



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

As a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), I will be constitutionally permitted to perform same gender marriages from June 21 onward. On that day, as per majority vote of presbyteries in our denomination, the *Book of Order* W-4.9000 will read:

“Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

“In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

“If they meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction in which they intend to marry, a couple may request that a service of Christian marriage be conducted by a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is authorized, though not required, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording the marriage contract. A couple requesting a service of Christian marriage shall receive instruction from the teaching elder, who may agree to the couple’s request only if, in the judgment of the teaching elder, the couple demonstrate sufficient understanding of the nature of the marriage covenant and commitment to living their lives together according to its values. In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of the session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service.

“The marriage service shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to this covenant and to the forms of Reformed worship, under the direction of the teaching elder and the supervision of the session (W-1.4004–.4006). In a service of marriage, the couple marry each other by exchanging mutual promises. The teaching elder witnesses the couple’s promises and pronounces God’s blessing upon their union. The community of faith pledges to support the couple in upholding their promises; prayers may be offered for the couple, for the communities that support them, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness.

“A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the statements made shall reflect the fact that the couple is already married to one another according to the laws of the civil jurisdiction.

“Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.”

Enjoy the beginning of summer. Cordially, Cornel

PS: Roundtable discussion texts for June 14: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and Romans 10:1-21.

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate!

Summer is upon us and our church programs are both gearing up and winding down!

It has been a fantastic year of Bible study on Tuesday mornings, with *Forgiveness* in the Fall and *Romans* this Winter and Spring. We will spend the first two sessions in June focusing on Spiritual Gifts and determining our study for Fall. If you would like to join us, please come to the church library at 10:30 am Tuesday, June 2 and/or June 9.

Compassionate Kids has had a successful year on Friday afternoons and will be soon wrapping up for summer break. The kids will be participating in worship on Sunday, June 14 with liturgy and song. Thank you to Debbie, Diane and Molly for helping to make this program flourish.

The two groups, Bible Study and Compassionate Kids, will be collaborating on Tuesday, June 16 from 5-8 pm to serve and share a meal with the 20 women in the new summer pilot REST program. The Rotating Emergency Shelter Team has operated for the past seven winters, providing meals and shelter through local congregations and civic groups.

Starting in June and running through August 3, forty men will be sheltered at the St. Anselm School gym and twenty women will be sheltered at the Health and Wellness Center in San Rafael.

I am grateful that our members and friends from Bible study and Compassionate Kids will provide a meal and be part of this intergenerational mission outing. Please contact me at (415) 992-2411 or stephryder1@gmail.com if you would like to contribute or participate.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
Matthew 25:35

Yours In Christ, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director! In June, we will again be blessed with the music of the Parke Kurtz Memorial Handbell Choir. Please come and rejoice in the sound of our lovely handbell choir at 10 am on Sunday, June 7 before we take our break for summer.

The members of Redwoods Sanctuary Choir grace us with their beautiful voices nearly every Sunday of the year. My heartfelt thanks goes out to these dedicated singers who meet to rehearse on Thursday evenings and prior to worship on Sunday mornings. Sunday, June 28 will mark the last Sunday to hear the choir in full bloom before their summer break for July and August. These two months will feature guest musicians while our choir takes a well-deserved rest.

To wrap up the series of LOG issues pointing out the health benefits of singing, here is a compiled (though likely not comprehensive!) list:

1. Singing releases endorphins, which inhibit pain and produce a feeling of euphoria.
2. Singing releases oxytocin, a natural stress reliever that alleviates feelings of depression and loneliness
3. Singing promotes better sleep by relieving stress
4. Singing increases lung capacity and improves posture
5. Singing Increases mental alertness through greater oxygenation
6. Singing boosts immunity by promoting a healthy lymphatic system
7. Singing clears respiratory tubes and sinuses.
8. Singing lowers blood pressure
9. When people sing together they feel increased sense of community and belonging
10. Singing more frequently improves singing quality!

We are greatly blessed by the gift of singing and song. The Bible repeatedly records singing and music as a joyful way to praise the Lord.

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you -- I, whom you have redeemed. Psalm 71:23

Blessings, **Stephanie**

June Church Mouse

Before we know it summer will be here! In the meanwhile, many nice things are happening at Redwoods this spring.



Congratulations to Karen Carmody and Debbie Lundberg. During the Hospice By the Bay's Volunteer Appreciation reception, Karen received her 25 year service pin and Debbie received hers for 20 years of service. That's a lot of hours helping others in need.

Kurt and Nancy Rademacher left on April 17 to meet son Erik in Paris. They traveled together to Valenciennes, Amsterdam, Swiss Alps, Loire Valley, and flew home from Paris on May 8. Nancy said Erik was a wonderful tour guide. After Erik returned home with his parents, he took off for northern Idaho to the Gospel Hump wilderness area working for the ranger and rescue team. Molly gave a wonderful talk and beautiful video of her earlier trip with Erik to France and the British Isles at the May Saturday breakfast. What an adventurous family!

Wasn't it great having the Boy Scouts participate in the worship service on May 3? Around ten scouts, with parents and leaders, attended. Besides reading the Scout Law in the service, they led a processional and recessional color guard. Afterwards a special reception was held in Fellowship Hall. Ed Vorous attended in his scout uniform. Among his various duties, he prepares meals for the scouts when they meet at Camp Tamarancho in Fairfax.

The following week was a lovely worship and Mother's Day celebration. Many church and visiting families attended. Each mother was given a white rose. Along with Cornel, Faith McClellan, Anna Barnett and Carrie Kim gave special remembrances of their mothers. Redwoods Bell Choir performed during the service. We are very happy to have Ed Vorous as part of the bell choir. Ed's mom, Barbara, came from Sacramento to hear him play!

We are very thankful Helen Morita's test turned out well. A while back her daughter, Trish, received national recognition for her Ph.D. dissertation in

Chicago. (By the way, Karen Carmody taught Trish in first grade.) Nice to have Barbara Slusher return after a brief illness. We missed seeing and having her help in the kitchen! Happy to have Marilyn Sutherland back in the choir. Our special prayers for Kitty Prosser who is returning to Mt. Sinai Hospital for further treatment.

Happy Anniversary to Debbie and Richard Lundberg. Actually their anniversary was in December but they always celebrate in the spring with a special trip to Mendocino. Also happy news about son Eric who recently became engaged to his girlfriend Gina!

Looking forward to summertime! **The Mouse**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Summer is fast approaching with longer days, home grown vegetables from our gardens and relaxing on decks, patios and in backyards. It also means graduations and summer vacations. With more relaxed schedules, this is a good time to reach out to friends and neighbors and invite them to join you at church.

This month's breakfast will be on Saturday, June 20 with a presentation on water conservation by Ginger Gmahling. Ginger has a long term and strong interest in water conservation and has been involved with several organizations that focus on this issue. She recently attended a symposium with a group of water experts and would like to share what she learned regarding education, fun facts and conversation tips. She plans to include a quiz with prizes as rewards. This should be a very informative and fun program so please plan to join us. The light potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am.

Movie night at Redwoods Church on our new flat screen TV (Thank you, Mari Robinson, for this donation!) Mark your calendars for 7 pm, Sunday June 28 to see *Impact*, a film noir movie partially filmed in Larkspur in the late '40's. It has gotten good reviews from members and some have family members and friends that were "extras." The Membership/Fellowship Committee will provide popcorn and soft drinks. Feel free to bring your own wine or beer if you like. There will be a sign up sheet available in Fellowship Hall in early June. **Continued on page 5**

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Holy Communion 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>12</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Roundtable Discussion 11:15 Worship/CE 12:00 Mill Street	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 5:00 REST Program Outing	<i>17</i> LOG Deadline for July/August Issue (Deadline for September issue: August 10)	<i>18</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>21</i> Birthday Sunday Father's Day 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/Fellowship Committee	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 7:00 Movie Night	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	Meeting Reminders Upon leaving, all room users must: 1. Turn off all appliances 2. Turn off heat 3. Turn off lights 4. Turn off water 5. Close all doors and windows Thank you!			

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Continued from page 3

The Fourth of July is fast approaching and we plan to continue our well-loved and fun tradition of serving lemonade to the community 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!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 22 to see a play at the Masquers Theater in Point Richmond and enjoy a post theater party at the Barnett's. Another Ross Valley Players theater outing is also in the works for later in the summer.

Blessings to all, **Nancy**

Mission Outreach News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

Thanks Given and Thanks Received

Posted in Fellowship Hall you will find thank you letters from the Marin Interfaith Council, Bread for the World, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Faith in Practice, Heifer International, Marin Food Bank, and the Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Members and friends of Redwoods have generously supported these groups thanking them for all they do to spread the good news. In return we have received their thanks. The light of the Good News abounds!

Debbie

Memorial Fund News

From the new Memorial Fund Committee

At the February meeting of Session, at the recommendation of Treasurer Jim Gorder, a Memorial Fund Committee was formed to look into some uses for our memorial funds. The Committee, composed of Jim Gorder, Debbie Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher, Rev. Stephanie Ryder, Jan Salas and Clay Wiens, has prayerfully decided upon some uses for the funds.

A portion will be used to freshen up the narthex and provide double-paned clear glass windows and new shades in the Fellowship Hall. Another portion will be used for local mission. Some ideas are: a donation to the Larkspur Library renovation, Canal Alliance, Ritter House, or Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy. What do you see as an important mission for Redwoods Presbyterian Church at this time? Please feel free to provide us with your recommendations. We will be formally collecting your ideas and opinions soon.

Deacons News

From Bonnie Kaiser

In May, all Redwoods members received a memorial planning guide (others interested in a copy may request one from the office.) The Deacons would like to take this opportunity to remind members and friends about the role the Deacons play in memorials. The Deacons host memorial services, that is, we work with families to supply and serve refreshments (i.e. coffee/tea/juice and desserts). If families have food catered, we coordinate with a family member regarding the serving of the food and the clean up. It is our pleasure to be there for our church family. **Bonnie**

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

From the U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program:

We join with the earth and with each other
to bring new life to the land
to restore the waters
to refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other
to renew the forests
to care for the plants
to protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with each other
to celebrate the seas
to rejoice in the sunlight
to sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other
to recreate the human community,
to promote justice and peace
to remember our children

We join together as many and diverse expressions
of one loving mystery for the healing of the earth
and the renewal of all life. **Helen**

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in May – Thank you so much!

Mill Street Meal

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Karen Carmody,
Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, John & Tani Griton.
Polly & Jim Gorder, Bonnie Kaiser, Debbie Lundberg,
Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

May 3 - Membership/Fellowship Committee
May 10 - Bonnie Kaiser, Ed Vorous
May 17 - June Bellen, Barbara Slusher
May 24 - June Bellen, Bonnie Kaiser
May 31 - Margie Egger, Gabriele Putzi

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

May 3	Scout Pac 43, Tani Girton (G) Clay Wiens (U)	June 7	Joyce Wells (L), Jan Salas (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)
May 10	Anna Barnett (L), Ed Vorous (G) Ani Lelea (U)	June 14	Bonnie Kaiser (L), Nancy Rademacher (G) Iris Giacotto (U)
May 17	Jim Gorder (L), Debbie Lundberg (G), Carrie Kim (U)	June 21	Jan Salas (L), Clay Wiens (G), Suellen Barnett (U)
May 24	Nancy Rademacher (L), Suellen Barnett (G), Iris Giacotto (U)	June 28	Clay Wiens (L), John Griton (G), Jan Salas (U)
May 31	Tani Girton (L), Gabriele Putzi (G), Ed Vorous (U)		

Happy Birthday from the Deacons!

2 – Herb Schmidt, 3 – June Bellen, 11 – Diane Newton, 11 – Oakley Dexter,
20 – Jan Salas, 21 – Iris Giacotto, 26 – Ann Barnecut, 30 – John Girton

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

Tani Girton