



# The Redwoods Log

February 2015 - 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,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ! It is great to be back in full swing after my December 29 hip replacement surgery. As most of you know, I had three surgeries last year: partial knee replacement in August, recurrent bilateral inguinal hernia repair in November and the hip in December.

In each experience, I developed a different prayer and meditation protocol and I appreciated your prayers and good wishes. In the latest round, I read prayers from *The Oxford Book of Prayer*. The book includes prayers from the Bible and from saints and mystics of the past, as well as from the great religions other than Christian, and contemporary prayers from different parts of the world.

I like this Gaelic prayer: "I find thee enthroned in my heart, my Lord Jesus. It is enough. I know that thou art throned in heaven. My heart and heaven are one."

\* \* \*

After the worship service on the second Sunday of each month, I will pick up a cup of coffee and some eats, make my way to a far table in Fellowship Hall, and welcome anyone who would like to join me to discuss the scripture texts and sermon heard in the recently concluded worship service.

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them," says Jesus in Matthew 18:20. If one person joins me, that will be okay. I hope more will find this a valuable time of sharing. You may come and go as you please. The cut-off time will be noon.

I will get the scripture passages to you ahead of time in the Redwoods Log, online and in the Happenings. The lectionary passages for February 8 are Isaiah 40:21-31 and Mark 1:29-39.

\* \* \*

Our denomination has invited, rather encouraged, us to have dialogue with Muslim communities on the grassroots level. They want us to meet face-to-face with neighbors of other religions to overcome stereotyping of the other.

Most of our religious traditions affirm peace, love and understanding. In January, we personally affirmed that with our closest Muslim neighbors. Redwoods members and friends met over breakfast with Mufti Abdullah Nana and an entourage from the Islamic Center of Mill Valley.

We shared insights and concerns, laughed together and shared our struggles. We challenged each other to work hard to help the fundamentalist/extremists within our faiths to see the light of peace, caring and understanding.

God bless you and peace, Cornel

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# February Church Mouse



Here we are well into 2015! Where did last year go? There were special events happening in 2014 leading Redwoods into the new year.

The Christmas Eve service was a lovely celebration of Christ's birth. Molly Rademacher was liturgist along with poems by Alan Edmonson and Christina Hutchins. Devon Lawrence was the guest musician and-vocalist. What a blessing having her share her musical talents with us.

Dick Judd, along with son Lewis, had a wonderful time over the holidays in Fort Collins, CO. with daughter Liza and family. It snowed the day after Christmas, but Dick wasn't keen about going outdoors. On the other hand, the Girton family enjoyed skiing while visiting Tani's sister and family, her mom and Ben in Winter Park, CO.

The cafe style worship service in Fellowship Hall on December 26 was very special and well attended. After worship, Helen Morita's birthday was celebrated and included most members of her family! Also attending were friends Virginia Tebo and former member Ann Towler. The Morita family provided delicious food and the music from the Redwoods Family Band made it a joyful celebration of God's love for all.

Redwoods received a lovely Happy New Year's note from Ann Benezra. She resides near her family in Bend, OR. She likes it there and has made some wonderful friends, but feels Redwoods is still "her church." She plans to visit here one day. We hope to see her some time soon!

While others were enjoying the holidays, Ed Vorous (a.k.a. our wonderful custodian) was busy stripping the downstairs floor making it beautiful for all those who use it. How's that for a new year's clean start?

Some of Redwood's members have been under the weather for awhile, including Marilyn Sutherland, Jolyne Liberati and Beth Benz. Also sorry to hear about LaVerne Schmidt's recent fall. She is recuperating at home. Mari Robinson spent Christmas Day at

Marin General while husband, Richard, was given an IV. Special prayers to all for a good recovery.

We are thankful to have Cornel back after his recent hip surgery. Congratulations to Suellen and Cornel celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on January 11. They are planning a future trip to Hawaii to celebrate!

The Putzi's along with family members went on a cruise visiting some of the picturesque islands in the Caribbean. Unfortunately Robert slipped on the dance floor and Gabriele broke a finger while dancing. Hopefully they returned with some happier memories!

Jim and Polly Gorder will be at their cabin in Tahoe soon to make necessary repairs after the bear break-in last fall. Now is a good time while the bears are hibernating!

Sal Newton's youngest sister Briana has a new daughter named Lilly born December 28. According to great-grandma Diane Forster, her 7<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild is beautiful!

We hope and pray 2015 is a happy, peaceful and healthy year for each of us. **The Mouse**

## Happy Birthday!

### From Moderator Tani Girton

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

5 – Anna Barnett, 6 – Marjorie Egger, 6 – Andrea Little  
9 – Ben Girton, 12 – Barbara Garcia, 12 – Hunter Newton, 14 – Jim Gorder and 15 – Dick Kohler

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

## Earth Prayers

### From Helen Morita

The Indian chief Tecumsah wrote this prayer taken from *Earth Prayers from around the World*:

When you arise in the morning,  
give thanks for the morning light,  
for your life and strength.  
Give thanks for your food and the joy of living.

If you see no reason for giving thanks,  
the fault lies in yourself. **Helen**

## Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder  
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate! Our Tuesday Bible study is off to a great start with *Romans* and the guide by N.T. Wright. It can be a challenging text and the study presents a great opportunity to discuss and explore the concepts presented by Paul and apply them to our lives today.

Compassionate Kids began the Winter session and we have nine lively children coming to play and learn on Friday afternoons. This session runs through Palm Sunday. Thank you to Debbie, Diane and Molly for their dedication to this program, and for showing up every week with bright smiles and delicious snacks!

The Lenten series, "Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice" will begin on Wednesday evening, February 25 and will include a light soup dinner from 6:30-7:15 pm, followed by the spiritual practice of creative writing as designed by Pat Schneider of Amherst Writers and Artists method. No prior writing experience is necessary. Please contact me for more details!

I am looking forward to beginning the month of February by leading worship on February 1, including both preaching and serving communion. The two most important distinctions of being ordained as a teaching elder is the opportunity and privilege of presiding over the communion table and performing baptisms. I am gaining experience with communion and look forward to the opportunity to officially baptize one day, although meanwhile I am so glad to have had the opportunity to share with you the joyful celebration of remembrance of our own baptisms on January 11.

*Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*  
1 Corinthians 1:2  
Peace, **Stephanie**

## Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder  
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director! I am greatly appreciative of our fine musicians who stepped forward last month to play and lead our choir:

Georgene Gmahling and Heather Creighton! Thank you for the beautiful music during our worship services on January 11 and 18. Heather will be playing for us again during worship on February 1. If you have an interest in singing, please consider joining our group of talented singers on Thursday evenings, 7:30-8:30 pm for rehearsals. It is a joyful time and our choir members gladly welcome you!

Our handbell choir will be playing in the Sunday service again on February 15. We look forward to sharing the lovely sound of the bells with you. If you heard the bells at our last concert and thought, "Wow, I would love to learn how to play the bells and join in this joyful sound!," please contact me. It would be wonderful to welcome a new bell player or two into our handbell choir!

*O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*  
Psalm 95:1  
In God's Grace, **Stephanie**

## Deacons' Corner

**From Member Bonnie Kaiser**

Did you know that there is a Marin Community Resource Guide that lists a wide variety of agencies that can help in almost every life situation? The guide provides contact numbers for aid for seniors, legal, housing, health, employment, transportation, disabilities, financial, food, crisis, mental health, counseling, veterans and more! Copies are available in the church office and one is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. There is also an online version that allows you to be directly connected to the online information for the agency listed. This is a valuable resource!

The Deacons' devotional last month was the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr, as follows: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next."

**Bonnie**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

### From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Warm wishes from our committee! Redwoods' annual meeting follows worship on February 15. After the meeting, we have a potluck salad luncheon to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of the last year and our positive momentum for 2015. Please bring a favorite salad to share. The committee will provide the set up, drinks, rolls, butter and dessert.

Come to the Saturday Breakfast on February 28 when our own Bonnie Kaiser will share equestrian stories, including her annual cattle drive at V6 Ranch in Parkfield, CA. She has been doing the drive for many years. When her daughter, Katrina, was ten, they got their own horse, Lollipop (who died 18 months ago). The potluck breakfast is at 9:30 am; the program from 10-11 am. Please mark your calendars!

The Marin Girls Chorus will perform at Redwoods on March 15 at 4 pm. This is a wonderful concert with several groups performing and many talented singers. Donations collected are given to Redwoods in appreciation for their use of our facility during the year.

The committee is happy to introduce one of Redwoods' newest members, Joan Robinson. Joan was born in Homer, IL and raised on a farm. She lived in an 1890 Victorian, rode horses, had many pets and helped in the fields. She graduated from University of Illinois in English, became a United Airlines attendant and then a travel agent. Skiing and travel have been a big part of her life; her family of five children are all accomplished skiers. Joan and her husband lived in Lafayette for 50 years where Joan was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. She and her husband now live at The Tamalpais in Greenbrae. Joan is especially grateful for the prayers offered for her son, Jeffrey, as he continues to fight cancer and has just undergone surgery.

We are delighted to have Joan join our church family. Please continue to welcome her and introduce yourselves if you haven't already done so. We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming events.

Peace and blessings. **Nancy**

## Mission Outreach News

### From Member Jan Salas

#### Souperbowl—February 1

After worship on February 1, when we gather in Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, we will also participate in the Souperbowl of Caring. All are invited to attend and bring \$1 and/or a can of soup.

The Souperbowl of Caring is a nationwide event that originated in 1990 by South Carolina church youth groups who used the Super Bowl's energy and excitement to focus attention on hunger. The first event raised \$5,700. In 2008, over \$10 million in cash and food was contributed.

Our contribution will be donated to the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank whose distribution needs have doubled since 2008. The Food Bank is able to distribute \$6 worth of food for every \$1 donated. To learn more about this important work visit [www.sfmfoodbank.org](http://www.sfmfoodbank.org).

We look forward to offering you some hot soup during our Souperbowl Fellowship hour, and receiving your support for our joint efforts to reduce hunger. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

#### Bread for the World – Advocacy Works

Here are the highlights of Bread for the World's 2014 victories, a good start to even bigger and better efforts in 2015!

##### Farm Bill:

Protected SNAP (formerly food stamps) from draconian cuts and obtained important food-aid reforms.

##### Food-Aid Reform (Offering of Letters):

Obtained \$35 million to reach 200,000 more people. Facilitated the introduction of the Food for Peace Reform Act of 2014 to build on the 2014 omnibus appropriations and farm bills.

##### Hunger Prevention and Economic Development

Supported Feed the Future Authorization/Global Food Security Act and Tax Credits for Working Families.

These are but a few of the victories in 2014 to help end hunger in the United States and throughout the world. Advocacy works!

**Jan**

# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i> Holy Communion Souperbowl Sunday</p> <p>9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Souperbowl 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach</p>	<i>2</i>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study</p>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>3:30 Compassionate Kids</p>	<i>7</i>
<p><i>8</i> Annual Reports Available</p> <p>9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship Discussion 12:00 Mill Street</p>	<i>9</i>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study</p>	<i>11</i>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<p><i>15</i> Birthday Sunday</p> <p>9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Annual Cong. Meeting &amp; Potluck</p>	<i>16</i>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study</p>	<p><i>18</i> Ash Wednesday</p> <p>LOG Deadline</p> <p>7:00 Worship Service &amp; Imposition of Ashes</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/Fellowship Committee</p>	<i>23</i>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>6:30 Lenten Supper &amp; Spiritual Practice</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>LOG Mailing</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>3:30 Compassionate Kids</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>9:30 Saturday Breakfast</p>

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

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



### Mill Street Shelter Meal

Anna Barnett & Alan Edmonson, Suellen Barnett,  
June Bellen, Karen Carmody, Margaret Erwin,  
Diane Forster, Iris Giacotto, Polly & Jim Gorder,  
Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi,  
Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous

### Coffee Hour

June Bellen  
Nancy Rademacher  
Barbara Slusher  
Ed Vorous

## Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

**Jan 4** Debbie Lundberg (L), Ani Lelea (G)  
Nancy Rademacher (U)  
**Jan 11** Tani Girton (L), Iris Giacotto (G)  
Iris Giacotto (U)  
**Jan 18** Ani Lelea (L), Alan Edmonson (G),  
Debbie Lundberg (U)  
**Jan 25** Ani Lelea (L), Ed Vorous (G)  
Margie Egger (U)

**Feb 1** Ani Lelea (L), Tani Girton (G)  
Ed Vorous (U)  
**Feb 8** Jim Gorder (L), Gabriele Putzi (G)  
Jan Salas (U)  
**Feb 15** Joyce Wells (L), Anna Barnett (G),  
Ani Lelea (U)  
**Feb 22** Margaret Erwin (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),  
Nancy Rademacher (U)

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