



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

I trust you are well and so far enjoying this New Year.

The biggest consciousness for me at this time is feeling the loss of members who were so present and faithful in the church—Kitty Prosser, Margaret Erwin and Barbara Slusher. Their death leaves a gaping hole in our community. How can we continue without their smiles, stories and activities?

I'm still in mourning and I guess you are too. There is much to miss and much to celebrate in their wonderful lives. Individually and collectively, these three women gave so much to both church and community.

We just heard that long-time member, Shirley Brady, transitioned from this life to go, with Barbara, Margaret and Kitty, to God's heavenly home. God is blessing them in their new life and God will bless us as we continue to be God's faithful community here at Redwoods.

Our work continues and I have already seen the energy of this in the reformation of our session and deacon boards.

Another area where new life is happening in our church is in our physical plant. Through a generous memorial gift, we have changed the windows in the fellowship hall. If you haven't noticed, go into the fellowship hall and experience the difference. The far windows now have double-paned clear glass. The vista is nature in its beauty and there is more light to brighten the hall.

We have enjoyed the presence of RealSchool in our lower lever for the past year. During the school year junior high students are taught by two amazing teachers, Marilyn and Mark. Marilyn in the humanities and Mark in science. The education is on the highest level and it's offered to students whose parents have chosen this more individualized education. It has been a wonderful relationship for us, and it has been a good revenue source as well.

The rooms on either side of the science room have been cleared and painted to make way for another school to begin in the fall. This school will offer quality education to primary-school-aged children who are dyslexic. The organizers of this school found that no school north of the Golden Gate Bridge offered this specialized education and so formed this school and approached us for space.

They met with the session and provided a sophisticated model and a solid start-up plan. The school is called North Bridge Academy (NBA). This will also support our church financially. One of the rooms is Molly's classroom. NBA will share their rooms with the church so that Sunday school and other users of these rooms may continue their use. It's a win/win.

We mourn losses on the one hand and celebrate new life on the other hand. The beautiful thing though, in the church, is that we carry these things in God's merciful and gracious embrace.

God bless you, Cornel

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate!

We are entering the weeks of Lent, one of my favorite seasons, a time of reflection, contemplation and intention, a time to recognize our need for God's mercy.

Mirroring the forty days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, the season of Lent begins forty-six days before Easter Sunday. Sundays in Lent are not included in the days of penitence, as every Sunday is meant to be a celebration of the resurrection and therefore not a day of fasting. Remember this if you are "giving up" something for Lent!

Personally, I like to choose an unwholesome *behavior* to "give up" rather than a food item like chocolate. One year, it was fear. It was amazing how my intention to give up fear for Lent really helped me to grow and flourish. Even though I had Sundays off, I found that I liked my fear-less life so much more that I embraced the attitude even on Sundays!

Bible study was delayed a few weeks in January, so that we will have just begun our first session on the Holy Spirit study on January 26. Please feel free to join the group – it is not too late! We meet Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 am.

In February, both Sunday School and Compassionate Kids will be able to move back into Room 2 after a short "exile," though it will look quite different! We appreciate the work of all those who helped to clear out the space for the new tenants, North Bridge Academy, who have brightened up the room with new paint, furniture and floor coverings. We look forward to sharing the space with NBA when they arrive in August. Special thanks to Molly and the children on Fridays and Sundays for their flexibility and resilience during this process!

I know we will all greatly miss Barbara Slusher, who we will honor and celebrate at her memorial on February 21 at 4 pm.

Blessings, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

There are such beautiful songs during Lent, and the choirs look forward to sharing them with you. There are some churches, however, that omit the Prelude and Postlude during Lent, and abstain from musical accompaniment. Other churches omit instrumental music and only allow music as light background accompaniment for singing for the first three weeks of Lent. Some churches even omit hymns during Lent! These changes during the service are meant to be a "music-fasting" that shifts the worship focus to silence, meditation and prayer.

Imagine then the glory of a grand organ accompanying *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* on Easter if no music had been played in the worship services for the six weeks prior. What do you think? Do you think a music-fasting during Lent would deepen your spirituality and enhance your experience of sacrifice and fasting? Let me know your thoughts and perhaps we will give it a try.

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

Deacon's Corner

From Moderator Tani Girton

Dear Friends, The Deacons are starting a new year and we want to thank Gabriele, Diane and Margaret for their years of devoted service as their terms expire. We also want to thank June for her loving service as she takes on another three-year term. We welcome new Deacons Carrie Kim, Polly Gorder, and Ed Vorous and thank them for giving their energy and talents to this important work!

With these changes we want to remind everyone that the Deacons are here to help when needed and we encourage you to reach out to us. Each Deacon provides parish care to several members of the church and you may be getting a call or card from your personal Deacon soon. We also take this time each year to update the Redwoods Prayer Chain and if you would like to be added, please let any Deacon know and we will make it happen. We wish you all a happy, healthy, joyous and blessed 2016!

Tani

February Church Mouse

So far, 2016 is a busy and productive year for Redwoods.



Our Rev. Stephanie Ryder has been a very busy bee—along with a professional organizer, church members and friends—clearing Room 2. In the fall, a new school for dyslexic children will share the room with our church school and Compassionate Kids. All the church school supplies are neatly placed in plastic bins in a closet for use when needed. Two other closets in Room 7 were cleaned and straightened too. It was quite an undertaking, but all the hard work was most gratifying. We are grateful to Stephanie for organizing the project. An exciting and new beginning for our church! Check it out when you can.

Have you noticed the beautiful clear windows in Fellowship Hall? The light and lovely view of the trees from the garden next door are a welcome sight. Special thanks to Ed Vorous for painting the window trim.

In the midst of these changes, Redwoods has been saddened by the loss of several long time members. Dear friend Margaret Erwin died on December 15 and a special celebration of her life was held at Redwoods on January 2, along with a lovely reception. The wonderful long life of Harry Richards was celebrated January 10 at The Tamalpais. Barbara Slusher, our dear friend and devoted member, died on January 14 and her memorial service will be held February 21 at 4 pm. Most recently, on January 19, our dear friend and member Shirley Brady passed away at her daughter Terry's home in Aptos. A memorial service is planned at a later date. Loving thoughts and prayers are with all these families and friends.

Bill Mills also remembers his mother, Edith, who passed away ten years ago. Edith and Bob Mills were members for 38 years and participated in choir throughout the years.

Former member, Melissa Gill, who moved to Oklahoma, is awaiting news of admittance to the OK State Bar and plans to do estate planning. Son, David, is now living with her, and son, Greg, has moved to Denver, where he is a contractor and music teacher.

Gabriele Putzi had a pleasant occurrence after losing a credit card at the Marin Civic Center. A good Samaritan turned the card into her bank! Gabriele is very appreciative of the unknown angel. Exciting news for Jan Salas, who bought a home in Santa Cruz. According to Jan, it's in a nice location near the harbor. We are grateful for her continued participation at Redwoods Church.

Dick Judd had to shorten his visit with daughter, Liza, and family in Fort Collins when he became ill from the elevation. He is feeling better now that he's home. Polly and Jim Gorder are driving to Kirkland, Washington to visit son, Joe, and family. Joyce Wells is away on a trip. She'll tell us about it when she returns. Stephanie Ryder and longtime friends had fun on the slopes at Lake Tahoe. Molly Rademacher also went skiing in the region and was to ski one day with Stephanie but conditions weren't favorable. The Putzi's are off on their annual trip to Palm Springs.

Very grateful to have all the much needed rain and snow. Until next month!

The Mouse

Mission Outreach News

From Jan Salas

Souper Bowl of Caring Game Changer

Since 1990, young people have been inspiring others to collect dollars and food in the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl. As we look forward to the 50th Super Bowl, which will be a Bay Area event, the Souper Bowl of Caring is a chance to change the largest weekend of football to the largest weekend of caring. In 2015, 6074 participating groups collected \$8,093,348 in money and food, 100% of which was donated to local charities.

The members and friends of Redwoods have participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring for many years. You are invited to bring one dollar and/or a can of soup to worship on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7. All donations will be forwarded directly to the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank to assist in their work providing nutritious food to hungry people. Hunger is an issue 365 days a year and 1 in 7 people struggle with hunger, 48 million people nationwide with 15 million of them children. Our part in Souper Bowl is a way to stand with our neighbors against hunger. **Jan**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship committee! We are delighted to announce some upcoming events we hope you can attend.

On Sunday, February 14, we are hosting a potluck salad lunch following the Redwoods Presbyterian Church annual meeting after the worship service. We will provide the setup, drinks, desserts and other treats. Please bring a favorite salad to share. This is an annual tradition and always a delicious meal with lots of variety. We hope you can participate.

The next Saturday breakfast will be held on February 20. We will be showing a movie entitled *Mirrors of Privilege* brought to our attention by Rev. Stephanie Ryder, who learned about it from the Marin Interfaith Council and her Presbyterian pastor cohort group.

The movie is produced by the World Trust Organization in Oakland. Their website describes the film as follows: "This groundbreaking film helps bridge the gap between good intentions and meaningful change. It features stories from white men and women on overcoming issues of unconscious bias and entitlement and is a powerful and unique tool in diversity work. The stories in the film reveal what is often required to move through the stages of denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear, and shame into making a solid commitment to ending racial injustice. This film catalyzes powerful dialogue to support the learning, change and healing of all people who want to undo race-based oppression."

The 50 minute movie will begin promptly at 10 am and we hope you can stay for discussion afterwards. As usual our potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am.

Lenten suppers and programs will begin on February 17 for five Wednesday evenings leading up to Easter. We will be serving soup and salad, as is our tradition, starting at 6:30 pm.

Easter Sunday is March 27 and we will be serving our traditional Easter breakfast with an egg hunt following the worship service. More details will be forthcoming.

We are truly blessed by this wonderful community and its joyful participation in all the church events!
Peace and blessings to all, **Nancy**

Lent 2016: Linking Faith and Vocation/Avocation

From Chair Suellen Barnett

We are excited to present our Lenten 2016 Series on five Wednesday evenings with a 6:30-7:15 pm supper in Fellowship Hall followed by a 7:15-8:15 pm presentation in the Library. The presenters will be:

February 17: Suellen Barnett (Psychotherapy)

February 24: Bonnie Kaiser and Helen Morita (Nursing/Medical)

March 2: John Girton (Green Investing/Socially Responsible Investing)

March 9: Alan Edmonson, Anna Barnett and Molly Rademacher (High/Primary School Teaching)

March 16: Mari Robinson (Spiritual Direction via Art)

Presenters will share what they do in their chosen fields and how God helps and supports them in their callings and what resources they draw on and that sustains them. They will take questions and/or offer questions for discussion and Rev. Cornel Barnett will offer a closing prayer/meditation. We hope to see you at our Lenten series!
Suellen

MIC Interfaith Retreat: "Soul Work and Social Change"

From Chair Suellen Barnett

Consider taking time to hear four religious leaders from the Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions speak on the topic of discrimination and social change. Attend one or both days at the Marin Interfaith Council Retreat at the Anubhuti Retreat Center in Novato, Sunday, February 28 from 2-8 pm and Monday, February 29 from 10 am-3 pm. Cost/day is \$80-60; both \$140-100, sliding scale. **Suellen**

Staff Thank You

From Rev. Cornel Barnett, D.Min.

On behalf of the Redwoods staff, I would like to thank the congregation for its continuing generosity in the form of its annual staff Christmas gifts. We are all very appreciative of your regard.
Cornel

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>5</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Holy Communion 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Congregational Meeting 11:15 Potluck 12:00 Mill Street	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	<i>17</i> LOG Deadline 6:30 Lenten Supper Series	<i>18</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>21</i> Birthday Sunday 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership Fellowship Committee	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>24</i> 6:30 Lenten Supper Series	<i>25</i> LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	<i>26</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship	<i>29</i>					

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in January – Thank you!

Mill Street Meal

Anna Barnett, Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Karen Carmody,
Alan Edmonson, Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder,
Bonnie Kaiser, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele and Robert Putzi,
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

January 3	Maisie Campbell (U)	January 24	Bonnie Kaiser (L) Maisie Campbell (G) Maisie Campbell (U)	February 7	Ginger Gmahling (L) Clay Wiens (U)
January 10	Ani Lelea (L) Ed Vorous (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)	January 31	Suellen Barnett (L) Iris Giacotto (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)	February 14	Nancy Rademacher (L) Suellen Barnett (U)
January 17	Tani Girton (L) Alan Edmonson (G) Ani Lelea (U)			February 21	Clay Wiens (L) Carrie Kim (U)
				February 28	Ed Vorous (L) Ani Lelia (U)

Happy Birthday! From Deacons 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 ('97), 9 – Ben Girton ('96), 12 – Hunter Newton ('12), 14 – Jim Gorder, 15 – Dick Kohler
Add your name to our birthday list by contacting the office@redwoodspress.org or at 924-4832. **Tani**