! We can take all sorts of items for sale, except, please, no heavy overstuff furniture or big appliances! In other words, anything so heavy, it takes a crew to move it! Clothing is accepted but remember it

should be clean and in good condition. (Team logo shirts do not sell!) It would be best if you bring your goods to donate after church on Sunday, April 11, or during the first three days of the week during church office hours. Should you need to bring items early, call me. We have some arranged storage. . Remember, your discards are often someone else's treasures.

We will be setting up for the sale during the days of Monday through Thursday. If you can spare some time to help with set up or during the sale days, please let us know by filling out the separate flyer (in the Tower Notes or in the Sunday bulletin or give me a call – 284- 7857.....MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP AT THE LUMC'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Below is a list of help needed; please indicate as many ways as you would like to be involved! Set-up times will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Come for the amount of time that fits your schedule!) We hope to be all set up by noon Thursday, so bring your items in as soon as possible during the week!

_____ will donate items
_____ can pick-up items
_____ can help with set-up _____ Mon. _____ Tues. _____ Wed.
_____ Thurs. _____ AM _____ PM
_____ can provide lunch for the all day workers _____ Mon.
_____ Tues. _____ Wed. _____ Thurs.
_____ can provide appetizers for Thursday Evening Preview Party
_____ can make punch/coffee - supervise refreshment table
Thursday eve.
_____ will plan to attend Thursday's Preview Party (\$5 per person - workers receive Comp ticket)
_____ can help with the SALE _____ Fri _____ Sat _____ AM _____ PM

(This year we plan to have the SALE also during Friendship Time Sunday Morning for church families)

(Please fill out this form, drop it in the offering plate, or turn it in to the church office)

NAME _____ phone _____

MANY THANKS TO ANY AND ALL WHO CAN BE A PART OF THIS FUNDRAISING PROJECT FOR OUR CHURCH'S MISSION. If you have any questions, call Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857

HINDUISM CLASS

The class will be held after church on March 21, 2010 in the Fireside Room. Celeste Graham will continue her discussions on World Religions. Hinduism will be the topic and again the Huston Smith book will serve as the basis of this exploration. Please come with questions and comments. You need not have attended any of the other classes.

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TOWER NOTES NOTICE

Julia White is typing and formatting the Tower Notes for the month of March. Continue to email your articles to Ginny Cowden.

This spring our Confirmation Class is assembling Health Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to distribute in times of disaster both in the United States and around the world. In places like Haiti, there will be an ongoing need. The congregation is invited to donate items toward the kits. Or if you would like to donate cash, we will purchase additional supplies or use it for shipping or for toothpaste purchased by UMCOR to go with the kits.

The following items must be NEW:

- hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
washcloth
comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages.

A box will be in the Fellowship Hall to receive your donations. Deadline for donations is May 1. Thank you!



ALL CHURCH RETREAT
APRIL 24-25, 2010



Monte Toyon Conference Center brochures and Retreat registration forms are available on a Fellowship Hall bulletin board and in the church office.

Fees remain the same as last year and special rates are available for families of 3 or 4 if you register before March 28.

Have you seen all the pictures in the entrance to Fellowship Hall of the fun we've had at Monte Toyon!!

MONTE TOYON ALL CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION APRIL 24-25, 2010

FEES: Adults \$80 Child (0-4 yrs.) Free Child (5-11 yrs.) \$50
Youth (12-18 yrs) \$60

By March 28: Family of 3 \$195 (After 3/28 \$210)

By March 28: Family of 4 \$220 (After 3/28 \$240)

each additional child \$40 each additional youth \$50

FINAL PAYMENT DEADLINE: SUNDAY, APRIL 11 (No refunds after April 18)

Payment attached:\$

VERY IMPORTANT: Write "RETREAT" in memo space on your check.

Make check payable to Lafayette United Methodist Church or LUMC.

Please give full names for all attending and AGES OF CHILDREN/YOUTH.

Dear Friends,

I am excited to announce that we're going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All I ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a portrait consultant at the church. For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments at the church. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free church directory and a complimentary 8x10 portrait.
- You will only need to come to the church once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to purchase portraits and frames on the same day of photography. All portraits come with a 100% unconditional guarantee.
- Whether you decide to dress formally or casually, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

Please volunteer! We can always use help in running the sign-up tables, checking people in for appointments, or calling for appointment reminders. It will take a group effort to make this a reality and I ask for your support by volunteering just a little of your time.

The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are as follows:

Wednesday, May 5	2 pm - 9:20 pm
Thursday, May 6	2 pm - 9:20 pm
Friday, May 7	2 pm - 9:20 pm
Saturday, May 8	9:30 am - 5:10 pm

If you have questions, please contact Laurel Hill at (925) 254-9146.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

Sincerely,

Pastor Lori

From Laurel Anne Hill:

The new pictorial directory of our church family will be done by Olan Mills and will help us connect names with faces. We haven't had a new pictorial directory since 2005. Please mark your calendars for the following: Photography dates - May 5, 6, 7 and 8. Signups will be Sundays, March 21 - April 25, following the morning worship service. 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.

EASTER BRUNCH GARDEN



On Thursday, April 1 starting at 1 p.m. - a group of us will be transforming the Fellowship Hall into a "Garden" for the Easter Brunch. If you have any flowering planters, garden furniture, etc. that you would like to "loan" for a day to help brighten the Hall, please bring it down! If you enjoy this kind of "transformation" please feel free to join in the fun! If you have any questions, ask Ginny Leavitt - 284-7857 or email ginleavitt@att.net.



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!

PLAY GROUP

The Play Group (an informal play time for 1 to 3 year-olds, and a chance for the Moms to get better acquainted) will meet weekly in the church nursery, on a drop-in basis, on Wednesday mornings, starting at 9:30 a.m. Babies are also welcome.

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April Birthdays

3	David Chow	14	Cole Robertson
3	Tommy Renno	14	Kyra Robertson
4	Melissa Emerson	18	Lindsay Logan
5	Karin Husch	21	Michael Tornow
5	Luke VandenBerghe	22	Nick Kolbe
7	Dave Holtz	22	Jill Shibuya
7	Henry Lennstrom	22	Judy Stillman
7	Tim Scanlin	24	Blanche Cancel
7	Alistair Shearer	25	Mackenzie Gerringer
12	Colene (Bunny) Gruhn	25	Jack Rigger
13	Marisol Carrillo	28	Jacob White
13	Barbara Tilton	30	Karen Schroter
14	Ross Nakamura		

April Anniversaries

14	Sue and Don Kibby
26	Michael and Teresa Gerringer
28	David and Jane Smith
29	Robyn Roberts and Steve Morger

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2010 Summer Camps Announced

United Methodist Camps for our California-Nevada United Methodist Churches have been announced for children, junior high and senior high youth. More information is available at www.cnumc.org/camping. Church camp is often a life-changing experience.



PLANNING AHEAD!
LUMC's night at the OAKLAND A's

August 7, 6 P.M. game - group tickets for the A's vs. Rangers - plus spectacular FIREWORKS. Tickets are limited - save the date! Watch for details!

More Thanks for Christmas Offering

From Winter Nights Shelter, a program of The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

Thank you so much for your January gift of \$500 toward the operation of the Winter Nights Shelter. Your gift is especially important as we near raising funds that will take us all the way through the end of April.

We continue to be amazed at the wide and deep support for this program, which brings persons in need into direct contact with warm and caring congregations. This is not meant to be a patronizing move, but rather a joining of hearts.

Please know that you are making a difference in lives.

Gwen Watson, Winter Nights Executive Director

Brian Stein-Webber, Interfaith Council Executive Director

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, March 25, 2010**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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