



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

I love annual congregational meetings. Its beauty is the opportunity to celebrate the ministry of our church and to thank everyone. In singling out dedicated members, someone is invariably left out. During the meeting, Debbie Lundberg's name was called out and I said I'd get to that but the meeting took me in another direction and Debbie was omitted in the plethora of affirmations.

I called her after the meeting to mention my omission and she said, "I feel thanked every minute of the day. Don't worry one second about it." That's grace. Thank you, Debbie, for being the lovely person you are and for the many ways every week of the year that you are at the church folding bulletins, checking out mission matters and seeing other ways that you can help. You're an angel.

Another person I really wanted to thank but didn't was Suellen. I am fortunate to have a spouse so dedicated and involved with the church. She does so because she loves God, loves the church, and loves the churches and people I serve. I am the beneficiary of that and so is the church. Thank you, Suellen.

During the annual meeting we honored members who have been members continuously and non-continuously (NC) for 25 years and up. It says a lot for the church that these folk have remained members of this community and it says a lot for these members. Thank God for them. In alphabetical order, the years of their membership:

Sixties: Shirley Brady (64 NC), Oakley Dexter (67 NC), Ed Elliott (61), Kitty Prosser (63 NC), Herb and LaVerne Schmidt (64) and Barbara Slusher (63). *Fifties*: Richard and Ann Barnecut (55 NC), Diane Forster (58 - Diane was baptized earlier), Iris Giacotto (52), Marilyn Sutherland (55), Peggy Thomas (52 NC) and Joyce Wells (52). *Forties*: Marjorie Egger (48), Georgene Gmahling (46 NC), James Holmes (47), Dick Judd (44), Helen Morita (43), Nancy Parsons (43 NC), Gabriele Putzi (45) and Jan Salas (46 NC). *Thirties*: Jim and Polly Gorder (37), Ani Lelea (36), Debbie Lundberg (35), Bill Mills (34 NC), Bob Towler (36 NC) and Clay and Helen Wiens (38). *Twenty-five and up*: Frank Wood (28).

I love reading books on God. One of the best philosophical treatises is James Byrne's book with the apt title, *God*. One of his ten theses on God, a good take home: 'God' is a symbol or metaphor for the totality of everything we consider to be of absolute value and meaning for us...Concrete religious traditions with their prayers, rituals, symbols, doctrines, are necessary human historical expressions of particular communities' encounter with this reality.

The scripture passages for the sermon and discussion after worship with me on March 8 (the second Sunday of the month) are Exodus 20:1-17 (The Ten Commandments) and John 2:13-22 (Jesus Cleanses the Temple).

Peace and blessings, Cornel

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate! As we journey together through Lent, I appreciate this from the PC(USA)'s *Introduction to the Liturgical Year*:

"At the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever; we are dust, and to dust we shall return." (Genesis 3:19)
Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back upon everlasting arms.

Let us reflect inwardly as we refine our lives in accordance with God's will. Let us also reflect upon those who have touched our lives who are no longer among us, most recently George Gmahling. Please continue to hold the Gmahling family in your thoughts and prayers at this time of their deep loss.

During Wednesday evenings in Lent, we will continue the series we began last year, *Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice*. The series is based on Pat Schneider's Amherst Writers and Artists method. Schneider says, "Whether we write as an act of personal discovery, as a form of prayer in the sense of the deepest cry and search of our spirits, or as a means of having a voice in the world, writing can be a fundamental act of the human spirit."

The group will meet the following Wednesday evenings: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 and 3/25. Beginning and experienced writers welcomed! There is a soup/salad supper beforehand from 6:30-7:15 pm, followed by the writing sessions from 7:15-8:15 pm. You do not need to be able to attend all sessions to participate. Come as you are able.

The Tuesday morning Bible study of *Romans* continues to provide insights into our experiences of Jesus Christ and the grace that we receive through faith. Though a challenging text, we are blessed by the wisdom and perspectives of our participants which help to "deconstruct" the dense passages.

Compassionate Kids is going strong with ten active and joyful children attending each Friday after-

noon. They are learning about Jesus and are preparing songs which will be presented at the March 29 Palm Sunday worship service. We hope many will be able to attend this special service!

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

We are abundantly blessed to have two new bell ringers join the fold! We welcome Selin Holder and Ed Vorous to the bell choir, and look forward to teaching them and integrating them into this exceptional music ensemble, the Parke Kurtz Memorial Handbell Choir! The bells are preparing to play in an upcoming Sunday service as well as a concert at The Redwoods Retirement Community in Mill Valley.

The Sanctuary choir is preparing special music for Lent, including a song in collaboration with the Compassionate Kids singers for Palm Sunday, March 29.

We all know that listeners benefit from the joyful sounds of our choir; however, did you know that singing actually has health benefits for the singer? Here are just three of the many health benefits of singing:

- Singing releases endorphins, which inhibit pain and produce a feeling of euphoria.
- Singing releases oxytocin, which is a natural stress reliever that alleviates feelings of depression and loneliness and lowers blood pressure.
- As a result of being less stressed, singing will help you sleep better.

Stay tuned for more health benefits next month, remember these benefits as you sing for God's glory on Sundays, and consider joining the Redwoods Sanctuary choir!

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Psalm 104:33

In God's Grace, **Stephanie**

March Church Mouse



February started off with a big wind storm that downed a tree across from the church. Luckily the tree missed the house and fell on the sidewalk. Still, Redwoods and its neighbors in Larkspur and Corte Madera lost their power. Now we are enjoying beautiful spring-like weather even though we need more rain!

We hope everyone had a very Happy Valentine's Day! Dick Judd's daughter, Liza, was back in town to visit dad and celebrate the day. Valentine's Day was always a special time for Marian.

Redwoods has had visitors, including Nancy Rademacher's brother, Tom Smith, from Indiana. He is enjoying our nice weather. Also nice to have Jennifer Garcia and her mother, Ana, worshipping with us recently.

Diane Forster's granddaughter, Stephanie, from Sydney, Australia, is staying with her for three weeks. They are having fun seeing the sights and being with all the family.

Other Redwoods folks are traveling. The Girtons traveled to North Carolina to visit with John's dad. Molly Rademacher left for France on Valentine's Day. She first traveled to Blois to visit her "French mom" where she lived while teaching there, and then went on to Valenciennes to where Erik is living. Molly and Erik are traveling on to London, Oxford, Wales, York, Edinburgh, Dublin, and finally to Paris. Sounds like a lovely and adventurous trip—we look forward to hearing about it!

Many long-time members were recognized at a recent service. A total of 31 were honored for being members for 25 years or more and 14 have been members for more than 50 years. Oakley Dexter was the longest with 67 years. He brought his membership certificate joining the Twin Cities Community Church, as Redwoods was called at that time. Frank Wood, who came from Mountain View with his son, Mateo, has been a member for 28 years. Many interesting comments were mentioned regarding the church throughout its history.

We are happy to have Cornel preaching again. Also thankful to hear Joan Robinson's son is doing well and that Kitty Prosser and Beth Benz are feeling better. We pray for all our members and friends who have been ill this past month for a good recovery.

Debbie Lundberg praised the Larkspur fire fighters for their quick response to a recent structural fire in her neighborhood. They soon had it under control. We are grateful to them.

We are very saddened about George Gmahling's passing recently. Our heartfelt thoughts and special prayers are with the Gmahling family.

The Mouse

Deacons' Corner

Happy Birthday!

From Moderator Tani Girton

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday in March: 3 – LaVerne Schmidt, 16 – Marilyn Sutherland, 24 – Harry Richards and 25 – Ed Vorous.

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

Board of Deacon News

From Member Gabriele Putzi

At the beginning of each year, we have a "changing of the guard" on the Board of Deacons—we welcome new members and re-assign responsibilities, including recruitment of liturgists, ushers, greeters, coffee hour, Mill Street delivery, memorial services, writing of cards, transportation and updating of the prayer chain (we rotate writing for the LOG!) This process takes time and is done very thoughtfully and with care.

The Deacons are now in the process of updating the prayer chain and there is room for all of us on this chain! If you feel like you would like to be part of our prayer community, just contact the office or any deacon listed in the weekly bulletin and you will be gladly welcomed.

The Board of Deacons is off to a great start this year, and we are so grateful and blessed to have Helen Morita back on board. Our prayers to all for 2015!

Gabriele

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>4</i> 6:30 Lenten Supper & Spiritual Practice	<i>5</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>6</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship Discussion 12:00 Mill Street	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>11</i> 6:30 Lenten Supper & Spiritual Practice	<i>12</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>13</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> Birthday Sunday 4th Sunday in Lent 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship/CE 4:00 Marin Girls Chorus Concert	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>18</i> LOG Deadline 6:30 Lenten Supper & Spiritual Practice	<i>19</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>20</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>21</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>22</i> 5th Sunday in Lent 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/ Fellowship Committee	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>25</i> 6:30 Lenten Supper & Spiritual Practice	<i>26</i> LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	<i>27</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> Palm Sunday 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship committee! We continue to feel the spirit moving in our faithful and dedicated church community. Speaking of faithful and dedicated people, it was a pleasure to have the church recognize those that have been members for 25 or more years!

Oakley Dexter won the "prize" as longest member, but we learned that Barbara Slusher may have attended Redwoods even longer, as she started in the Sunday school program as a child several years before she became a member. We were honored to recognize all the long-time members.

The next Saturday breakfast on March 21 will host a speaker from the Alliance for Smiles, an international group providing free surgical services in developing countries. Their mission is: "to repair children's broken smiles by providing free, comprehensive treatment for cleft lip and palate deformities in underserved areas of the world." The light potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am. We hope you are able to learn about this amazing outreach.

Please bring family and friends to Redwoods Church for our glorious Easter Sunday celebration on April 5. It begins with breakfast served from 9 –9:45 am by the Membership/Fellowship Committee. A joyous service follows at 10 am, where we "flower" the cross, celebrate the resurrection and offer Sunday school for the children. Immediately following worship is a coffee hour and Easter egg hunt for the children.

The committee is delighted to introduce one of our newest members, Carrie Kim. Carrie was born in Bryan, Ohio, where she was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. She participated in church and youth groups and was an InterVarsity Christian Fellowship member in college.

She and her husband, Alan Kim, have two adorable children, Aiden and Olivia, who have been active in our Sunday school for some time. Olivia was baptized last November 2 at Redwoods. Both children also attend the Compassionate Kids program.

Carrie moved to San Francisco in 1997 and she and her family now reside in Corte Madera. She is Director of Brand Marketing for Robert Half. Please introduce yourselves to Carrie if you haven't already. We are happy to have Carrie and her family join our Redwoods church family.

Easter blessings to all! **Nancy**

Mission Outreach News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

Presbytery Programs: Two Cents-a-Meal

We recently received the 2014 financial report for the Two Cents-a-Meal/Cents-Ability Hunger Program. With 34 churches participating, total income was \$24,164. Redwoods' contribution was \$800! (That's well above an "average" contribution of \$710.)

With these funds, Redwoods Presbytery offered a total of 24 grants totaling \$22,922. On a table in Fellowship Hall, (identifiable as the one with the "funny" hat), you will find a copy of the 2014 financial report, which includes a description of the grant recipients.

Pedal for Protein

On the "hat table" in Fellowship Hall you will also find a Presbytery newsletter sharing information about Pedal for Protein, last September's bike ride that raised \$25,480 in support of food pantries in the Presbytery's seven counties, including Marin's Food Bank.

PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing

Last year's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offerings from all PC (USA) churches did amazing work worldwide. Funds provided to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance aided 25 countries and 28 states facing natural and human-caused disaster. Presbyterian Hunger Program funding was used to increase food security and provide livelihoods through international development work for 154,731 people living in extreme poverty. Self-Development of Peoples funds gave 4,619 children/parents improved education.

Hear about the 2015 OGHS offering during worship services this month via Minutes for Mission and bulletin inserts. Also look for posters in Fellowship Hall

"So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all..." Galatians 6:10 **Debbie**

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in February – Thank you so much!

Mill Street Meal—January

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Maisie Campbell
Karen Carmody, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster,
John & Tani Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes,
Joyce Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi,
Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Mill Street Meal—February

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

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| Feb 1 | Ani Lelea (L), Tani Girton (G)
Ed Vorous (U) | Mar 1 | Anna Barnett (L), Nancy Rademacher (G)
Clay Wiens (U) |
| Feb 8 | Jim Gorder (L), Gabriele Putzi (G)
Jan Salas (U) | Mar 8 | Suellen Barnett (L), Jan Salas (G)
Tani or John Girton (U) |
| Feb 15 | Joyce Wells (L), Anna Barnett (G),
Ani Lelea (U) | Mar 15 | Clay Wiens (L), John Girton (G),
Debbie Lundberg (U) |
| Feb 22 | Margaret Erwin (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),
Nancy Rademacher (U) | Mar 22 | Ed Vorous (L), Bonnie Kaiser (G),
Iris Giacotto (U) |
| | | Mar 29 | Carrie Kim (L), Clay Wiens (G),
Jan Salas (U) |

Advance thanks to March liturgists, greeters and ushers!

Coffee Hour

Membership/Fellowship Committee, Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous