



# The Redwoods Log

June 2014 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 [www.redwoodspress.org](http://www.redwoodspress.org)

## From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Another wonderful Easter season has been upon us. Now, we move onto the Day of Pentecost and the commemoration of the beginnings of the church with the outpouring of the Spirit on the disciples 2,000 plus years ago. On that day, Peter speaks words of the prophet: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh...the young shall see visions and the old shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:17).

We are a resurrected, spirit-filled community of believers. God has endowed us with great gifts to continue the amazing ministry begun by Jesus.

This is also a time of graduations where our young are making the transitions from high school into college or college and seminary into the work place or to higher levels of learning. The nature of the transition is that of visioning.

Here at Redwoods we have a cadre of students making these very transitions. We wish them God's presence in their transition, God's speed in their new journey and God's vision in their visioning.

I am not sure what the "old" of Peter's words means. Perhaps, it applies to the rest of us going from year to year in ministry with our lives energized by dreams of how wonderful it is to be connected with the church and of how we can continually be enlivened to carry out and continue ministry to the world.

This is not to say that we are without vision. In fact, it is good to vision from time to time. Redwoods did that before I came on board almost six years ago. Now, with Stephanie (the "young" among us) joining us in ministry, it is time to vision once again and continue to dream our dreams.

The Committee of Ministry of the Presbytery is seriously considering our request to ordain Stephanie as Parish Associate in a part-time basis. Stephanie will work with me to engage in new ministry at Redwoods and she will continue as Minister of Music.

Stephanie is working on her job description and will come up with specific ministries from September of this year, two weeks after she completes her internship here. I will continue in a half-time capacity and be largely responsible with the Session for guiding and directing the staff, worship, administration, educational and pastoral dimensions of the church. My job will be as full as ever with fewer hours as communicated in the recent congregational meeting.

Celebrating Pentecost is an exciting time of the year and it is especially exciting for Redwoods as we reconfigure our ministry. I am grateful for Stephanie's willingness to continue to serve and engage in ministry with us. I am looking forward to great new outpourings of the Spirit upon us.

In the same breath, I am also grateful for the wonderful and amazing commitment, faithfulness and energy of the Session, deacons and every member of the church and of the love, care and competency that comes from the church office in the work of Mari Robinson.

Peace and blessings,  
Cornel

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## June Church Mouse

### From the Intrepid Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



Redwoods folks are traveling! Congratulations to Debbie and Richard Lundberg who recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in beautiful Yosemite! Later Debbie visited her sister and grandnieces, Lauren, 3 ½ and Charlotte, age 1, in L.A. Joyce Wells celebrated her great-granddaughter Addyson's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday with family in Yuba City.

Also traveling—Ed Vorous, whose trip to France included Easter services at Notre Dame de Paris; the Rademachers who visited national parks in NM, AZ, and Utah; and Redwoods accountant Gail Fox Johnson, who was in Hawaii recuperating after tax season.

Mother's Day at Redwoods was very special. After Stephanie Ryder's homily, Debbie Lundberg, Jan Salas, Margaret Erwin and Iris Giacotto gave personal faith reflections. Margaret's four daughters and grandson were in attendance and she mentioned that two granddaughters were graduating from college. All the mothers received beautiful white roses and Dick Judd played the organ. Cornel and Suellen, who were off on a well-deserved vacation, were missed.

Georgene Gmahling's two sons and two daughters serenaded her on Mother's Day to the tune of "Five Foot Two," only they sang "Five Foot Four." Granddaughter Taylor is graduating from SF State, her dad's alma mater, summa cum laude. Wow!

Congratulations to all Redwoods graduates: Zach Paulson and Ben Girton from Redwood High School, Erik Rademacher from Humboldt State College and our wonderful interns, Stephanie Ryder and Ian Vallenga, from SF Theological Seminary.

Stephanie opted out of her baccalaureate service to attend the NCS Division II Lacrosse Championship, where son, Brooks, and his older brother, Charlie, were on the winning team. Charlie is graduating from Marin Catholic and will attend Cal Poly in the Fall.

A special tribute was paid recently to Ani Lelea by the Synod of the Pacific where she has worked for 50

years! They honored her at a dinner and special worship service at which Cornel preached. Bravo, Ani!

Maxi Mouse reports after visiting the Judds and caregiver, Rosemary, that Marian is progressing well in therapy and (of course) following the Giants. Son-in-law Julio built a ramp off the back deck so Marian can enjoy their lovely garden. However, Mr. Mouse was at Marin General for a "banged up knee." He is now at Greenbrae Care Center for physical therapy. When he comes home, he'll join Mouse Spouse for therapy.

Also recuperating is Gabriele Putzi, who had carpal tunnel surgery, but who is still busy entertaining family members and ringing the bells at choir practice!

Sadly, Redwoods recently lost two members, Merna McIntosh and Lindsey Merritt. Alan and Mickey McIntosh hosted an open house in memory of mother, Merna, who died May 11. Lindsey Merritt's service and interment took place at the Yountville Veteran's Home where he formerly resided.

Bill and Bryce Coleman would like to thank everyone for the beautiful and loving memorial service they experienced in December for their mother, Inga, who was just buried at Solvang Cemetery. The brothers wrote, "we know Inga and Bob spent so many happy years worshipping with all of you and you will always be special to us." (just as they are to Redwoods)

Fun was had by all ten Redwoods folks who participated in the recent Saturday morning breakfast featuring croissant making. Pastry chefs Ed Vorous and John Girton taught mixing and measuring by cup and ruler. They also showed how much butter it takes to create croissants, Pain au Chococats and cinnamon buns. Such a treat! Cheers to the chefs!

Melissa Gills writes that she misses everyone at Redwoods but she is now settling into her life in Norman. She visited three churches and liked the small Presbyterian Church best. She says Norman has big skies, beautiful green trees and a nice mix of people, and she is excited about the possibility of a new career as a real estate agent, a good fit for her skills and a way to get to know the community. She is looking forward to seeing everyone at her party on June 15!

That's all for now. Until next month!

**Mr. Mouse and Spouse and Maxi Mouse**

## Music Notes

**From Stephanie Ryder  
Interim Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Interim Music Director! It was so lovely to have the bell choir play in worship on May 25, and to have the liturgy reflect the joy of the ringing! The bells will be played again during worship on June 15. After this, they will be on hiatus for summer and will rest and refresh for new songs in the fall.

The choir was grateful to have Dick Judd play on May 4 and 18 when I was preaching during Cornel's absence. The organ sounded beautiful accompanying our talented choir! Our dedicated choir members will be rehearsing every other week during the summer months beginning on June 12.

We look forward to continuing to share our voices and hearts with you each Sunday as we sing for God's glory and praise. We invite you to sing along to the songs sung during the offertory that may sound familiar as we repeat them, such as *Thank You, Lord* by Seth Sykes: "Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul, Thank you, Lord, for making me whole, Thank you Lord, for giving to me, Thy great salvation so rich and free!"

Blessings and Peace  
**Stephanie**

## A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern  
Stephanie Ryder**

Greetings from your SFTS Intern!  
I graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity on May 24, having completed all necessary requirements for the degree except for one, and that is this internship which officially ends August 17! So though I did walk across the stage (and thank you to those who came to support and witness!), my actual diploma will be conferred in August when my internship at Redwoods formally concludes.

The Tuesday morning Bible Study has been going strong and we will be finishing our study of Acts on June 10. Stay tuned for the announcement of the exciting new study we will undertake when we meet again in the Fall!

I look forward to working with many of you to create and implement a new after-school program starting this Fall. There are many great ideas and we hope the program will be an enriching service to our community. We welcome prayers throughout the summer for a successful realization of the program.

Yours in Christ,  
**Stephanie**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

Summer is approaching with longer days and warmer weather. It is the time of year to celebrate graduations and enjoy summer vacations. For some it means a more relaxed schedule including here at Redwoods Church. However, there are some upcoming activities we would like to share with you.

On Sunday, June 15, we are planning a farewell party after worship for Melissa Gill who recently moved back to her home town in Oklahoma. She is inviting a number of friends and family to join us for this event and the Membership/Fellowship Committee and Deacons are planning a very special reception. Please join us to give Melissa a proper send off and thank her for the innumerable contributions of her time, talent and friendship to our church and congregation.

Continuing a several year Redwoods' tradition, we will be serving lemonade to the community on July 4<sup>th</sup> during the Twin Cities parade. Many of us have been a part of this joyous outreach to the community in the past and we encourage anyone who would like to join in the fun to participate. We will be posting a sign-up sheet shortly. This is one of the best ways for us to be visible in the community and to show what a special place Redwoods Church is. So the more the merrier!

Please note, we will not be having a Saturday breakfast in June and will resume the breakfasts in the fall. We encourage you to bring visiting family and friends to church this summer. As you already know, we warmly welcome all visitors. Blessings to all, **Nancy**

## Quiet Corner

From Cornel Barnett

### The Practice of the Presence of God \*

We cannot live on the "mountain peak" all the time. We have to go down to wash socks, repair leaky faucets, pay bills and report to the job. One of the most exciting possibilities in devotional growth is the expansion of more vital spiritual experience to occupy all of one's time.

If one form of meditation is thinking in the frame of reference of God, then could not all our thinking become meditation if God became our continuous frame of reference? If devotional experiencing is alertness to more ultimate meanings in occasional selected experiences, could this not include all experiences?

It is a fact of the universe that God is continually present everywhere, within us and around us. All activities can become reminders of our larger relationships and of the quality God would introduce into our acts. We can find the mystical in the mundane. Instead of allowing the miscellaneous activities of life to crowd God out, we let God into all our activities.

We today are much concerned about the totality of personal being and the full range of values, including the secular. Instead of withdrawing from the secular, which classical devotion often tended to do, the practice of the presence clearly affirms the importance of the ordinary or commonplace activities of life.

How may we then learn to practice the presence of God? The central recommendation is that we practice deliberately until the experience becomes spontaneous. This means that we consciously remember God repeatedly during the day. We can practice the presence at various times and places, and in activities and relationships. In every situation we can learn to remember the purposes of God, as the most significant factor in all that exists. Here are some exploratory exercises to focus the journey.

Read Psalm 139:7-12, Matthew 10:29-31, and Romans 8:35-39. Meditate on the presence of God in that which is tremendous and that which is tiny. Reflect on the extent to which you have recognized and related to God in all these situations.

On a sheet of paper draw three columns with the headings "Times," "Places," and "Actions." In the first column outline your usual daily schedule. In the second column, list major features along the route (inside or outside the home) which you ordinarily take as you move through this schedule. In the third column list the most important things you do and persons you regularly meet at these times and places. Then check or underscore those in all three columns which you resolve to make occasions for remembering the presence and purposes of God. Practice this through coming weeks, beginning today.

Think of several significant experiences you have recently had - involving pleasure or pain, success or failure, physical or spiritual matters. How might you have met these experiences differently if you had been at that time more consciously aware of the presence of God?

**Cornel**

\* This article is a summary of Harvey Seifert's work in *Explorations in Meditation and Contemplation*, The Upper Room, 1981.

## Deacons Pray for You!

From Deacon Tani Girton

Do you know that you have angels in our church thinking of you and praying for you regularly? They are your deacons and everyone should know who your personal angel is. If you don't remember who yours is, he or she will remind you soon because they like to keep in touch with you. We also want you to know that you can call your deacon if you want to talk or feel like you need some extra prayers - that is what we're here for. So please remember that there's an ear out there if you ever need to talk or want to ask for help!

**Tani**

## Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

From: *Earth Prayers from Around the World*

I have come to terms with the future.

From this day onward I will walk easy on the earth.

Plant trees. Kill no living things. Live in harmony with all creatures. I will restore the earth where I am.

Use no more of its resources than I need.

And listen, listen to what it is telling me.

M.J. Slim Hooey

**Helen**

# June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach Cmte 11:15 Finance Cmte	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study Support Group	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership Fellowship Committee 12:00 Mill Street	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study Support Group	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> <i>Trinity Sunday</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Melissa Gill Farewell Party	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 7:00 Session	<i>18</i> July/August LOG Deadline	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Prayer Support Group	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship/CE Committee	<i>30</i>					

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

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



### Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Karen Carmody,  
Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Tani & John Girton,  
Polly & Jim Gorder, Jolyne Lliberati,  
Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

### Coffee Hour

Cornel & Suellen Barnett  
June Bellen  
Gabriele Putzi  
Ed Vorous

## Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

- |               |  |                |  |
|---------------|--|----------------|--|
| <b>May 4</b>  | Nancy Rademacher (L), Ed Vorous (G)<br>Margie Egger (U), Suellen Barnett (U) | <b>June 1</b>  | Debbie Lundberg (L), Gabriele Putzi (G)<br>Ani Lelea (U), Suellen Barnett (U)    |
| <b>May 11</b> | Ani Lelea (L), Debbie Lundberg (G)<br>Debbie Lundberg (U), Melissa Gill (U)  | <b>June 8</b>  | Margaret Erwin (L), Iris Giacotto (G)<br>Iris Giacotto (U), Nancy Rademacher (U) |
| <b>May 18</b> | Ed Vorous (L), June Bellen (G)<br>Iris Giacotto (U), June Bellen (U)         | <b>June 15</b> | Clay Wiens (L), Alan Edmonson (G)<br>June Bellen (U)                             |
| <b>May 25</b> | Anna Barnett (L), Bonnie Kaiser (G),<br>Ani Lelea (U), Margie Egger (U)      | <b>June 22</b> | Joyce Wells (L), Nancy Rademacher (G),<br>Margie Egger (U), Debbie Lundberg (U)  |
|               |  | <b>June 29</b> | John Girton (L),<br>Clay Weins (U), Ani Lelea (U)                                |

## Happy Birthdays!

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month: June 2 – Herb Schmidt, 3 – June Bellen, 11 – Diane Newton, 11 – Oakley Dexter, 20 – Jan Salas, 21 – Iris Giacotto, 26 – Ann Barnecut and 30 – John Girton. Add your name to our birthday list by contacting [office@redwoodspres.org](mailto:office@redwoodspres.org) or 924-4832. **Polly**