



# The Redwoods Log

July/August 2015 - 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,

*"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore' – 'Praise be to you, my Lord'.* In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. 'Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.'"

These are opening lines to the encyclical letter written by Pope Francis called, "On Care for Our Common Home," on the environment and our care for it. It is one of the most amazing pieces of literature and theology written in this decade. It is long, and I am in the process of working through it. The full text is found online.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) repeats in his famous poem, "The Brook," "For men may come and go/But I go on forever." This is not so for environmentalists today and this brilliant encyclical. Our rivers are drying and our earth despoiled largely by humanity's exploitation of the earth's resources. The Pope calls on humanity to respect God's creation and to have regard for the poor who are most adversely affected by the ill effects of climate change. Please look at the encyclical as an excellent summer read.

On a lighter note, I recently spent a sabbatical week in a College of Marin class called, "The Poetic Pilgrimage Intensive: Writing Poetry as Spiritual Practice." facilitated by Marin Poet Laureate, Partho Sereno. For the final poem, we chose items from nature, which Partho provided. We threw them onto the desk or floor, and saw how they landed and after contemplating them, wrote a poem. This is my poem:

### **Perfectly Aligned**

I hold chestnut, pinecone and stone  
In my hand and drop them to the floor.  
They land in a straight line, sublime,  
And it humbles and lifts me  
To angels rejoicing and I join their song  
To our multi-layered, pinecone God,  
Strong stone Jesus,  
And sweet chestnut Holy Spirit,  
Perfectly aligned, without separation.

In a small way, my poem compliments the Pope's encyclical. We are both concerned about climate change and the environment and deeply appreciate God's beautiful world and think there is time to heal and return to our alignment with God, each other and the earth.

God bless you this summer and enjoy God's amazing creation.

Cordially, Cornel

PS: The next roundtable discussion after worship will take place the second Sunday in September.

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## Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder  
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings From Your Pastoral Associate!

Ahhhhhhhhh. It is summer sabbatical time. The Bible study group has concluded and will break until September. We look forward to starting the Horizon's Bible study entitled "Come to the Waters" then. This is a brand new study looking at water imagery in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. In the Spring, we will be studying the Holy Spirit. Both studies are distributed by the PC(USA).

Compassionate Kids concluded their successful year by leading the June 14 Sunday worship in liturgy and song. They, too, will be on break until fall.

Both of the above groups came together for a mission outing on June 16, preparing and sharing a meal with the women staying at the summer pilot REST program (Rotating Emergency Shelter Team). At the dinner there were six adults and six children who participated on behalf of Redwoods, 17 women who were guests at the Health and Wellness Center in San Rafael, and one former-guest who now works as the coordinator/staff for the program.

We arrived at 5:30 pm to set up, and the guests arrived by bus from St. Vincent de Paul at 6 pm. We joined together in prayer, led by one of the guests. We received much appreciation for the delicious food provided by Redwoods.

Thank you all who contributed to the menu devised by the children: Stefano's pizza, fresh green salad, vegetable platter and dip, chocolate cake, and cookies. Thanks also for the delightful gift bags filled with toiletries -- sunscreen, Kleenex, toothbrush, toothpaste and Emergen-C packets. It was an enriching time for all. (We finished just in time to return home to watch the Warriors secure the national championship win.)

One of our youth participants remarked afterward, "It was very touching that some of these women could be very positive in their situation and that they could put a smile on their face. Also, I am so happy that someone made the shelter and gave the resources to help it succeed." I hope that we may participate again

in this special program.

I am grateful for the opportunity to preach in Cornell's absence this summer, from July 19 - August 23.

*He said to them, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.'"* Exodus 16:23

Yours In Christ, **Stephanie**

## Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder  
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

While the choir is taking a well-earned summer Sabbath during July and August, we will feature special musical guests during our Sunday services.

We warmly welcome Minister of Music Emeritus Dick Judd on July 5; the St. Patrick's trio—including our own Polly Gorder—for our cafe-style worship in Fellowship Hall on July 12; Devon Lawrence (our Christmas Eve musician) on July 19 and Rev. Ann Jefferson on July 26.

August services will alternate musicians Heather Creighton and Rev. Ann Jefferson, with hopes of the Redwoods Family Band playing in Fellowship Hall on August 30. We are also hoping to secure a return of *Tooth and Talon*, the band that played in April, and the premiere of a local Praise Band that is being formed as well.

We will all look forward to the choir's return in September!

The Bell Choir is also on summer sabbatical. We look forward to coming together again in September and playing in a Sunday service.

*So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God* Hebrews 4:9

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

## June Church Mouse

Summer has arrived and many members and friends are traveling the countryside.



First there were a couple of June weddings. Marilyn Sutherland attended granddaughter Erin's lovely wedding at a winery in Sonoma. Jim and Polly Gorder celebrated son Andy's marriage to Jerrisa on June 15 at Lake Tahoe. The happy couple each have a daughter the same age, which makes a nice family.

Also a happy time for graduations: Georgene Gmahling's granddaughter, Becky, from UC Davis, majoring in computer design and science; and Diane Forster's granddaughter, Emily, from Kennelworth Junior High in Petaluma, followed by a class trip to Washington DC and Pennsylvania.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> Joyce Wells is off to Munich, Germany for her annual International Organization of Women Pilots Conference (Ninety Nines). Joyce flew for 45 years!

In July, Cornel and Suellen will take the California Zephyr train from Emeryville to Denver with a weekend stop-over visiting friends. Then to Rensselaer, Indiana where Suellen's sister lives. And then to Chicago to visit Suellen's cousin. They will fly home in early August. Sounds like a wonderful, special trip.

Stephanie and Bill Ryder's son, Brooks, played on the winning varsity lacrosse team from Marin Catholic High School. They won the NCS-Division 11 Championship. Congratulations, Brooks!

The Girtons are proud of son, Ben, who has a "sharp" new job as a salesman for CutCo Knives. His mom, Tani, noted that Dick Judd happens to own a set of these special knives that Tani remembers from long

ago. Also Tani is very happy Ben has taken an interest in cleaning their house. What a responsible son!

Nice to see Mark Larsen at church recently. He was visiting the area for a special family reunion. Also nice to have Joan Robinson's friends from the Tamalpais at worship.

Cornel received a nice letter from the Reverend Mary Gillespie who lives in Medford, Oregon. Mary was ordained at Redwoods June 15, 1980. Long time members will recall when Mary was the church school coordinator after Irene Clark retired. Also she formed the popular Family Cluster program. Each intergenerational group shared a meal and participated in planned activities. Helen Morita fondly recalls her involvement in the Cluster program with her family. We are grateful for Mary's special talents and guidance all those years.

Our heartfelt prayers for Margaret Erwin as she begins her chemotherapy. Special healing prayers for Anna Barnett, Shirley Brady, June Bellen, Kitty Prosser, and Barbara Slusher. We miss you all.

Have you checked out Redwood's new oven? An anonymous donor provided a beautiful replacement for the broken (original) one. Our heartfelt thanks to the gracious donor. Also special thanks to Mari Robinson for donating the wonderful flat screen TV. We are looking forward to viewing the film "Impact" on June 28. It was partly filmed in Larkspur during the late 40's and features a young George Gmahling as an extra!

Such a joy having the Compassionate Kids participating in the worship service recently. We are grateful to Stephanie for her special talents in leading the group. We look forward to their return in the fall.

Have a safe and happy summer.

**The Mouse**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Summer greetings from the Membership/Fellowship committee! The pace may have slowed a bit at Redwoods with committees and other groups within the church taking some time off, but there are still plenty of activities in which to participate.

We will be serving lemonade on July 4<sup>th</sup> during the Twin Cities parade. We encourage anyone who is interested to join in the fun. This has been a Redwoods Church tradition for many years and is a wonderful way to reach out to the community and make our presence known. We are meeting at 10 am to set up but come anytime during the morning.

There will be café style worship services in Fellowship Hall on July 12 and August 30. Breakfast will be available just before and during the service. Those who have attended this worship service in the past are very enthusiastic about the format. If you haven't had a chance to attend one, we encourage you to try one this summer.

We are planning a theater outing to Ross Valley Players on Sunday afternoon, August 9 to see Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. The performance is at 2 pm, and we will arrange for carpools to the theater. We will also have a light lunch for those who wish to stay at the church between coffee hour and the performance. A sign-up sheet will be available by mid-July so we can order tickets in advance.

Mark your calendars for September 13, which is Homecoming Sunday. We are planning a barbeque following the worship service. More details will be forthcoming.

Also on the horizon is our annual outing to Masquers Theater in Point Richmond for a performance of a Charles Dickens' unfinished murder mystery with song and dance. The Barnett's have once again generously invited us to their home for a post-theater party. The event is on Sunday, November 22.

We will not be having a Saturday breakfast in July or August, but will resume in September.

Blessings to all, **Nancy**

## Thank you!

### From Margaret Erwin

Dear Church Family, This note of sincere thanks goes out to each and every one who has prayed for me over and over, called me by phone, sent many, many cards of get well and good wishes, visited me at home and at the hospital and emailed me notes and cards.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. I thank God for all my blessings daily and you are all a good part of it. Muchas gracias to Deacons, Choir, Bible Study and Membership/Fellowship. Love and peace be with you.  
God bless, **Margaret**

## Mission Outreach News From Member Jan Salas

### Second Annual Pedal for Protein by the Redwoods Presbytery

On September 20, dedicated cyclists will gather in Crescent City to begin a week long ride through the California north coast, ending at the Golden Gate Bridge, a ride of over 400 miles.

The cyclists, providing their own funds for the ride, are committed to riding together to end hunger. Last year they raised \$25,000 which was donated to local food pantries throughout Northern California.

As of May 8, 13 people have signed up to take the ride and many of them are back for their second year. Their goal this year is to raise at least \$30,000.

In 2014, Redwoods Church hosted a rest stop for the Pedal for Protein riders on their last day just before they headed toward Sausalito and the bridge.

Patty Sanders, the Hunger Action Advocate for the Presbytery, who is also a second year participant in the ride, is coordinating the event and all communication. For further details visit <http://www.imathete.com/events/pedalforprotein> or contact her directly at [pattyredwoodshae@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pattyredwoodshae@sbcglobal.net).

**Jan**

## Mission Outreach News

From Member Jan Salas

### Bread for the World Have Faith—End Hunger

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing* 1 Thessalonians 5:11  
Bread for the World is urging Congress to renew our federal government's major child nutrition programs, including school meals, summer feeding, and WIC, the nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers and their small children.

Every five years, Congress must re-authorize the law that funds these programs that have helped millions of children over the decades. Thanks to the leadership of Bread for the World and its church partners, the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act expanded and improved these programs.

Now is the time to renew these vital national nutrition programs. Be part of Bread's 2015 Offering of Letters by taking a few minutes to write letters to your members of Congress.

The Mission Outreach Committee will be conducting our annual Offering of Letters in the Fall. But we also invite you to contact our elected officials regarding the "Summer Hunger Gap." Visit [bread.org](http://bread.org) for full details. A sample letter is below. Bread for the World also asks for prayers for all who hunger:

*I urge you to cosponsor the Summer Meals Act of 2015 (S.613/H.R.1728) and the Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2015 (S.1539/H.R.2715). Together, these bills would help close the child hunger gap. The Summer Meals Act would strengthen and expand access to summer meal programs. The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act would provide low-income families with children a Summer EBT (electronic benefits transfer) card. A Summer EBT card is similar to a debit card which can be used to purchase food at stores during the summer, when children are out of school.*

*Hunger doesn't take a vacation. As your constituent, I urge you to help close the summer hunger gap and cosponsor summer meals bills.*

**Jan**

## Deacon's Corner

From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

This month we would like to remind everyone that there is a sign-up sheet for coffee hour and we encourage people to add their names. No pressure to bring food – goodies tend to arrive like manna from heaven. The sign-up sheet simply means you will start the coffee and tea, set out cups, milk, sugar, etc. and clean up. Fairies also tend to help with the clean-up.

Thanks so much for making our time after worship one of pleasant and gracious fellowship. **Tani**

## Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

The following moving invocation is taken from the wonderful *Earth Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations for Honor the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

We who have lost our sense and our senses—  
our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are,  
we who frantically force and press all things,  
without rest for body or spirit,  
hurting our earth and injuring ourselves:

We call a halt.

We need to rest.

We need to rest and allow the earth to rest.

We need to reflect and  
to rediscover the mystery that lives in us,  
that is the ground of every unique expression of life,  
the source of the fascination  
that calls all things into communion.

We declare a Sabbath,  
a space of quiet for simply being and letting be,  
for recovering the great, forgotten truths,  
for learning how to live again.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

May your summer be a time of rest, reflection, simply being, letting be and recovering the great truths.

**Helen**

# July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<b>5</b> <i>Holy Communion</i> 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<b>12</b> <i>Café Style Worship</i>  10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship/CE 12:00 Mill Street	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<b>19</b> <i>Birthday Sunday</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	<b>20</b> <i>Rev. Barnett on vacation</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<b>26</b>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

# August 2015

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939



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

### Mill Street Meal

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margie Egger,  
Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder,  
James Holmes, Bonnie Kaiser, Jolyne Liberati,  
Debbie Lundberg, Joan Robinson, Marilyn Sutherland,  
Joyce Wells

### Coffee Hour

The Deacons thank June Bellen and Barbara Slusher for their faithful support of the coffee hour and encourage congregation members to participate in this wonderful fellowship. See Deacon's Corner on page 5 for more information.

## Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

**June 7** Bonnie Kaiser (L)  
Jan Salas (G)  
Debbie Lundberg (U)

**June 14** Joyce Wells (L)  
Nancy Rademacher (G)  
Iris Giacotto (U)

**June 21** Jan Salas (L)  
Clay Wiens (G)  
Suellen Barnett (U)

**June 28** Bonnie Kaiser (L)  
John Girton (G)  
Jan Salas (U)

**July 5** Debbie Lundberg (L)  
Alan Edmonson (G)  
Nancy Rademacher (U)

**July 12** Café Style  
**July 19** Ani Lelea (L)  
Iris Giacotto (G)  
Ed Vorous (U)

**July 26** June Bellen (L)  
Ani Lelea (G)  
Carrie Kim (U)

**Aug 2** Jan Salas (L)  
Bonnie Kaiser (G)  
Maisie Campbell (U)

**Aug 9** Polly Gorder (L)  
Debbie Lundberg (G)  
Iris Giacotto (U)

**Aug 16** Joyce Wells (L)  
Nancy Rademacher (G)  
Clay Wiens (U)

**Aug 23** Carrie Kim (L),  
Clay Wiens (G), Ani Lelea (U)

**Aug 30** Café Style

## Happy Birthdays!

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

July 1 – Suellen Barnett, 4 – Kitty Prosser, 8 – Ani Lelea, 12 – Helen Caldwell, 15 – Dan Phipps  
August 2 – Merna McIntosh, 8 – Deb Lundberg, 10 – Cornel Barnett, 17 – Erik Rademacher ('91), 25 – Lawrence Reh.

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