



# The Redwoods Log

April 2013 - 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,

We aim to get this Log into your homes by the first day of the month, and this month it is the first day after Easter Sunday which means we are in the full throes of thinking about life borne by the resurrection of Jesus.

Easter is a message of new life symbolized by an empty tomb and mystical appearances by Jesus in a garden, room and beach, and so on.

New life is budding among us in the energetic and dynamic discussions on health and growth taking place by our session, deacons and members.

The session has committed half their meeting each month to discuss the subject and they will meet jointly with the deacons for these discussions every quarter. Broadening the democratic principal, every committee will include church health and growth in their meetings, and every member is invited to join a committee.

This engagement is a most wonderful expression of life and resurrection. In the midst of these discussions, we have an amazing cadre of members committed in every endeavor to keep our church alive in our current ministry.

I have often said that if people in our community really knew what goes on here and who is here they would flock here in the hundreds.

We are figuring out how to get out the word better, how to discern what God is doing in our midst and our communities and how we can better serve God in this corner of the world.

Please share with session members and deacons your ideas for better health and growth of this beautiful church community that is committed to the spiritual health and well-being of all of us and of the community and world in which we are placed.

Jesus said in John 8:12 (one of my all-time favorite texts): "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Jesus was about resurrection throughout his life and ministry. The actual resurrection was the cherry on the cake.

Thank God for resurrection. Thank God for life. Thank God for you all. Thank God that the spirit is indeed working in and through us.

God is here and God is doing a good work in and through us.

Peace and blessings,

Cornel

PS: Thank you, Barbara, thank you, choral choir and thank you, bell choir for providing such beautiful music during Holy Week and Easter. And thank you everyone for making Easter so magnificent at Redwoods. You all are a blessing!

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# April Church Mouse

## Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



Spring is here! Leaves are appearing on the trees and blossoms too! Most importantly, baseball season opens on April 5!

Good things are happening at Redwoods!

Congratulations to Jennifer Garcia for making the honor roll at Hall Middle School last quarter!

Ben Girton and Zach Paulson returned from their ten-day trip to Costa Rica where they spent time on a work project. We hope they can share their experiences and photos with the congregation soon!

Molly Rademacher was away skiing at Sugar Bowl. She and Anna Barnett spent a day together and had a lot of fun!

Diane Forster and her sister, Nancy Altman, had a delightful and memorable train trip traveling across the southern states to New Orleans. Once there, they walked throughout the French Quarter, where they stayed with two girlfriends. They toured a couple of lovely plantations and learned about Creole history and especially enjoyed the delicious Cajun food they ate. Adding to their fun, they saw a lively Spring Fiesta parade celebrating St. Joseph's Day with colored beads flying everywhere! To cap it off, while returning by plane, they met two people from Corte Madera!

The Gmahlings are very proud of their granddaughters. Becky Gmahling, is a sophomore at UC Davis and was voted "Sweetheart of Sigma Nu," a fraternity at the university. Becky is Philanthropy Chairman of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. She is majoring in Design. Taylor, a junior at San Francisco State (George's alma mater) is an art major and is doing an internship at the Hespe Art Gallery in San Francisco.

Ian Vallegra, our seminary intern, is very happy that his brother has returned home after a tour of duty in Afghanistan. Redwoods people are happy for Ian too!

Jeffrie Lelea will graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary on May 19 with a Masters in Divinity degree. Following that, he will enter a residency at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center in New Brunswick, N. J. Ani is the proud mom.

The first Sunday of March, the Redwoods women presented our annual program honoring the achievements of women, past and present. Good work, Suelen Barnett, for being the go-to person in charge!

On March 17, a Sunday this year, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with special Irish music during our worship service!

Please include Klara Larsen, Helen Morita and Barbara Slusher in your prayers.

**That's all folks!** See you next month  
**Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

**Mini-Mouse here:** A big thank you all those who shared their stories with Mr. Mouse and Spouse this month and another big thank you to Mr. Mouse and Spouse for creating a great Mouse column. They only missed one item: prayers for Mouse Spouse Marian Judd as she awaits test results from her neurologist.

## Happy Birthdays

### From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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

**April:** 4 – Richard Judd, 12 – Nancy Rademacher  
17 – Barbara Slusher, 24 – Frank Wood

In the March LOG, the following March birthdays were not correctly identified. Please wish these members and friends a happy belated birthday!

**March:** 3 – LaVerne Schmidt,  
16 – Marilyn Sutherland, 24 – Harry Richards

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

## April Choir News

From Music Director

**Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in all the musical offerings in March, including rehearsals and special presentations. In March we heard the bell choir twice, along with the chancel choir, RPC Family Band and Choir, soloists and the contemplative and festive music of Lent and Easter. In April, we return to the simpler format of hymns on the organ. (Such is the yin and yang of the church year!) If you are interesting in joining the chancel or bell choirs, please let me know!

**Barb**

## A Word from your Intern

From SFTS Intern

**Ian Vellenga**

As I write this, I am looking forward to Spring Break and Holy Week because I will have time to focus on spiritual practices. During the semester I am often so busy learning which theologian said what, or the events in church history, or memorizing what Paul said in Romans, that my spirituality becomes something of a luxury rather than being a significant part of my seminary education.

I think this applies to everyone. We get so busy that we put aside things that do not seem immediately essential: "I need to run to the grocery store, so praying can wait;" "My car needs a smog check, so I can't read the Bible now." We treat our spiritual practices as luxuries to do only after we get other things done.

My prayer is that after Easter I find more time for spiritual practices in my daily life and I pray the same for you.

Peace, **Ian**

## Parish Care Assignments

From Deacon Gabriele Putzi

One of the most important roles of the church as a denomination, and Redwoods Presbyterian Church in particular, is to make sure that each member of the congregation is cared for personally, especially in times of need. The Deacons Board is the leadership group within Redwoods that primarily serves as the

helping hands and arms of the church for any Redwoods member or friend who is in need of help.

Each year, the Board of Deacons reviews the Redwoods member lists and divides the entire list among its nine deacon members, and to the extent possible, gives each deacon an equal number of parish care assignments.

Individual deacons then pray for each of their assignments and take responsibility for making contact with each individual to identify him or herself as that person's direct contact at Redwoods for future help.

Deacons may send one or more notes, cards or emails to their parish care assignments; they may also arrange times for future calls and/or visits to see how the member or friend is doing, especially if he or she is homebound or in a care facility.

Finally, at the request of or with the permission of the member, the deacon may also contact the pastor for one-time or ongoing pastoral care for his or her parish care assignee. If you do not know the name of your deacon, please feel free to contact Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder, myself or the church office.

**Gabriele**

## Spiritual Growth Opportunity

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

This month our online prayer practice, "Exploring Contemplative Prayer," is focusing on "centering prayer." Wonderful guides are available online. If you need the passwords again or to include a family member or friend, see the box below. If you would like printed materials to be sent to you, please contact the church office at 924-4832 or office@redwoodspres.org.

You are also invited to a monthly meeting on the last Sunday of the month, April 28, after the 10 am service. We will meet to share thoughts, ideas and ways the spirit is moving in our lives.

**Cornel**

The link to "Exploring Contemplative Prayer":

**[www.scriptureecho.com//  
exploringCPyrCong.htm](http://www.scriptureecho.com/exploringCPyrCong.htm)**

(not case sensitive)

User Name: praywithhope (case sensitive)

Password: insilence (case sensitive)

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee! First we want to thank all those who participated in our wonderful Easter Sunday celebration. The breakfast was scrumptious with much warm fellowship among our friends and families. The service was joyous with fabulous music and the moving flowering of the cross. And the kids enthusiastically enjoyed the Easter egg hunt. We have so much to be thankful for.

At 12:30 pm on Sunday, April 7, we are planning a trip to the Museum of the African Diaspora to see the fascinating Kinsey Collection. The five centuries of African American documents, artifacts and art include slave shackles and documents, copies of the Emancipation Proclamation, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letters, the art of Henry O. Tanner and other luminaries and more. See page six for details.

Back by popular demand is our corned beef and cabbage dinner planned for Friday, April 19. The Putzi's have graciously agreed to cook the main course so we are in for a wonderful treat. We have also arranged for the Redwoods' Family Band to entertain us that evening, probably with Irish favorites. Please mark your calendar as this will be an evening not to miss. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall so please let us know if you are able to attend.

Our next Saturday breakfast on April 20 will feature our Parish Associate, Dan White, who will be sharing his life stories with us. I hope many of you will be able to attend. As usual, we meet at 9:30 am for a light potluck breakfast with the program beginning at 10 am. We finish no later than 11 am.

Happy Spring to all!

**Nancy**

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## Endowment and Special Needs Committee News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

### **Aren't Charitable Gifts Less Deductible This Year?**

After rampant speculation in the press about reductions on the tax deductibility of contributions to charities, on January 1 of this year Congress enacted the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Because of the previous uncertainty, and the confusing nature of tax law in the first place, many people assume that gifts to charities are "less deductible" this year.

In fact, for about 99% of taxpayers, gifts are just as deductible this year as last, with a couple of changes which make charitable giving—to Redwoods Church and any other qualified charities you support—just as deductible and in some ways more tax-advantaged.

Many charities are already seeing increased gifts this year in two categories due to the increase in capital gains tax and the return of the Charitable IRA Gift. With higher capital gains tax, gifts of appreciated stock are more cost-effective, as charities can sell them without the loss to capital gains tax that the donor would have lost. And it is possible in 2013 to donate directly from one's IRA account without having to pay taxes on the withdrawal or mandatory distribution.

While we cannot explain all of the details of the new tax laws in a short article, it is encouraging to report against the "doom and gloom" so often in the press that charitable gifts—from your regular monthly contributions to gifts to our Endowment Fund—are likely just as tax deductible as before. Of course, it is always important to check with your financial advisor as to how any donations would be mutually advantageous to you under the current tax regulations.

**Nancy**

## Mission Outreach

### Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

#### One Great Hour Of Sharing

We offer thanks and appreciation to members and friends of Redwoods for their generous support of the OGHS offering. The breadth of your generosity, i.e., the total Redwoods offering, will be announced with repeated thanks in the May LOG.

#### MIC Program—April 15

This month, the MIC is continuing its Intra-faith series about Christianity with a look at the Christian denominations that originated in the US, mostly in the 1800's: Unitarian/Universalist, Mormon, Christian Science and Disciples of Christ. Four representatives will speak from 7-9 pm, Monday, April 15 at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 220 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael. For more info, go to [www.marinifc.org](http://www.marinifc.org) or check out flyer posted on the Mission Outreach bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

#### 2013 CROP Walk—April 21

The Marin Crop Hunger Walk supports the work of the Marin Community Food Bank, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the San Rafael Street Chaplaincy, all worthy local hunger-fighting agencies that have received Redwoods enthusiastic support in past years. This year, our support will be doubled through matching funds provided by the Feinstein Foundation.

Registration for the walk begins at 1:30 pm on April 21 at First Presbyterian Church, 1510 Fifth Avenue in San Rafael and the 3-mile walk itself begins at 2 pm. You can read more about the CROP walk a poster regarding the walk in Fellowship Hall. I have also requested a CROP Walk packet, which I will share once we have received it. If walking isn't something you are able to do, you can support the walk with your prayers and donations.

#### A Reminder

Yes, we are still collecting box tops for the Box Tops for Education program! For a list of products participating in the program, please check the Box Tops for Education table in Fellowship Hall. You can also turn in your box tops there. Every box top counts towards contributions that support local educational programs, so keep this program in mind as you shop for and use participating products. Please don't throw away valuable box tops that would benefit our schools!

**Debbie**

## Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

The following prayer poems were taken from the wonderful book, *Earth Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

Water flows over these hands.

May I use them skillfully

To preserve our precious planet.

Thich Nhat Hanh

What would the world be, once bereft  
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,  
O let them be left, wildness and wet,  
Long live the weeks and the wilderness yet.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

**Helen**

#### Visit and Share our Website!

A great way to keep up with what is happening at Redwoods and to introduce the church to your family and friends is via our church website:

**[www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org)**

## Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

### Motivation

We've talked about motivation before in this column, and perhaps now one quarter through the New Year, is a good time to go over the dynamics again.

In one of the classes I'm taking, we have talked about the difference between willpower and motivation.

Apparently research shows that being motivated to do something will get us further along than willpower, because it carries more concrete incentive to action. We might have the strength of will within ourselves, but motivation provides more incentive or inducement to action.

Think of something you're trying to do: Finish up the income tax forms (April 15 is on the horizon!), lose some weight, finish a school project, or any project we've been mulling over for quite a while.

We really want to complete the task – we will do it! Yet the internal and external motivating factors have not yet come into play. Perhaps if there were a pot of gold, or a return-IRS check, or some other concrete reward at the end, we would be more motivated.

All the above-mentioned "externals" can be motivating, but perhaps internal motivation will carry us further. Confucius said way back in the day, "The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential – in these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence."

That sounds like a statement from a modern motivational speaker! A truly inspirational individual who had so much to overcome, Helen Keller said, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

Both of these statements take in that inner motivation which helps us complete a task or goal.

Let's take time to think through the tasks we have ahead of us – this week, this month, and this year.

Let's do some thinking and meditating on what comes first, what it will mean to complete these projects, and get motivated to push ahead.

I often use the following Scripture from Philippians 4:13 to inspire me: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Our Redwoods family is a great motivational force. We can pray for each other and support and encourage each other in our efforts. **Suellen**

### Visit to the Museum of the African Diaspora

Please join us on Sunday, April 7 for an outing to the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco to see the current exhibit, *The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey, Where Art and History Intersect*. Amassed by the Kinseys over the 40 years of their marriage, the Kinsey Collection offers an inspirational journey through five centuries of African American history and culture.

One of the largest private collections of African American documents, artifacts and art in the world, the collection offers a vast wealth of rare books and manuscripts, paintings, prints, sculpture and photographs. Some of the most fascinating items on display are:

- early version of the Emancipation Proclamation
- correspondence between Malcolm X and Alex Haley
- slave shackles
- 1773 first-edition of poems by Phillis Wheatley
- 1795 Bannaker's Almanack
- 18th and 19th-century slave documents
- letters by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
- letters by Zora Neale Hurston
- fine art by Henry O. Tanner, Artis Lane, Richmond Barthé, Elizabeth Catlett, Samuel L. Dunson, Lois Mailou Jones, Richard Mayhew, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden and more.

Please call or speak with Nancy Rademacher at 924-3572 if you need a ride or if you can offer a ride to and from the city. We plan to leave the church at 12:30 pm. The museum is at 685 Mission Street (at Third). The group will meet afterwards at a café for discussion.

# April 2013

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed                       | Thu                                    | Fri   | Sat                                  |
|--|--|---|---------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | <i>1</i>                                       | <i>2</i><br>9:00 Bell Choir<br>10:30 Bible Study                  | <i>3</i>                  | <i>4</i><br>7:30 Choir                 | <i>5</i>  | <i>6</i>                             |
| <i>7</i><br><i>Holy Communion</i><br>9:15 Choir<br>10:00 Worship<br>10:15 Children's Ed<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>11:15 Mission Outreach<br>12:30 MoAD Trip           | <i>8</i><br>7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group | <i>9</i><br>9:00 Bell Choir<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>7:00 Deacons  | <i>10</i>                 | <i>11</i><br>7:30 Choir                | <i>12</i>   | <i>13</i>                            |
| <i>14</i><br>9:15 Choir<br>10:00 Worship<br>10:15 Children's Education<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>11:15 Worship/CE<br>11:15 Membership/Fellowship<br>12:00 Mill Street | <i>15</i>                                      | <i>16</i><br>9:00 Bell Choir<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>7:00 Session | <i>17</i><br>LOG Deadline | <i>18</i><br>7:30 Choir                | <i>18</i><br>6:30 Redwoods Family Band Corned Beef Dinner Event | <i>20</i><br>9:30 Saturday Breakfast |
| <i>21</i><br><i>Birthday Sunday</i><br>9:15 Choir<br>10:00 Worship<br>10:15 Children's Education<br>11:00 Fellowship   | <i>22</i>                                      | <i>23</i><br>9:00 Bell Choir<br>10:30 Bible Study                 | <i>24</i>                 | <i>25</i><br>LOG Mailing<br>7:30 Choir | <i>26</i>   | <i>27</i>                            |
| <i>28</i><br>9:15 Choir<br>10:00 Worship<br>10:15 Children's Education<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>11:15 Prayer Group   | <i>29</i>                                      | <i>30</i>   |                           |  |   |                                      |

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

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



### Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Board of Deacons, Margie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells

### Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

|                 |   |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>March 3</b>  | Suellen Barnett (L), Jan Salas (G),<br>Melissa Gill (U), Ani Lelea (U)          | <b>April 7</b>  | Melissa Gill (L), Nancy Rademacher (G),<br>Clay Wiens (U), Debbie Lundberg (U)  |
| <b>March 10</b> | Tani Girton (L), Gabriele Putzi (G)<br>Iris Giacotto (U) June Bellen (U)        | <b>April 14</b> | Clay Wiens (L), Melissa Gill (G)<br>Iris Giacotto (U), Ani Lelea                |
| <b>March 17</b> | Joyce Wells (L), Dan Phipps (G)<br>Suellen Barnett (U), Nancy Rademacher (U)    | <b>April 21</b> | Tani Girton (L), June Bellen (G)<br>Suellen Barnett (U), Melissa Gill (U)       |
| <b>March 24</b> | Dick Judd (L), John Girton (G),<br>Debbie Lundberg (U), Ani Lelea (U)           | <b>April 28</b> | John Girton (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),<br>Nancy Rademacher (U), Margie Egger (U) |
| <b>March 31</b> | Debbie Lundberg (L), Suellen Barnett (G),<br>Melissa Gill (U), Margie Egger (U) |                 |   |

### Coffee Hour

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Jim & Margie Egger,  
Melissa Gill, Membership/Fellowship Committee