

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

January 29, 2012

Seeds of a Sower

At the beginning of a new year, many people take up new goals or explore new interests in life. For LUMC, this new year has seen the launch of a new Ministry Planning Team. Ten persons from our congregation have answered the call to listen to God's voice and vision for our ministry in the near future.

Those who are reading the Bible in a year are in the midst of Exodus, where the people Israel are wandering in the wilderness before they reach the Promised Land. Through Moses God says, "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:4b-6a). At times during their wilderness sojourn, the people get restless, forget their calling, and break their covenant with God. God offers forgiveness and welcomes them back into relationship.

Lest we forget our calling to be discipling one another in the good news of Jesus Christ, it is wise to revisit our mission and ministry on a regular basis. The Ministry Planning Team will be considering several areas of ministry which contribute to vital congregations. The Team will seek to provide a ministry plan to guide our efforts to make disciples and channel our energy in life-giving directions.

Team Members are Pat Hershey, Judy Stillman, Jan Davis, Tom Henderson, Don Keeble, Gretchen Placzek, Robyn Roberts, Nancy Sanders, Karen Schroter, Janet Thompson, and Lori Sawdon.

We invite you to participate with the team in prayerful discernment of God's desire for our life together. Team members are open to hearing what you are hearing while listening to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

United Methodist Women Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 2, NOON

All women are invited to the United Methodist Women Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2 at Noon in the Fireside Room. Church member Jackie Carson will speak on the Child Abuse Prevention Council, County Foster Child System, and County Court Appointed Advocate program. Jackie is experienced in all of these programs to protect children, and we look forward to learning about them. Lunch will be served at 12:15, with a short business meeting at 12:45, and Jackie to speak at 1:15. Call Sue for questions or babysitting (284-5173).

Lent 2010: Passion Pilgrimage

During the season of Lent, in preparation for Easter, during worship we will walk with Jesus through the events culmination in his death on the cross. We are invited to be companions of Christ through his passion and to grow in our walk as disciples of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday Worship, February 22, 7:00 p.m. A service in the tradition of the Taize community in France with music and prayers at the cross.

BUZZ GROUPS

Sunday classes in the upstairs Education Building have been reorganized so that Kindergarten -First graders will meet in room 5, Second-Third graders will meet in room 6 and Fourth-Fifth graders will meet in room 8. Parents: consider this when picking up your child from class. Please wait in the hallway until the class has ended.

Hands On Bibles were given to Conner Chia, Peter Husch, Siena DeCarlo and Tyler Spencer during the service on January 29.

BOOK CART

Five Jan Karon children's books have been donated to our church library, Room 9, in memory of Raymonde Crowe, from Raymonde's Memorial Fund. Each is a story with strong Christian values for various ages. Jeremy, The Tale of an Honest Bunny, The Trellis and the Seed, Miss Fanny's Hat, Violet Comes to Stay, Violet Goes to the Country will be on the BOOK CART soon



JOIN LUMC AT THE FOOD BANK

Saturday, February 25, 1 – 4 p.m.

Because No One Should Go Hungry

Did you know that the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano helps 132,000 hungry people every month? 1 in 6 people right here in our county need help getting enough food to eat, and the need has increased 35% over the last 2 years. The Food Bank distributes 14 million pounds of food each year, and depends heavily on volunteers to help make that happen.

On Saturday afternoon, February 25, we will be going to the Food Bank warehouse in Concord to sort and box donated food. You will see what happens to your weekly food donations through our ONE Project!

Sign up after worship on Feb. 5, 12 or 19, or in the office. We will meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. to form carpools before heading out to the warehouse (located at 4010 Nelson Ave. in Concord). We hope to have 25 people – feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to come along! Youth 11 years old or older are welcome.

ONE Campaign Continues!



Bring ONE Item of Food each Sunday!

Appreciation for Thanksgiving/Christmas Offerings

From Sue Howell, Donor Development Officer
Habitat for Humanity, East Bay

Thank you very much for your congregation's gift of \$800 to Habitat for Humanity East Bay. We recently celebrated the completion of our 300th home!

Francine Kakos, a member of one of those incredible 300 families, describes her experience: "I've bonded with people who are going to be my neighbors, connected with volunteers who have been volunteering for decades, and it really brings home to me how blessed I am. And I have to tell you, after meeting all these people, the most beautiful part is that when you look at these homes, you know that they've been worked on with love. You feel welcomed. You feel part of something big."

You are part of that "something big" that Francine describes. Thank you! Your donation has helped us to achieve this.

CLEANING OUT AFTER THE HOLIDAYS???

Remember the church's **RUMMAGE SALE!**
The last weekend in **APRIL!**

There is still some storage space at church for items that can be boxed.... contact Ginny Leavitt, 284-7857 or ginleavitt@att.net



Hospitality and Housing Needs

Our Preschool Custodian, a young woman attending St. Mary's, is seeking a room to rent for the remainder of the academic year. If you know of a room for rent, please call the church office.

Tuesday, March 13 United Methodist clergy from California and Nevada will be arriving for a Gathering of Pastors on March 14 in Alamo. Many will be coming a great distance and need lodging Tuesday evening. If you would like to host one of our pastors for the evening, please inform the church office.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT AT MONTE TOYON "EARTH DAY, DIA DE LA TIERRA" APRIL 21-22



If you aren't familiar with our once-a-year retreat, talk with Ginny Leavitt, Nancy Sanders, Karin Husch, Barbara Levander and Judy Stillman. It's great fun and fellowship!

We gather at the Monte Toyon Conference Center in Aptos (near Santa Cruz) Saturday, April 21, for lunch. The rest of the day is filled with various activities led by Pastor Lori, and others on the retreat committee with some relax time mid-afternoon. Dinner is followed by a large group session (separate children activities), skits, campfire and line dancing for those who still have energy. Individual rooms (4 beds each) in Cary Lodge include heaters and mattresses (bring your bedding or sleeping bags) and bath facilities down the hall. Sunday, April 22, after breakfast and storytime we worship and possibly more climbing activities for youth.

Watch the Tower Notes, Sunday bulletins and displays in Fellowship Hall for more information and registration forms.

LUMC Church Council and Finance Committee Joint Meeting Dec. 13, 2011

Judy Stillman, Bob Lewis, Jill Shibuya, Carol Slatten, Pastor Lori, Doug Cowden, Pat Hershey, Joe Darrell, Ginny Leavitt, Nancy Flood, John Slosser, Dean Coons, Tom Henderson, Pat Porter, Judy Garvens, Lynn Sabatini, and Janet Thompson were present at the meeting.

- Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Tom Henderson with a Group Prayer.
- Carol Slatten moved and Doug Cowden seconded to accept the corrected minutes from the November 15, 2011. Motion approved.
- Doug Cowden moved and Dean Coons seconded to accept minutes of the Annual Church Conference as submitted. Motion approved.

Finance Committee: Bob Lewis presented finances through Sept. 30, 2011.

- Bob reported LUMC is well ahead of budget.
- A 2 year audit has been scheduled after the close of the fiscal year.
- If there are no changes in the current financial picture, LUMC will have paid all apportionments in full and carried forward \$8,400 into fiscal 2012.
- Finance has been working on the FY12 budget; it will be finalized at the joint Finance Committee and Church Council meeting in December.
- Bob presented the 2012 budget. Discussion included:
 - a. Pat Hershey expressed gratitude for the firm foundation of Joyful Beginnings, especially to Ginny Leavitt.
 - b. All agreed Bethlehem Experience, although not budgeted for, will have the seed money needed for a successful program.
 - c. There is additional year end giving anticipated.
- Bob moved and Joe Darrell seconded to accept the 2012 budget as presented with an \$8,000 carryover from 2011 to 2012 to balance the budget. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Church Council expressed gratitude and thanks for Bob Lewis' dedicated service as Chair of the Finance Committee. His term is ended and Ginny Leavitt will be stepping into the Finance Chair role.

Endowment Committee: Doug Cowden

- No report

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Judy Garvens

- Judy Garvens moved and Judy Stillman seconded adoption of the Lay Staff Personnel Policy. Motion carried, unanimously.

Trustees: Pat Porter reported on projects in process:

- Additional bids are being accepted for the Narthex remodel project.

Program Council: Ginny Leavitt

- Ginny reported there was a great turnout for the play 'Little Town of Bennington' staged by the LUMC youth.
- The last Sunday in January is an after Sunday Service Tropical Luncheon after Sunday service to raise donations supporting the Costa Rica VIM team. Joe Darrell is leaving for Costa Rica on February 3rd, the VIM team will be in Costa Rica February 24 – March 4th.

Lay Leader: Pat Hershey

- January 8th after Sunday service is Leadership Orientation for all new church leaders. Discussion will include committee structure, a time to pause, reflect, and deepen the relationship with each other, God, and the LUMC community. Rev. Kristie Olah, District Superintendent will have a presentation for us.

Communications: No Report

Pastor Lori:

- Pastor Lori announced the Ministry Planning Team is formed with 3 leaders and 6 team members. The first meeting will be January 22nd.
- She again thanked Bob Lewis for his faithful and unfailing ministry as Finance Committee Chairman.
- And, Pastor Lori recognized Dean Coons who is ending his many terms of service on the Church Council.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Judy Stillman announced Winter Nights is sheltering at LUMC this week. She overheard many oohs and aahs on our church buildings from members of the visiting congregations.

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Thompson

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....The Reverend Lori Sawdon
 Pastor e-mail.....sawdon2@pacbell.net
 Director of Music Ministry.....Bunny Gruhn
 Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....Kathleen Flemming
 Office administrator.....Lorri Sullivan
 Director of Youth Ministry.....Beth White
 Joyful Beginnings Preschool Director.....Lynne Conners
 Custodian.....Bruce Taylor

TOWER NOTES

Editor.....Ginny Cowden Computer
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TOWER NOTES DEADLINE

Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, February 8, 2011**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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