



The Redwoods Log

January 2015 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspress.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

This Log should reach you a week in advance since we worked on an early deadline. If you are reading this before Christmas, please invite family and friends to the Christmas Eve worship service at 7 pm. There will be excellent music, poetry and, of course the biblical stories of Jesus' birth. The service sublimely ends with "Silent Night, Holy Night" sung by candlelight.

The last worship service of the year will be a café-style gathering in Fellowship Hall and will include the Redwoods Family Band. Expect more Christmas songs and the opportunity to engage in an interactive reflection on the past year and a look into the New Year.

Much of what I'm tempted to say in this letter will be stated in the pastor's portion of the Annual Report. One of those is a great thanks to all of you for the wonderful work you do year in and year out to keep this ship of faith moving forward.

I say "all" because we are a "small church" (most churches in the US have this designation) and as such it takes everyone to keep the engine going and the sails filled. I've mixed my metaphors there but some ships (and sailboats) have engines and sails. We sweat in engine rooms and rely on the wind of the Holy Spirit for the sails.

Our sweat equity is good and our spirit abundant. The definition of "sweat equity" states that, "sweat equity is a party's contribution to a project in the form of effort, as opposed to financial equity, which is a contribution in the form of capital," which brings up another point: your financial contribution to the mission and ministry of this church. Your giving is outstanding.

The definition goes on to state that, "the term 'sweat equity' explains the fact that value added to someone's own house by unpaid work results in measurable market rate value increase in house price." This is a good analogue for the church. Our church has immeasurable value because of the wonderful work of the members and friends of this church.

Speaking about my "pastor's report" for the annual meeting, I'm reminded that next year we will have two pastor's reports, one from me and one from our pastoral associate, the Rev. Stephanie Ryder. It is kind of neat to call her "reverend." This is the designation given to ordained pastors and it is something we embrace and live into.

It is wonderful to have Stephanie onboard as pastoral associate and a colleague and to supplement and compliment our ministry with and to encourage the younger members of our society and their siblings and parents into our church. Her Compassionate Kids program has invited its members to participate in our worship services. May it be that their families will become more fully connected to the church in time.

There's a lot to share but I'll leave it there with best wishes to you all for a Christ-filled, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace and blessings, Cornel

January Church Mouse



Redwoods members packed a lot of happenings in the last month of 2014!

Margaret Erwin had quite a celebration for her 80th birthday. A gathering of 70 family members and close friends came from all over the country for a beautiful party held in Fellowship Hall on Thanksgiving Day. That week Margaret played "tourista" showing them all the special sights in San Francisco. Then to top everything off, she went skydiving! Happy Birthday and congratulations to one daring lady!

Stephanie Ryder's ordination service was very special as one of only two ordinations ever held at Redwoods! (The other was for our Parish Associate Rev. Daniel R. White Jr. who grew up in the church.) The church pews were overflowing for the lovely service. The beautiful music by the Soul Savers (members of both Redwoods and St. Andrews choirs) and kind words spoken on behalf of our new Reverend lifted all our hearts. We are proud and very fortunate to have Stephanie with us and look forward to the years ahead as Redwoods grows in her ministry.

Redwoods members spent time with their families and also traveled over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Ryders and Girtons were happy to have sons, Charlie and Ben respectively, home for Thanksgiving.

Dick Judd was very happy to have family visiting for Thanksgiving week. Dick and son Lewis are spending Christmas with daughter Liza and family in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The Girton family are heading to Colorado to visit Ben for the holidays and leaving on the same day as the Judds.

Erik Rademacher continues to have wonderful experiences in France.

Bonnie Kaiser and husband will be celebrating Christmas in Maui.

Happy to hear Cornel is healing well after his knee surgery, but sorry to hear of his upcoming hip replacement surgery. Our prayers are with him for a complete recovery so he can go back to his water sports in 2015! We also pray for Margaret Erwin's husband, who recently had a silent heart attack.

What a fun time the deacons, choir members and Stephanie had at a Christmas gathering at Dick Judd's home. Everyone sang their hearts out while Dick played all the old familiar Christmas songs and carols on the organ. After, we enjoyed many tasty goodies. Thank you, Dick, for a delightful evening!

A breakfast was held before worship to welcome new members Anna Barnett, Alan Edmonson, Carrie Kim, Joan Robinson and Ed Vorous. Aidan Kim and Olivia Kim who was recently baptized at Redwoods, also attended. A warm and blessed welcome to our newest Redwoods Church family members, including Beth Benz! Many thanks to our Membership/Fellowship Committee for the delicious casseroles and other tasty food.

Happy New Year to All! **The Mouse**

Happy Birthday

From Moderator Polly Gorder

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

- 8 – Zach Paulson ('96)
- 11 – Rory Little
- 11 – Wayne Slemp
- 19 – Clay Wiens
- 23 – Elein Phipps
- 25 – Molly Rademacher ('85)

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

Polly

Community Formation

**From Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

I write this with thoughts ahead to the New Year, and reflection on the year past. Though this entry is due prior to many of our most celebratory events of the season, I am trusting that these events were prepared, performed, and received with joyful hearts, because that is the nature at Redwoods Pres.

I would like to express my deep gratitude for your participation in the ordination service on November 30. It was a memorable event which will continue to nourish me. Thank you for being so warm and welcoming and for making extra efforts to ensure that things progressed smoothly and looked extraordinary! I am so appreciative of this church community, and the love and care expressed towards one another.

January brings a new study on Tuesday mornings. We will begin the study of *Romans*, with a guide by theologian N.T. Wright, on January 6 at 10:30 am. The desire for this study came about from our study last year of *Acts* (also using an N.T. Wright guide) and our resulting fascination with Paul.

January will also usher in a new session of Compassionate Kids, beginning on Friday, January 9 from 3:30-4:30 pm. There are currently eight children participating. Hopefully many of you met them after they sang during December 14 Sunday worship or later that day at the Christmas Concert. Thank you to Ashley, Blake, Colton, Aidan, Olivia, Everett, Sarah and Nara for your enthusiasm in singing for the Lord!

I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to working together with gladness and praise in 2015!

Peace,
Stephanie

Whatever you do, work at it wholeheartedly as though you were doing it for the Lord and not merely for people.
Colossians 3:23

Music Notes

**From Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Interim Music Director!

The musicians at Redwoods have been busy with concerts and are due for a holiday rest before starting up again on January 6 at 9 am for bell practice and January 8 at 7:30 pm for choir practice. At both we will be preparing a new year of songs giving glory to God!

Thank you to all our beloved bell choir members who rang out at the Tam on December 13 and at the Christmas concert on December 14. They are:

Gabriele Putzi, Joyce Wells, Georgene Gmahling, Polly Gorder, Diane Forster, Debbie Lundberg, Marilyn Sutherland, Jan Salas and Jim Gorder.

Thanks also to Tani Girton who blessed us again as our Master of Ceremonies.

Thank you to our beloved choir members who sing with dedication each week on Sunday and for their extra blessings of song at the ordination service on November 30 and the Advent concert on December 14. They are:

Maisie Campbell, Diane Forster, Jim Gorder, Selin Holder, Molly Rademacher, Joyce Wells, Margaret Erwin, Georgene Gmahling, Polly Gorder, Jolyne Liberati and Marilyn Sutherland.

Also, thank you to John Girton, who blessed us with his violin playing during Sunday worship on December 7 and at the Advent concert on December 14!

*My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have rescued.* Psalm 71:23

Blessings,
Stephanie

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Very soon we will have fresh calendars to fill for the New Year and our committee has a suggestion for you for 2015—join us on the Membership/Fellowship Committee!

The committee welcomes anyone who would like to join our efforts to provide Redwoods with membership and fellowship. Feel free to visit one of our meetings, the third Sunday of the month following worship.

We would love to hear your fresh ideas on ways we can connect with the community and provide activities that also foster connections among our congregation.

We have a most interesting program planned for the Saturday breakfast on January 24. Mufti Abdullah Nana will offer a presentation on the religion and culture of Islam. Mufti (a title of respect in Islam) Nana is the son of Ebrahim, who recently attended the Tuesday morning Bible study with his niece and her mother.

As a result of our informal format, there will be plenty of opportunities to converse with Mufti Nana and ask questions of him.

The light potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am. This is a great opportunity to become informed about the traditional side of Islam, one that we don't hear much about today. I hope you will be able to attend.

Stay tuned for new activities we are planning. Our very best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

Nancy

Mission Outreach News From Chair Debbie Lundberg and Member Jan Salas

Souperbowl

I just logged on to souperbowl.org – to register Redwoods for the Souperbowl of Caring 2015. They have a countdown clock – and as of this moment we have 52 days, 13 hours, 20 minutes and 44 seconds until Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, 2015. I haven't even put up my Christmas tree yet and I'm already thinking about February!

But it is for good reason. In 2014 we participated in the grass roots effort to combat hunger by bringing a can of soup, or a dollar, or both, to church on the Sunday of the big game. We collected dozens of cans of soup and \$61!

Together with congregations across the country, the Souperbowl of Caring movement donated over \$8 million for local food banks and other organizations that fight hunger. Our donations were delivered to the SF/Marin Food Bank, where the contributions multiply like loaves and fishes for families in need.

2015 is the 25th anniversary of the Souperbowl of Caring, originally organized by church youth groups in South Carolina. The movement now consists of 7,560 participating groups and organizations, and continues to thrive with leadership by youth. So join us on February 1, 2015 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring soup or contributions if you can. As added invitation, the Mission/Outreach Committee and Membership/Fellowship will provide hot soup to share.

See you there! **Jan**

Visit us at:
www.redwoodspres.org

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> <i>New Years Day</i> Church Office Closed	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>9</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship CE 12:00 Mill Street	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/Fellowship	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>23</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>24</i> 9:30 Breakfast & Speaker
<i>25</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>30</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>31</i>

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in December – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meal

Anna Barnett & Alan Edmonson, Suellen Barnett,
June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Karen Carmody,
Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder,
Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi,
Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen,
Helen Morita, Nancy Rademacher
Ed Vorous

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

Dec 7	Nancy Rademacher (L), Suellen Barnett (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)	Jan 4	Debbie Lundberg (L), Ani Lelea (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)
Dec 14	June Bellen (L), Nancy Rademacher (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)	Jan 11	Tani Girton (L), Iris Giacotto (G) Iris Giacotto (U)
Dec 21	Polly Gorder (L), Jan Salas (G), Iris Giacotto (U)	Jan 18	Ani Lelea (L), Alan Edmonson (G), Debbie Lundberg (U)
Dec 24	Molly Rademacher (L), Suellen Barnett (G), Maisie & Jim Campbell (U)	Jan 25	Ani Lelea (L), Ed Vorous (G) Margie Egger (U)
Dec 28	Cornel Barnett (L), Café Style		

Thanks in advance to:
January liturgists, greeters and ushers!