

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

February 28, 2010

Seeds of a Sower

I am writing this article the day before our Volunteers in Mission team leaves for Costa Rica! I'm excited and a bit nervous! I can already tell that this will be a spiritual experience for me – one of letting go and trusting God more deeply.

I leave buoyed by the wonderful outpouring of support from the congregation. You have been generous in offering tools, hugs and blessings, funds to support the mission. I am especially touched by the anticipation and excitement I sense among the church family for this adventure. Our team goes not just as individuals, but we go as representatives of LUMC, and more importantly, as representatives of Jesus Christ.

This mission is one of the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* which we studied in the fall of 2008. Bishop Robert Schnase lifted up "Risk-Taking Mission and Service" as one of the five practices. In his book, he wrote:

Risk-Taking Mission and Service is one of the fundamental activities of church life that is so critical that failure to practice it in some form results in a deterioration of the church's vitality and ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ. When churches turn inward, using all resources for their own survival and caring only for their own people, then spiritual vitality wanes.....

Risk-taking steps into greater uncertainty, a higher possibility of discomfort, resistance, or sacrifice. Risk-Taking Mission and Service takes people into ministries that push them out of their comfort zone, stretching them beyond the circle of relationships and practices that routinely define their faith commitments. God uses such ministries to expose church members to people, situations, and needs that they would never ordinarily encounter and that reveal to them spiritual qualities and practical talents that, apart from their deliberate intention of serving Christ, they would never discover.

By the time you read this, we will be setting foot on U.S. soil once again, transformed by our experience and eager to share with you stories of the people we met, challenges encountered, and faith that has grown. We are grateful for your prayerful support and encouragement.

Gracias!

Pastor Lori

TOWER NOTES NOTICE

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



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 7 Communion John 4:5-26 The Samaritan Woman at the Well meets Jesus

March 14 John 9:1-41 The Man Born Blind Receives Sight from Jesus

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

"CALLING THOSE WITH A SWEET TOOTH!"

LUMC Youth will be selling SEE'S candy after Church March 7th to raise money for their Sierra Service Project in Klamath, Ca this summer.

Thank you for supporting our youth and have fun filling those Easter Baskets or filling your tummies with SEE'S candy! See's Gift Certificates make great gifts for teachers or loved ones and will also be available."



PLAY GROUP

The Play Group (an informal play time for 1 and 2 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.



SUNDAY BUZZ GROUPS

(Sunday School)

Watch for the names of the winners of the Winter Quarter Attendance Awards in the bulletin March 7. Awards were given at the ice cream party after church on February 28.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Celebrate St. Pat's Day early - stay for a BAKED POTATO BUFFET BAR after church on Sunday, March 14! Fellowship Comm. will have baked potatoes ready. Please bring one preferred topping to share --- butter, sour cream, chives, bacon bits, ranch dressing, salsa, chili, grated cheese, --- whatever! Then ENJOY!

ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE
Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17
Preview Party for church families, Thursday eve.

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!



HINDUISM CLASS

The class will be held on March 21, 2010 in Fireside Room after church. 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.



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!!

LUMC's ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE
FRIDAY, April 16 AND SATURDAY, April 17 - 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
PREVIEW PARTY for CHURCH FAMILY THURS. EVE. April 15- 5:30 -7:00 p.m.

PLAN TO BE A PART! Here's how - 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 those items in as soon as possible in 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



LIBRARY

"TWINKLE" by Elisa Morgan - Being a light in dark places is always a challenge. When it comes to sharing faith, it's easy to bump up against a pile of evangelism fears and go no further; "I might offend, I don't have all the answers, I might fail...." These thoughts are all very real and very intimidating. But God wouldn't invite us to be a part of something impossible...says Elisa Morgan. You can share your faith in simple and everyday ways.

Elisa shows how we can be a light in the lives of others with compassion, perception and naturalness. This book confirmed some of my beliefs as well as showing me new ways.
Barbara Levander

UMCOR Relief Efforts One Month after Quake

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), with the help of the Methodist Church in Haiti, has leased office space in Port-au-Prince and hired staff to advance the work plan that was drawn up by a team of UMCOR executives that assessed damages and needs following the January 12 earthquake.

“Our intention is to be operational as soon as possible,” said Sharad Aggarwal, one of the executives who participated in the assessment. Aggarwal expects the office to begin operating this week.

The generous support of donors, who have contributed more than \$11 million to UMCOR’s relief and recovery work in Haiti, will be critical to moving the work plan forward both in the initial emergency phase and throughout the projected five years of the recovery plan.

Bishop Joel Martinez, interim general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) called the funds raised so far “a good start.” He added, “UMCOR will be there for the long haul and will need additional support.

Aid has come in other forms, too, including the components for more than 350,000 health kits which are positioned to be distributed in Haiti as soon as circumstances allow. Layette kits for newborns are also needed.



UMCOR: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Anahit (not her real name), 24, lived in a small town in Armenia. In need of a job, she traveled to Dubai. Lured by empty promises of work, Anahit found herself trapped in the world of prostitution and human trafficking. When police conducted a raid, Anahit and other trafficked survivors were deported to their home countries.

Thankfully for Anahit and others like her, there is hope for a better life through refuge and shelter services provided by UMCOR Armenia’s Anti Human Trafficking Project. The project helps trafficked survivors reintegrate into society and recover from their traumatic experience.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, your gift will help cover UMCOR’s cost of doing business and allows us to keep our promise that 100 percent of every other contribution you make to a specific UMCOR project, like the one in Armenia, will be spent on that project and not on administrative costs.

One Great Hour of Sharing is March 14. Checks may be payable to Lafayette UMC, with a note for “One Great Hour.”

What We Can Do To Help Bring Peace to the Holy Land

Ambassador Warren Clark, Executive Director of Churches
for Middle East Peace

Friday, March 5 at 7:00 PM

Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda

Ambassador Clark was formerly a career U.S. Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State, serving in the Middle East, Europe, Canada, Africa, and he represented the U.S. on the U.N. Security Council for Middle East and African issues.



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.

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



EASTER BRUNCH GARDEN

On Saturday, April 3 starting at 10 a.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.

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.



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!



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!

Lafayette United Methodist Church
Minutes of the Church Council Meeting of February 16, 2010

Members present: Chairperson Tom Henderson, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Ginny Leavitt, Robyn Roberts, Doug Cowden, Jack Cottler, Pat Porter, Lynn Sabatini, David Inglis, Bob Lewis, Dean Coons, Carol Slatten and Secretary Kurt Teichmann.

The meeting began with sharing of Joys and Concerns. Chairperson Henderson officially opened the formal meeting at 7:36. He passed out a sheet entitled "Learners in the School of Christ." One interpretation of the readings was that "We should live our lives so other people will know we are followers of Christ." The end of the handout included a prayer.

The December 15, 2009 Church Council minutes were presented. Motion for approval made by Doug Cowden and seconded by Dean Coons. Approved unanimously.

Finance: Chairperson Bob Lewis reported that pledges for January were above budget and that expenses were below budget. He said that he was not reporting specifics since one month was too short a time period to be meaningful. Tom Henderson encouraged the Finance Committee to require an annual audit. The Church Council Committee agreed that a timetable for the audit should be agreed upon to reduce the chances of a late report. Pastor Lori noted that there was a \$51,000 committed carryover from 2009 and an uncommitted \$18,851 carryover from 2008. The Finance Committee was rolling the 2008 carryover into the committed category; most of the funds were slated for the Trustees' large courtyard project. Lewis reported that the Church had raised over \$2,400 for relief aid to Haiti.

Trustees: Pat Porter, representative to the Church Council, reported for the Trustees. The Trustees elect their own officers. Porter reported the following election results:

Chairperson - Henry Kim
Vice Chairperson – Mason Walters
Secretary – Corinne Roberts

Trustees' Division of Responsibilities

Church Maintenance – Wendell Pleis and Ray Peters
Facility Usage – Corinne Roberts
Parsonage Liaison - Mason Walters
Landscape/Gardening – Henry Kim
Insurance Liaison – Pat Porter
Kitchen Liaison – Nancy Flood
Joyful Beginnings Liaison – Pat Porter

Note: Pat Porter will represent Trustees at Church Council.

Nancy Flood will represent Trustees at Finance Committee.

Ray Peters will represent Trustees at Endowment Committee.

Porter said that a new sign had been installed and other signs identifying buildings on the Church Campus had been improved. Volunteers had removed wallpaper in the nursery and had begun the repainting process. Trustees Committee is getting bids for work to be done on the parsonage. Spring workday is scheduled for March 20th for 9

a.m. to noon. Some new tables need to be purchased for the Fellowship Hall. There are not enough funds to repave the church parking lot but available funds allow having the lines and markings repainted. The Trustees are selecting a sub-committee to draft a master plan for the Church campus including hardscape and landscape. That sub-committee will solicit input from the congregation as a whole and will obtain bids from landscape architects, etc. The plan will probably have prioritized phases. Funds presently available are \$25,353 in savings and in other designated funds \$18,457.

Staff Parish: The Committee met in January principally for an orientation of new members. Renee Emerson has resigned from the Committee.

Program Council: Chairperson Leavitt stated that the Council is planning an event for every month in 2010. There will be a Friday evening pizza party with board games. There will be a "Journey to the Cross" event where members will move from location to location on the church property where they will find information regarding Jesus' journey on his last day. Events also include a night at the A's with fireworks; tickets for this August 7th game are limited.

Endowment: Doug Cowden reported that the annual rate of return on the endowment fund for 2009 was 11.5%. Of the \$2,263 earned, \$226 (10%) will stay in the fund, Trustees will be given \$1,132 and other church uses (inreach) will be allocated \$905. The Endowment Committee is soliciting recommendations from other Church Committees on how this money should be spent. The Endowment Committee recommended that \$250 of the Outreach funds be given to the VIM group. Seconded by Leavitt. Approved unanimously.

Old Business: There was acknowledgement of the work of Joe Darrell and the VIM group. Members of the VIM group have made their own donations as well as paid for their transportation to Costa Rica.

Pastor Lori reported that the new church directory was now in process. Photo session dates have been set.

New Business: Pastor Lori reported that the nine United Methodist churches of the Diablo Valley Circuit are making an effort to share its resources. An example of this is a pulpit exchange on April 16th wherein Pastor Lori will preach at another church and one of the other ministers will preach at our church. This was accepted by the Church Council.

Dean Coons motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Doug Cowden. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Kurt F. Teichmann, Church Council Secretary

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 11, 2010**

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