

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# TOWER NOTES



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Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

April 25, 2010

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## ***Seeds of a Sower***

Recently church leaders from diverse theological and political beliefs have come together to make a covenant with each other to model civility in the public square. Given the harsh discord of our public conversation these days, I want to share this to prompt us to model civility in our personal and local conversations. It also provides meaningful material for our personal devotions.

### A Covenant for Civility

*How good and pleasant it is when the people of God live together in unity.* Psalm 133:1

As Christian pastors and leaders with diverse theological and political beliefs, we have come together to make this covenant with each other, and to commend it to the church, faith-based organizations, and individuals, so that together we can contribute to a more civil national discourse. The church in the United States can offer a message of hope and reconciliation to a nation that is deeply divided by political and cultural differences. Too often, however, we have reflected the political divisions of our culture rather than the unity we have in the body of Christ. We come together to urge those who claim the name of Christ to “put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

1. We commit that our dialogue with each other will reflect the spirit of the Scriptures, where our posture toward each other is to be “quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).
2. We believe that each of us, and our fellow human beings, are created in the image of God. The respect we owe to God should be reflected in the honor and respect we show to each other in our common humanity, particularly in how we speak to each other. “With the tongue we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God...this ought not to be so” (James 3:9, 10).
3. We pledge that when we disagree, we will do so respectfully, without falsely impugning the other’s motives, attaching the other’s character, or questioning the other’s faith, and recognizing in humility that in our limited, human opinions, “we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror” (I Corinthians 13:12). We will therefore “be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).

4. We will ever be mindful of the language we use in expressing our disagreements, being neither arrogant nor boastful in our beliefs: “Before destruction one’s heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor” (Proverbs 18:12).
5. We recognize that we cannot function together as citizens of the same community, whether local or national, unless we are mindful of how we treat each other in pursuit of the common good in the common life we share together. Each of us must therefore “put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body” (Ephesians 4:25).
6. We commit to pray for our political leaders – those with whom we may agree, as well as those with whom we may disagree. “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made – for kings and all who are in high positions” (I Timothy 2:1-2).
7. We believe that it is more difficult to hate others, even our adversaries and our enemies, when we are praying for them. We commit to pray for each other, those with whom we agree and those with whom we may disagree, so that together we may strive to be faithful witnesses to our Lord, who prayed “that they may be one” (John 17:22)

We pledge to God and to each other that we will lead by example in a country where civil discourse seems to have broken down. We will work to model a better way in how we treat each other in our many faith communities, even across religious and political lines. We will strive to create in our congregations safe and sacred spaces for common prayer and community discussion as we come together to seek God’s will for our nation and our world. [www.sojo.net/civilitycovenant](http://www.sojo.net/civilitycovenant)

May we sow seeds of civility in all our conversations.

Blessings

*Pastor Lori*

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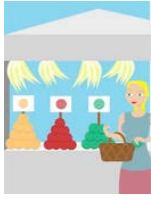
## HELP END SEX SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING



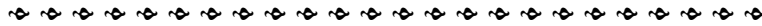
UMW will welcome Brenda Hepler on Thursday, May 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the lower Fireside Room. She will speak on the tragic use of millions of children world wide in sex slavery. She will also bring her Tassatags that alert everyone who sees your suitcase that you are against sex slavery.

They are colorful and very distinctive and cost \$12 each. They come in several colors and provide money to fight and bring awareness to this international problem. Please come and bring a friend. Also bring your sack lunch to enjoy in fellowship following the program. Beverage and dessert will be provided.

## FARMERS' MARKET



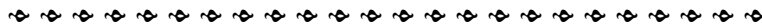
Lafayette will once again have a Farmers' Market beginning on Thursday, May 6. The vendors use our upper parking lot to park their vehicles from 2:30 - 9 p.m. We encourage others to park in the lower lot in order to leave space available for the larger vehicles in the upper lot. Thank you for your cooperation.



## DINNER AT EL JARROS

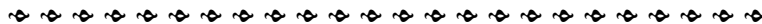


Want to join the church group for dinner out on Sunday, May 2 at 6 p.m.? Call or email Ginny Leavitt, [ginleavitt@att.net](mailto:ginleavitt@att.net) or 284-7857, to see if space is still available for El Jarros!



## Stitch-in-Time

Stitch-in-Time will meet Thursday, April 29th at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome. You can work on the group project or bring your own project. The group project this time is bibs. For this project we need donations of new or gently used fingertip towels or hand towels, and T-shirt ribbing. Contact Ginny Horner (925-284-9585) if you can donate any of these items.



## STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The following minor maintenance projects are in need of volunteers who will take them on. If you are willing, please contact the church office. The Board of Trustees will gladly reimburse you for any necessary supplies.

- 1) Check and repair or replace fence rail(s) at north end of front circular driveway;
- 2) Stain red benches at north end of front circular driveway;
- 3) Clean and paint the sign between the back parking lots;
- 4) Repair a handle on an office cupboard.

## A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY FOR LUMC IN 2010: UPDATE



Signups are almost complete for our new pictorial directory. Thank you so much for signing up to be photographed or sending me a snapshot of your 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.

If you didn't sign up for a photographic session and wish your picture to be included in the new directory, please contact me at 925-254-9146 if you have not already done so. If you have a family member in the military service, Olan Mills offers a free directory page to honor those serving our country. Please give your family member's photograph to me as soon as possible.

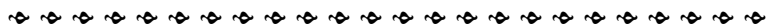
The photography sessions will be on May 5, 6, 7 and 8. I'll be mailing the reminder postcards on April 27-28. Expect a reminder phone call the day before your appointment.

Please arrive for your appointment on time. Come to the sanctuary entrance on Moraga Road (the "bell rope" entryway). Olan Mills will take the photographs in the Maggie Mae Lounge. Portrait selection will occur in the rear of the sanctuary. On Thursday night, May 6, we will be sharing the sanctuary area with our choir as they rehearse for Sunday services. Please turn off your cell phones during the rehearsal period.

Directory photos will be taken against a white background.

In the past, David and I have taken care of moving furniture to set up the photography area and return it to normal condition. Due to health concerns, we can no longer do this. We will need assistance on Wednesday morning and Saturday evening. Please call me at 925-254-9146 to volunteer.

Thank you for all of your help.  
Laurel Anne Hill



## BUZZ GROUPS (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

4 more classes to attend.....Will your child be one to have attended half or more of the Sunday Buzz Groups this Spring?? On May 23 names announced and those children will receive a surprise after class.

## Save the Date



**Come to Son Quest Rainforest  
For the Adventure of a Lifetime!**

**We are excited about Lafayette United Methodist Church's  
Vacation Bible Day Camp**

**to be held Monday-Friday, July 12-July 16, 2010**

**9 a.m. - 12 noon**

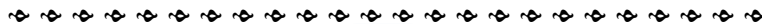
**Ages 3-15**

**Cost \$50**

**955 Moraga Road, Lafayette**

This summer, bring your kids to SonQuest Rainforest VBS - an experience of discovery they'll never forget! Based on five key Bible verses that will change a child's life - including John 3:16 - SonQuest Rainforest VBS transports young minds into a vivid rainforest environment of jungle sounds, sights and smells, where they'll dig into the Bible and meet Jesus in every day's story.

Theme verse: *For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*



## RETREAT

**Weather - perfect**

**Food - plentiful**

**Companions - congenial**

**Games - challenging**

**Dancing - delightful**

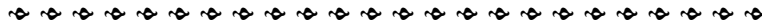
**S'mores - scrumptious**

**Nighttime - restful**

**50 people enjoyed the Monte Toyon Experience!**

**LIBRARY**  
**Find in on the BOOK CART**

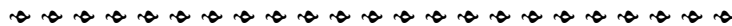
Here's one for the women.....A Woman's Guide to Recovering Balance & Meaning in Everyday Life: **FINDING THE DEEP RIVER WITHIN** by Abby Seixas. The author states that you can reclaim your life from the tyranny of your to-do list, slow down and remember what really matters and bring more sanity, soul and satisfaction into daily living.



**Around About LUMC**

We sorrow but not as those without hope, with the **Schroter family** upon the death of Karen's grandmother, great-grandmother to Gavin, Stephanie, and Jared, at the age of 104.

**Tom and Mary Henderson, Nancy Flood, Ginny Leavitt** and Cynthia and Butch Bull traveled through the Panama Canal and Central America. On the way home, Tom and Mary worshipped with former LUMC members, the Bulls, at Edgefield Methodist Church, Edgefield, South Carolina.



# WANTED

Someone who likes to be on the computer and would be willing to handle placing some online local sale ads! Occasionally, we receive items worth above Rummage Sale prices. This would most likely be only a few items a year. If interested, call or email Ginny Leavitt - 284-7857, [ginleavitt@att.net](mailto:ginleavitt@att.net).

(This would not involve shipping or having prospective buyers come to your home.)

## 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.

























**LUMC GOES to the As GAME!**  
**Saturday, August 7, 2010**



6:05 p.m. game with FIREWORKS afterwards

## CHOICE SEATING!

Section 218 - Plaza Infield - Rows 8,9,10

\$20 each -- reserve early

Call Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857 or email [ginleavitt@att.net](mailto:ginleavitt@att.net)

## UMCOR Expresses Appreciation for Special Offerings

Dear Friends in Mission:

A massive earthquake on January 12 devastated Haiti, taking thousands of lives and leaving more than a million in need of water, food, shelter and medical care. Within hours, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) friends like you responded with prayers and gifts.

Thank you for your gift of \$2,012. Because of your support, UMCOR is able to address not only immediate needs, but also the long-term recovery of those whose lives have been shattered. Your contribution is helping UMCOR to be in Haiti for as long as it takes to understand the people's needs, and work to create a sustainable infrastructure and address the psychological impact to a traumatized nation.

Thank you for being there...for being hope...in Haiti.  
Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer, UMCOR, General Board of Global Ministries

## RUMMAGE SALE WRAP-UP

WOW – What a terrific event for the mission of our church!! When all accounting has been completed we should have made \$5200! Thank you to each and everyone of you who contributed in any way – from donating the items to sell, to signing up/dropping in to help sort/price those items, to bringing in lunch for the workers (you kept us going!) or refreshments for Thursday evening to helping with the sale, to coming to the sale and purchasing that special item or two (note, Sunday morning easily pushed us over the goal of \$4500!) It was just great! And a special thank you to my tireless committee – Leslie Murray, Lynn Sabatini, Ginny Horner, Nancy Flood, and Vic and Fran Smith – special indeed! Ginny Leavitt



### 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

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Editor.....              | Ginny Cowden                |
| Computer Formatting..... | Tom & Mary Henderson        |
| Mailing.....             | Fran Smith and Evelyn Clark |

### TOWER NOTES DEADLINE

Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, May 13, 2010**

### LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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