



The Redwoods Log

January 2016 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspress.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Another year has passed and a new year begins. I find this a significant time of the year – a lovely time of reflection and looking forward to what God will bring for us in the New Year.

Suellen and I often take this time to go on spiritual retreat for at least an overnight to gather ourselves, gather in the year and to pray and meditate for God's presence and guidance for the coming New Year.

This has been an amazing year: I look back to the people I've met, the places I've been (this year we traveled by train to Chicago and spent time with family in Indiana and Illinois), and new endeavors begun (our condominium built organic garden boxes of which we are happy owners of one) and the books I've read.

I look to the church, mourn the loss of wonderful members, and celebrate that we are as vital as ever. I am constantly amazed with the commitment of our members in every department of church life and the incredible ways the church supports the well-being of our local community and world through mission.

I cannot mention names for fear of leaving someone out but thank you, thank you for your faithfulness. Since our staff is small, I shall mention their names: Mari Robinson, our office administrator, the finely oiled and efficient engine in the office and the Rev. Stephanie Ryder, who works diligently and faithfully in her specialized ministry and other tasks, and works separately as well as our remarkable music director. Parish Associate, the Rev. Dan White, is a solid back-up and go-to pastor when we need him and a supportive colleague.

The Parke Kurtz Memorial Bell Choir concert at the Tamalpais in December was fabulous. About 70 people gathered to listen to this exquisite group and a lovely program directed by Stephanie and with Tani Girton as mistress of ceremonies. The Christmas concert in worship the following Sunday was equally lovely. Here, members of the Family Band joined the choir and Compassionate Kids. The bells repeated their sounds of joy.

In the New Year, I see our ministry going from strength to strength. God always brings surprises and I am anxious to see what special surprises God has in store for our beloved church.

In the meantime, take with you in meditation some of my favorite words from the Bible, the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, generosity and self-control (Galatians 5:22). May these words sit with you and guide you into God's future for your life.

Happy New Year!
Cornel

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate!

Happy New Year 2016! The New Year brings us fresh new opportunities for deepening our faith and study.

Tuesday Bible study will be gathering from 10:30 – 11:30 am on January 5 for the PC(USA) Present Word series on the Holy Spirit -- "The Spirit Comes."

Mark Hinds, the editor of the study, writes, "For many Christians, the Holy Spirit remains an inscrutable mystery, a distant and impersonal force that seems irrelevant to life and faith.

"Yet the Spirit is not an irrelevant, impersonal force. The Holy Spirit is every bit as personal as the man Jesus. Biblical images of the Spirit -- wind, breath -- convey just how intimate and connected God the Holy Spirit is to you, and me, the church and the world.

"This study aims to help people develop a deeper Trinitarian faith. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the risen Christ, and that guides the church yet today.

"A mature Trinitarian faith recognizes both the eternal mystery of God and the personal touch of God. It recognizes that we are not isolated; instead we are part of a Spirit-born, Spirit-led community -- we have not been left orphaned. We have an Advocate, a Comforter."

I hope you will consider joining us in the new year for this Bible study. Please let me know so that I can order you a book!

Compassionate Kids will begin a winter session on Friday, January 8, from 3:30—4:40 pm, and will meet the following dates: January 15, 22 & 29, February 5 & 26 and March 4, 11 & 18, with optional participation in the Palm Sunday service on March 20. We will continue to use the PC(USA) study, "Growing in Grace and Gratitude."

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

We are blessed in this congregation with gifted and dedicated musicians who continue to share their musical gifts!

Thank you to all the musicians who participated in the special Christmas concert service on December 13. It was a joy to have the Redwoods Family Band come together to play! Thank you to David Barnett (percussion), John Girton (violin), Gary Gmahling (guitar), Georgene Gmahling (piano), Polly Gorder (guitar) and Dan Phipps (cello), along with the singers/choir members: Maisie Campbell, Diane Forster, Georgene Gmahling, Jim Gorder, Polly Gorder, Jolyne Liberati, Sharon MacQuarrie, Marilyn Sutherland and Joyce Wells.

Thank you to Dick Judd, Minister of Music Emeritus for his beautiful organ playing!

Thank you to the Parke Kurtz Memorial Handbell choir: Diane Forster, Georgene Gmahling, Jim Gorder, Polly Gorder, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi, Jan Salas, Ed Vorous and Joyce Wells.

Thank you to the Compassionate Kids choir: Colton Berger, Ella Clinard (guitar), Taylor Denbo, Lauren Olsen (soloist), Leighton Olsen, Nara Uncapher and Reya Uncapher.

I look forward to another musical year in 2016!

Sing a new song to the LORD, for he has done wonderful deeds. His right hand has won a mighty victory; his holy arm has shown his saving power! Psalm 98:1

New Year's Blessings, **Stephanie**

January Church Mouse

Redwoods Church has been busy with end-of-the-year activities. Last month a group of 24 went to Masquers Theatre in Pt. Richmond to see the musical review, *The World Goes 'Round*, by John Kander and Fred Ebb, who wrote *Cabaret*, *Chicago* and many other musicals. All who attended raved about the show. Afterwards a delightful party was held at the Barnetts' lovely condo. A huge thank you to them for opening their home to all. This event has become a popular annual affair.



Another annual event was the beautiful layette display in Fellowship Hall. Most of the items—blankets, outfits, hats, booties and more—were handmade, with some purchased by Redwoods' members devoted to this calling. Many thanks to June Bellen and Molly Rademacher for arranging and delivering to needy families via Canal Alliance. What a blessing for all!

Congratulations to Debbie and Richard Lundberg, who recently celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary with a special trip to Carmel.

So nice to have Joan Robinson worshipping with us. Tani Girton's sister, Betsy, was here to celebrate their mother, Harriet's, birthday. Harriet moved from Smith Ranch Kindred Care to a private home in San Rafael.

Happy to see Erik Rademacher recently but sorry to hear about his unfortunate accident. He broke his finger while hammering, just before he left his job in Idaho. He had surgery when back home and is doing well. We were very sorry Ed Vorous had four hours of emergency care at Marin General to remove a piece of meat lodged in his throat. He was preparing meat for the scouts and sampled a piece the wrong way!

Our long time friend Harry Richards has passed away at age 101. Harry was an active member of the Facilities Committee who repaired and often painted around the church. His wife Margaret was a longtime member and church secretary for 32 years. Our Special thoughts and prayers are with his son, Brian, and the rest of the family. His Celebration of Life will be from 2-4 pm on January 10 at The Tamalpais.

Our Parke Kurtz Memorial Handbell Choir performed at The Tamalpais on December 6. This was our third year playing familiar Christmas Carols for residents and friends. Stephanie Ryder directed and Tani Girton was the mistress of ceremonies. It was a joyful occasion for one and all!

We held our annual Christmas concert at the 10 am worship service on December 13. Stephanie Ryder arranged and directed the chancel choir, bell choir, family band, and Compassionate Kids and Dick Judd played the organ for the hymns. What joyful sounds! Along with Cornel's homily it was a very special service and blessed way to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Peace in the New Year, **The Mouse**

Mission Outreach News From Debbie Lundberg and Jan Salas

The Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study

The *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study* is widely known to be an excellent resource for Presbyterians. It keeps denomination followers up to date about what is happening nationally and internationally via a daily devotion. Rev. Cornel Barnett and his wife Suellen used the yearbook throughout 2015 and found it invaluable.

The *Mission Yearbook* will no longer be published in its print version, however, it will continue online at www.presbyterianmission.org. The link on the home page is a bright red arrow with the words, "Today's Reading in the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook." For those who would like a wonderful daily devotion throughout the year readily available on their computer, this link should be made a "favorite" or otherwise bookmarked.

The print version of *The Mission Yearbook* used to cost in the range of \$35 a copy. Now, it is available for free on online. What a deal! We hope that many of our members go to this site daily in 2016 to grow in knowledge and gratitude for the blessings of faith as a Presbyterian.

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Welcome to a new year and to our continued celebrations of the birth of Christ during Epiphany. I hope you all had a joyous holiday season.

Speaking of celebrations, just before Thanksgiving, 24 of us enjoyed a delightful afternoon of music at Masquers Theater and afterwards celebrated the holiday season at the beautiful home of Cornel and Suelen. A huge thank you to the Barnetts' for their generous and warm hospitality. It was a wonderful day of fellowship together.

The first thing on the Membership/Fellowship calendar for the new year is the Saturday breakfast scheduled for January 16. Rev. Jan Reynolds, a former SFTS Seminary Intern here at Redwoods, will be our speaker. She will share her experience at the 2015 Parliament of World Religions held recently in Salt Lake City, a gathering of 9,500 people from 80 nations representing 50 faith traditions! She will give a taste of the multicultural feast of the Parliament and share about "Reclaiming the Heart of Our Humanity," the world initiatives inaugurated at the Parliament.

Jan received her M. Div. degree from SFTS in 2010 and is currently pastor at First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. Prior to seminary, Jan was a non-profit consultant and business executive in marketing, strategic planning and organizational development. She is a longtime resident of Marin County and with her husband, John, has two young adult children.

The light potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am. We hope you can join us for this special opportunity to hear about this amazing gathering of world religions.

Stay tuned for other events being planned. Please think about joining the Membership/Fellowship Committee. We would love to have fresh ideas on how we can connect with the community and provide fellowship activities for our congregation. We welcome anyone that would like to come to one of our meetings.

Peace and blessings to all, **Nancy**

Special Notice!

From Rev. Stephanie Ryder

The first week of January the Sunday School room and stairwell closet will be thoroughly cleaned and organized. We will also be donating the piano in that room to any interested party. We are sprucing up and making room for our Fall tenants, North Bridge Academy, who will share our space.

If you have items in this room that you would like to keep or if you would like to help in this organizing/cleaning/donating process, or if you are personally interested in the piano, or know of a potential recipient, please see Stephanie or contact her at (415) 992-2411 or stephyder1@gmail.com.

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

These prose poems are from *Earth Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

We who have lost our sense and our senses—our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are, we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our earth and injuring ourselves, we call a halt.

We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest. We need to reflect and to discover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet, for simply being and letting be, for recovering the great, forgotten truths, for learning how to live again.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

Within and around the earth,
Within and around the hills,
Within and around the mountains,
Your authority returns to you.

Alfonso Ortiz
Helen

January 2016

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
 110 Magnolia Avenue
 Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in December – Thank you!

Mill Street Meal

Anna Barnett, Suellen Barnett, June Bellen,
 Alan Edmonson, Diane Forster, John & Tani Girton,
 Polly & Jim Gorder, Bonnie Kaiser,
 Gabriele and Robert Putzi, Sara & Jerry Laureyns,
 Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

1st Sunday – Worship/Christian Education Committee
 2nd Sunday – Mission Committee
 3rd Sunday – Deacons
 4th Sunday – Membership/Fellowship Committee
 5th Sunday – June Bellen

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

December 6	Joyce Wells Suellen Barnett (G) Clay Wiens (U)	December 24	Anna Barnett (L) Molly Rademacher (L) Maisie Campbell (G) Maisie/Jim Campbell	January 17	Tani Girton (L) Alan Edmonson (G) Ani Lelea (U)
December 13	Tani Girton (L) Gabriele Putzi (G) Ed Vorous (U)	December 27	Bonnie Kaiser (L) Ani Lelea (G) Maisie Campbell (U)	January 24	Bonnie Kaiser (L) John Girton (G) Iris Giacotto (U)
December 20	Selin Holder (L) Tani Girton (G) Ani Lelea (U)	January 3	Maisie Campbell (U)	January 31	Joyce Wells (L) Iris Giacotto (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)
		January 10	Ani Lelea (L) Ed Vorous (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)		

Happy Birthday! From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday in January:
 8 – Zach Paulson ('96), 11 – Rory Little, 19 – Clay Wiens, 23 – Elein Phipps, 25 – Molly Rademacher ('85)
 Add your name to our birthday list by contacting the office@redwoodspres.org or at 924-4832. **Tani**