



THE REDWOODS LOG

◆ FEBRUARY 2023 ◆

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

As our first LOG edition of 2023, I'd like to thank Jan C. Salas for stepping in as LOG editor during and since the pandemic. Her fortitude and dedication to our monthly newsletter was inspiring and greatly appreciated. At a time of such uncertainty and change, she kept the LOG distribution constant as a way to stay connected with one another and informed of our local and international Presbyterian Church issues. Thank you, Jan! Though Jan will still be a contributor, she will be handing over the editorial responsibilities to our new office administrator, Aranda Dill, after this edition. Welcome, Aranda!

Please stop by the office to introduce yourself to Aranda. She was highly recommended by Rev. Linda Lane-Bortell, pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) in Terra Linda. I am grateful for the ways our partnership with CPC continues to be a blessing. Aranda's office hours are Monday - Friday, 9am-1pm.

As we look ahead this year, I am especially appreciative of Aranda's daily presence in the office. In addition to the LOG newsletter editing, Aranda will be taking on some of the financial responsibilities which have been handled weekly, for many, many years, possibly decades, by Polly and Jim Gorder. They have been so consistent and meticulous in their weekly record keeping for the church ever since I arrived ten years ago.

As you may know, Polly and Jim will be moving to Colorado in April. Though we will miss them tremendously, we understand their desire to be closer to their children. They will be moving into a brand-new Presbyterian Senior Living community in Colorado Springs called Aberdeen Ridge. As it happens, Jim was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, so there is a poignant connection there. As I am grateful for the time they have given the church in their 45 years of membership, I am grateful for the time they have given us to prepare for saying good-bye. We will certainly have a special fellowship time for this, so stay tuned.

Another reason for the appreciation of Aranda's daily presence in the office is that I will be taking a sabbatical beginning April 17, returning July 17. Aranda will be well-acquainted with the office needs and I am extremely confident in her capabilities in my absence. Rev. Keenan Kelsey has graciously agreed to cover for pastoral care and pulpit supply during the sabbatical. Thanks be to God!

For more information about the PC(USA) support of sabbaticals, please see page 2.

New Year's Blessings,
Stephanie

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Sabbatical Rationale from the Presbyterian Church Office of the General Assembly (OGA)

Sabbatical leave for pastors is a planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. Different from a vacation, it is meant to be an opportunity for the pastor to strategically disengage from regular tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective because of a planned time of focus. Sabbatical leave is an extension of the biblical concept of a Sabbath day and a Sabbath year for renewal. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and changed activity and an occasion for recovery and renewal of vital energies. OGA recommends sabbaticals for all full-time pastors serving churches who have served in their current position for six continuous years. Commonly, sabbaticals are a three-month time away.

Music at Redwoods Presbyterian

Happy New Year everyone! The year is zooming by as I write this upon the threshold of February already!

The year has begun with new energy and a sense of renewal and hope, with the church planning activities and programs, some revived, some new, which promise regeneration and fresh awareness of our purpose, together and within the community. Redwoods Church is here, and is a happy, hopeful and welcoming place to be as well as being a very necessary place of serene retreat, peace and prayer, and a sanctuary in the truest sense of the word.

This year, we look forward to activities that have been on hold for three years due to the restrictions of the pandemic. Stephanie and I are in conversation now about reinstatement of the Compassionate Kids program, which offers a small group setting for children, with an emphasis on teaching empathy and compassion as valuable and necessary life responses, while all participate together in fun activities, hearing bible stories, ringing bells, making arts and crafts, enjoying snacks and forming new friendships.

We also will be hearing young voices singing each week in Fellowship Hall as the Marin Girls Chorus returns for their Spring semester of classes. I have returned to teach these classes for the chorus, and there is a concert planned at the church in April, so all are welcome to come and enjoy the children singing!

I attended the Membership/Fellowship meeting recently, and was happy to share ideas, help with event planning, and again, feel a great sense of renewed energy. Looking forward to sharing time together as we prepare for the coming year ahead.

Musically,
Denise

CHURCH MOUSE

After a few wonderful years as Editor of the Log and Church Mouse, I have decided to retire from these duties. It has been such an excellent pleasure working with the Redwoods family to put together these pages and articles. I am especially grateful to all the people who have provided me assistance and information (like notes for the mouse). Each time I received a message thanking me was a great joy. During our time of Covid separation, the Log was a way to stay close to each other (safely). We share our joys, mourn our losses, celebrate our faith and practice our mission together. That will never change.

The refrain of the opening hymn (Come! Live in the Light!) last Sunday describes Redwoods to a tee:

*'We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God'*

It is a privilege to be part of the Redwoods family.
Peace – **Jan Salas**

The time is always right to do what is right. – Martin Luther King, Jr.



Per Capita 2023

Many ask – “What is per capita?” and “Why is it separate from my regular pledge?”

PCUSA website states “The official definition: ‘Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians’ (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

In essence: Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)’s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.”

The breakdown of the per capita 2023 contribution is as follows:

General Assembly \$9.85, Synod of the Pacific \$5.22, Redwoods Presbytery \$19.93 – total \$35.00 per member.

The Per Capita is used by the above organizations to budget for the coming year to provide training, support, advocacy, oversight and governance and assistance to congregations in need. Again from the website “... extending our mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves to promote Christian unity”

If you are able, please make a contribution of \$35.00 for per capita this year. When making the donation, please indicate it is for the per capita 2023.

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 12, 2023



As of the publishing of this newsletter, the San Francisco 49ers are in the playoffs for the 57th annual Superbowl in Arizona. They have exceeded the expectations of those in the know this season and we wish them all the best going forward. Feb. 12 will also be the date of our Annual Congregational Meeting at Redwoods. As in years past we will celebrate by gathering in Fellowship Hall after the meeting for a fabulous salad potluck lunch. Prior to Covid, I would also make lentil soup as a way to acknowledge the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year, unfortunately, I have

not been able to manage the logistics to make the soup, but I've included my recipe below. The recipe is vegan, but I like to also add a mix of spicy and mild Italian sausage, sautéed before adding them to the pot.

The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers people to unite and tackle hunger using the energy of the Big Game. The vision is to transform the Big Game into a way to eliminate hunger. Since 1990, churches and other groups have raised over \$175,000,000 for local food banks across the country. Redwoods has participated in this fund-raising for many years, hence the soup. Our donations are forwarded to the SF/Marin food bank. Like the Superbowl, there is a local aspect to food insecurity – 1 in 5 Marin residents are at risk of food insecurity. Please donate, if you are able, to the SF/Marin Food Bank, one dollar and/or a can of soup. There will be a large soup pot in Fellowship Hall for the donations.

Go Niners!

Peace – Jan Salas



Lentil Soup

- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 medium carrots, finely chopped
- 1 celery rib, finely chopped
- 1 ¼ cups French Green Lentils
- 6 cups vegetable stock
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar

Heat 2 Tbsp oil in a 4-quart heavy pot over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking, then sauté onion, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, about 6 minutes.

Add carrots & celery, stirring, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add lentils, water, salt & pepper & bring to a boil, then reduce heat to moderate & cook, covered, until lentils are tender, about 30 minutes.

Serve with balsamic vinegar as a condiment.

2022 – 21st Annual Alternative Christmas Faire

After two years of not being able to hold the Faire in the Fellowship Hall, we resumed the Faire in December. It was a brilliant success! I wish to thank the many people who stepped up to set up the Faire, represent the agencies, collect the funds donated, close out the Faire, clean up and forward the donations. Nancy Rademacher did much of the work with the help of Diane Forster and Polly Gorder. The Deacons were essential in taking care of the activities on the days of the Faire. Stephanie was part of the process at every stage and her leadership was invaluable. And of course, I am grateful to everyone who was able to participate and celebrate the holiday by supporting the agencies represented.

We raised the following:

- Bread for the World: \$150.00
- Faith in Practice: \$655.00
- Habitat for Humanity: \$166.00
- Heifer: \$360.00
- Fair Trade: \$489.00 (After expenses, the proceeds were donated to Cents-Ability)

Merry Christmas again. I look forward to the 22nd annual Faire this Fall.

Jan Salas – Co-Chair Mission/Outreach Committee

2¢ a Meal



In years past, Molly Rademacher was seen in Fellowship Hall after worship, with a basket, collecting for 2 cents/meal. She did this for several years before she became the Sunday School teacher.

But most of us think of Debbie Lundberg when we think of 2 cents/meal. She faithfully made her announcements the first Sunday of each month. She came with her delightful collection of hats, carefully chosen to match a theme of the month.

She also made sure the collection basket was ready in Fellowship Hall, frequently wrote Log articles, and often brought treats along with the basket to share. Her dedication to the cause was consistent and heartfelt. Debbie has recently advised us she is retiring from managing 2 cents/meal. We will always treasure her work to end hunger.

2 cents/meal invites everyone to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to alleviate hunger. Funds have been forwarded to organizations such as Southern Marin Food Pantry, Blessing Bags by Windsor Presbyterian church and many others. By consistently making the meaningful contribution, the cents become dollars which end hunger for many.

Recently the project has been renamed Cents-Ability (inflation is everywhere) but the message is the same – a few cents each meal to help others. A new volunteer, Pam Hooper, has stepped up to lead us in the future. She will be reminding us to make the prayerful contribution as we work to end hunger. The members and friends of Redwoods have participated in this effort for decades and we look forward to continuing with Pam's guidance.



Membership/Fellowship Committee

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee. We are excited to be announcing some upcoming activities for the new year.

On Feb. 12th we will be having a potluck salad luncheon following the Annual Congregational meeting. This used to be an annual event and we are happy to be reviving it. Please bring a favorite salad to share if you are able. For those that are not able to contribute, there is always plenty of food. The Membership/Fellowship committee will provide drinks, rolls, dessert and set up. We hope many of you are able to stay after the meeting for lunch.

We are also excited to host our first Saturday breakfast in many months on Saturday, Feb. 25th. We gather at 9:30AM for a light potluck breakfast with the program from 10:00-11:00AM. We will have a casual round table discussion sharing faith stories. Please bring something to share if you are able. We look forward to this time of fellowship together.

Blessings,
Nancy

February is Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual observance which originated in the United States and has also received official recognition in Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. In 1926, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, sponsored a national "Negro History" week, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "*seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.*" That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first Black History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then, each American president has issued Black History Month proclamations. And the association continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

As Lonnie G. Bunch III, Director of the Smithsonian Institution said at the opening of the Washington D.C.'s National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016: "*There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering.*" While initially Black History Month was viewed as a way of teaching youth about African-American contributions over history, now it is seen as a celebration of people who have impacted the world with activism and achievements. **The month long observance is an opportunity for people to engage with Black histories, go beyond discussions of racism and highlight Black leaders and accomplishments.**

FEbruary CALENDAR

February 2	- Groundhog Day (was the editor's father's favorite holiday)
February 5	- Deacons Meeting 11 a.m.
February 12	- Congregational Meeting after worship to approve the pastor's terms of call and affirm the nominating committee - Souperbowl Sunday / Salad Potluck
February 14	- Session 4 p.m. in the Church Library
February 20	- Presidents Day Holiday (Office Closed)
February 22	- Ash Wednesday
February 25	- Breakfast with Sharing of Faith Journeys 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the Church Library



Happy Birthday

JANUARY

1st Bill Ryder
 8th Zach Paulson
 11th Rory Little
 19th Clay Wiens
 23rd Elein Phipps
 25th Molly Rademacher

FEbruary

3rd Conrad Williams
 5th Anna Barnett
 5th Whitney McNaughton
 6th Andrea Little
 9th Ben Girton
 12th Hunter Newton
 14th Jim Gorder
 15th Dick Kohler
 18th Mark Chambers

Ukraine Invasion: Marin Heroes Making A Difference On Year Later

Hear the latest on-the-ground news from the Ukraine and how to help.
 February 5 at 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. | 240 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon, CA 94920
 Reserve your seat through [Eventbrite](#).

Sunday services are every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
 For those unable to attend the Sunday service in person, the live stream link is available at 9:55 a.m.

[Click here for the YouTube live stream \(if viewing the LOG online\)](#)

The link is also available by going to the 'Join us' page on our website at www.redwoodspres.org

Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.
 Contact the church office at office@redwoodpres.org to inquire about joining the study. All are welcome!



THANK YOU!

As always, we are grateful for our worship leaders and musicians - Denise Wharmby and the Bell Choir – Diane Forster, Jim and Polly Gorder, Debbie Lundberg, Gabrielle Putzi and Nancy Rademacher. We appreciate the technical help with the Sunday live-streaming by Colton Berger (now a student at NYU!*), John and Tani Girton, Liam Wallace, and a warm welcome to Keara Roethke! Thank you, Keara, for joining us on Sundays and stepping up to help with live-streaming.

We thank our December/January Ushers: Bonnie Kaiser, Clay Wiens, Conrad Williams, John Girton, Ginger Gmahling and Elani Wharmby.

We thank our December/January Liturgists: Nancy Rademacher, Jim Gorder, Charlie Ryder, Brooks Ryder, Liam Wallace, Rev. Keenan Kelsey, Bonnie Kaiser, Tani Girton and Clay Wiens.

Under the guidance and spirit of our pastor, Reverend Stephanie Ryder, we worship joyfully together.

We appreciate those who keep things running – Aranda Dill, Jim and Polly Gorder, the Deacons, Committee Chairs, and everyone who participates in the family of Redwoods.

Special note from the editor – It has been a great joy to be the editor of the Log since 2020. I thank everyone who has made any contribution to the Log these past few years. And I'm grateful to all who read and enjoy the Log. As we were physically separated during the times of Covid, the Log was a way to stay in touch as the family we are. I couldn't have done any of it without Stephanie's constant support and guidance and I'm indebted to the people who have done the work of formatting, printing, mailing etc.

Jan Salas

Jan C. Salas – **Log Editor**

*Feel free to send a note to Colton at NYU. His address through May 2023 is:

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