



The Redwoods Log

July August 2014 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspress.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) passed two landmark overtures at its biennial meeting in late June.

Divestment from Caterpillar Inc., Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions, company said to be engaged in “non-peaceful pursuits” in Israel and Palestine. The Mission Responsibility through Investment committee of the denomination has been in conversation with the three companies since 2004 and they recommended divestment. A number of presbyteries also recommended divestment.

Granting pastors discretion to conduct same-gender marriages in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal. The action effectively removes the ban on Presbyterian pastors marrying same-gender couples in those jurisdictions.

Following the marriage overture, leaders of the church wrote a pastoral letter to the congregations. What they say here equally applies in spirit to the Israeli/Palestine action. Here’s their letter:

“Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Earlier today the 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved a recommendation from its Civil Union and Marriage Issues Committee allowing for pastoral discretion to perform “any such marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform,” where legal by state law.

“They also approved a recommendation to change language in the Book of Order to indicate that “marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman.”

“Both decisions came with much thought, discussion and prayer, and clearly, the entire body that is the PC (USA) will be interpreting these actions for some time. Please know that the same triune God in whom we place our hope, faith and trust in is still in control, and that the Assembly’s action today is the result of deep discernment to hear God’s voice and discern God’s will.

“We concur with the feelings expressed by Teaching Elder Commissioner Jeffrey Bridgeman, moderator of the Civil Union and Marriage Issues Committee, during his presentation to the Assembly. “The apostle Paul tells us that ours is, in fact, ‘the ministry of reconciliation’ as ‘ambassadors of Christ,’ and he died for us so that we might be reconciled, that we might become reconcilers,” Bridgeman said.

“In this season of both happiness and sadness over the Assembly’s decisions, we call on you to remember the overflowing grace and love God gifts us with, and to take seriously our charge to bestow the same grace and love on one another.

“In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Ruling Elder Heath K. Rada, Moderator, 221st General Assembly; The Reverend Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly; and Ruling Elder Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency.”

God’s blessings for a lovely summer. – Cornel

Summer Church Mouse

From the Intrepid Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



To our Redwoods Church Family:

Maxi Mouse went visiting Mr. Mouse and Spouse at Marin General Hospital since Spouse Marian went in at the end of June for a heart episode. Marian is in great spirits and is anticipating returning home just as soon as her health issues are straightened out. Daughter Liza has been staying with Dick. Mr. Mouse and Spouse are so glad that Maxi Mouse Diane is keeping up with the news for the Mouse column.

Great to see Helen Morita worshipping with us each Sunday looking just wonderful. Recently son, Mark, attended with daughter, Lilly. Happy to have George Gmahling and daughter, Ginger, at worship too.

We've also had some wonderful visitors. It was a nice surprise having Mark Larsen here from Boston with girlfriend, Susan, as well as Tamara Wood along with her Aunt Sylvia from Winnipeg, Canada. The Gorders also had their son, Andy, visiting from Centennial, Colorado. Some lucky visitors got to hear Selin Holder sing a solo. What a lovely and powerful voice!

Congratulations to June and Bob Bellen who celebrated their 20th Wedding Anniversary on June 26. A special dinner with music was enjoyed by the happy couple. Congratulations are also in order to Bob for his new job at Whole Foods. Go Bellens!

Melissa Gill surprised us at worship the week before her farewell party! She rode the train from Denver to attend Zack's graduation from Redwood. Zack will attend Willamette University, OR. She mentioned the University was originally a Presbyterian school founded before Oregon was a state. By the way, Melissa has found a new small Presbyterian Church near her home. We are happy for her and know that her new church is lucky to have her. We will miss her lively personality and can-do spirit.

Lots of graduations, promotions and moves! Zach Paulson received a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma at his graduation, as did Redwoods graduate Ben Franklin Girton, who was also given the Music Department Award and the Advanced Performance Workshop Award. Another talented graduate is Katrina Kaiser, daughter of Bonnie and John, who got her BS in Geology from Cal Poly, Pomona in June.

Jeffrie Lelea has completed his residency as chaplain at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He's coming back to California and will be looking for a job at a trauma hospital. Our good luck and blessings to you, Jeffrie. Don't forget to visit us at Redwoods!

We offer the same warm congratulations to Faith McClellan on her year-long residency at UCSF Medical Center beginning September 8. Faith feels very lucky to be able to stay in the Bay Area and almost didn't get this residency. Ask her the story!

Diane Forster's grandson Chris, who lived with them and attended church while he did, is also "moving up the ladder" and has finally been hired as a Firefighter Engineer in Red Bluff where he lives. He has been working on this for a long time. Bravo Chris!

Some of us are enjoying "stay-cations"! George and Georgene Gmahling recently had a lively experience riding an amphibian boat called "Duck." Georgene described it as a crazy ride through San Francisco then straight into the water at China Basin for a tour of the waterfront. Sounds exciting!

Finally, Mouse Spouse Marian is surely praying for the Giants! In June they had the best record in baseball and then they dropped 10 out of 13. Luckily, they still have plenty of time left in the season to rally.

We hope everyone has a fun and exciting summer. See you in September and so long for now!

**Mr. Mouse & Spouse
(aka "Wobbly Walker")**

Music Notes

**From Stephanie Ryder
Interim Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Interim Music Director!

Deepest thanks to Diane Forster for the dedication of the new *Glory to God* hymnals in her husband Jack's memory. They are a wonderful new addition to our worship services and contain a rich collection of music. It is very exciting and a wonderful example of how the Spirit is moving at Redwoods! Thank you, Diane, for this thoughtful and meaningful gift to the church. May the memory of beloved Jack live on through our voices and instruments each week as we sing from these glorious hymnals.

It was lovely having the bells play in the service on June 15. We are hoping to play more frequently (once a month) in the fall. It is such a talented and dedicated group!

Thanks so much to those in the bell group who come early to set up for services. There was a bit more room around the tables this time because the Clavinova has been moved to the space where the piano had been!

It has been exceptionally fun for me to experiment with the different sounds and capabilities of this fantastic instrument. The beautiful piano (a gift from Merna McIntosh) has been moved to the library, where it will be used to bring music to committee meetings, Bible study and various other events.

I was so grateful to have Ann Jefferson play as the special musician on June 29 when I preached. I met Ann at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and she has been such a blessed gift to my life as our paths have crossed throughout the years.

Summer will offer many opportunities for fun in music ministry-- plans are in the works for special music for our cafe-style worships on July 13 and August 10 and on July 20 when I will be preaching!

Our very own talented Georgene Gmahling will be playing for me on July 27 and August 3 when I will be on vacation on the East Coast. I know she has some exciting ideas for those Sundays!

The choir will be rehearsing less often (a well-deserved summer break!), yet our congregation will continue to be blessed by their beautiful voices and passionate spirits.

Best Wishes for a Happy Summer!

Stephanie

A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern
Stephanie Ryder**

The Bible study support group finished up our N.T. Wright study of *Acts* on June 10. It was fascinating to study Christianity in its formative stages and Paul's involvement, and we have decided to spend next year looking at Paul's letters.

We will start in the fall with *Romans*, using the excellent N.T. Wright study again. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us from 10:30-11:30 am on Tuesday mornings, and I will order a copy of the study for you.

I am looking forward to working with Suellen and Molly to form our children's program for the fall. This year's program will include Bible study and we are so excited about this! Stay tuned!

I am so grateful for the education I received at the M. Div program at SFTS these past three years. I graduated on May 24. I am also extremely grateful for my internship year with this congregation. I am looking forward to continuing on here at Redwoods Pres in the areas of Community Formation and Family Ministry. I am hoping with a more relaxed schedule so that I will now have increased time for pastoral visits. I look forward to visiting with many of you this summer!

Blessings,

Stephanie

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

The Membership/Fellowship committee sends its greeting to all. Thanks for the great participation at Melissa’s going away party on June 15. It was a bit-tersweet time, but we gave Melissa a wonderful and heartfelt sendoff and she seemed very pleased.

As most of you know, we will be serving lemonade to the community on July 4th 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.

There is a sign-up sheet for this event in Fellowship Hall but if you don’t get a chance to sign up, come anyway. The more participation, the better. 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.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, July 27, when we are planning to attend Ross Valley Players matinee performance of *Old Money* by Wendy Wasserstein. The description of the play that follows is from the Ross Valley Players’ website:

“The setting is an ornate mansion in Manhattan at two dinner parties—one in the early 1900s, hosted by a robber baron; and the other, 100 years later, hosted by a contemporary master of high-risk arbitrage.

In *Old Money*, Wasserstein deftly observes how social conventions, professional eminence and familial relationships have changed (little) and remained the same (largely) for over a century. It has been called an adroitly constructed dual universe—clever and entertaining.”

There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, so please let us know as soon as possible if you can make it. Depending on how many sign up, we may be able to

get a group discount. Regularly priced tickets are \$26.00 and seniors \$22.00.

We also plan to serve a light lunch prior to the 2:00 pm performance so please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you would like to have lunch. There will be a modest charge for those having lunch.

As usual, we will be car-pooling to the theater, so please also indicate on the sign-up sheet if you are able to drive or need a ride.

We are excited to announce what is becoming another Redwoods tradition. On Sunday, September 14, we will once again be going to Masquers’ Theatre in Point Richmond to see Kurt Weill’s *Berlin to Broadway*. It is described as follows:

“A remarkable musical voyage through the career of one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Weill’s musical masterpieces are presented in a glorious blend of song and story that takes us from the terror of Hitler’s Germany to the glamour of the golden age of the Great White Way.”

Most of us have participated in one or more of the previous performances Redwoods Church has attended as a group. And as a special treat, Cornel and Suellen have once again graciously invited us to their home afterwards to a post theater party. A sign-up sheet will be posted later this summer. Again, we will be arranging car-pools for this event.

Have a glorious summer. And don’t forget to invite family and friends to join you at church. We love welcoming visitors!

Blessings,
Nancy

Please consider including:
Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939
Tax ID No. 94-1347047
among the beneficiaries of your estate plan.

July 2014

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

August 2014

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

Mission Outreach Committee News From Member Jan Salas

Pentecost Offering

"From my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." Psalm 71:17

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, the members and friends of Redwoods participated in the Pentecost Offering, one of the four special offerings of our denomination.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. The offering supports Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth and Child Advocacy.

Last year, the Presbytery of the Redwoods had 17 youth attend the Youth Triennium, one of the programs for youth. The Triennium is one of many programs partially supported by the Pentecost Offering. (For more information about the programs visit www.pcusa.org.)

Forty percent of the Pentecost offering is retained by for local mission. This year the Mission Outreach Committee voted to contribute the local portion to the Family and Children's Law Center (FACLC) in San Rafael.

The FACLC is a unique non-profit agency found only in Marin County. Their mission statement reads "The Family & Children's Law Center enables families and children to enjoy a more successful future by helping them to navigate the legal system. We provide high-quality, low-cost legal services to families and children on matters ranging from child abuse and domestic violence to child custody and support. We serve all forms of families and are advocates for the needs and rights of children."

The attorneys and other employees and volunteers at FACLC are dedicated to advocating for families, and especially children, while navigating the legal system during times of family upheaval, such as divorce.

Your generosity in contributing to the Pentecost Offering means that needy Marin families, and especially their children, will enjoy a more successful future. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Bread for the World—Offering of Letters Does Advocacy Work?

The members and friends of Redwoods have participated in the annual Offerings of Letters for many years. Each October, we take pen in hand and write our elected representatives in Washington in an attempt to persuade them to take action against hunger.

Research conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation reports that members of Congress are indeed influenced by individual letters from constituents. Personalized, handwritten letters are still the best way to communicate to legislators.

In 2013, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously passed the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, which calls for improved monitoring of foreign assistance. This was one of the petitions to Congress during the Offering of Letters last year.

In 2010, Congress passed two bills for which Bread for the World had been advocating: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids and the Tax Relief, and Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act.

In 2009, after Bread for the World advocacy for the Global Poverty Act, a supplemental appropriation of \$1.8 billion was enacted to respond to global hunger.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Food is a basic need, and it is unjust that so many people do not have enough to eat. Advocacy works, with the stroke of a pen, policies can be enacted to redirect funds and affect millions of lives. To quote David Beckerman, President of Bread for the World "We can write hunger into history."

Jan

Deacon's Corner Mill Street Shelter

From Deacon Gabriele Putzi

To all you providers who participate so faithfully in providing healthful meals to the guests at the Mill Street facility, our (and their) **sincere thanks**.

For many years the Deacons have taken this program under their wing and we are always delighted when we can deliver **all** requested items on the list (and often beyond!)

For example, a dessert is not a "required" item on the list, but we have been able to add a cake or extra portions of fruit on a special holiday if it happens to fall on the date of our delivery.

The folks that help us unload the food we bring are so very grateful for everything we bring, and they thank and bless us when we leave. We pass these blessings on to all of you and hope it makes you feel as good as does us when we share our abundance with those who need it most.

Again, many thanks to our very faithful meal providers and we encourage others to share in our blessings of giving by also helping us feed the hungry at the Mill Street shelter. **Gabriele**

Homebound Outreach

From Deacon Tani Girton

The Deacons have instituted a new tradition whereby we visit some of our homebound members each month! The visits are usually under an hour and we chit chat, share some treats, and sing songs from our Family Band repertoire with Polly's accompaniment on the guitar. The Deacons bring the treats so our hosts don't feel obligated to prepare.

These visits are our gifts to friends we miss seeing at church, and as it is with gift-giving, we all come away uplifted and warm-hearted.

If you are feeling the need for a little fellowship and can't get out to church or you know someone in our church community who would enjoy a visit, please let any Deacon know. **Tani**

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 8 – Debbie Lundberg, 10 – Cornel Barnett,
17 – Erik Rademacher ('91), 19 – Eva Peoples
25 – Lawrence Reh.

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

Thank You!

From Melissa Gill

This is a note to all members and friends of Redwoods. **Thank you!**

My party was just perfect - exactly the way I hoped it would turn out - lots of Church friends and other friends, mingling and enjoying great food and company and after a wonderful worship service that included the bell choir's beautiful music.

Thanks for all your notes and good wishes. Thanks to Cornel for kind words and emceeding. A special thanks to all the people who provided and served the food and drinks.

Although it is very hard to leave so many good friends, it is wonderful to feel such love and support in the process. Thanks also for the very generous gift which will be helpful to me in my transition and is much appreciated. I hope to see you all again in the not too distant future. **Melissa**

Ministry Staff Update

From Cornel Barnett

We say goodbye to Stephanie Ryder as our intern in August and we welcome her two weeks later to the ministry staff of the church.

The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry has given the go-ahead for Stephanie to begin ministry with us on a part-time basis from September 1. They will get back to us about her ordination.

Stephanie will conclude her internship on Sunday, August 17. We shall serve chocolate cake (her favorite) at her farewell reception after worship and officially welcome her during the worship service and barbecue celebration on Homecoming Sunday, September 7.

Stephanie will continue as our Minister of Music and work 10 hours a week (quarter time) in the area of "community formation and family ministry." She is visioning this new ministry and establishing contacts and programs with us to make it happen at Redwoods.

I will work 20 hours a week (half time) from September 1 and will preach two Sundays a month. Stephanie will preach one Sunday a month and a guest will preach on the fourth Sundays and Cornel on fifth Sundays.

Please pray for this new configuration of ministry staff and for new expressions of ministry at Redwoods!

Cornel

Quiet Corner

From Cornel Barnett

Summer Prayer

We've run the "Quiet Corner" column in last eight editions of the LOG and in that time we've covered:

Breath Prayer,
Cultivating Deeper Prayer,

Enlarging Devotional Experiencing,
Meditation, Contemplation,
The Relationship between the "Big Three" Prayer,
Mediation and Contemplation,
Lectio Divina and
The Practice of the Presence of God.

Please review each article and find what works for you this summer. Enjoy your search, enjoy your prayer life, and enjoy the summer.

Summer Worship

We will have two café-style worship services this summer, July 13 and August 10. Stephanie is creatively organizing the music and I am creatively thinking through the liturgy. There will be no bulletin as most of what we do will be free form, relaxed and fun. It will be worshipful. I hope to build in "quiet time."

The way the service works is that we arrive at 10 am and instead of entering the sanctuary we go to Fellowship Hall, pick up a cup of coffee or tea and a bite to eat and sit at one of the round tables and participate in worship while at the "café."

Cornel

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

From *Earth Prayers from Around the World, 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

When the animals come to us,
asking for our help,
will we know what they are saying?

When the plants speak to us
in their delicate, beautiful language
will we be able to answer them?

When the planet herself
sings to us in our dreams,
will we be able to wake ourselves, and act?
Gary Lawless

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in June – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, Karen Carmody, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster,
Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg,
Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Marilyn Sutherland, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour June Bellen, Membership/Fellowship Committee

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

June 1	Debbie Lundberg (L), Gabriele Putzi (G) Ani Lelea (U), Suellen Barnett (U)	Jul 13	Café Style
June 8	Margaret Erwin (L), Iris Giacotto (G) Iris Giacotto (U), Nancy Rademacher (U)	Jul 20	Tani Girton (L), Debbie Lundberg (G) Clay Wiens (U)*
June 15	Clay Wiens (L), Alan Edmonson (G) June Bellen (U)	Jul 27	Nancy Rademacher (L), Beth Benz (G), Iris Giacotto (U)*
June 22	Joyce Wells (L), Nancy Rademacher (G), Margie Egger (U), Debbie Lundberg (U)	Aug 3	Jan Salas (L), Ed Vorous (G) Ani Lelea (U)*
June 29	John Girton (L), Clay Wiens (U), Ani Lelea (U)	Aug 10	Café Style
		Aug 17	Clay Wiens (L), Bonnie Kaiser (G) Jan Salas (U)
		Aug 24	Joyce Wells (L), Suellen Barnett (G), Ed Vorous (U)*
		Aug 31	Joyce Wells (L), Margie Egger (G), Clay Wiens (U)*

*tentative

Advance thanks to July/August helping hands!

Jul 6 Polly Gorder (L), Ani Lelea (G)
Debbie Lundberg (U)