

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES

Since 1855

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Spetember 12, 2010

Seeds of a Sower

I write as September 11 approaches, a day of sacred remembrance for our nation. My spirit is troubled by the animosity being hurled at the Muslim community, threatening their places of worship and their sacred scriptures. My appreciation for the freedom of religion which I have enjoyed throughout my life is deepening. My chosen place of worship has been a safe haven not only for worship, but also as a community center for the public to gather for edification and relationships. I have never experienced the desecration of the holy scriptures of my tradition which deeply nourish my faith life. Even those who do not claim the faith of Judaism or Christianity have respectfully recognized the texts as great literature and a profound witness of our ancestors.

In this spirit, I share part of a Call to Respect for America's Tradition of Religious Liberty made by Interfaith Leaders representing various religious traditions:

As Jews, Christians, and Muslims, we are grateful to live in this democracy whose Constitution guarantees religious liberty for all. Our freedom to worship in congregations of our own choosing, to give witness to our moral convictions in the public square, and to maintain institutions that carry out our respective missions—all of these are bedrock American freedoms that must be vigorously guarded and defended lest they be placed at peril. The United States of America has been a beacon to the world in defending the rights of religious minorities, yet it is also sadly true that at times in our history particular groups have been singled out for unjust discrimination and have been made the object of scorn and animosity by those who have either misconstrued or intentionally distorted the vision of our founders....

We work together on the basis of deeply held and widely shared values, each supported by the sacred texts of our respective traditions. We acknowledge with gratitude the dialogues between our scholars and religious authorities that have helped us to identify a common understanding of the divine command to love one's neighbor. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all see an intimate link between faithfulness to God and love of neighbor; a neighbor who in many instances is the stranger in our midst. We are united in our conviction that by witnessing together in celebration of human dignity and religious freedom; by working together for interfaith understanding across communities and generations; and by cooperating with each other in works of justice and mercy for

the benefit of society, all of us will demonstrate our faithfulness to our deepest spiritual commitments. www.nccusa.org

As we seek to deepen our faithfulness, may we be respectful of other traditions. Unfortunately there are extremists who corrupt the essence of every faith tradition. It is important for us to seek accurate information from credible sources. In our global world it is increasingly important that take part in fanning the flames of peace and mutual respect.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

BUZZ GROUPS' TEACHERS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool –room 1: Roseann Beeman, Martha Cervantes
K–First –room 5: Carol Zuckerman, Jill Shibuya, Meng Ward
2nd–3rd –room 6: Nancy Sanders, Tonja Marcus, Randall Husch
4th–5th –room 8: Teresa Gerringer, Mark Sawdon, Katherine Welcomer

Grand Opening Celebration and Open House Wesley House & Campus Center

Sunday, September 26, 2010

12 noon to 4:00 p.m. Ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:00 p.m.

2398 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

[www.WesleyHouse Berkeley.org](http://www.WesleyHouseBerkeley.org)

A NEW DISTRICT

September 1, 2010 our California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is reorganized into four districts instead of seven. LUMC now falls in the El Camino Real District. Our District Superintendent is Rev. Kristie Olah. Formerly we were in the Bayview District supervised by Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez. The District Offices are being phased out during the year. Files and records are being digitized and will be centralized at the Annual Conference Center in West Sacramento. The El Camino District Office is in San Jose through June 30, 2011.

LUMC goes to the CAL - ASU Football game

Saturday, October 23 - time TBA

at Berkeley Memorial Stadium

Reserved seats - regularly \$51, but GROUP Rates \$30

(to be a "group" we must have a minimum of 25 people - Get
your reservation to Ginny Leavitt ASAP

For those interested we can really make a fun day of it, and also attend
the CAL BAND pregame rally / post game performance, and follow
the Band back to Sproul Plaza!

A good way to travel to the game is by BART and then the College Ave. Bus.

Should you want to drive, we are getting info on parking.

JOIN THE FUN - CALL - 284-7857 OR EMAIL ginleavitt@att.net

Around About LUMC

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **Frank Raggon** on July 30, 2010, in Redding. Frank lived 90 years and was a longtime member of LUMC. He and Martha were married 67 years. They moved to Redding in recent years to live close to their family. Martha's new address is Lavender Hills Assisted Living, 1720 Collyer Dr., Redding, CA 96003.

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **Raymonde Crowe** on August 30, 2010. Our prayers are with her daughter, Janine, who lovingly cared for her mother in these later years. A memorial service was held at LUMC on September 10.

We celebrate the birth of **Bob Hobson's** third grandchild, **Colby James Hobson**, born September 7, weighing in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and 19 ½ inches long. Happy parents are **Steve and Michelle Hobson**, residing in San Rafael.

Stewardship Opportunity

The a-frame bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall need replacement. If you have skills to assist in building new bulletin boards, please contact the church office.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your condolences, prayers and wonderful thoughts about Mary during our difficult time. Your support means so much to me and to our whole family and has helped us find our way during this period. Your cards, flowers and outpouring of love have been a blessing to us. My special thanks to the wonderful ladies who planned, prepared and served the beautiful reception following Mary's memorial service. Your thoughtfulness and dedicated work are greatly appreciated.

Bob Hobson and family

Thank You

We appreciate the service of several volunteer secretaries who staff the office during Lorri Sullivan's vacation: Julia White, Carol Slatten, Ginny Leavitt, Pat Hershey, and Fran Smith. Fran Smith and Jim Brown have watered the plants around campus through the summer.

We are grateful for silent servants who repaired the fence and painted the benches at the north end of the front yard. Someone has also painted the white sign in the parking lot. Many quietly and graciously lend their talents to keep our active church campus clean and in good repair. We appreciate your stewardship of time and talent.

CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 3, 2010

1:00 p.m. Registration at Civic Park in Walnut Creek

The walk is four miles round trip.

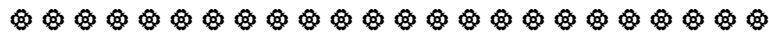
Sponsor sheets are available after worship or in the church office.

25% of the proceeds will go to Winter Nights Shelter

75% of the funds aid in the work of Church World Service

FOOD BASKETS

Don't forget to bring
nonperishable food and place in the
food baskets at both entrances
to the church sanctuary.



OCTOBER Birthdays

2 David MacDannald
Chris Scanlin
3 Alexander Grayson
4 Missy Kozacik
5 Clay Vryens
6 Peter Hartshorn
7 Linda Berti
Don Keeble
8 Barbara Falkenberg
Dot Feist
Marilyn Finn
9 Gavin Beeman
Armand Johnson
Leslie Murray
Paul Renno

10 Robyn Roberts
11 Kristen Darrell
Katherine Welcomer
12 Claire Breashears
13 Julia Partlow
14 Kathleen Emerson
Elizabeth Follmer
16 Tom Henderson
17 Chris Chuck
18 Travis Oakley
21 Nathaniel Welcomer

22 Jillian Bove
Dale Kari
Hilary Smith
24 Margaret Kintner
Dale Newcomb
Gavin Schroter
25 Stephannie Tornow
27 Megan Berti
28 Sharon Chia
30 Elizabeth Emerson

Wedding Anniversaries

4 Roseann and Gary Beeman
17 Patricia Hershey and Joe Darrell

WINTER NIGHTS

LUMC will once again be participating in the Winter Nights Homeless Shelter program sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. Families who are homeless live in churches or synagogues while congregations help to feed them. The program runs from October to April and the first stop is St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Lafayette from October 11-24. LUMC will share the responsibility from Oct. 18-21 and we need your help. We will need people to:

- work with us from 5-8 p.m.
- provide evening meals
- buy food for breakfasts and lunches
- help with childcare and tutoring
- spend the night in case of emergencies

If you or a group you are involved with are interested in helping with Winter Nights, please get in touch with Jackie Cox (925) 284-7809 or carsonandcox@att.net To answer questions or get more information, contact Judy Stillman (925) 933-9351 or jstillma@pacbell.

In addition, WN has 'Traveling Tutors' who volunteer weekly to coordinate the childcare and tutoring programs. If you can spare one day a week from 5-8 p.m., and would like to be a TT, please contact Judy. High school and college age are welcome.

Grand Canyon Adventure 2011

April 28-May 1, 2011

A Benefit Hike for **Shelter INC.**

Information Meetings throughout September in various areas

Hike for **SHELTER** is a team adventure fundraising program. Professional Grand Canyon Guides will lead small groups of 6-8 people on a hike of their choice from the easiest paved Rim trail to steep descents into the Canyon. Preparation and training for the event begins January 2011. Brochures are available in Fellowship Hall or the church office.

LUMC LIBRARY

As I was shelving books in the Friends Corner Book Shop (at the Lafayette Library) I found **FINDING DARWIN'S GOD** and took it home to read. I wanted to see what another person thought about evolution and God's creation as being part of the same.

Kenneth Miller, the author, offers a surprising resolution to the evolutionism vs. creationism debate. A distinguished professor of biology at Brown University, Miller argues that the genuine world of science is far more interesting than either the scientific mainstream or its creationist critics have assumed. He offers a thoughtful, cutting-edge analysis of the key issues that seem to divide science and religion. He feels that "properly understood, evolution adds depth and meaning not only to a strictly scientific view of the world, but also to a spiritual one." Miller's resolution of the issues that seem to divide God from evolution will serve as a guide to anyone interested in the classic questions of ultimate meaning and human origins.

That same day I found **CHARLES AND EMMA, THE DARWINS' LEAP OF FAITH** by Deborah Heiligman. Even though it was classified as "juvenile literature" I took it home, too.

This biography of Charles Darwin takes a personal look at the man whose wife's religious convictions made him rethink how the world would receive his ideas.

VERY INTERESTING READING!! LOOK FOR THEM ON THE BOOK CART.

*Dear Church Family,
Our gracious thanks for your calls, cards, lovely flowers and
delicious meals. We have felt the strength of your prayers and
are recovering more each day, and look forward to being back
with you soon.
Our love, Daisy and Paul Persons*

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.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING At LUMC!

Planning your Christmas shopping??

Come to LUMC's Boutique

Saturday, November 6 from 10 .am. to 3 p.m.

“Stitch in Time” items – aprons, table runners, head bands, pocket purses, door draft protectors, flower pins and barrettes, puppets, stuffed mice and hedge hogs, and oh, so much more!

Jams and jellies, Bean jars, and Baked goods! JEWELRY!

And OUTSIDE VENDORS – Longaberger Baskets, Pampered Chef, Princess House, Scentsy --- plus Dottie Vieira's DOLL CLOTHES!

Also, handmade children's clothes, scarves, and more!

PLUS, our super cooks will have HOMEMADE SOUP FOR LUNCH!

Lunch – is drop-in - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Invite your friends!! Have a great day – eat and enjoy!

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!

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, September 23, 2010**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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