



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

These weeks of Easter have always been special since they help one be more focused on the resurrection of Jesus and the faith we have in the resurrection that death is not the final word. It communicates to us that "life" is the preeminent word besides "love" in the Christian lexicon.

Jesus says of his followers, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10). He also says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26).

The Brief Statement of Faith in the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Confessions* states, "In life and death we belong to God."

Christians are on a great continuum of life. In funeral and memorial services, we witness the resurrection, or as most say, we celebrate the life of Jesus and the deceased. We mourn the loss and we celebrate the life, the life the person lived and the life the person now lives with God.

It is great comfort for Christians that when we die we go into God's embrace and live eternally with God as we are living now eternally with God. What God's eternal realm looks like is anyone's guess. The important thing is that we will be in a realm of God's making.

Think of love, joy, kindness, compassion, peace and justice of our lives together as Christians. It will be like that in the great beyond.

All this is preface to my mentioning to you that the deacons and session have approved a "Funeral/Memorial Planning Sheet" to send to members. It's an idea I received when visiting a church in San Francisco. The purpose is to share with Stephanie and me confidentially as your pastors information that will be helpful in planning your funeral or memorial service.

You will share biographical, worship service and background information along with funeral/memorial service arrangements. It is neatly outlined with spaces for your responses in the planning sheet.

It is not mandatory for you to submit this information. Some of you may not be ready or want to think about this now. That's totally okay. Others are already doing so and look forward to completing the sheet. It will be sent to members by mail and can be returned to Stephanie or me personally or mailed to us at the office. The forms will be kept in a confidential file.

God bless you through these wonderful weeks of Easter and beyond.

Peace, Life and Love, Cornel

Note: Our May 10 Round Table Discussion passages are Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6 & John 15:9-17

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate! Thank you again to all who participated in the *Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice* Lenten series. Below is a submission from one of our participants, Sybilla Putzi. After choosing a bag or bottle that contained a concealed aroma, the exercise was to write about the images that came to mind after breathing in the aroma. Thank you Sybilla, for your willingness to have "The Scent of Our Maker," published here:

"It's light and soft – like a gentle breeze in the tropics. In fact, this island butter brings healing, vitamins and essential oils to parched, landlocked bodies. Drop it in a pan and whip up some sweet, aromatic pancakes, or dab it on your extremities for soft, supple skin. Some say this creamy concoction even smoothes wrinkles. What kind of wondrous potion is this?"

"Something that only God's grand complexity could create. In its original form, it could crack your skull were it to fall on your head. Someone could wield it as a weapon to kill and maim. How amazing that a creation with such a hard and somewhat ugly exterior could become such a soothing remedy to bring about rich taste, revival and healing."

"In the Lord's kingdom, such a thing is possible. Sometimes we have to be hit on the head to get it. Like the coconut, we're hard nuts to crack."

Our Spring session of Compassionate Kids has resumed and takes place on Fridays, 3:30-4:30 pm through June 12, culminating with the children's participation in the Sunday service on June 14.

Though we are a bit over halfway through the study of *Romans*, it is certainly not too late to join us for Bible study on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am!

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Erwin family during this time of loss .

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

The Bell Choir is looking greatly forward to playing in the Sunday service on Mothers' Day, May 10th!

Please note *even more* benefits to singing to add to the list that began in the March LOG and continued in April:

1. Singing lowers blood pressure
2. Singing clears respiratory tubes and sinuses.
3. When people sing together they feel increased sense of community and belonging

What a blessing it is to be able to sing together on Sundays in worship, and, for those in choir, also on Thursday evenings! I was once told by a singing coach that the best way to improve singing is to sing more!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16

Yours In Christ, **Stephanie**

Deacons' Corner

From Chair Tani Girton

Friends. Redwoods Presbyterian Church is always busy helping others in ways big and small. One of the little things we can do to continuously stay connected to our mission is to fill up the food barrel in Fellowship Hall with canned and dry goods at every opportunity.

Whenever the bin fills up, the Marin Food Bank comes right over to collect our donations. And, occasionally, a hungry person in need stops by the church and our staff allows them to select something from the food barrel to eat immediately and/or to relieve their anxiety about at least the next meal.

Never forget the importance of the small gifts you provide; you will feel warmth in your heart and light in your soul!

Tani

May Church Mouse

It's the Merry Month of May with members and friends like busy bees with activities happening at Redwoods and elsewhere.



One busy bee is Ed Elliott who is playing his ukulele every two weeks with son-in-law Roger at the Redwoods Retirement Center in Mill Valley. Ed has stopped his line dancing for now but is considering joining the "walker-line dancing" group. Keep it up Ed!

A glorious Easter service was held at Redwoods with the beautiful flowering of the cross. Many thanks to Ed Vorous and Robert Putzi for moving it outside where it was enjoyed by the entire community throughout the day. Many photos were taken by friends and family. There were over 15 children attending worship followed by an Easter Egg hunt in the Redwoods arranged by Molly Rademacher—what a special day of celebration!

Dick Judd's daughter Liza and son Lou visited in April to celebrate their Dad's birthday on April 4. Dick wishes to thank everyone for the special birthday cake, card and rousing Happy Birthday sung to him at coffee hour on Easter. He was very touched. So nice having Dick play the organ in April.

Also, a special Happy Birthday to Harry Richards who celebrated his 100th on March 24. A family party was held at the Tamalpais where he has lived for 24 years. For years Harry completed many needed repairs and projects at Redwoods. A very Happy 90th Birthday to Barbara Slusher as well.

We are happy to have Marilyn Sutherland and Georgene Gmahling back at worship. Georgene is happy to have her brother Roland moving from Hawaii back to the mainland. Georgene's granddaughter Taylor is making plans to walk the 500 mile ancient path, the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain, in May. Taylor's dad Greg will join her for the last 100 miles.

We are also glad to see James Holmes return after his recovery from surgery. Prayer too for the finger

injuries, Anna Barnett's bad cut on her finger while cutting a fish and Debbie Lundberg's from a car door.

Tani Girton spent some fun and relaxing time visiting her mother in Colorado. Diane Forster and sister Nancy spent a few days in Canada via train and ferry to Victoria, B.C. visiting Butchart Gardens and other interesting sights.

A fun and memorable Saturday breakfast was held commemorating weddings and marriage. Lovely photos and loving stories were shared by all. There were weddings held here at Redwoods beginning in 1950 and one in Scotland. Barbara Slusher brought her lovely wedding gown which cost \$50. It was a very special day.

The Mouse

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Warm greetings from the Membership/Fellowship committee.

We would like to share some upcoming events we are planning. Scout Sunday is May 3. That Sunday the Cub Scouts who meet at the church attend our worship service with their families. They enter the church in a full processional and exit that way as well. They then do a service project for the church following worship which is coordinated by Ed Vorous and the Scout masters. The Membership/Fellowship committee provides extra refreshments for the boys. This is an opportunity to show the outside community what a warm, friendly and caring congregation we have at Redwoods Church, so please plan to attend!

The next breakfast will be Saturday, May 16, when Molly Rademacher will share her recent trip with Erik to France and the U.K., both in stories and in photographs. They traveled for three weeks and were in Paris, the Loire Valley of France, London and other parts of England, Scotland, Wales and Dublin, Ireland. The light potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am. We hope you can join us.

Continued on page 5

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 3:30 Compassionate Kids	2
3 <i>Scout Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons	4	5 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	6	7 7:30 Choir	8 3:30 Compassionate Kids	9
10 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	11	12 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	13	14 7:30 Choir	15 3:30 Compassionate Kids	16 9:30 Saturday Breakfast 10:00 Presbytery At Westminster Pres Church, Tiburon
17 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/Fellowship Committee	18	19 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	20 LOG Deadline	21 7:30 Choir	22 3:30 Compassionate Kids	23
24 <i>Pentecost</i> /31 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	25	26 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	27	28 LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	29 3:30 Compassionate Kids	30

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Continued from page 3

Mark your calendars for Sunday evening, June 28 when we plan to show the film noir movie *Impact*, partially filmed in Larkspur in the late '40's. It has gotten good reviews from members that have seen it and some have family members that were "extras". It will begin at 7 pm with the Membership/Fellowship committee providing popcorn and drinks.

Stay tuned for upcoming events including serving lemonade on the Fourth of July and more theater outings. Please share any thoughts you have for fellowship programs, community outreach and Saturday breakfast speakers. We are always looking for fresh ideas.

Blessings to all at this glorious time of year!

Nancy

Mission Outreach News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

By the Numbers

Since 1974, Homeward Bound has provided great service to Marin. Here are the amazing numbers:

Growth in service: 1974 -15 beds; 2014 - 450 beds
Sheltered in supportive housing: 30,000+ homeless
New Beginnings/Voyager Carmel meals: 1,477,840
Employment skill training: 450+ people
Current number of volunteers: 1,000
Percent of families exiting to housing: 85%
Percent of adults exiting to housing: 75%
Percent of current staff formerly homeless: 33%

This information is shared with the community to celebrate the ways Homeward Bound of Marin has been making a difference in the lives of homeless men, women and children over the last 40 years.

Thanks to the members and friends of Redwoods who so faithfully help prepare and deliver meals each month to the Mill Street residential program provided by Homeward Bound. Awesome!

Debbie

From Member Jan Salas Presbyterian Giving Catalog

The Mission/Outreach Committee invites you to visit the display of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog in the Fellowship Hall. It offers meaningful gifts for friends and loved one via programs and ministries throughout the country and the world.

For example, a gift of \$15 provides a school kit for a child in a community devastated by a natural disaster, or 225 tilapia fingerlings to become the start of fish farm. A gift of \$30 will send a bag of Moringa Tree seeds, enough to start a small nursery, or a bag of seed for corn, millet, sorghum or rice. A gift of \$500 will provide a mule to a farmer in the Caribbean.

If you wish to honor someone on Mother's day or Father's day or any special occasion, the catalog offers the ability to make a gift that will make a difference. You can visit presbyteriangifts.org, call 800-872-3283 or use the order form inside the catalog.

From the catalog: "We are committed to being good stewards of your gift, and all God has given us, to share with God's people... to use your gift to make the greatest impact in fulfilling our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ."

Jan

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

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

Grandfather, Look at our brokenness.
We know that in all creation
Only the human family
Has strayed from the Sacred Way

We know that we are the ones
Who are divided
And we are the ones
Who must come back together
To walk in the Sacred Way

Grandfather, Sacred One,
Teach us love, compassion and honor
That we may heal the earth
And heal each other

Ojibway Prayer

Helen

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
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Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in April – Thank you so much!

Mill Street Meal

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Karen Carmody,
Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes,
Bonnie Kaiser, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi,
Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells, Deacons

Coffee Hour

Carrie Kim, Nancy Rademacher,
Ed Vorous, Membership/Fellowship Committee

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

April 5 Suellen Barnett (L), Debbie Lundberg (G)
Nancy Rademacher (U)
April 12 Polly Gorder (L), Ani Lelea (G)
Debbie Lundberg (U)
April 19 Debbie Lundberg (L), Iris Giacotto (G),
Suellen Barnett (U)
April 26 John Girton (L), Alan Edmonson (G),
Jan Salas (U)

May 3 Scout Pac 43, Tani Girton (G)
Ani Lelea (U)
May 10 Anna Barnett (L), Ed Vorous (G)
Clay Wiens (U)
May 17 Tani Girton (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),
Carrie Kim (U)
May 24 Nancy Rademacher (L), Suellen Barnett (G),
Iris Giacotto (U)
May 31 Jim Gorder (L), Gabriele Putzi (G),
Ed Vorous (U)

Happy Birthday from the Deacons!

May 2 – Georgene Gmahling 7 – Patrick Little ('95)

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

Tani Girton