

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

July 25, 2010

Seeds of a Sower

As I completed my sixth year as pastor of the congregation on June 30, I took the opportunity to review notes from the gatherings we held six summers ago. You shared the strengths of the congregation and your dreams for the congregation. Following are some of the dreams you shared with me:

- More lively music; more contemporary songs;
- Inspiring sermons that make you feel closer to God;
- More small groups;
- A sense of direction;
- Reach the community better;
- Grow membership by 25%;
- Financial stability of the congregation;
- More intergenerational events;
- Streamline organization of the church;
- Increase visibility of the church;
- Building maintenance: stop Maggie Mae Lounge from leaking; replace furnaces, concrete, asphalt.

How have we acted to fulfill those dreams over the past six years?

- We have the black *Faith We Sing* songbooks in addition to the red *Hymnal* and have been enjoying the more contemporary songs offered in them.
- We have offered 2-5 small groups each year and had participation ranging from 4 to 12 in each group.
- Five years ago we engaged in a visioning process to clarify our sense of direction. Interest is emerging now for a fresh look at our direction – to focus our energies and ground ourselves in our purpose of *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*.
- Several individuals are focusing energy on serving God by serving others at the Food Bank, Winter Nights Shelter, Sierra Service Project, and as Volunteers in Mission.
- Forty new family units have selected LUMC as their church home.
- We have been able to meet expenses with funds left to save toward anticipated future needs.

- This year the Fellowship Committee is hosting intergenerational events, in addition to ongoing events such as Bethlehem Experience, Homecoming Sunday, etc.
- Church Council is spending time thoughtfully reflecting on the purpose of the church and core practices that fulfill that purpose.
- Trustees have accomplished some needed maintenance, with more in the works, including a redesign of our courtyard.

How is God calling us to be in ministry in the next few years? I share aspects of the call which God has placed upon my heart for our ministry together.

- Solidify our understanding of and grounding in our purpose of *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*.
- Practice Radical Hospitality with intentional welcome of newcomers and assimilation into the congregation.
- Practice Intentional Faith Development by “devoting ourselves to the God’s Word and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers” (Acts 2:42).
- Grow our opportunities for Risk-Taking Mission and Service and turn our vision outward to participate in the transformation of God’s world.

I invite your participation in discerning God’s call upon us. It is a rich and wonderful blessing for my family and me to be in ministry with you. We look forward to growing deeper in the faith with you.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



Summer Worship at LUMC – *The Stories of Jesus*

In coordination with the Vacation Bible School’s focus on the parables of Jesus, our worship life this summer will focus on Jesus’ parables from the Gospel of Luke. A parable has been referred to as “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

Join us for worship at 10:00.

August 1 Sierra Service Project Sunday

August 8 Communion Luke 18:9-14 Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS

On the Sundays in August there will be NO Sunday School classes. There will be crayons/pencils/paper at the back of the sanctuary to keep small children's hands busy. However, this would be a good opportunity to help them participate in worship.

Arrive before the service starts.

Choose seating where they can see the front.

Help children put markers in the hymnal pages for the songs of the morning.

Look over the bulletin together.

During the service -

Help children follow with the bulletin.

Have them stand when the adults stand.

Have them put an offering in the collection plate. Determine at home the amount that might be.

After the service -

Talk about what was said or sung.

What did your children hear? Clarify or interpret.

Sing one or more of the hymns or choruses again.

Review the "Children's Message".

During the week -

Invite friends to worship with you.

Read Bible passages and memorize short ones.

Pray together.

Create a "mission" project for the family.

Set aside money for Sunday offering.

Remind children that we respond this way because of God's love for us.



Around About LUMC

We welcome **Rev. Ron Swisher** as the new pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Orinda. Ron was Pastor Lori's District Superintendent early in her ministry. Rev. Mark Zier has been appointed to Aldersgate UMC in San Rafael.

The Magic of EFT has come to LUMC

Having trouble remembering when your pledge is due? Tired of writing pledge checks? Now through the magic of electronic funds transfer (ETF) you can have your pledge automatically withdrawn from your bank account in the same manner that some of you pay your utility bills (PG&E, EBMUD and etc.). For more information and a transfer form, stop by the church office or contact Lorri Sullivan in the church office at (925) 284-4765.



Graduate Recognition

Gavin Beeman graduated from UC Berkeley in May with a B.A. in Media Studies. We're proud of you, Gavin!

Issac Inglis completed course work at SOAR (Success Orientation Achievement Realization) in North Carolina, equipping him to pass the CA High School Proficiency Exam. Having completed high school, he will continue his studies at Diablo Valley College. Good job, Isaac! Welcome home!



Costa Rica 2011

Volunteer in Mission Team Gears Up—You're Invited!!

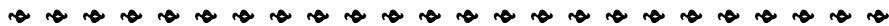
Interested in joining the 2011 LUMC Costa Rica Volunteer in Mission team, or just thinking about it, or want to know how you can help with your support and prayers? The tentative date for the mission is February 25 through March 6. The mission involves building relationships, construction, and Vacation Bible School. Spanish language ability not required!

We'll get together on Sunday, August 29 after church service in the Lower Fireside Room to begin plans. If you have any questions about the mission before the meeting, check with Joe Darrell or Pastor Lori. See you there!!



Summer Vacation Photos!

We're preparing a slide show of YOUR summer vacation to show our church family on Homecoming Sunday, September 12! Submit up to five photos with your family names and vacation location. Digital photos of the highest quality may be emailed to David White at dandjw@comcast.net. Print photos may be given to David or left in the church office for scanning; they will be returned to you.



JOYFUL BEGINNINGS!

Know someone looking for a preschool with reasonable rates? Just had a new neighbor with little ones move into the area? Joyful Beginnings, our own preschool, has some availability in all three session - T, Th for 3 year olds, MWF for the 4s, and PreK (5 days) for the 5 year olds or nearly 5. The Preschool can be reached at 284-1143, or call Ginny Leavitt - 284-7857, for more information. Joyful accept children who will be 2 1/2 by September 1. (The child does not need to be potty trained.)



FOOD BASKETS

Don't forget to bring

nonperishable food and place in the

food baskets at both entrances

to the church sanctuary

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL and our ALL CHURCH FUNDRAISER Boutique and Luncheon - Sat. Nov. 6

This is your opportunity to share some of your talents! Stitch in Time has made many items - neck warmers, zipper pulls, scarves, purses, cardholders, knit hats, etc., BUT there will be plenty of need for something that you might like to contribute - crafts? wooden items? pottery? note cards? jams and jellies? baked goods? Give it some thought, think about the church project during some of those idle moments this summer, and get started on your idea now.... Indicate what you would like to contribute to me - Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857 - ginleavitt@att.net --- or simply fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office.....

I will make _____ for the Fall Fundraiser.
Name _____ Phone _____



Process for Hiring Church Staff

There is excitement in the air as we anticipate the hiring of a new Director of Youth Ministry. The church has a careful process for the hiring of any staff member. All staff are hired by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) on behalf of the congregation.

The SPRC designates a Search Committee comprised of members of SPRC, persons involved in the specific area of ministry, and representatives of the general congregation. The Search Committee meets to understand the requirements of the position and the qualities the church is seeking in candidates. The Search Committee holds each applicant in confidence during and after the process. This protects candidates who may have other jobs and prevents embarrassment should a candidate not be chosen for the position. After reviewing applications, the Search Committee selects candidates for interviews. Candidates deemed suitable for our position are recommended to Staff-Parish Relations Committee for final hiring.

Ellen Walters is the Chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the Chairperson of the Search Committee for the Director of Youth Ministry. Candidates interested in the position should be in contact with Pastor Lori or Ellen Walters. If you know of someone applying for the position, you might follow the lead of the Search Committee in keeping the names of candidates in confidence.

Your prayers for discernment of the person God is calling to serve our youth are most welcome.

Director of Youth Ministry Lafayette United Methodist Church

We are seeking an enthusiastic, dynamic, faith-filled director of an active youth ministry for up to 40 middle school and high school youth. Our mission is to assist youth in experiencing the love of Christ and expressing it in their daily lives.

The Director of Youth Ministry coordinates

Sunday morning Christian education;

Sunday evening youth groups with fellowship, food, recreation, programs;

Local service opportunities;

Communication of youth events.

Hours: 20 hours per week

Start Date: July 1, 2010

Salary: \$20,800 a year

Contact: Rev. Lori Sawdon

Interested applicants should send a resume and letter of interest to:

Rev. Lori Sawdon

Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road

Lafayette, CA 94549

Phone: 925.284.4765

FAX: 925.284.5170



The High Definition Family Parenting Workshop

with Sayer Strauch

Saturday, August 14, 2010 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person, \$30 per couple

Walnut Creek United Methodist Church

1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek

Info: (925) 934-4208, ext. 207

Email: Jake Ritter jnritter86@gmail.com

Web: www.highdefinitionfamily.com

This Retreat for Parents is an opportunity to grow in your own adventure of knowing, experiencing and participating with God. Walk more deeply and more powerfully as a

parent with God – and with your children. A registration form is in the church office.
Registration deadline is August 8.

INVITATION TO LUMC

Sept. 1st is Rev. Sargent Wright's 90th Birthday

His family invites you share food,

Music and lots of good stories with him

Sunday, August 29, 2010 - 12:30 to 3:00

St. Mark's UMC

2391 St. Mark's Way, Sacramento, CA 95841

Buffet lunch at 12:30 in MacMurdo Hall

Following the 11:00 am worship service

Questions call Carol Pearl (206-297-1206)

In recognition of Sarge's long ministry, you are

Invited to bring food for the church food closet.

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Thanks for Easter Offering

From Rev. Brian Stein-Webber, Executive Director, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

Dear friends,

As we look at the first half of 2010, we are caused to be very grateful for your gifts of \$1,700. Through the month of June. This organization virtually runs on the good will of individuals and organizations.

Things are relatively quiet here in the middle of the summer, though we are looking forward to a full fall, to include events on the Millennium Development Goals, immigration reform, the CROP Walk (October 3 afternoon, looking for interested walkers!), Homeless Providers fundraiser, another wonderful interfaith concert, annual meeting involving an intercultural potluck, and more.

Meanwhile, we remain dedicated to supporting institutional chaplaincies, interfaith understanding and cooperation, creative interfaces with community partners and feeding the coffers of collective good will. Thank you for your genuine partnership.

SonQuest Rainforest Celebration

"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

What a great week we had in the SonQuest Rainforest! Songs like "I Get It", "I Have Hidden Your word", and "God Gave"; games involving bubbles and hula hoops; the Astro Jump Machine; teen dramas and Bible verse balloon pops; cuddly animals including a dog, bird, mouse, rabbit, snake, guinea pigs, and chickens; glittery flowers, rain sticks, and dioramas; and delicious pop corn, nachos, and root-beer floats, all made for a happy week!

Bible stories illustrating God's love for us -the parables of the sower, the lost sheep, the Good Samaritan, the midnight visitor, and of the talents- were shared with the children in costumes, dramas, games, crafts, and snacks! We were challenged to GET IT!, GET FOUND!, GET GOD'S LOVE!, GET PRAYING!, and GET GOING!

Early morning meditations, our fabulous brunch and then lunch for everyone afterwards, the Program Celebration and Ice Cream Social, collecting books for homeless children at the Bay Area Rescue Mission, our beautiful handmade SonQuest Rainforest quilt, funny early morning skits by the high school kids, our glow yellow t-shirts, glitzy balloons, Bible verse puppet monkey Amiga, Croaky, our frog mascot, our very own Rainforest Guide MC, our excellent sound system and photography, Sunday morning service, and fabulous rainforest mural and cut-out decorations, all set the stage and contributed to a Spirit-filled week!

Field trips to the Contra Costa Food Bank to sort food, Loaves and Fishes to make lunches, Books for the Barrios to pack supplies, Futures Explored to host a party, and an end-of-the-week swim party at the Logan's made a busy week for our middle-schoolers.

One hundred and ten wonderful children and 20 great teens participated in our SonQuest adventure! Seventy fabulous adults led the activities. Two overflowing carts of books were given to children at the Bay Area Rescue Mission! "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

SonQuest Thank You

Thank you to so many who helped prepare and lead our VBS this summer.

Registration	Lorri Sullivan
Music	Jan Davis
Crafts	Karen Schroter, Jill Shibuya, Lynn Rocksvold, Donna Walls, Fran Smith, Judy Stillman, Helen Harding, TEENS
Snacks	Nancy Flood, Lynn Sabatini, Sandee Hubbs, Virginia Black
Drama	Margaret Kintner, TEENS
Games	Judy Stillman
Storytellers	Preschool: Roseann Beeman, Helen Harding, Gabby Paolini K: Pastor Lori, Carolyn Partney, Bunny Gruhn 1: Pat Hershey, Karin Husch 2/3: Renee Emerson, Barbara Falkenberg 4/5: Teri Logan, Carol Zuckerman 6/7/8: Greg Horner, Stefan Miller, Sarina Woo, Dean Coons, Ginnie Leavitt Barbara Levander, Beth White, Ginny Horner
Animals	Matt Ward
Lunch Leaders	Pat Doughty, Judy Stillman, Ginny Leavitt
Devotions	Pastor Lori
Sound	David White
MC	Margaret Kintner
Croaky, the Frog	Eric Falkenberg
Puppet/Bible Verse	Morgan Fairies
Skit	Judy Stillman - Jackie Miller, Sarah Newcomb, Madison Gerringer, David MacDannald, Chris Kintner, Morgan Fairies
Nurse	Hazel Nelson
Photo	Mark Sawdon
Quilt	Maureen Straw
T-Shirts	Pat Hershey, Gloria Duffy
Ice Cream Social	Judy Stillman
Set-Up/Décor	Bonnie Okamoto, Greg & Ginny Horner, Steve Breashears, Karen Chelini, Judy Stillman, Helen Harding, Lynn Sabatini, Paul Renno, Fran & Vic Smith, TEENS
Muscle Men	Tom Henderson, Wendell Pleis, Greg Horner, Joe Darrell
New Riser	Wendell Pleis
Monday Sign-In	TEENS
Sunday Service	Ginny Leavitt
CD Producer	Dave White
Balloon Blow-Up	Greg Horner, Tom Kintner
Daily Set-Up, Take Down	Greg Horner
Follow-Up	Karen Schroter
Th. Program MC	Scott Loughran-Smith

Tower Notes	Mary and Tom Henderson
Teen Helpers	Jackie Miller, Jeff Sawdon, Matt Ward, Chris Kintner, Julia Partlow, Hannah Straw, Madison Gerringer, Eric Falkenberg, Kelly Carey, Allison Falkenberg, Trevor Martin, Morgan Fairies, Johnny Askay, Sarah Newcomb, Lauren Riebs, Gabby Paolini, David MacDannald, Alex Dias, Christian McCooey, Brad Miller
Lunch Helpers	Julia White, Carol Slatton, Gloria Pleis, Mary Hobson, Mary Henderson, Mary Teichmann, Chris Coons, Debbie Newcomb, Catherine Sinnott, Leiola Walter, Ginnie Cowden, Nancy Lennstrom, Lori Loughran-Smith, Nancy Cottoral, Meng Ward, Carol Zuckerman, Martha Cervantes, Laurel Hill, Celeste Graham, Barbara Levander, Fran Smith, Lynn Rocksvold,



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, August 12, 2010**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fax.....	925-284-5170
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