



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Greetings and Happy Easter! Easter brings a consciousness of new life, freshness, beautiful things. It brings lightness to the step.

My pastoral letter this month is a new perspective of an old statement and more. It is words of Kurt Vonnegut given in a speech made at Clowes Hall in his hometown Indianapolis, April 27, 2007. Vonnegut is an unlikely spokesperson for a church newsletter but reserve judgment until you have read this intriguing part of his speech

He said, "...there are still plenty of people who will tell you that the most evil thing about Karl Marx was what he said about religion. He said it was the opium of the lower classes, as though he thought religion was bad for people and he wanted to get rid of it.

"But when Marx said that, back in the 1840s, his use of the word "opium" wasn't simply metaphorical. Back then, real opium was the only painkiller available for toothaches or cancer of the throat or whatever. He himself had used it.

"As a sincere friend of the downtrodden, he was saying he was glad they had something which could ease their pain, at least a little bit, which was religion. He liked religion for doing that and certainly didn't want to abolish it. OK? He might have said today as I say tonight that religion can be Tylenol for a lot of unhappy people, and I'm so glad it works."

"How subservient to Jesus or to a humane god almighty were the leaders of this country, back in the 1840s, when Marx said such a supposedly evil thing about religion? They had made it legal to own human slaves and weren't going to let women vote or hold public office, God forbid, for another eighty years.

"I got a letter a while back from a man who had been a captive in the American penal system since he was sixteen years old. He is now 42 and about to get out. He asked me what he should do. I told him what Karl Marx would have told him: 'Join a church.'

"And now please note, I have raised my right hand, and that means I'm not kidding, that whatever I say next I believe to be true, so here goes: The most spiritually splendid American phenomenon of my lifetime wasn't our contribution to the defeat of the Nazis, in which I played such a large part, or Ronald Reagan's overthrow of godless Communism, in Russia at least.

"The most spiritually splendid American phenomenon of my lifetime is how African-American citizens have maintained their dignity and self-respect despite their having been treated by white Americans, both in and out of government and simply because of their skin color, as though they were contemptible and loathsome and even diseased.

"Their churches have surely helped them do that. So there's Karl Marx again. There's Jesus again." Enjoy these wonderful weeks of Easter.

Peace and blessings, Cornel

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate!
I am grateful for the season of Lent and the time of reflection. Thank you to all of those who participated in the Lenten *Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice*-series. I have been blessed by your presence and participation, and nourished by your delicious soups, salads and writing!

Even though I had an entire class at Seminary on Paul, I am appreciating him in a whole new way through the awesome, in-depth study of *Romans* at our Tuesday morning Bible study at Redwoods. Paul's insights about what it means to be a follower of Christ and how this choice rescues us is extremely thought-provoking and timelessly relevant.

As we look forward to Easter this month, Paul's writings in *Romans* inspire us to embrace the new life in Christ's resurrection and to trust that God knows what it is we need. "*Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*" (Romans 7:24-25). We are prone to many temptations that lead us astray; Jesus Christ saves us from self-destruction.

Winter session of Compassionate Kids is coming to a close with their contribution to Palm Sunday worship on March 29. Special thanks to Apryl Uncapher, (Nara's mom), who helped tremendously with the music and enactments for Palm Sunday. These children have shown exceptional compassion towards one another, and have shown thoughtfulness and perception in response to our lessons and discussions. They are brilliant. We plan to continue Compassionate Kids with a Spring session that will take place on Fridays, 3:30-4:30pm on April 17 & 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and June 5 & 12, culminating with optional participation in worship on Sunday, June 14 at 10am. Cost is \$100.

I am looking forward to celebrating Easter with you on April 5! Thank you, Cornel, for offering me the opportunity to preach on this joyous day! *Hallelujah, Jesus is alive!*

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

Our experienced bell ringers are developing new skills as they help to bring aboard our newest ringers, Ed and Selin! I appreciate the love and support of this bell choir. It is wonderful to have the new ringers among us, courageously willing to learn this beautiful, collaborative approach to musical orchestration. We are planning to share our arrangements with the congregation in May.

On Easter Sunday, April 5, the adult vocal choir will share a piece they have been working on called *On This Day of Rejoicing*, with Heather Creighton accompanying on piano. Also on Easter Sunday, Dick Judd, Minister of Music Emeritus, will be gracing us with his organ-playing! It will certainly be a day of rejoicing!

The following Sunday, April 12, Dick Judd will again be playing in the service as I will be out of town that day. We are so blessed to have his gifted playing!

As promised, here are additional benefits to singing to add to the list begun in last month's LOG:

Singing:

- increases lung capacity
- improves posture.
- increases oxygenation/mental alertness
- promotes a healthy lymphatic system
- boosts immunity

Please look for yet EVEN MORE health benefits of singing next month! Aren't we blessed to have church on Sundays where we can sing together?

*Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all God's benefits! Psalm 103:1-2*

Yours In Christ, , **Stephanie**

April Church Mouse

Spring has officially arrived! We are so pleased the azaleas are blooming in the front of the church as we prepare for Easter. The Redwoods Compassionate Kids class will be singing their hearts out at the Palm Sunday service on March 29. They are a wonderful and special group of children led by Rev. Stephanie Ryder. We are looking forward to their participation.



Friends and relatives were coming and going this past month. Nice to have Gabriele Putzi's brother Claus and sister-in-law Carla from Calgary, Canada visiting with us. The Putzi's are showing them the special sights in our area.

Cornel read a lovely postcard at worship from Molly Rademacher telling all the memorable places she and brother Eric visited in the British Isles & France. Molly has returned while Eric remains in Valenciennes, France teaching English. I'm sure she would be happy to tell you about her trip.

Joyce Wells traveled to Cabo San Lucas recently. Diane Forster's granddaughter Stephanie returned home to Sydney, Australia after a three-week visit with Grandma and family.

Congratulations to Tani Girton who was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Professional Business Women of California. Also to Bonnie Kaiser's daughter, Katrina with her new job as a scientific aide for the State Water Board.

Many nice comments from those who attended the February Saturday breakfast with Bonnie's interesting talk about her experiences with horses and the cattle drive. Thank you Bonnie! Many thanks to Karin Vargervik for her talk at the March breakfast about the Alliance for Smiles organization. She is a dedicated volunteer treating children with cleft lip in China.

The Gifts of Women was celebrated Sunday, March 8 with a very special reading by Stephanie Ryder. That same Sunday Ed Vorous read a lovely card about the importance of being thankful which he found in his

hymnal. Turned out it was Jolene Liberati's card sent to her from Polly Gorder. The poem was by Meister Eckart. No hidden secrets around here!

So nice to have Georgene and Ginger Gmahling worshipping with us recently. Marge Egger is settling into her new home at The Aldersly Retirement Community. There were no March birthdays to celebrate on birthday Sunday but LaVerne Schmidt celebrated hers with family on March 3. Herb & LaVerne send their best to everyone. We miss you both.

We miss Marilyn Sutherland and Kitty Prosser's presence with us. Very sorry June Bellen was hospitalized recently and hope she will be back soon. Also sorry to hear Faith McClellan has been ill. We are also sad to hear that Richard Erwin, newly home from Kindred Care, has had to return. Our special thoughts and prayers for healing for all our dear friends.

A lovely floral arrangement was created by Ed Vorous for a recent worship service. The orchids came from Dick Judd's garden. They were tenderly and lovingly grown by Marian for many years. Everyone was invited to take a bouquet. What a special blessing to remember Marian!

The Mouse

Deacons' News

From Member Bonnie Kaiser

As I struggled with what to present to the Deacons as my first devotion, I first got nervous, then anxious, and then I remembered, "Let go and let God," and this is what I found in "Jesus Daily Devotions" by Ron Newhouse. It is so appropriate in my life right now and I hope you enjoy it too.

"...Author Irving Stone has spent a lifetime studying greatness, writing novelized biographies of men such as Michelangelo, Vincent van Gogh, Sigmund Freud and Charles Darwin. Stone was once asked if he had found a thread that runs through the lives of exceptional people.

He said, "I write about people who sometime in their life...have a vision or dream of something that should be accomplished...and they go to work. They are beaten over the head, knocked down, vilified and for years they get nowhere.

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9:00 Breakfast 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 12:00 Easter Egg Hunt	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship Discussion 11:15 Worship/CE 12:00 Mill Street	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>15</i> LOG Deadline	<i>16</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>17</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>18</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>19</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/Fellowship Committee	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	<i>24</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 7:30 Choir		

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

The spirit is moving among us at Redwoods Church which has been evident during Lent and Easter!

Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 5 from 9-9:45 am for our annual Easter breakfast. Immediately after, our joyous Easter service will take place with the flowering of the cross. Following the service, there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children. This is a full morning of special events so please invite family, friends, and neighbors.

The April breakfast will be on Saturday, April 18, when we will celebrate marriage and weddings. Please bring a wedding picture to share (your own, your parents, your child, close friend). Anyone that wants to share a story about a picture is welcome to do so. The light potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-1 am.

We have tentatively set a date of Sunday, June 28 at 7 pm for a Redwoods movie night featuring *Impact* which was partially filmed in Larkspur in 1949. Some of you may have seen the movie but many have not. This should be a fun evening with popcorn and drinks provided by Membership/Fellowship. There is time to possibly change the date if enough people are interested in attending but not able to make this date. Please let Nancy or another committee member know your availability.

We are working on another get together with the Muslim community to continue our dialogue with them, possibly a potluck dinner. We will let you know when we have more information. Enjoy our glorious Marin County spring!
Nancy

Mission Outreach News

From Member Jan Salas

I was hungry and you gave me food. Matthew 25:35
On March 26, 1949 major radio networks and independent stations broadcast a new program titled "One Great Hour." At the end of the broadcast, an appeal was made to listeners to contribute to relief for areas

devastated in World War II. Over 75,000 churches participated and a tradition was born. The following year the offering was designated One Great Hour of Sharing. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world.

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing will help support Presbyterian Disaster assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People. These on-going programs provide relief those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in empowering the poor and oppressed. (For more information about each program visit www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/specialofferings/one-great-hour-sharing-offering.)

At Redwoods Presbyterian Church, we participate in this special offering during the joyous Easter season. Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing provide food, clean water, disaster relief and a path toward self-improvement for people in the greatest need. The Offering is an opportunity to share the love God has poured into our hearts.
Jan

Deacons' News

Continued from page 3
But every time they're knocked down, they stand up...
And at the end of their lives, they've accomplished some modest part of what they set out to do."

"...Those are lessons for all of us. Focus on the things that really matter. Let go of the past. Expect good things from God in the future. Press onward and upward, serving God all your days. Pray: "Dear Jesus, help me to press onward and upward to my calling in Christ. Amen."
Bonnie

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

From *Earth Prayers from Around the World*, by editors Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon:

Gentle Goddess,
Who never asks for anything at all,
And gives us everything we have,
Thank you for this sweet water,
And for your fragrance. Lew Welch

Helen

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
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Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in March – Thank you so much!

Mill Street Meal

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Diane Forster,
Tani Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, Bonnie Kaiser,
Joyce Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi,
Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

June Bellen, Nancy Rademacher,
Barbara SlusherEd Vorous

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 1 | Anna Barnett (L), Nancy Rademacher (G)
Clay Wiens (U) | April 5 | Suellen Barnett (L), Debbie Lundberg (G)
Nancy Rademacher (U) |
| Mar 8 | Suellen Barnett (L), Jan Salas (G)
Tani or John Girton (U) | April 12 | Polly Gorder (L), Ani Lelea (G)
Debbie Lundberg (U) |
| Mar 15 | Clay Wiens (L), John Girton (G),
Debbie Lundberg (U) | April 19 | Debbie Lundberg (L), Iris Giacotto (G),
Suellen Barnett (U) |
| Mar 22 | Ed Vorous (L), Bonnie Kaiser (G),
Iris Giacotto (U) | April 26 | John Girton (L), Alan Edmonson (G),
Jan Salas (U) |
| Mar 29 | Carrie Kim (L), Clay Wiens (G), | | |

Happy Birthday from the Deacons!

April 4 – Richard Judd, 12 – Nancy Rademacher, 17 – Barbara Slusher and 24 – Frank Wood
Add your name to our birthday list by contacting the office@redwoodspres.org or at 924-4832.

Tani Girton