



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

I trust you are enjoying the new church year and the few changes in weather as we head into the fall season. This is a lovely time of the year.

Last Sunday, the San Francisco Chronicle displayed a full-page ad of the Apple iPhone 6s sitting in the center of the page. Lines around the phone point to various narrations of the phone. The headline on the upper part of the page states, "The only thing that's changed is everything."

This statement has a striking similarity to Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "...if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

The tablet of the iPhone is the same just as our bodies and minds are the same but everything becomes new in phone tweaks and in Christian conversion. Like the iPhone, we look the same but have a new quality of life in Christ.

I still enjoy movies, theater, concerts, media and dancing, *et al*, but have a new way of experiencing them in the spirit. Like Jesus, interpreting the prophets in Isaiah and Jeremiah helps me see injustice through the eyes of justice, war through the eyes of peace and dehumanization through the eyes of Jesus the humanizer.

While all the above is helpful and interesting for me there's another scriptural reference that turns it slightly. "No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved." (Matthew 9:16-17)

In our new church year, things might look the same and in many ways they are, there is a sense that we are creating new wine for fresh skins. In one way, this comes through the new pastoral staff configuration. As per my proposal and Stephanie and the Session's agreement, it was fiscally and ministerially helpful for me to go half time and for Stephanie to come on as quarter time besides her role as musician.

I continue with administrative, pastoral, moderational, preaching, teaching, worship and anything that comes across my desk roles. Stephanie fulfills her job description in community formation and family ministries. Everything she does connects with her job description. It is a tight squeeze for both of us and yet we manage and the church hardly draws from our reserve fund to balance the budget.

There is freshness in our church gatherings and meetings. There is good energy from your pastors and staff and from members, which makes for a good feeling all round. It may be that everything is changing. It feels like fresh wine for fresh wineskins. Here's looking forward to a blessed new year!

Peace and blessings, Cornel

The scripture for the roundtable discussion after worship on October 11 is Mark 10:17-31.

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

I was grateful to have been able to recently attend the San Francisco Theological Seminary program featuring the author of "Come to the Waters," our current Bible study here at Redwoods.

Teaching Elder, Judy Record Fletcher, from Texas, came to present an overview of the study. I was greatly inspired by her love, knowledge, respect and enthusiasm. She said that writing this study has been the riskiest endeavor in her long career -- because Presbyterian women are astutely critical and will surely let her know errors and weaknesses!

The study will examine such themes as creation, baptism, thirst and longing, deliverance, faith, justice, forgiveness, compassion and hope, all in the context of the Bible's rich water imagery. I was particularly moved by Judy's perspective that "God doesn't promise to keep us from deep waters, but God does promise to give us what we need to get through deep waters."

I also appreciated her discussion about the water that comes from crying. "Tears are the holy water of healing," was a quote lifted up, among others. It is going to be a deep, powerful, and enriching study, especially given the water issues concerning our world at this time. I look forward to seeing you in the library on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30 am.

Compassionate Kids continues in the Sunday school room on Friday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 pm, with the great help of Diane Forster, Debbie Lundberg and Molly Rademacher. We are grateful and blessed by the children who attend this program. There is still room available, however, as soccer season tends to have many of the children pre-committed! Feel free to spread the word!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 18 at 10 am, which will be a special Blessing of the Animals service. Congregants will be invited to bring their pets to church for a special blessing. I am told by a number of sources that it is always astounding how well-behaved the animals are, as if they are well aware they are in a sacred space. I have confidence

that as the animals are blessed, it will be a blessing for all of us as well! Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Yours In Christ,
Stephanie

"For this is what the LORD says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink."
2 Kings 3:17

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

It has now been well over a year since we dedicated the new *Glory to God* Jack Forster Memorial hymnals, and we are still gifted each week by the wealth of music in this marvelous collection. We are blessed with familiar hymns as well as new, contemporary selections. For the first Sunday in October, we will be celebrating the Peace and Global Witness Offering, and the hymns will reflect this theme, including an Argentinian song, a song honoring the diversity of indigenous expressions of faith, and a beautiful Korean song.

On the second Sunday in October, the congregation will be blessed by the organ music of Dick Judd! Thank you, Dick, for playing for us while I tour colleges on the East Coast with my youngest son, Brooks. It is always a special and spiritual occasion when Dick graces us with the beautiful organ playing.

On the third Sunday in October, we look forward to singing the familiar hymns *All Creatures of Our God and King*, *God of the Sparrow*, and the lovely, new *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom* as the animals join us in worship for Blessing of the Animals. The gifted Heather Creighton will be the brave musician this day. Thank you, Heather!

The fourth Sunday in October is Reformation Sunday, and may we all belt out *A Mighty Fortress is Our God!*
Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

"Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; with the lyre celebrate our God, Who covers the heavens with clouds, provides rain for the earth, makes grass sprout on the mountains, Who gives animals their food and ravens what they cry for." Psalm 145:7-9

October Church Mouse

Fall has arrived and Redwoods members and friends are back after a busy summer.



Polly and Jim Gorder celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 23, the same day Maisie and Jim Campbell celebrated 57 years of marriage! Debbie and Richard Lundberg's son, Eric, and fiancé Gina were married September 29. Our best wishes and congratulations to all!

Redwoods folks wandered far and wide this summer. Suellen and Cornel had a wonderful trip traveling by train through the Colorado Rockies, visiting Suellen's sister in Indiana and cousins in Denver. Bonnie Kaiser thoroughly enjoyed London, Scotland and Ireland.

It was family reunion time! Dick Judd and son Lewis travelled to Fort Collins, CO for theirs, Diane Forster's family gathered in Graeagle, CA and Marilyn Sutherland's clan came together in Petaluma.

Gabriele and Robert Putzi have returned from their annual trip to Canada. Margaret Erwin drove with daughter Ramona to Gilbert, Arizona to visit Margaret's granddaughter and saw Yosemite (Margaret's first time) and an exciting Giants game along the way. Helen and Clay Wiens made their delayed trip to London and also visited Paris via the Chunnel.

Busy Ed Vorous had a "scout" summer. After working 33 years as a chef at Bohemian Grove in July, he cooked this year at Camp Noyo in Mendocino. He traveled by Skunk Train along with 100 scouts and cooked three meals a day for everyone for two weeks. In August he attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference at Michigan State University along with 15,000 participants, then the Order of the Arrow gathering at Sonoma Raceway. Ed is happy to have a break from scouting and be back to bell ringing!

Tani Girton's sister Betsy visited from Colorado and attended church while she was here. Tani and Betsy were busy moving their mother Harriet to San Rafael. We were happy to see long time member Oakley Dexter from Dixon at worship this summer too.

Homecoming Sunday was special with barbecue chef David Barnett. What a wonderful way to begin the Fall season and new church year!

Prayers for our former intern, Rev. Jan Reynolds, as she heals from a hiking injury. Healing prayers also for Gabriele Putzi following hand surgery for a torn tendon and carpal tunnel of her right hand. Gabriele is ringing hand bells with her left hand. How's that for dedication?
The Mouse

Mission Outreach News

From Member Jan Salas

Work Together to Grow Peace

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, Redwoods church will participate in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA. Although focused on cultures of violence abroad, 25% of this offering stays local to address issues of community peace as well. Please give generously to this mission. **Jan**

Save the Date—November 29

Come join us as we celebrate the season of Advent at our Alternative Christmas Faire on Sunday, November 29 after worship. Several agencies—Bread for the World, Church World Service, Habitat for Humanity, the Heifer Project and others—will have items on display that represent possible contributions to help people in need in this country and throughout the world.

There will be a sponsor at each agency table to provide information about the agency, answer questions about it's work, explain how donations will be put to use, provide an ornament to decorate the tree in Fellowship Hall, and a gift card for each donation that can be used to honor a friend, family member, teacher, neighbor, etc. There will be delicious refreshments available as you browse the tables to learn about the work of the agencies.

This is an opportunity to set aside the commercialization of this sacred season and focus on the true meaning of Christmas. The Mission Outreach Committee will be providing further information in the weeks prior to the Faire. Please feel free to contact any Committee member with any questions. **Jan**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee! As I write this article, a welcome early rain is showering down on our thirsty yards. What a blessing, especially for those in the midst of the ravaging fires.

Homecoming Sunday was a great success with a meaningful worship service and a delicious barbeque afterwards. Thanks to all who helped with the food, did the set-up and clean-up and enjoyed the scrumptious meal. A special thanks to David Barnett who got the barbeque going during worship and grilled the magnificent burgers!

The October 17 Saturday breakfast will feature Diane Forster who will lead us on a Corte Madera history tour near the church. As most of you know, Diane has lived in Corte Madera since her birth and is a wealth of information on its early history and throughout the subsequent years. She will share her stories with us. The light potluck breakfast starts at 9:30 am and we will plan to leave on the walk promptly at 10 am.

Please join us on Sunday November 22 when we will attend a 2 pm Masquers Theater production of *The Mystery of Edwin Droid*. The following information is from the Masquers Theater website.

"Telling the story of Charles Dickens' unfinished murder mystery with song and dance, "*Droid*" makes the audience part of the action. When young Edwin Droid disappears from sleepy little Cloisterham, we're faced with a rogue's gallery of suspects, leaving us to decide who did the dirty deed, as well as who ends up happily ever after."

"Enjoy a ribald, Victorian Music Hall extravaganza! Fresh from a smash Broadway revival, this clever piece is sheer delight, and the winner of multiple Tony Awards, including 'Best Musical.'"

We have been invited to the Barnett's following the play for a post theater gathering, a special treat. Many thanks to Cornel and Suellen for opening their home to us. Their generosity is much appreciated.

There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. We have 20 tickets reserved (\$22.00) so sign up as soon as possible. Although we might be able to arrange for more tickets, these shows generally sell out well in advance. We will have a light lunch for those who are interested and will arrange for car pools. Peace and blessing to all.

Nancy

Endowment News

From Nancy Rademacher

There are many ways to give to Redwoods Presbyterian Church besides writing a check. With a little planning, a gift to the church can be included within your overall estate or financial plans, one that supports Redwoods Church and provides tax benefits in return.

These types of gifts are known as "planned gifts" and they often provide two main benefits:

1. The gift is generally deferred until after your lifetime, so current income isn't affected.
2. With most planned gifts, you have the right to change your mind at any time, if necessary.

People often tend to assume that planned gifts are only for the wealthy. This couldn't be further from the truth. Planned gifts are for anyone who has an estate. If you have any belongings, you have an estate.

Having a will or living trust allows protection for the people you love most. Some other benefits include:

1. Assets can be left without worrying about whether they will be needed to live on because they won't actually be given away until after one's lifetime.
2. A gift can be given for a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events or a percentage of one's estate.
3. The estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for gifts to a church.

You've already been generous to Redwoods Presbyterian Church through your dedication and generous support. Please consider taking one more step to help our church to serve and inspire generations to come. To designate your future gift, please use this wording "...designated to Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939; Tax ID no: 94-1347047."

Nancy

October 2015

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in September – Thank you so

Mill Street Meal

Suellen Barnett, Karen Carmody, Margaret Erwin,
Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes,
Sara & Jerry Laureyns, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg,
Nancy Rademacher, 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

September 6	Clay Wiens (L) Suellen Barnett (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)	October 4	Ginger Gmahling (L) Ed Vorous (G) Iris Giacotto (U)
September 13	Nancy Rademacher (L) Gabriele Putzi (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)	October 11	Anna Barnett (L) John Girton (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)
September 20	Bonnie Kaiser (L) Tani Girton (G) Ed Vorous (U)	October 18	Debbie Lundberg (L) Ani Lelea (G) Tani Girton (U)
September 27	Ed Vorous (L) Carrie Kim (G) Ani Lelea (U)	October 25	Joyce Wells (L) Iris Giacotto (G) Clay Wiens (U)

Happy Birthday! From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday in October
3 – Ann Benezra, 9 – Carrie Kim, 11 – Joyce Wells, 17 – Salvatore Newton, 21 – Robert Little ('91), 25 – Nathan Girton
25 – Joan Robinson, 29 – Bonnie Kaiser, 30 – Ed Elliott

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