



# The Redwoods Log

January 2013 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org)

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

A recent edition of the *Pacific Sun*, Marin's weekly newspaper, begins a feature with this sentence: "If anyone could convince Marin's die-hard atheists that God does exist, it would be Anne Lamott."

Lamott has lived in Marin her entire life and loves the county to bits like all of us. She says: "I was born and raised here so it's really, really home. It's the safest place on Earth. I'm *constantly* inspired by beauty and I'm *constantly* inspired by what do-gooders we are in this community."

Lamott speaks highly of her faith which we understand is Christianity, and more specifically Presbyterian. The article says she makes religion look fun, fulfilling – the very opposite picture painted by some of the more conservative fundamentalists in mainstream media outlets.

Anne Lamott speaks like members of Redwoods Presbyterian Church – thank God!

Dani Burlison wrote the article and highlights her latest book called, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*.

I haven't read this book but I like her three dimensions of prayer.

At this time, when we've concluded one year and begun another, I thought I'd give my own snap shot of these dimensions in my relation to Redwoods Presbyterian Church. I'll reverse Lamott's order.

Wow: We've come through another year and I am *constantly* amazed with the faithfulness of our members. We are few. You know the adage that dynamite comes in small packages. This church is dynamite. The energy for mission, the love and appreciation we have of each other, and our commitment in every endeavor within and outside of the church is explosively wonderful.

Thanks: Thank you every one – members, staff and intern – for being God's special person here. Every one of you is blessed and we are a blessed community. God has blessed us and *will* bless us in ways we cannot foresee.

Help: The Beatitudes say: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the realm of heaven." (Matthew 5:3) In other words, blessed are those who know their need of God... We are told that baptism sets Christians on a journey which last the whole course of their lives. We live with grace and courage and we always seek God's help.

May God bless you this New Year and may our religion/faith/spirituality be fun and fulfilling and packed with pleasant surprises.

With love, Cornel

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# January Church Mouse

## Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



The Mouse Family feels so honored to greet you every month with news we hear from members throughout the congregation. Thanks to all of you who have been willing and even happy to let us report what's happening in your lives. We Mouse people are also so pleased to hear from you that it is often the Mouse column that you read first in the LOG!

The Mouse and Spouse are taking a breather this month. We hope you had a very merry Christmas and we hope you look forward to a very happy New Year along with us. **Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

**P.S. Mini Mouse Says...**God Bless Mr. Mouse and Spouse and all the wonderful LOG writers!

## January Choir News

### From Music Director Barbara Bacon-Shaw

Here comes January, Here Comes January...and a new year of music at Redwoods! We had a wonderful 2012 with the sanctuary choir performing a wide range of music each week and the Parke Kurtz Handbell Choir stretching its musical vision, especially with their performance at the Christmas concert last month. Redwoods is very blessed to have not just one, but two choirs that can transport us spiritually with the lovely sound of their voices and instruments.

Thanks to both choirs for unfailing attendance at practices this past year and for your continued faithfulness in 2013. If any of you have an interest in joining us in this effort, please see me after worship or contact me at 235-4236 or barbbaco@pacbell.net.

**Barbara**

## A Word from your Intern

### From SFTS Intern Ian Vellenga

Greetings one and all! For me, the hectic time of classes, exams and papers are over until my next semester starts in February. With a new semester and a New Year looming, I am looking forward to a new beginning and a fresh start. Toward that end I

am taking time to reflect on the past year. Every year, I take time to look back at all the things I accomplished, all the things I sort of accomplished, and the things that I failed to do. Then I set my goals for the New Year. This year I would like to create a space to be able to give more of myself to everything I do since my insanely busy schedule has made me feel I was not able to give myself fully to anything I was doing.

One thing I like about the New Year is that it is a time to learn from one's previous mistakes and shortcomings and to plan to keep them in mind as the New Year progresses. Even if I fall short at times, my efforts to create space and give more of myself will be rewarding whenever I accomplish them. Peace, **Ian**

## Spiritual Growth Opportunity

### From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Our online prayer practice, "Exploring Contemplative Prayer," is still available to church members and friends. If you would like to explore prayer practices in your own time, space and pace, this is the program for you.

Each month, background material and guides are available online and reminders are sent out regularly. If you need the passwords again, or printed materials to be sent to you or to include a family member or friend, please contact the church office at 924-4832.

You are also invited to a monthly meeting on the last Sunday of the month after the 10 am service—our next meeting will be January 27—to share thoughts, ideas and ways the spirit is moving in your life.

**Cornel**

## January Happy Birthdays

### From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month:

January 7 – Margaret Richards, 8 – Inga Coleman, 8 – Jim Egger, 8 – Zach Paulson ('96), 11 – Rory Little 11 – Wayne Slempe, 19 – Clay Wiens, 23 – Elein Phipps and 25 – Molly Rademacher ('85).

Add your name to our birthday list by contacting office @redwoodspres.org or at 924-4832. **Polly**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

### From Chair Nancy Rademacher

It is the time of year when life becomes more tranquil as we put the holidays behind us. Many of us have made New Year's resolutions that we hope to carry forward during the year. I think most of us are contemplating what this New Year might bring.

Our month of January is named after Janus. Ancient Roman mythology regarded Janus as the god of beginnings and transitions, thence also of gates, doors, doorways, endings and time. He is usually a two-faced god since he looks to the future and the past.

We can all be proud as we look back on the joyous Christmas festivities and services at Redwoods Church when we celebrated and honored this most holy time. The teamwork was extraordinary and sincere thanks go out to all of you!

As the doorway to the future opens, the Membership/Fellowship committee is working on ideas for some great fellowship and community outreach in 2012. Music programs and theater outings are popular events we hope to continue. The Saturday breakfast will resume on January 19. We are in the process of arranging for our speaker which will be announced shortly. As in the past, the potluck continental breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program beginning at 10 am.

Prayers for peace, good health and much happiness in the New Year.

**Nancy**

## Endowment Committee

### From Chair Nancy Rademacher

The Endowment Committee is pleased to advise that Hazel Neslon's estate has informed the church we will receive another distribution from her trust. Hazel designated 10% of her estate to go to Redwoods and the church receive d the first portion earlier in the year.

Hazel's love, appreciation and dedication to Redwoods' Church and her strong faith in God is evident in her generosity.

Hazel was a dear friend and active member of the church for decades and has been such a positive influence on her own family and our extended family. I know we all feel very blessed to have known Hazel and to have been touched by her special love and grace. Blessings to all and to our church as we begin the New Year.

**Nancy**

## Mission Outreach

## Committee News

### From Chair Debbie Lundberg

#### Christmas Fair Thank You!

A huge thank you to all who were able to take part in the Alternative Christmas Fair this year. From all the preparations to the event following the lovely musical concert on December 9, it is clear that the spirit was with us all as we shared our time and talents by supporting the various organizations represented.

Each year the fair seems to get bigger and better and this year was no exception with the addition of the Twin Cities Police Authority Gift Drive and Equal Exchange and Global Exchange items to purchase. The results of the fair will be shared in the February LOG.

*"The people who dwell in darkness have seen a great light..." Isaiah 9:2. Amen!*

#### 2013 CROP Marin Crop Walk

Get out those new 2013 calendars and circle Sunday, April 21. That is when the 2013 CROP Walk for Hunger will take place. We had an enthusiastic group of walkers last year and hope to have the same in 2013. Stay tuned for details!

**Debbie**

## Deacons' News

### From Deacon Diane Forster

#### New Discounted Taxi Fares for Seniors

If you are 60 or older and unable to drive, or are over the age of 80, you are eligible to apply for Marin Catch-A-Ride, a new discounted taxi service run by Marin Transit and funded by Measure B. Call 473-2943 or 457-4636 for more information and to apply for eligibility.

**Diane**

## Counseling Corner From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

Welcome to the New Year!

I'm reminded of Charles Dickens' opening lines in his novel *A Tale of Two Cities* – "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..."

Perhaps every "time" is similar – yet with everything that is happening in the world, this seems to be where we are right now. The worst of times presses in on us as we take in the murders of the little school children and adults who work with them in Connecticut; the ongoing civil war in Syria; the Palestine/Israel deaths and other tragedies; the ongoing fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan; the deaths due to the typhoon in the Philippines – and on and on. Sometimes we are afraid to listen to the news or read the newspaper as we will come face to face with all this terrible news.

These are also the best of times and we can't let the negative news and experiences crowd out the positive. Think of our own lives – good friends, warm family, good health, food to eat, clothing and shelter (hopefully!).

Those who have these things are often helping those who don't. Our Presbyterian Disaster Fund is giving finances and other specific help to those in the Philippines, in South Sudan, in the Eastern Congo and other places. We contributed to many worthy organizations in our Alternative Christmas Faire. Middle East Children's Alliance is helping bring clean water to school children in Gaza.

Medical discoveries are occurring every year to bring us better health. People are becoming more aware of global warming and trying to do something about it. Even though everyone has a different idea on inventions like the internet and cell phones, etc., we admit that these are advances in worldwide communication.

So while there are so many examples of the worst of times – many people are offering help, support, peacemaking and justice in these situations. There is much to be thankful for in considering these the best of times. Thanks for all the great work each of you do in this church community, locally, and in the larger world.

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me!"*  
Philippians 4:13

Blessings to all for a meaningful and wonderful New Year!  
**Suellen**

## Earth Prayers From Helen Morita

The following prayer is taken from the wonderful book, *Earth Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

Apprehend God in all things,  
For God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of God  
And is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—  
Even a caterpillar—  
I would never have to prepare a sermon.  
So full of God is every creature.      Meister Eckhart

**Helen**

**Visit and Share our Website!**  
A great way to keep up with what is happening at Redwoods and to introduce the church to your family and friends is via our church website:

[www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org)

We appreciate your help getting the word out!

# January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>New Year's Eve</i>	<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i> Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> Church Office Closed  7:30 Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <i>Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Mission Outreach Committee	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study  7:00 Deacons	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  7:30 Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 12:00 Mill Street	<b>14</b>  7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	<b>15</b> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study  7:00 Session	<b>16</b>  LOG Deadline	<b>17</b>  7:30 Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<b>20</b> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/ Fellowship Committee	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  LOG Mailing  7:30 Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Prayer Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  7:30 Choir		

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

## Helping Hands in December – Thank you so much!



### Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells

### Liturgists

Cornel Barnett, Melissa Gill, Tani Girton, Phipps Family, Rademacher Family, Ian Vellenga

### Greeters

June Bellen, Melissa Gill, Ani Lelea, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi, Lori Wood

### Ushers

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Marian Judd, Ani Lelea, Nancy Rademacher

### Coffee Hour

June Bellen, Melissa Gill, Membership/Fellowship, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher, Barbara Slusher

### January Helping Hands

- January 6** Debbie Lundberg (L), Marian Judd (G), Melissa Gill (U), Clay Wiens (U)
- January 13** Melissa Gill (L), Barbara Slusher (G), Iris Giacotto (U), Ani Lelea
- January 20** Joyce Wells (L), Marian Judd (G), Suellen Barnett (U), June Bellen (U)
- January 27** John Girton (L), Kitty Prosser (G), Margie Egger (U), Nancy Rademacher (U)