



# The Redwoods Log

November 2014 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org)

## From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. Having just attended a Unitarian Universalist church, I feel good to say this greeting. The service was wonderful in every way but it lacked a full expression of Jesus Christ. Jesus's name was mentioned once along with Moses, Noah, Isaiah, and religious leaders from Eastern religions.

A member of the church who claimed to be an atheist said that many of their members are recovering Christians burned by various fundamentalisms, restrictions and constrictions. She was surprised to hear that not all Christians are like that although when I told her we were Presbyterians she pegged us as strict Calvinists. We left her with a fresh perspective.

All this comes by way of mentioning where I go during my two Sundays away from Redwoods. I visit churches in the Bay Area. I am picking up great ideas and shall incorporate some of them in Redwoods' services.

Members have asked about my two weeks away. In part, they want to hear the rationale. From September 1, I started working half-time, half the month, which means two weeks on and two weeks off, including Sundays. To ensure regularity and presence, I work half-time during every week and retain two Sundays off. I shall be at Redwoods the fifth Sunday of the month when there is one. This seems to be the fairest split. I may preach at other churches in the future as an additional revenue source.

My time during the week is tight. On Monday, I stay at home and work for eight hours on the bulletin, prepare my sermon and other church work that can be accomplished from home. I am in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm. I am at church on Sunday for a minimum of three hours. This comes to 20 hours. I put in an extra hour here and there but try to stick to half-time.

Most of my pastoral calls are done by phone since work from the office takes much of my time. It is amazing how much ministry nowadays can be done at the computer. I also make contact with members and prospective members at the church.

Besides her work as interim music director, Stephanie works ten hours a week as a pastor (soon to be ordained) in a specialized ministry called, "Pastoral Associate for Community Formation and Family Ministry." She works in her office, which doubles as the music room, from 10 am—12 pm on Thursday. She makes invaluable contact with families during her Tuesday morning Bible Study and Friday afternoon Compassionate Kids program. She preaches once a month.

Between the two of us, and the Rev Dan White's support as Parish Associate (his gift to the church), we are adjusting and keeping the ship of faith moving happily along. None of us would be as successful without the amazing work and ministry of our members and Mari in the office.

The Worship and Christian Education Committee, slated to meet after worship the second Sunday of the month, decided to meet when called and thereby freeing up the time for me to facilitate a class on a subject I deem fit with approval of the Session. The first class will be in January and will delve into the heart of Christianity via the book of that name, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. An additional statement on the cover is, *How We Can Be Passionate Believers Today*. Look for more information later.

Blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving, Cornel

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# November Church Mouse



Faithful servants Stephanie Ryder, Debbie Lundberg and others greeted the "Peddle for Protein" bikers in October as they passed through on their 365 mile fundraiser. Stopping at Redwoods for a break, they were supplied with drinks and treats, including special trophies and a banner from Debbie! On Peacemaking Sunday, Debbie also led the congregation with a "peace cheer" complete with pompoms! Cheers to Debbie! And to Stephanie on her November 30 ordination—the Deacons and many others are planning and looking forward to this momentous event.

Eric Rademacher left September 28 to teach middle school English near Lille, in northern France. He will be there until May. Sister Molly is sub-teaching for various school districts in Marin including the Lycee Francais de San Francisco, the French School in Sausalito. Viva la France!

We are thankful Margaret Erwin's husband, Richard, is home recovering from surgery. The Erwins are proud of daughter Nina Husen, co-owner of NH2 Hair Salon in Novato. The IJ recently noted that NH2's organization, Hairdressers With Heart, supplies free hair care for cancer patients.

Bonnie Kaiser rode off on her 11<sup>th</sup> annual cattle drive in San Luis Obispo. Giddy-up, Bonnie!

Marilyn Sutherland traveled with other Tam residents to LA, stopping at Solvang, two Getty Museums, Catalina Island and the LA Symphony. Just before leaving, Marilyn's granddaughter, Meagan, had a new baby girl, Kaylei Mae. Congratulations great grandma Marilyn, grandpa Duncan and family!

The Gorders had an unwelcomed visitor at their cabin in Tahoe! Quite a bit of damage, including a broken window, was discovered. Yes, it was a burglar of

sorts...the bear couldn't get in the front door so he went around the back!

Diane Forster is busy with grandson, Chris, and two fire fighter friends, staying with her for four weeks. They are enrolled in a "Hazmat" course in Oakland.

Ask Joyce Wells about the recent gathering of her 65<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in Porterville, CA. She had a marvelous time visiting with some of her former classmates. She even has the hometown newspaper with an article about the graduation. It is fun to see the grocery ad on the back page to compare prices (19 cents for a dozen grapefruit!)

Happy to have Robert Putzi's youngest sister, Elvira, visiting from Austria; and the Martin Vandenkaker family visiting as well. Martin was a member of Redwoods in the '60's and served as Financial Secretary. He is back living in Larkspur.

Thankful to hear Bob Bellen's sister, Jackie, is improving daily. Until next month! **The Mouse**

## Happy Birthday From Moderator Polly Gorder

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

- 6 – Diane Forster
- 12 – Kurt Rademacher
- 13 – Tani Girton
- 18 – Gabriele Putzi
- 25 – Polly Gorder
- 27 – Margaret Erwin
- 28 – Bob Bellen
- 30 – Marisa Phipps
- 30 – Matthew Phipps

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

## Community Formation

**From Stephanie Ryder  
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate!  
I love November and the anticipation of the heart-warming-holiday of Thanksgiving! This month holds another special date—my ordination on November 30, which is also the first Sunday of Advent! I appreciate all of the love and support shown over these past months that helped to make the ordination possible. I look forward to sharing this important day with all of you at this very special church!

Our Friday afternoon Compassionate Kids program has been successful and well-attended by six children, ages 6-10. We have been studying stories from Genesis, including Creation, Cain and Abel, and Joseph and his brothers. The kids have been remarkable with their wise insights and theological questions. Thanks so much, Molly, Diane and Debbie, for your fantastic support each week!

The Tuesday Bible study on Forgiveness is also going extremely well with 15 women exploring personal, cultural and societal issues related to various Biblical passages on forgiveness.

I was grateful to be able to attend the SFTS Center for the Innovation in Ministry launch in October. There were 150 participants engaging in exciting new approaches to ministry led by dynamic presenters.

I was also grateful to attend the Marin Interfaith Council's program on Human Trafficking. Many of us do not realize that it is a real issue in Marin, and that men, women and children are being used for forced labor at massage parlors, restaurants and in the farming industry. Please see me for more information. I have office hours on Thursday from 10 am-noon, or email me at [stephyder1@gmail.com](mailto:stephyder1@gmail.com).

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* 2 Corinthians 3:17

Blessings~  
**Stephanie**

## Music Notes

**From Stephanie Ryder  
Interim Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Interim Music Director!  
We are ringing and singing away, preparing for our Bell Choir concert at The Tam on Saturday, December 13 at 3 pm, and our Advent Concert here at Redwoods on December 14 at 4 pm. We look forward to sharing with you some new compositions as well as some old favorites. Thank you to our dedicated and talented musicians who devote their hearts, minds, hands, and voices to this joyful ministry, and thank you to those kind folk who open their ears to hear and appreciate the gift of song!

*My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.* Psalm 57:7

Peace~  
**Stephanie**

## Deacons Corner

**From Gabriele Putzi and June Bellen**

### Marin Food Bank

Did you know that the demand for food in Marin has increased so much that the Marin Food Bank is no longer able to fill it? And that they merged with the San Francisco Food Bank to get help? We will be hearing all about this at our Saturday breakfast (see page 4). We hope you will join us! Meanwhile, please give to our food barrel, especially during the holidays, and consider volunteering with the MFB! **Gabriele**

### Canal Community Alliance Layettes

Come to Fellowship Hall after the worship service on November 9 to see layettes (baby blankets, sweaters, booties and receiving blankets) that have been knitted, sewn and crocheted by Redwoods members and friends for Canal Community Alliance clients.

Cameron House in San Francisco, our long time recipient of layettes, has discontinued its program., so we are now working with the Canal Alliance. If you would like to know more about the layette program and to get involved, please contact me at 456-6653 or [june.bellen@yahoo.com](mailto:june.bellen@yahoo.com). **June**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

Thanksgiving greetings from the committee! Since this is the time of year when we particularly remember our many blessings, I want to say how thankful we on the committee are to be part of such an amazing congregation. Your participation and enthusiasm is never ending and much appreciated.

We had a wonderful program in October when Kathleen Buckstaff shared her very personal and inspiring story with us. She read from her book, *The Tiffany Box*, a compilation of letters, e-mails and diary entries about being a parent and caring for her ill mother. All who attended were touched by her presentation.

The November 15 breakfast will feature Katy Mann of the Marin Food Bank. RPC has supported the Food Bank for many years. Among other things, Katy will discuss the successful merger of the Marin Food Bank with the San Francisco Food Bank. The potluck breakfast is at 9:30 am; the program from 10-11 am.

We are very excited to have Stephanie's ordination ceremony at the church on Sunday, November 30 at 3 pm. This is a very special event and we hope you can all make it. Thank you, Ed Vorous, for purchasing and installing better signage for directions to our restrooms. It will be especially helpful to our visitors. Blessings for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration!

**Nancy**

## Mission Outreach News

**From Chair Debbie Lundberg and  
Member Jan Salas**

### **Pedal for Protein**

On September 25, Redwoods provided a healthy snack and drink stop (with trophies!) for 25 "Pedal for Protein" bike riders during their five-day, 365-mile ride from Orrick to Sausalito to provide food for Marin's hungry. Greeting the riders were Selin Holder, Katrina Kaiser (Bonnie's daughter), Deb Lundberg and Stephanie Ryder. Led by Patty Saunders, the riders from across the Redwoods Presbytery surpassed their goal and raised \$21,300 for protein laden food

for two Marin food banks, with \$100 coming from the Redwoods Mission Outreach Committee budget. What a "pedal" in the right direction of providing healthy foods for those in need!

**Deb**

### **Bread for the World Offering of Letters**

Amazing! On October 26, we dedicated over 30 letters to our legislators in the annual Bread for the World Offering of Letters! During this offering, we joined with congregations throughout the country who were also contacting their elected representatives to request support of Food Aid reform benefitting 17 million more people each year at no additional cost to US taxpayers. This is another way to practice our faith, and to work toward ending hunger.

If you were not able to send a letter in October, it is not too late! Contact any member of the Mission/Outreach Committee, or go to [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) for information and sample letters. We thank everyone who participated in this effort toward ending hunger. **Jan**

### **Save December 14 for the Fair!**

On December 14, you are invited to the Annual Alternative Christmas Fair! We will have booths from several agencies, with ideas for meaningful gifts for loved ones that bring us all the true spirit of Christmas.

It is easy to become discouraged by the extreme commercialism of Christmas when stores start displaying Christmas decor shortly after Labor Day (my own family jokes that the fourth Thursday in November has now become "Black Friday Eve").

The Alternative Fair gives us the chance to remember whose birthday it is that we celebrate and brings us back to hope through support of agencies that work to bring peace and justice in our world. As we learn about the work of these agencies, we are moved to purchase what others need to survive. We are also able to help them when we purchase Equal Exchange and Global Exchange items as gifts for our families.

While we "shop," we can also enjoy festive decorations, delicious refreshments and the true joy of the season, to be shared with all! The Fair immediately follows the Christmas Concert at 4 pm, Sunday, December 14. Bring a friend!

**Jan**

## Facilities Committee News

**From Chair Clay Wiens and**

**Clean Up Coordinator Ed Vorous**

“All the Cobwebs Must Go” and they did! The Fall Clean Up of the Redwoods facility was a huge success. Clay Wiens and Ed Vorous really appreciate the wonderful work that took place on Saturday, October 25. The church really looks great with the windows cleaned, light bulbs changed, pew cushions vacuumed, kitchen organized, gutters cleared and the Sunday School floor waxed! Very special thanks to:

Debbie Lundberg and Jolyne Liberati, for working in the kitchen; Polly Gorder, for vacuuming the cushions and organizing the choir room; Jim Gorder, Ed Vorous, Cornel and Suellen Barnett for tackling the windows; Anna Barnett and Alan Edmonson, for cleaning gutters and roof, and removing six large bags of needles; Ed Vorous, for waxing the Sunday School floor and Clean Up Day coordination and materials, and Clay, for organizing and getting the donuts.

Look for our “Spring Cleanup” in five or six months.

**Clay & Ed**

## Mill Street News

**From Ed Vorous for the Deacons**

In October, I helped the Deacons drop off their regular monthly meal donation to the Mill Street shelter, and was encouraged to share my experience. I spoke with the coordinator and learned that Mill St. has beds for 55 men, with mats for five more if needed.

They were serving lunch when we arrived, prepared/served by an outside volunteer. On weekdays they have a kitchen employee, and residents help as well to prepare and serve breakfast and dinner (food for resident-made brown bag lunches is made available).

The food that Redwoods supplies covers one day and is used on Mondays. I was amazed at the size of their kitchen (1/2 that of Redwoods) with a pass through serving window, with small inside and outside dining areas. They are grateful for our help and we thank everyone who helps supports Mill Street. **Ed**

## Endowment Committee

### News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

The holidays are approaching with Thanksgiving just around the corner. It is a special time of year when we have lots of gatherings with family and friends. It also a time to reflect on the past year and the many blessings we have received and continue to receive.

With that in mind, and in this season of sharing, you may want to consider a gift to our church through your estate plan.

Bequests and gifts of retirement plan assets offer significant benefits to you:

- It costs you nothing now;
- There is no minimum donation required—every gift makes a difference;
- You can make loved ones *and* Redwoods Presbyterian Church your beneficiaries;
- You can change your beneficiary at any time—you are not obligated by a decision you make today;
- It allows you to remain anonymous, should you choose to do so;
- It ensures a lasting legacy to Redwoods Church and the over 100 years of service to the Larkspur/Corte Madera community, the county and the world.

Our members and friends continually share their dedication, many talents and generous support to Redwoods Presbyterian Church. Please consider taking one more step and make a contribution to create a more secure future for this beloved church and the programs and mission it supports.

Please use this wording for gifts designated for Redwoods Presbyterian Church:

“...designated to Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939; Tax ID no: 94-1347047.”

**Nancy**

## Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

The following is taken from the wonderful book, *Earth Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, poems and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

“To the ancients, as well as to many contemporary seekers, the world is alive with spirit. The surrounding landscape is infused with creativity and meaning and each place speaks to us of the divine.

*Every day is a god, each day is a god  
And holiness holds forth in time...’*

This notion of a richly sacralized world may seem strange to the mainstream western culture. We live in a secular landscape. We have been taught to identify the sacred primarily with cathedrals, churches, and temples. The rest of the Earth is considered real estate—a mere “it” to be used as a resource for our benefit. This effort to desacralize the world, dispel its sacred aura, is what made possible our commercial relationship to the land. It has allowed us to plunder the natural world, destroying places of more power and beauty than we will ever be able to recreate.

The following poem is one of many that help encourage us to reacquaint ourselves with the immanence of the spirit in the natural world. It is filled with a deep love of the Earth and awe in the presence of its mystery. It reminds us that every notion we have of the spirit has been shaped by our experience of this Earth. If we have a wonderful sense of the divine, it is because we live amid such awesome magnificence.

As the Passionist priest Thomas Berry observes, “If we lived on the moon, our mind and emotions, our speech, our imagination, our sense of the divine would all reflect the desolation of the lunar landscape.” Clearly, the Earth is our primary revelatory environment. Our most sacred scripture is the “holy book” of Nature.

### We have forgotten who we are

We have forgotten who we are  
We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos  
We have become estranged from the movements of the earth  
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.  
We have sought only our own security  
We have exploited simply for our own ends  
We have distorted our knowledge  
We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren  
And the waters are poisoned  
And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying  
And the creatures are disappearing  
And humans are despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness  
We ask for the gift of remembering  
We ask for the strength to change.

We have forgotten who we are.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

**Helen**

# November 2014

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

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



### Mill Street Shelter Meals

June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, John & Tani Girton,  
Polly & Jim Gorder, Bonnie Kaiser, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi,  
Nancy Rademacher, Stephanie Ryder, Marilyn Sutherland, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

**Coffee Hour** June Bellen, Gabriele Putzi, Barbara Slusher

### Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

- |               |   |               |  |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| <b>Oct 5</b>  | Seline Holder (L), John Girton (G)<br>Debbie Lundberg (U) | <b>Nov 2</b>  | Ed Vorous (L), Anna Barnett (G)<br>Debbie Lundberg (U)       |
| <b>Oct 12</b> | Jan Salas (L), Alan Edmonson (G)<br>Margie Egger (U)      | <b>Nov 9</b>  | Joyce Wells (L), Debbie Lundberg (G)<br>Nancy Rademacher (U) |
| <b>Oct 19</b> | Tani Girton (L), Ani Lelea (G),<br>Jan Salas (U)          | <b>Nov 16</b> | Clay Wiens (L), June Bellen (G),<br>Iris Giacotto (U)        |
| <b>Oct 26</b> | Debbie Lundberg (L), Ed Vorous (G)<br>Ani Lelea (U)       | <b>Nov 23</b> | Ani Lelea (L), Clay Wiens (G)<br>Ed Vorous (U)               |
|               |   | <b>Nov 30</b> | Alan Edmonson (L), Bonnie Kaiser (G)<br>Margie Egger (U)     |