



# The Redwoods Log

July/August 2016 - 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 my final pastoral letter to you since it is the last LOG publication before the September LOG when I shall be “honorably retired.” To think, I have written these letters in every monthly LOG since my arrival here eight years ago. I’m not sure the letters are as great as those of famous personnel such as D. H. Lawrence, Bertrand Russell, C. S. Lewis, etc., but they have been my letters written faithfully to you to affirm and advance the ministry here at Redwoods.

You have been through pastoral transitions a number of times and you have weathered them remarkably well. I’m sure you will do well in this one. It’s my heartfelt prayer for you. Needless to say, Suellen and I will miss you greatly: your graciousness, faithfulness and kindness, our relationship in every endeavor in and out of the church and engagements in mission.

So many amazing people went to be with God in God’s heavenly home during my time here. It has been an honor and blessing to know them all and share fellowship with them and to walk the final road with them. These transitions and many other aspects of ministry are extremely meaningful and deep for pastors. The welcome we receive into your lives is remarkable. The ministry is miraculous.

What can one write in one’s final letter? The most appropriate for me is to give thanks. It is to thank God for the spirit of Jesus I have experienced in this holy place called Redwoods Presbyterian Church. It is thanks for the session and deacons who meet faithfully and undergo the work of the church brilliantly and diligently. Our clerk of session is legendary. Our corporate officers steady. Thanks to the committees that do amazing work.

I shall not mention names because they change, although most of our leadership has not changed in my time here. Worship and Christian Education has been largely staff driven. This might change. Membership and Fellowship and Mission Outreach are member driven and their work has been fantastic. From my perspective, we are one of the best mission giving churches in the presbytery. I’ve been around a long time to gauge this. Our fellowship activities have been divine on and off campus. Facilities, Finance, Personnel and Nominating committees do sterling work. Our choirs, directors and musicians are reliable and talented.

There is much more to share about the mission and ministry of the church – such as those who do the many behind the scenes work: treasury, counting, accounting, folding, flower arranging, banner hanging, property, kitchen and fellowship hall care, Mill Street, notice boards, worship participation and Holy Communion preparation. Thank you all – and members all.

Finally, my thank you will be incomplete if I did not thank our office administrator. She has been a wonderful colleague and great asset to our church, and likewise, the faithful, caring and diligent pastoral staff and interns.

That’s it. *Hamba kahle, totsiens*, goodbye. Cheers! God bless you all and peace, Cornel

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## Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder  
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate! I am looking forward handing out lemonade at the 4th of July parade! I have always been out of town for this event and am excited to participate this year with you all.

Though we start the month with a bang on July 4th, the rest of the month we will make time for summer Sabbath as all of the committees take a break in July. Enjoy this rest and respite knowing that each committee has done exceptional work this year!

The Bible study group is on break for the summer. We will be starting up again on Tuesday, September 13 at 10:30 am with the N.T. Wright study on Revelation. Here is a brief review of the study:

Many people today regard Revelation as the hardest book in the New Testament, full of strange and sometimes violent imagery. However, Revelation also offers one of the clearest visions of God's ultimate purpose for the whole creation. It also shows the way in which the powerful forces of evil, at work in a thousand ways, is overthrown through Christ.

Like other guides by N. T. Wright, one of the world's leading New Testament scholars, the Revelation guide brings a fresh encounter with Scripture with thoughtful questions, prayer suggestions and background information. We encourage you to join us!

Compassionate Kids ended their spring session with the CROP Hunger Walk and surpassed their set goal of raising \$1,000 for hunger programs locally and abroad. Thank you to all who participated and donated towards this event.

Finally, I extend the warmest and deepest gratitude to Cornel, for his exceptional guidance and support to me these past three years. I pray for God's continued favor and blessings upon Cornel and Suellen as they transition to retirement. I will miss them greatly, and thus look forward with bittersweetness to our celebration of Cornel's 30 years of ministry on Sunday, August 28.

Blessings, **Stephanie**

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people,  
and he will dwell with them. They will be his people,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God."  
(Revelation 21:3)*

## Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder  
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

The Sanctuary Choir and Parke Kurtz Memorial Bell Choir are on break for the summer. We deeply thank all of these wonderful musicians for their dedication all year in bringing the gospel to life in music and song. Many of these musicians meet twice a week to prepare for our lively and beautiful Sunday services. It is time for a rest!

We welcome back the wonderful "Joyful Noise" group from St. Patrick's, including our own Polly Gorder, on July 10. On July 17, we welcome back the lovely and talented Denise Wharmby. Heather Creighton will be back playing for us on July 31. And, we are hoping to schedule the Redwoods Family Band for a Sunday this summer!

Stay tuned! Though the choirs are on break, our Sunday worship services will be filled with music. Please do not miss our Sunday service on August 28, when we gather to worship with Cornel's closing sermon followed by a celebration in his honor.

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

*The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. Exodus 15:2*

## Deacon's Corner

**From Moderator Tani Girton**

We were all sad to hear of Jackie Palmer's passing and are thankful for the times she worshipped with us and lent her voice to the Redwoods choir.

Like other committees, the Deacons will take a summer break and not meet in July. However, we want to remind everyone that we are still here for you. Please let any of us know if you need prayers or assistance.

**Tani**

# July/August Church Mouse

It's summer and members and friends are coming and going!



In June Stephanie and Bill Ryder celebrated son Brook's baccalaureate and graduation from Marin Catholic. Brooks will attend University of Washington in the fall. After, Stephanie traveled to Seattle to officiate for the first time at a friend's wedding.

Deb Lundberg went to LA for a short vacation to visit her sister, Pat Silva, and her grand nieces, Lauren, 5, and Charlotte, 3. So happy to hear Mari Robinson had a nice vacation visiting friends in Florida. Molly Rademacher finished the semester teaching at the French School in SF and is taking off with mom, Nancy, for a girls' trip to Disneyland and Southern CA beaches. Sounds like fun!

There are new births in our congregation. Helen and Clay Wiens are proud grandparents of their second grandchild, Elizabeth. Marilyn Sutherland welcomed her 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild, Mikeali Karen, and Diane Forster welcomed her 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild, Melissa Diane, a happy coincidence. The most unusual "berth" announcement was for the Lady Margaret Elaine, a two ton Chris Craft and new home of Mark Larsen and Susan Drabick (H dock, slip 38, The Shipyard, 256 Marginal Street, East Boston, MA 02128).

A special celebration was held in commemoration of Redwoods 120th year Anniversary. At the Saturday breakfast, James Holmes, Oakley Dexter and Diane Forster recalled Redwood's past history after the viewing of a video of the church under construction. Oakley joined the church in 1945 which makes him the longest living member. Oakley also celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the breakfast.

The Sunday after, the Compassionate Kids participated in the worship service. Their joyful singing and participation is always a special blessing. Rev. Cornel Barnett and Rev. Dan White preached special sermons of remembrances. James Holmes explained how the colors of the sanctuary were chosen to represent the local environment. Following worship, everyone enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon.

That same afternoon the Compassionate Kids, along with Stephanie and parents, did the 1.3 mile Crop Walk in San Rafael to raise money for hunger awareness. They met their goal, raising over \$1,000. A lot of pride and compassion is felt by everyone who walked and made contributions.

Redwoods also has animal news. Some members have noted a new Redwoods resident. A desert tortoise named Madea is owned by our tenant The Real School. She is 60 years old and about a foot long. Madea spends weekdays on the patio and is taken inside at night. The Ryder family's new dog, Gracie, ran away from their home in Mill Valley and was spotted at Neil Cummins...a big trek for a little dog.

We are very sorry Ed Vorous was in the hospital and Northgate Care Center, Terra Linda. The good news is that he is home and recovering well. We pray for healing so he can return to enjoy his many talents.

The Church Mouse was grateful to last month's Mouseketeer. She did an excellent job of reporting with interesting stories both present and past! We welcome our Mouseketeer anytime she feels like tweeting! Enjoy the summer! **The Mouse**

## Earth Prayers

### From Helen Morita

We who prayed and wept  
for liberty from kings  
and the yoke of liberty  
accept the tyranny of things  
we do not need  
In plenitude too free,  
we have become adept  
beneath the yoke of greed

Those who will not learn  
in plenty to keep their place  
must learn it by their need  
when they have had their way  
and the fields spurn their seed  
We have failed Thy grace  
Lord, I flinch and pray,  
send Thy necessity.

Wendell Berry, from *Earth Prayers from Around the World* **Helen**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

### **From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

Summer greetings from the Membership/Fellowship committee. We hope many of you can join us on the Fourth of July to serve lemonade during the Twin Cities annual parade. This is great fun for all those who participate and a wonderful way to make our presence known in the community. Put on your red, white and blue and join in the celebration! We will start setting up and making lemonade at 10 am but come when you can.

Also, please join the Membership/Fellowship committee on Sunday, July 31 for a theater outing to see the Ross Valley Player's *Robin Hood*, directed by James Dunn at the Barn in Ross. The play begins at 2 pm. We will have a light lunch beforehand for those interested and carpool to the theater. A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall.

There will be no Saturday Breakfasts in July or August, but watch for details about September's Saturday Breakfast.

The committee and other church members are planning a special farewell send-off for Cornel and Suellen after worship on Sunday, August 28. We want to show our heartfelt appreciation for the hard work and incredible love that both of them have given to Redwoods. Anyone interested in helping with this event can contact me or any member of the Membership/Fellowship Committee. We welcome your input and ideas. Meanwhile, please mark your calendars for this heartfelt day when Cornel will be preaching his final sermon and spending his last hours with us as our called pastor.

Peace and Blessings to All, **Nancy**

## Cornel's Memory Book

### **From Coordinator James Holmes**

A party is being planned for after the 10 am worship service on August 28 that will include the congregation and friends, as well as Cornel's family--Suellen, David, Anna and Alan—and their invited guests.

As reported above, the Membership/Fellowship Committee has begun the planning for this signal event.

One of its first priorities is to present Cornel and Suellen with a "memory book" of treasured times that they, their family, and the congregation have spent together. The memory book will be a compilation of mementos from you, the congregation members, including photos, cards, personal letters, poetry, music, favorite sermons, etc. Anything that would bring joy to Cornel and his family to see, hear or read would be welcomed by James Holmes, the book's coordinator.

*Please take the month of July to prepare your submissions (as many as you like) and submit them by August 1. Whatever can be emailed may be sent to [Nancy.rademacher@tfsystems.com](mailto:Nancy.rademacher@tfsystems.com). Hardcopies may be submitted to James during worship or to his home address in the directory. They can also be submitted during church office hours (8 am-noon, M-Th), or via the church office mail slot or under the office door. If you have questions, please feel free to contact James at 415-924-1402 or the office at 415-924-4832. Thank you for helping give Cornel and his family a loving tribute from our Redwoods family.* **James**

## Mission Outreach Committee News

### **From Chair Debbie Lundberg**

Thanks to you and all U.S. church members who wrote letters for Bread for the World, the House of Representatives passed their version of the Global Food Security Act by a vote of 370 to 33 and the Senate adopted their measure by voice vote. The House and Senate are now reconciling their two versions so President Obama can sign the bill into law. More information can be found at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) and by reading the newsletter which is posted in Fellowship Hall. Writing letters makes a difference! **Debbie**

## Facilities Update

### **From Chair Clay Wiens**

The Facilities Committee had a very successful cleanup day in June thanks to Cornel and Suellen Barnett, James Holmes, Bonnie Kaiser, Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg, Jane Purkey, Gabriele and Robert Putzi and Nancy Rademacher. The church looked shipshape for our 120th Anniversary celebration. We really appreciate all who participated.

**Clay**

# July/August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>July</b> 3, 10*, 17, 24, 31 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship * 12:00 Mill Street  4 10:00 Lemonade Stand 31 2:00 Theater	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7 Holy Communion</i>  10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 12:00 Mill Street	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 7:00 Session	<i>17</i> LOG Deadline	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i>  10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership Fellowship Committee	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>  7:30 Choir	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Rev. Barnett Retirement Party	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Note:</i> <b>Homecoming Sunday is September 11!</b>		

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939



## Helping Hands in June – Thank you!

### Mill Street Meal

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margie Egger, Diane Forster,  
Polly & Jim Gorder, Carrie Kim, Nancy Rademacher,  
Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells, Katie and Tyler

### Coffee Hour

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Worship/Christian Education Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Mission Committee  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Deacons  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Membership/Fellowship Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – June Bellen

## Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

<b>July 3</b>	Ani Lelea (L) Diane Forster (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)	<b>July 24</b>	Carrie Kim (L) Debbie Lundberg (U)	<b>Aug 14</b>	Bonnie Kaiser (L) Anna/Alan (U)
<b>July 10</b>	Debbie Lundberg (L) Carrie Kim (G) Ed Vorous (U)	<b>July 31</b>	Café Style	<b>Aug 21</b>	Joyce Wells (L) Carrie Kim (U)
<b>July 17</b>	Ed Vorous (L) Bonnie Kaiser (G) Clay Wiens (U)	<b>Aug 7</b>	Clay Wiens (L) Carrie Kim (G) Ani Lelea (U)	<b>Aug 28</b>	TBD (L) Tani Girton (U)

## Happy Birthday! From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month: July 1 – Suellen Barnett, 8 – Ani Lelea  
12 – Helen Caldwell, 15 – Dan Phipps, 24 – Nicole Webb, August 8 – Deb Lundberg, 10 – Cornel Barnett, 17 – Erik Rademacher ('91)  
25 – Lawrence Reh. Add your name and birth date to our list by contacting [office@redwoodspres.org](mailto:office@redwoodspres.org) or 415-924-4832. **Tani**