



The Redwoods Log

January 2017 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspres.org

From The Rev. Stephanie Ryder

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

The New Year is upon us. I hope that you will join us for the first Sunday of the year, New Year's Day, for the cafe-style worship in Fellowship Hall on January 1, 2017. This will be a relaxed service, with potluck breakfast items and coffee/tea. Please feel free to bring food to share. We will also be celebrating communion. Our wonderful musician, Denise Wharmby, will be taking requests as we gather in joyous singing of our favorite hymns. We will reflect upon the year just passed and look forward to the year ahead.

Considering where we are now as a church family warms my heart on this cold December day. Fellowship is a strong part of Redwoods Presbyterian Church. I want to give special thanks to our committees and to those who have the gift of hospitality.

Ministry Matters' *Serving from the Heart* study defines the spiritual gift of hospitality as "The divine ability to make others feel welcome and comfortable. People with the gift of hospitality often love to entertain. Sometimes, however, their gift is simply demonstrated by a warm handshake or hug, a bright smile, and a tendency to greet new people and help them get acclimated to a new place or situation. People are drawn to persons with this gift—they often have many acquaintances or friends and help others make connections, too."

Greeting at the door each Sunday is an important responsibility and form of hospitality, as it is often the first impression given to new visitors. I distinctly remember being warmly welcomed when visiting a new church in the city years ago—not just by the greeter, but others as well. I still have a fond memory of this church because of the welcome I received.

Serving after worship at our fellowship time of refreshments is another form of hospitality. This time of fellowship together, like our time of worship, is precious. We hear joys and concerns professed during the service, and fellowship is a time to gather and talk further about our cares. It is a time to relax and enjoy one another's company. It is a time to connect. Fellowship is an extension of our worship together.

The *Serving from the Heart* study defines the spiritual gift of helping/serving as "The God-given ability to work alongside others in performing practical and often behind-the-scenes tasks to sustain and enhance the body of Christ. A person with this gift receives spiritual satisfaction from doing everyday necessary tasks; he or she may prefer to work quietly and without public recognition. When a need is seen, the helper frequently takes care of it without being asked. The helper's work often frees up other persons so that they may carry out their own ministries."

We are blessed Redwoods with a hospitable community of many helpers and servers. Some people arrive well before worship to set up, or leave the worship service a bit early to prepare for the fellowship hour, making sure that the coffee is hot and the table of refreshments is abundantly and beautifully displayed.

I look forward to joining together at the very start of the New Year in fellowship, celebrating worship in the spirit of hospitality as we share together a New Year's breakfast and camaraderie in Fellowship Hall.

To those saints who continually serve, this passage comes to mind:

*Even youths will grow tired and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.* Isaiah 40:30-31

Thank you to all of you, servants of our Lord Jesus Christ at Redwoods. May your strength be continually renewed in 2017.

Blessings,
Stephanie

December Services/Events

(All services at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

- January 1: New Year's Day
Café Style Worship, Communion
- January 8: Traditional Worship Service
- January 15: Birthday Blessings/MLK Jr. Weekend
- January 22: Compassionate Kids
- January 29: Guest Preacher

Music Notes

From Denise Wharmby

Music Director

As we enter the New Year, we are thankful for a music-filled December, with beautiful singing and ringing from the choir and bell choirs.

There is much commitment and generosity of time and talents from all our players in both groups. The bell choir, having contributed every Sunday in December, will take a break from playing in services in January, but the choir will be back to sing in the New Year.

Let's look forward to welcoming new music, new opportunities and new members in 2017. Music is alive and well and living in Redwoods!

Musically, **Denise**

Facilities Notes

From Chair Clay Wiens

The Facilities Committee has much to do this time of year to keep the facilities in good order for the more severe weather. We are now working on the broken cinderblock side fence next to the newly repaired sidewalk. Unfortunately, we will not be able to rehabilitate the cinderblock—there are no matching blocks—so we will be putting in a metal fence instead. Our new handyman, Gilberto, has also stabilized a couple of failing gutters and is working on getting new lighting in the pastor's office.

The Facilities Committee also welcomes the expansion of SoloQuest into Room 6, which they will share with the Sunday School and Compassionate Kids. This change prompted us to upgrade our key system so that we were able to use t20+ "C" keys we had on hand.

Clay

Deacons Corner

From Bonnie Kaiser

From the writings of Oswald Chambers:

"Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation (John 16:30) This means that anything which is not spiritual leads to our downfall. Jesus went on to say "but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

We must learn to fight against and overcome the things that come against us, and in that way produce the balance of holiness. Then it becomes a delight to meet opposition. Holiness is the balance between our nature and the law of God as expressed in Jesus Christ."

Bonnie

Thank You!

From Molly Rademacher

Thank you very much for the lovely party you gave me in early December. I was touched by all your good wishes and the generous gift from the church. I have truly enjoyed being the Sunday School teacher at Redwoods. I was so fortunate to have the image of Irene Kohler to look up to. Thanks again, **Molly**

Thank You!

From Stephanie Ryder, Denise Wharmby and Mari Robinson

Your Pastor, Music Director and Office Administrator are all very grateful for the Christmas gifts given to the staff from the Redwoods congregation. Each of us is overjoyed with our gift and consider ourselves fortunate to be working together with all the caring, thoughtful and generous people of this church. Our prayers for all of you throughout the New year.

Stephanie, Denise and Mari

The 2017 Per Capita Assessment

From Treasurer Jim Gorder

Every year at this time the Presbytery of the Redwoods sends each of its churches an assessment for the costs to run the Presbytery for the upcoming year. This assessment is based on the number of church members reported the previous year multiplied by a flat "per capita" fee that has been determined by the Presbytery. For 2017 the per capita fee is again \$30 per member. Please help Redwoods pay this required charge by sending in your per capita fee today. **Jim**

January Church Mouse



Fellowship Hall was lovely with all the beautiful Christmas decorations! The annual Alternative Christmas Fair was held at the beginning of Advent and continued through December with members and friends participating. A truly blessed way of giving! Many thanks to Ani Lelea for tallying the givings.

We also enjoyed another annual event—the lovely layettes displayed in Fellowship Hall before their donation to needy families. Most of the items, which included blankets, outfits, hats and booties, were handmade by Redwoods members. Many thanks to June Bellen for arranging and delivering the layettes to the Canal Alliance. What a blessing for all.

We also celebrated Molly Rademacher at a special reception. Molly has “retired” after almost ten years of serving as our Sunday School teacher. She is now teaching full time at the Lycée Français de San Francisco. Molly will be spending her Christmas vacation visiting her brother Eric in France where he is teaching English in the same area Molly taught in the past. Then they will travel together to England to visit interesting places there.

Congratulations to Debbie and Richard Lundberg celebrating their 43rd Anniversary with a trip up the coast to Mendocino. Unfortunately they were in Ferndale when the earthquake occurred, complete with the emergency siren sounding in the middle of the night. It was an anniversary not to forget!

Denise Wharmby and family had a delightful trip to Southern California over the Thanksgiving weekend visiting relatives and Disneyland too! In early December Denise’s son, Liam Wallace, performed on the timpani in concert with the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra at College of Marin. Such a talented family.

So nice to have the Bell Choir along with the chancel choir performing at worship throughout December. The choirs are happy to sing and ring in the choir loft!

In mid December we were blessed to welcome new

member Katie Zwarg. Tyler and Ryan Green (sons of new member Katie Zwarg and Jason Green) were baptized. And once again, the Compassionate Kids participated under Stephanie’s leadership to complete the lovely service.

Some interesting news about James Holmes who was quoted in the Marin Independent Journal and interviewed on Channel 5 news regarding illegal cutting of Redwood trees in the Baltimore Canyon area of Larkspur. He also wrote a “Marin Voice” article in the Marin IJ regarding the proposed restrictions on leaf blowers in Larkspur. Well done James!

The Mouse wishes everyone Peace and Happiness in the New Year.

The Mouse

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee! As we welcome the New Year, most of the holiday festivities are over but at Redwoods Church we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ.

The Saturday breakfast will be resuming in January. We are working on the January program and will be announcing it soon, so please stay tuned.

The Membership/Fellowship committee and pastor Stephanie Ryder are planning a theater outing and post theater party on Sunday afternoon, February 5. We will be seeing Marin Theater Company’s performance of *Native Son*, based on the book of the same name by Richard Wright.

The novel was an immediate best-seller, selling 250,000 hardcover copies within three weeks of its publication by the Book-of-the-Month Club on March 1, 1940. It was reportedly one of the earliest successful attempts to explain the racial divide in America in terms of the social conditions imposed on African-Americans by the dominant white society. It also made Wright the wealthiest black writer of his time and established him as a spokesperson for African-American issues, and the father of Black American literature.

(continued on page 4)

Membership (continued from page 3)

Below is information about the play from the Marin Theater Company's website:

"Bigger Thomas dares to want more out of life. Things start looking up when he lands a plum job with the well-to-do Dalton family, but their daughter Mary proves to be as dangerous as she is alluring. A fateful decision sends Bigger down a violent and inescapable path. Misrepresented and underestimated by everyone around him, Bigger has no one to turn to except himself.

Using W.E.B. DuBois' theory of double consciousness as a guiding principle, this fresh 90-minute adaptation of *Native Son* focuses on the landscape inside the mind of Bigger Thomas, bringing the power of Richard Wright's novel to life for a whole new generation."

It is directed by Nambi E. Kelley, a finalist for the Francesca Primus Award for her work on *Native Son*, and currently the 2015-2017 playwright in residence at The National Black Theatre in NYC. Its sold-out World Premiere was at Chicago's Court Theatre in 2014.

We plan to have a light lunch at church prior to carpooling to the theater in Mill Valley. And as a very special treat, Stephanie and Bill Ryder have invited us to their home afterwards for a post-theater party. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall in early January. Tickets are limited, so please sign up as soon as you can. New Year's Blessings to all.

Nancy

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

I have come to terms with the future from this day forward I will walk easy on the earth. Plant trees. Kill no living things. Live in harmony with all creatures. I will restore the earth where I am. Use no more of its resources than I need. And listen, listen to what it is telling me. M. J. Slim Hooley

Helen

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Co- Chairs

Debbie Lundberg and Jan Salas

Two Thank You Letters

Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald, President of San Francisco Theological Seminary wrote: "The San Francisco Theological Seminary's students, alumni, faculty and staff are grateful for your recent gift of \$1,000.00. Your gift supports the excellence in theological education, fosters innovation in ministry, and enlivens the SFTS community"

From Jamieson Prevoznak, Chaplain, Seafarers Ministry of the Gold Gate: "We at SMGG have no words for your generous donation of \$5,000 designated for Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate. I personally was deeply moved by the congregation's great generosity and sacrifice for seafarers. This donation will ensure seafarers who sail into San Francisco Bay and the Port of Oakland they will be welcomed warmly and caringly."

The Memorial Fund provided these monetary gifts to the above recipients on behalf of the Redwoods congregation so each member should take a moment to realize the extent of caring you have brought out into the world with your giving to Redwoods on behalf of your loved ones. The full text of the letters are posted in Fellowship Hall. *The gift is indeed in the giving*

Good News To Share

Patty Sanders, Hunger Action Advocate for the Redwood Presbytery tells us: "Pedal for Protein raised \$39,655 for protein food for food pantries. We are very happy to report a very successful ride exceeding the goal of \$35,000 for this year. A few more donations have arrived so perhaps with a little more blessing, we will crest \$40,000.

"Thank you to all participating and supporting congregations who helped us make this happen! So far over the three years of the Pedal for Protein we gave raised nearly \$100,000. That purchases a whole lot of peanut butter, canned tuna and other high protein food for hungry people in our Presbytery and a little beyond. "
Debbie

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Holy Communion 10:00 Café Style Worship in Fellowship Hall	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:15 Children's Ed 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:30 Session 12:00 Mill Street Meal Delivery	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Bible Study	<i>11</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>12</i> 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> Birthday Sunday 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership Fellowship Committee	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 9:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Bible Study	<i>18</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>19</i> 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 9:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>1</i> February 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>2</i> 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in December – Thank you!

Mill Street Meal

June Bellen, Karen Carmody, Deacons, Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder, Bonnie Kaiser, Sara & Jerry Laureyns, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Marilyn Sutherland, 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

Dec 4 Tani Girton (L)
Jan Salas (U)
Gabriele Putzi (G)

Dec 11 Bonnie Kaiser (L)
Ani Lelea (U/G)

Dec 18 Polly Gorder (L)
Nancy Rademacher (U/G)

Dec 24 Charlie & Brooks Ryder (L)

Dec 25 Joyce Wells (L)
Clay Wiens (U/G)
Bonnie Kaiser (U/G)

Jan 1 Café Style Service

Jan 8 Ani Lelea (L)
Tani Girton (U)
Gabriele Putzi (G)

Jan 15 Ginger Gmahling (L)

Jan 22 Compassionate Kids (L)
Nancy Rademacher (U/G)

Jan 29 Nancy Rademacher (L)

Happy Birthday!

From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton
Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month:

8 – Zach Paulson, 11 – Rory Little
19 – Clay Wiens, 23 – Elein Phipps
25 – Molly Rademacher

Add your name and birth date to our list by contacting office@redwoodspres.org or 415-924-4832.

Tani