



# The Redwoods Log

July/August 2013 - 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,

This is the last LOG for this school year. The next LOG will be in your houses and online at the end of August. This is a great time for me to express my gratitude to God for your wonderful participation in the work and worship of this fine congregation.

Our greatest reward is our faithfulness to Jesus Christ in and out of the church. It's a joy and challenge which you willingly embrace.

We are a church and therefore, in the eyes of many, we embrace "religion," and religion has a pretty bad rap these days. People contrast "religion" with "spirituality," and in doing so, laud the latter at the expense of the former.

I have no problem with the words "religion" and "spirituality." They have been interchangeable for me, but some people draw out their differences, as Matthew Fox does in his book, *A New Reformation*. He writes: "Spirituality and religion are not the same any more than education and learning, law and justice, or commerce and stewardship are the same."

I generally like what Fox says, but here he sets up a false dichotomy, because the church, as "religion," is all about learning, justice and stewardship, as well as spirituality.

An ancient Roman scholar said that "religion" comes from the verb *relegere*, "to re-read" or "to pass on." Thus, he understood religion as "tradition." A Latin scholar said "religion" comes from the verb *religare*, "to bind fast." Thus, he understood religion as that which binds people to each other and to the gods or God. Both understandings are reflected in the way we use the word "religion" today.

We think of religion as a way of ordering the world which is passed on from generation to generation, and also a process for connecting people to gods or powers and to each other.

While reasonable people get this, some have concern with the negative effects of so-called "organized religion." So do I, but I have no problem with the word "organized" because most effective organizations are organized, such as schools and hospitals.

I'll leave the subject there for your summer reflection, and before I sign off, I encourage you to see the new ministries of our church communicated on page five of this LOG: the after school program and the voice-training workshop.

Also, a hearty farewell to our seminary intern, Ian Vellenga. Ian's faithfulness, development in ministry and presence with us has been a joy, and we wish him Godspeed. Shortly after Ian leaves, we will welcome our new intern, Stephanie Ryder, who will also be our interim Music Director. Some of us have already met Stephanie and appreciate her upbeat and joyful spirit.

Mari and I begin vacation on August 5. Mari returns August 19; I return August 26. Ian will man the office in Mari's absence, and Ian and the Rev Dan White will be pastors-on-call during my absence. Ian can be reached at 919-247-5002 until August 15; Dan at 415-640-5693.

God bless you and have a great summer! Cornel

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## July/August Church Mouse

### Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



Greetings! Summer is here and 2013 is half gone! Redwoods people are busy going places and doing things. Graduations are over and some graduates have jobs! Melissa Gill's son, David, has a job in Santa Cruz. Jeff Lelea has a summer job as a painter while waiting for his chaplaincy job to begin in September.

Other good things happened too! The Putzis visited their families in Germany and Austria. The Eggers went to New Orleans but getting there was not easy—think cancelled flights, long waits at the SF Airport and missed connections. Bob and June Bellen visited family in Florida.

The Forster family had a reunion in Gray Eagle where Diane's son, Tom, and wife, Maureen, live. Some of the 40 attendees, including Diane and dog, Sadie, had a camping adventure. One family who camped near the Forsters brought a tent for their dogs! Diane made a lot of pancakes. And thanks to modern technology, they skyped with family in Maine and Australia.

We're happy to hear that Wayne Slemp is liking life at the Veteran Home in Yountville. Lindsey Merritt is there, too, and really enjoying life off the boat.

Other happy news! Zach Paulson was the liturgist on June 2. Zack is a good reader. Mom, Melissa, mentioned that he had received a special ensemble award for drama for his junior year at Redwoods High.

Barbara Slusher had a birthday gift that gave her a thrill. She attended the Celtic Women Concert at Civic Center!

Former member, Oakley Dexter, is 90! Some Redwoods people attended his birthday party in Dixon.

Seminary intern, Ian Vellenga's brother was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Marines.

Georgene Gmahling's musical group, the Fortissimos gave a concert at the Tamalpais.

Margaret Erwin became a great grandmother for the 16th time. On June 3, Baby Michael Zeped was born in Utah.

Merna McIntosh's friend Rachael Deaghrage has come to live with her permanently. Welcome Rachael!

Sad news. Allison Lynn Pitts, daughter of Joyce Wells left this world unexpectedly and too soon on June 7. Please keep Joyce and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

In the "good to see" category, we have Helen Morita and Klara Larsen. Mark Larsen and daughters, Hannah and Faith, all from Boston, came for a family reunion. Dr. Hannah recently finished her internship at Harvard Medical School and now works in a community mental health center. Faith is an events planner for a Boston restaurant.

We're also glad to see Blaise Salas when he's home from Las Vegas, and Bob Bellen when his work schedules permit. Otherwise we see Bob at Paradise Foods.

Have a good summer! Cheer for the Giants! We'll be back in September. **Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

## Happy Birthdays

### From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday in July and August:

#### July

1 – Suellen Barnett, 4 – Kitty Prosser, 10 – Ani Lelea  
12 – Helen Caldwell, 15 – Dan Phipps

#### August

2 – Merna McIntosh, 8 – Deb Lundberg,  
10 – Cornel Barnett, 17 – Erik Rademacher ('91),  
18 – Barbara Linse, 19 – Eva Peoples,  
25 – Lawrence Reh

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

## July/August Choir News

As usual, the choir takes a break from Thursday practices during July and August and rehearses only immediately before worship. They also welcome guest musicians to some summer services.

The bell choir is continuing its Tuesday 9 am practices throughout the summer, and will next play at the July 21 worship service.

## A Word from your Intern

### From SFTS Intern

#### Ian Vellenga

Greetings, everyone!

It's been about a year since I first started at Redwoods, and sadly, my time as your intern is drawing to a close. You all have been so wonderful to me. It has been very insightful and wonderful experience, and I admit I had some fun too!

My time at Redwoods has taught me invaluable skills and lessons that I will continue to use wherever I go. Wherever the Spirit leads, you all will always have a place in my heart. As my internship nears its end, I ask for prayers and blessings as I continue on with my ministry. God bless, **Ian**

## New Prayer Support Group

### From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

From September 2012 to May 2013, a number of Redwoods members participated in an online prayer program. In June, the group decided to continue meeting as the "Prayer Support Group" and to use the prayer program for another year, but in print format. The group will meet for the first time at 11:15 am on Sunday, September 29 and all those interested in prayer are encouraged to participate. Peace, **Cornel**

## Deacons News

### From Moderator Polly Gorder

Summer is upon us and that's a relaxed time for everybody. Your deacons remain faithfully at their posts keeping ushers, liturgists, greeters, coffee hour, Mill Street meal delivery and miscellaneous correspondence in working order.

We'd like to remind you, while in your relaxed state, not to forget to sign up for the Mill Street meals and coffee hour. Coffee hour is very simple and just a bite or two is perfect. Deacon June Bellen is the Coffee Hour Coordinator, so speak with her if you have any questions. While we're on the subject of food, please remember the Marin Food Bank's barrel in Fellowship Hall throughout the summer months.

All the deacons take seriously their charge to stay in contact with and pray for the members of their Parish Care group, and we do that in July and August too.

"Happy Summer!" to all our Redwoods family, **Polly**

## Mission Outreach

## Committee News

### From Chair Debbie Lundberg

#### Lemonade

Last week during my travels around Larkspur, I encountered not one but two lemonade stands! The first was on the corner of King and Magnolia just across from City Hall. A very enthusiastic group of young girls was selling lemonade and brownies. I stopped and talked with them, asking what they were raising money for. They were going to use the funds to help those who had been hurt in the devastating storms in Oklahoma. Amazing!

The next day as I was walking down to Lucky I heard shouting and thought, "What now?" Well, the "what now?" turned out to be a group of young boys and girls inviting one and all to stop for a glass of lemonade. They were raising money to help the Humane Society. Amazing!

These two groups of young people were an eloquent reminder of how we can love and help our neighbors—near and far. What do you think?

#### Summer Reading

Besides the Homeward Bound publications and the Senior Care Directory I recommended in the last LOG, you will also find *Horizons*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women in Fellowship Hall. Happy reading and have a wonderful summer! **Debbie**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

### From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee!  
We have a number of upcoming events that we hope are of interest to you:

During the annual parade on July 4th, a group from Redwoods will be serving complimentary lemonade to the community in front of Fellowship Hall. The folks who did this last year said it was great fun and a terrific way to reach out to our neighbors and let them know who we are. Even if you are not able to help that morning, stop by and have a glass of lemonade!

On July 28: we are planning a theater outing to see *The Dixie Swim Club* performed by the Ross Valley Players at the Marin Art and Garden Center Barn. The Barn describes the play as follows:

“...eccentric characters and sweet southern charm in a sassy comedy about friendships between women that last a lifetime. Five girlfriends set aside a weekend every August and meet on North Carolina’s Outer Banks to reconnect, gossip, laugh and meddle in each other’s lives. Focusing on four weekends spanning a period of 35 years, this comedy takes a poignant and surprising turn, demonstrating the strength and love these women share...hilarity with a heart.”

There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall so please let us know if you can attend. In the past, we have had enough of a turnout to get a group discount so hopefully we can get this again. Regularly-priced tickets are \$26 general and \$22 (seniors/youth). The play is at 2 pm, and we plan to have a light sandwich lunch beforehand. We will then carpool to the theater.

Our committee will be hosting a special coffee hour on Sunday, August 4, as we bid farewell to our dedicated and talented seminary intern, Ian Vellenga. This will be a chance to express our gratitude to Ian for all he has done at Redwoods and wish him well.

Homecoming Sunday is scheduled for September 8 and we are planning a barbeque lunch after the service. More details on this will be forthcoming.

We will not be having the Saturday breakfast in July and August, but it will resume in September.

Please mark your calendars to attend all our summer events. And please invite family and friends to join you. Have a wonderful summer!

Blessings, **Nancy**

## Endowment and Special Use Committee News

### From Chair Nancy Rademacher

As most of us are aware there were many changes with the new tax law that became effective at the beginning of this year. I would like to point out the many positives to the new estate and gift tax rules.

The new rules mean that 99.8% of estates will potentially owe no tax in 2013, according to a recent report by the Tax Policy Center. Fewer people will need to worry about the effects of the estate tax. People can plan with more confidence when providing for loved ones and charities.

The news on estate and gift taxes is mostly good because the rates and amounts are now permanent. For the past decade or so, the tax rate and the exemption amount changed from year to year. And in 2010, there was no estate tax at all. The trend was toward lower estate and gift taxes, but the uncertainty along the way was unnerving.

Just as there are options when selecting ways to meet one’s financial and tax planning goals, there are also options for meeting philanthropic goals. Charitable giving can be an important component in your overall financial strategy. Please discuss these options with your financial adviser.

We hope you consider including Redwoods Church as one of the beneficiaries in your estate plans.

Please designate gifts with this wording: “Dedicated to Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939; Tax ID No. 94-1347047”

**Nancy**

## Free Singing Workshop! Saturday, July 27 11am-12:30 pm

Come on Saturday, July 27 at 11 am for a free singing workshop led by trainer/vocal consultant Denise Wharmby (*Dip Mus, L Mus A*).

Denise, who church staff know as the pianist and teacher for the Marin Girls Chorus, has taught all over the world for many years. She welcomes singers of all backgrounds to this first of three monthly singing workshops at Redwoods. Current members of choirs, individuals who want to learn quick tips to improve their voice, and anyone who has ever wanted to try to sing, are welcome. There is something in this for everyone.

Each workshop provides insights and a deeper understanding of the individual singing voice as well as experience in how to sing in a choral/larger group setting. While developing ways to improve range, tone, articulation and expression, the musical content in the series, will be drawn from a combination of music suitable for church settings and a selection of secular pieces, along with fun vocal warmups. There will be an opportunity to leave a freewill donation.

For further information, please contact Denise at 415-491-4231 or [denise@catspawmusic.com](mailto:denise@catspawmusic.com).

## Earth Prayers and Thanks

**From Helen Morita**

The following prayer was taken from *Graces* by June Cotner: *"Help us to keep*

*our ears to the earth  
and our eyes in the stars.  
Amen."* Steve Myrvang

**Helen**

## New Children's Program

**From Melissa Gill and Suellen Barnett**

"After School: Study, Fun and Music at Redwoods" is a new program developed by a committee of Melissa Gill, Suellen Barnett, Molly Rademacher, Diane Forster, Clay Wiens and Jan Salas.

The idea is to have a once-a-week program from 2-4pm for students in first through fifth grades. We will start at 2 pm with a study hall, break at 3 pm for a snack and have a musical component from 3:30 to 4 pm. We are hoping that the students will prepare for a musical presentation in a worship service once a month, with parents invited. Wednesday was the day selected because Neil Cummins school gets out early on that day at 1:30 pm.

Here is how the program developed: Melissa and Suellen discussed the idea with Valerie Pitts, daughter of Joyce Wells and Superintendent of Larkspur/Sausalito School Districts. Valerie was very supportive of this plan. She says we can put notices of the program in the students' backpack mail and the teachers can announce it. At the beginning of the school year, we can also have a flyer included with all the other back-to-school notices.

We contacted Marin Primary & Middle School but they have their own study hall programs. They said that later on we were welcome to use a school park they are developing.

The school year begins for Hall and Neil Cummins on September 9, and we will start our program on September 18 and run for 10 weeks until November 20. We will charge \$6 per session and offer a sliding scale so no one would be excluded for not being able to pay.

If you have suggestions which could help with "After School: Study, Fun and Music at Redwoods" please let any of those mentioned above hear your ideas! Your participation is also welcomed.

The committee appreciates all your thoughts and prayers on this new venture!

**Melissa and Suellen**

### **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)**

# July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTE: All Redwoods officers and committees are In recess the month of July.	1	2 9:00 Bell Choir	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	8	9 9:00 Bell Choir	10	11	12	13
14 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 12:00 Mill Street	15	16 9:00 Bell Choir	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	22	23 9:00 Bell Choir	24	25	26	27
28 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	29	30 9:00 Bell Choir	31			

# August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Holy Communion</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9:00 Bell Choir	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship/CE 12:00 Mill Street	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>  9:00 Bell Choir  7:00 Deacons	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/Fellowship	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>  9:00 Bell Choir	<i>21</i>  LOG Deadline	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>  9:00 Bell Choir  7:00 Session	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>  LOG Mailing  7:30 Choir	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

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



**Mill Street Shelter Meals** Suellen Barnett, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells

### Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

**June 2** Zach Paulson (L), Clay Wiens (G),  
June Bellen (U) , Iris Giacotto (U)  
**June 9** Jim Gorder (L), June Bellen (G)  
Suellen Barnett (U) Nancy Rademacher (U)  
**June 16** Alan Edmonson (L), Marjorie Egger (G)  
Ani Lelea (U), Debbie Lundberg (U)  
**June 23** Nancy Rademacher (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),  
Margie Egger (U), Melissa Gill (U)  
**June 30** Joyce Wells (L), Iris Giacotto (G),  
Suellen Barnett (U), Clay Wiens (U)

### Coffee Hour

Suellen & Cornel Barnett, June Bellen,  
James Holmes, Barbara Slusher

**July 7** Debbie Lundberg (L), June Bellen (G),  
Clay Wiens (U), Suellen Barnett (U)  
**July 14** Nancy Rademacher (L), Kitty Prosser (G)  
Ani Lelea (U), Iris Giacotto (U)  
**July 21** Margaret Erwin (L), Ani Lelea (G)  
Suellen Barnett (U), Melissa Gill (U)  
**July 28** Anna Barnett (L), Suellen Barnett (G),  
Margie Egger (U), Nancy Rademacher (U)  
**Aug 4** Melissa Gill (L), Lori Wood (G),  
June Bellen (U), Ani Lelea (U)  
**Aug 11** Ian Vellenga (L), Melissa Gill (G)  
Melissa Gill (U) Iris Giacotto (U)  
**Aug 18** Debbie Lundberg (L), Clay Weins (G)  
Suellen Barnett (U), Margie Egger (U)  
**Aug 25** Nancy Rademacher (L),  
Ani Lelea (U), Melissa Gill (U)