



The Redwoods Log

September 2016 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspres.org

From The Rev. Stephanie Ryder

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church from your new Pastor!

I have been in hopeful anticipation of this day for many months. I am so looking forward to serving with you in ministry in the local Larkspur community and beyond.

I have been blessed to have served as your Intern, Music Director and Pastoral Associate over the past three years. I am grateful to have become familiar with this most loving, dedicated and passionate-for-the-Lord community here at Redwoods. There are 120 years of history here and I am honored to lead with you into the next chapter of life as the Spirit continues to move at Redwoods Presbyterian Church.

There are many changes on the horizon here at Redwoods besides the change in pastors. We look forward to welcoming Denise Wharmby as Music Director on September 1, and having both the sanctuary and bell choirs return from summer sabbatical on Homecoming Sunday, September 11. A new Compassionate Kids session begins on Wednesday, September 7. A new Bible study on Revelation begins Tuesday, September 13.

We welcome North Bridge Academy, a specialized school for young children with dyslexia (the only one in the North Bay) here to our beautiful campus. Three new teachers, including the school's founder, Karen Rosenquist, and fifteen new students arrived on August 24 for their first day of school. Please feel free to introduce yourselves to our new community members and help them to feel at home here. I know that hospitality is one of the things Redwoods does best!

We also welcome back REAL School, serving middle-school aged children with a specialized curriculum, and SoloQuest, providing tutoring services. Our longest tenant, Marin Taskforce on the Americas, a Central and South American advocacy group for those suffering from oppression and despair, continues as it has since 1995. We continue to welcome the many 12-step programs who meet each week to provide spiritual recovery for hundreds of people here at the church, along with our Redwoods-sponsored Boy Scout pack, whose leaders work to instill spiritually-based character in young boys.

A seminary professor once shared that she was asked how many members attend her church. She replied, "Do you mean on Sundays? Or do you mean how many people come for the varied ministries provided every single day of the week?" Indeed, we are a richly blessed community, serving in many ways to help meet the needs of God's people here at 110 Magnolia Avenue.

May God continue to bless Redwoods Presbyterian Church as we head into a new season of life, serving God's people with compassion and care.

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
and I will sing praises to you among the nations;
For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.* Psalm 108:3-4

In Christ, Stephanie

Music Notes

**From Denise Wharmby
Music Director**

Well, hello to all at Redwoods!

I am writing here in the LOG to introduce myself to you because very soon I begin working at the church as your new Music Director.

I will be leading the choir and handbell choir, providing accompaniment for services on Sunday and getting to work closely with Stephanie on the musical component of worship. I know that in partnership we will all share some beautiful music together this year.

I am incredibly grateful to the church for approving my recent attendance at the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center's Handbell Conference, which was held in late July. It provided me with a wonderful opportunity to gather expertise, select new handbell pieces for the coming year, and connect with other church music directors and musicians. Zephyr Point was and is the most glorious place to experience any kind of music, whether choral or instrumental.

Now that I have returned, I am filled with anticipation for the start of our new church year. I can't wait to ring bells with the bell choir and sing songs with the choir, and enjoy a coffee or two with you after church!

My background is as a classical pianist and singer who branched out into teaching, writing and music directing after performing professionally for many years. I also direct music at San Domenico High School in San Anselmo and the Convent of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco on Broadway Street.

This will be a busy year, but one which I approach with great energy, a sense of a fresh start in many ways, and a feeling that Redwoods is ready to sing, sing, sing!

Let's join together for a great year. See you soon!
Musically, **Denise**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. (Psalm 98:4-5)

Compassionate Kids

From Rev. Stephanie Ryder

The Compassionate Kids program, now beginning its third year, has been a wonderful experience for both the participants and the church.

The CK program was originally envisioned as an afterschool program for grade schoolers to help them explore and experience ways of creating peace, tolerance, kindness and empathy through Bible stories, art, drama and music.

The program has very successfully met this goal, and has taken its vision even further by exploring compassion through such activities as participation in the CROP Walk and REST shelter meals. The program will continue to grow in this respect as we start our new year.

This year the program will meet Wednesdays at 3:30-4:30 pm on the following dates: September 7, 14, 21 and 28, October 26, and November 2, 9, 16 and 30. Participants will also be participating in Sunday worship services with the final service of the session on December 11.

We hope all our Redwoods members and friends will consider the Compassionate Kids program for their children and grandchildren. Please also help us spread the word about this wonderful program. We would be glad to speak to anyone interested in participation. Please contact Rev. Stephanie Ryder at [415-992-2411](tel:415-992-2411), stephyrder1@gmail.com or www.redwoodspres.org for more information.

Peace, **Stephanie**

Deacon's Corner

From Deacon Bonnie Kaiser

This month, the Deacons would like to encourage all our members and friends to come to Homecoming Sunday on September 11 to officially welcome our new pastor, Rev. Stephanie Ryder, and our new Music Director, Denise Wharmby, especially during the Fellowship Hour after the worship service. We are looking forward to seeing you all on September 11.

Bonnie

September Church Mouse

Many things have been happening at Redwoods this summer!



Many members had a chance to get away for summer trips. Karen Carmody took an interesting cruise on the Baltic Sea and enjoyed being on a smaller ship. She also traveled to Montana to be Matron of Honor at a friend's wedding at Glacier National Park. So nice to have Karen's long-time friend and former Redwoods member, Marilyn McClean, visiting. Marilyn now lives in Ashland, Oregon, as do her two daughters.

Stephanie Ryder and family traveled to Hemet, Calif. to celebrate her grandmother's 95th birthday. It was a very special occasion, with family and friends gathering at a Mexican restaurant with a casino theme. Sounds like a fun party! The Ryder's son, Brooks, had a fabulous three week trip to Europe with an unexpected overnight delay in Frankfurt, Germany, but everything turned out well. Brooks is now starting his first year at the University of Washington in Seattle, while his brother, Charlie, is spending a semester studying in Prague.

Nancy Rademacher and her sister were off to their home town in Indiana to attend her high school reunion. Nancy's sister graduated one year before her in their small school. Georgene Gmahling made her usual hometown trek to Roseberg, Oregon to visit a good friend while the Putzis are enjoying their annual summer trip to Canada, returning in mid September.

This summer a group of 15 Redwoods members and friends were treated to a humorous spoof of "Robin Hood" at the Barn Theatre in Ross. A nice lunch was served in Fellowship Hall before the play. Nancy and Molly Rademacher made all the arrangements. Molly is looking forward to returning to the French School in San Francisco this fall. This year she will be teaching 5th grade instead of Kindergarten. Sounds like a good promotion!

It was very nice having the Rev. Linda S. Powers as guest preacher in August along with her ministry partner, Beta, a beautifully trained golden retriever that

helped with the children's sermon...a special blessing. Such a pleasure to see Ann Benezra visiting from Bend, Oregon. Ann moved to Bend three years ago to be near her family. She says she still thinks of Redwoods as "her church." The purpose of her visit was to see Cornel before he leaves Redwoods.

By the time everyone receives this LOG, we will likely have already bid Cornel and Suellen farewell. They will be greatly missed along with the rest of the Barnett family. These past eight years of Cornel's ministry have gone by too quickly. Our fond wishes and prayers go with the Barnetts as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Our prayers are also with Redwoods Church as it begins a new church year with Stephanie Ryder serving as pastor and Denise Wharmby as Director of Music. We look forward to their ministry and special talents and to seeing everyone back from their vacations on September 11, Homecoming Sunday.

Even as we celebrate our new life as a congregation, we mourn the loss of our good friend Ed Vorous. Ed was a devoted member of Redwoods and our church custodian. He was a dedicated deacon always helping in the kitchen and preparing delicious food for our church and the monthly Mill Street program.

Ed also cooked for the Boy Scouts at Camp Tamarancho, the Lions Club and the Bohemian Club. He was active in many other organizations as well. We will miss his presence very much. Our special thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Barbara, and family. A memorial service will be held at Redwoods Church on Saturday, September 10 at 11 am.

The Mouse

Facilities Notes

From Chair Clay Wiens

The Facilities Committee has been hard at work getting ready for our new tenants, North Bridge Academy, whose 15 students will use three rooms downstairs. To this end, we have freshened two of the downstairs bathrooms with new paint and new paper towel dispensers. On behalf of our congregation, I would like to thank Jim Gorder for his time and generosity in making these improvements possible. **Clay**

**Membership/Fellowship
Committee News
From Member Debbie Lundberg**

Welcome back to a new church year!

All Redwoods members and friends are invited to attend the following events and activities:

Homecoming Sunday – September 11

Hard to believe, but true, the summer is over and the new church year is beginning. We will celebrate Homecoming Sunday on September 11 with a special worship service welcoming our new church leadership, including Rev. Stephanie Ryder as our pastor and Denise Wharmby as our new Music Director.

Following the worship service we will have a chance to offer Stephanie our good wishes and to meet and greet Denise as we gather together for our usual coffee hour fellowship with a tasty assortment of small treats.

We hope you all will join us on September 11 and uplift the somber remembrances of this historic day with the happier celebrations of new life in this church.

Saturday Breakfast—September 17

The Saturday Breakfast program that has been on sabbatical over the summer returns on Saturday, September 17. We will continue our usual format of meeting in the library for a potluck breakfast at 9:30 am, and then enjoy the program, which begins at 10 am.

The program for the first breakfast takes us back to our days in school when the first assignment upon returning to school was to write/share, “What I Did This Summer”! That is exactly what we are asking those who attend this breakfast to tell us—what they did during the summer. It should be an interesting program, low key and fun.

Hope to see you there!

Debbie

**Mission Outreach
Committee News
From Co Chair Jan Salas**

Can God spread a table in the wilderness?

Psalm 78:19

Work Together to Grow Peace

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, 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.

We often think of the unrest, war and terror in our world. We may even question, as the Psalmist does – “Can God spread a table in the midst of conflict?” But with faith, we believe God sets the table and invites all to join in an abundance of peace.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering helps us remember the peace of Christ is possible. When we participate in this offering, 25% of the gift stays local, and so we are bringing the peace of Christ to our own community. Consider the difference your gift can make to challenges that are in our community and if you have specific interests in seeing programs of peace supported in our community, please be sure to let the Mission Outreach Committee know about them.

Your generous support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering works to make a difference in cultures of violence. Together with the other special offerings of the Presbyterian Church—the Peacemaking Program and World Mission—our community in Christ helps build communities of peace.

Come to the table of peace.

Jan

Happy Birthday!

From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month:

7 – Bill Mills ('65), 8 – Alan Edmonson, 16 – Betty Hamilton ('30), 19 – Blaise Salas, 24 – Melissa Gill

Add your name and birth date to our list by contacting office@redwoodspres.org or 415-924-4832. **Tani**

September 2016

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
 110 Magnolia Avenue
 Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in July/August – Thank you!

Mill Street Meal

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Diane Forster, Tani & John Girton,
 Ginger Gmahling, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes,
 Bonnie Kaiser, Sara & Jerry Laureyns, Jolyne Liberati,
 Debbie Lundberg, Robert & Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher,
 Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

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

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

July 3	Ani Lelea (L) Diane Forster (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)	July 31	Café Style	Sept 4	Nancy Rademacher (L) Maisie Campbell (U)
July 10	Debbie Lundberg (L) Carrie Kim (G) Ed Vorous (U)	Aug 7	Clay Wiens (L) Carrie Kim (G) Ani Lelea (U)	Sept 11	Jan Salas (L) Clay Wiens (U) June Bellen (L)
July 17	Ed Vorous (L) Bonnie Kaiser (G) Clay Wiens (U)	Aug 14	Bonnie Kaiser (L) Anna/Alan (U) Joyce Wells (L)	Sept 18	Debbie Lundberg (U) Polly Gorder (L) Iris Giacotto (U)
July 24	Carrie Kim (L) Debbie Lundberg (U)	Aug 21	Carrie Kim (U) Tani Girton (U)	Sept 25	
		Aug 28			