



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace. I trust you had a good summer. Ours went by very fast – as much of life seems to these days. It flew by because we were having fun. Suellen and I rode an Amtrak train from Emeryville to Chicago with a weekend stop-over in Denver. We spent a weekend with Suellen’s sister, Jane, in Indiana, a couple days with cousins, RD and Gwen, in Chicago, and flew home on Virgin Airlines.

All the while, Redwoods was in the trusty hands of Stephanie, with Dan as back-up, and I heard that things went exceptionally well. Stephanie chose to preach every consecutive Sunday to experience what that’s like. She thoroughly enjoyed it and looks forward to when this becomes a regular part of her ministry. The Session and I appreciate Stephanie’s diligence and care. She’s an excellent pastor.

Now, we’re on the brink of a new church year and like every year at this time we have a new sense of expectation and joy. Please look inside this Log for the various programs and events. The first is Homecoming Sunday on September 13 celebrated with a barbecue luncheon after the worship service. Please invite your friends and family.

Stephanie tells me that she is in conversation with members to brainstorm ways we can attract younger members to the church. Some ideas are for Compassionate Kids and parents to participate in regular “mission” outings similar to their visit with the summer women’s REST program and to host a Vacation Bible School next summer.

Molly’s ministry with our children on Sunday mornings during worship, Stephanie’s Tuesday Bible study and my second Sunday after worship roundtable discussion will continue. We also look forward to the blessing of letters sent annually to Congress to support bills that feed the hungry, the Alternative Christmas Faire, our Christmas Concert, Blessing of the Animals and the Compassionate Kids program.

The Membership and Fellowship committee are perennially busy with all kinds of good events for our members and friends. They host theatre outings, movie nights, refreshments for the café-style services and Homecoming Sunday as well as coordinate the Redwoods’ July 4th parade lemonade brigade and Saturday morning breakfasts. All these events are meaningful and enjoyable.

The Facilities Committee and the Memorial Fund ad hoc committee are looking into ways to spruce up the entranceway to the sanctuary (narthex) and the fellowship hall.

Please read the Church Mouse article for other events involving our members. This is always an interesting article and thanks to the “Mouse” for gathering these great news items. Thank you also to Mari Robinson, our office administrator, for helping all of us in and through the office. And thank you to our Session and Deacons for their great work. Glasses raised high for all our members. Here’s to another good year at Redwoods!

Peace and blessings, Cornel

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Thank you for the opportunity to be in the pulpit and share the six-week Ephesians sermon series this summer. It was an encouraging letter to the early churches and is an encouraging letter for us today! As we welcome in the new church year this month, may we be inspired by the Ephesians' message of celebration, unity, diversity, unique individual gifts, faith and spiritual power to overcome any situation.

This month we also look forward to resuming our weekly programs. Compassionate Kids will meet in the Sunday school room on Fridays from 3:30 - 4:30 pm on September 11 & 25, October 2, 9 & 23, November 6, 13 & 20 and December 4 and 11, with optional participation in the Sunday service/concert on December 13. The program is open to Grades K-6, and helps children explore and experience ways of creating peace, tolerance, kindness and empathy through music, art, drama and Bible stories. We will use a new curriculum from the PC (USA) called "Growing in Grace and Gratitude." Cost is \$100 for the Fall session. Extra-special thanks to Molly Rademacher, Debby Lundberg and Diane Forster for continuing to help run this successful program.

Bible Study begins again in the library on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:30-11:30 am and all are welcome. We'll begin a PC(USA) Horizon's study, "Come to the Waters." This nine-week study explores the central role of water in Bible stories, from Creation in Genesis to the River of Life in Revelation. The rich water imagery throughout the Bible helps us understand and articulate our faith. There are over 800 references to water in the Bible, including the delivery of God's people through the parting of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan River, absence of water in the time of drought in Exodus, and the adoption of the people of God through baptism. Of course, water continues to be an issue in today's world. I hope you will consider joining this fun and lively group.

Save the date for Sunday, October 18, when we will devote the service to Blessing of the Animals. All will be welcome to bring their animals/pets to the 10 am service on this day.

Thank you to Ginger Gmahling for envisioning and inspiring this service.

*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.
Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21
Yours In Christ, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

We were gifted this summer with exceptional musicians to fill the sanctuary with beautiful music -- thank you to Dick Judd, Georgene Gmahling, Ann Jefferson, and Heather Creighton for serving our congregation with your musical gifts.

It has been a special blessing to hear Dick Judd's organ music during the time of preparation prior to the Sunday services. We greatly appreciate Dick's gift to Redwoods of his extraordinary and unique talent.

After a long summer's rest, the Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, September 15 from 9-10 am. We are excited to have new music to present to you soon in an upcoming Sunday service.

The Adult Choir will begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 10 in preparation for Homecoming Sunday! We look greatly forward to having the choir's voices back in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Ephesians 5:15-20 lifts up singing as a way to give thanks to God from our hearts. Please consider joining the choir this Fall and giving your thanks to God! No experience necessary, we will help teach you.

Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:18b-19
Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

September Church Mouse

Fall is approaching with Redwood's busy people returning from summer vacations and other activities.



Maisie and Jim Campbell rode in the Fourth of July parade. Jim served for 40 years as a volunteer for the Corte Madera Park and Recreation Department. Congratulations, Jim! Mari Robinson walked all the way with the Kevin Haroff for Supervisor contingent. Many Redwoods friends served the traditional lemonade to participants as they passed by. It was a happy and festive day!

Adventurous Karin Carmody went on a African Safari this summer. She also traveled to Montana and Ashland, Oregon to visit a former Redwood's member, Marilyn McClean. Carrie Kim and family traveled to Ohio and Virginia to visit family and friends. Our friend Jane Purkey and daughter went on a small ship to the Aleutian Islands. Eric Rademacher and a friend climbed three peaks in three days at Grand Teton National Park where he has been working for the US Forest Service. Now he is being sent to fight fires in Northern Idaho. Congratulations to Georgene Gmahling's granddaughter, Taylor, who completed the 500-mile Camino Santiago walk in Spain!

Two members have been busy moving from Larkspur. Bonnie Kaiser sold her home and is hoping to move to Novato. Jan and Blaise Salas sold their home and will be moving to Santa Cruz. Jan says we will see her now and then because she will remain an active participant. Sal and Diana Newton are happy to remain in Novato with the purchase of a condo.

We were very sorry Debbie Lundberg was wearing a sling on her arm instead of a special hat in July. She took a nasty fall down her front steps and broke her elbow. She is recovering from surgery and recently celebrated her birthday with a special Rulli's cake at coffee hour. Shirley Brady is having therapy after suffering a stroke followed by surgery. She is staying with her daughter in Aptos. Happy to see Margaret Erwin and daughters, Ramona and Linda, at worship. Sorry to hear Herb Schmidt was in the hospital for a week in July. He is improving and happy to be home.

Special thoughts and prayers for healing for all our dear friends

Stephanie Ryder was a "busy bee" pastor filling in for Cornel while he and Suellen were away. So nice to have guest musicians each week filling in for Stephanie. We appreciate having Dick Judd serenading us with lovely hymns before worship. The cafe style worship services were very special. Having St. Patrick's Band (including Polly Gorder) added a joyful sound. Nice to have the Morita family visiting. Congratulations Clay and Helen Wiens on becoming grandparents! Their daughter, Sarah, gave birth to a handsome baby boy named Jack.

Happy news for Faith McClellan who earned her four units for Clinical Pastoral Education at UCSF. Faith is now working on her ordination. Our prayers for Faith during this transition period.

Ginger Gmahling and her friend's dog attended worship. During "Pass the Peace" Robert Putzi shook Brutus's paw in greeting. Speaking of dogs, Diane Forster and her Border Collie have been busy this summer. Sadie is the official "Goose Chaser" on the Corte Madera Town Park. So far she's doing a good job!

Looking forward to September 13 when we gather for Homecoming Sunday with the traditional barbeque fellowship following worship. See you then!

The Mouse

Deacons Corner

From Moderator Tani Girton

A warm welcome to everyone on a new church year! A while ago, the church sent all members a form that would allow individuals to record wishes for their own memorial services. The Deacons hope that this exercise will be a helpful reminder of your favorite songs, prayers and passages and an effective tool to gather that information together.

You may wish to try working on it with a friend over coffee or you can talk it over with Cornel Barnett, Stephanie Ryder or any Deacon. Once you fill it out, please keep a copy and provide a copy to Mari Robinson in the church office, or to Cornel or Stephanie. Of course you can always update it any time! **Tani**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Redwoods is gearing up for a busy fall and we'd like to share some upcoming events with you.

We'll be celebrating Homecoming Sunday on Sunday, September 13 with our traditional barbeque following worship. David Barnett will be our grill master. We will provide burgers (beef and veggie), all the trimmings, salads, dessert and drinks. Please invite family, friends and neighbors to this festive event

Our traditional Saturday breakfast returns on September 26. Ginger Gmahling will speak on the timely topic of water conservation. Ginger has been involved with several organizations that specialize in this issue and can offer a very informative program, so please plan to join us. The light pot-luck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am.

We plan to return to Masquers Theater in Point Richmond on Sunday, November 22 to see *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, an unfinished murder mystery by Charles Dickens. The Barnett's have generously invited us to their home after the play. More details will be forthcoming, but please save the date.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest member, Ginger Gmahling, who joined the church this summer after attending worship for some time. Ginger was active in the church in her junior high years when there were a large number of youth attending Redwoods Church.

Ginger graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Political Science. She works in healthcare, does membership development for the Lark Theater, and is a part-time business leadership coach. Ginger is also active volunteering in the community with groups focusing on water and climate issues, healthcare reform and income inequality/equality. She loves animals and frequently dog sits for her friends. Please introduce yourselves to Ginger if you haven't yet had the opportunity. We are delighted Ginger is part of our church community.

Peace and blessings to all.

Nancy

Mission Outreach News

From Member Jan Salas

Work Together to Grow Peace

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, the members and friends of Redwoods church will participate in the Peace and Global Witness Offering. This is one of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church in which we participate each year.

When we think of conflict, many of us think of places mired in war, a world away. Yet often, some of our greatest opportunities to witness to the Prince of Peace are right outside our doors. When you give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, 25% of your gift stays local, bringing the power of reconciliation and the peace of Christ to your own community. Consider the difference your gift can make to challenges like these.

Your generous support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering compels change in cultures of violence. Together with the Peacemaking Program and World Mission, our community in Christ builds communities of peace.

Jan

Thank you!

From Joan Robinson

My thanks to all the kind people who sent condolences to me after my husband's death.

Those messages gave me comfort and hope at a very difficult time.

Joan

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.

Within and around the earth,
Within and around the hills,
Within and around the mountains,
Your authority returns to you.

Alfonso Ortiz

Helen

September 2015

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in July/August – Thank you so

Mill Street Meal

Anna Barnett & Alan Edmonson, Suellen Barnett, June Bellen,
Karen Carmody, Margie Egger, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster,
Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes, Bonnie Kaiser,
Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher,
Joan Robinson, Marilyn Sutherland, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

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

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

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 Joyce Wells (L)
Bonnie Kaiser (G)
Maisie Campbell (U)
Aug 9 Polly Gorder (L)
Debbie Lundberg (G)
Iris Giacotto (U)
Aug 16 Bonnie Kaiser (L)
Nancy Rademacher (G)
Clay Wiens (U)
Aug 23 Jan Salas (L),
Clay Wiens (G), Ani Lelea (U)
Aug 30 Café Style

Sept 6 Clay Wiens (L)
Suellen Barnett (G)
Nancy Rademacher (U)
Sept 13 Nancy Rademacher (L)
Gabriele Putzi (G)
Debbie Lundberg (U)
Sept 20 Ginger Gmahling (L)
Tani Girton (G)
Ed Vorous (U)
Sept 27 Ed Vorous (L)
Carrie Kim (G)
Ani Lelea (U)

Happy Birthdays! From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday in September.
7 – Bill Mills, 8 – Alan Edmonson, 11 – Jackie Palmer, 16 - Betty Hamilton, 19 – Blaise Salas, 24 – Melissa Gill

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