

The Redwoods Log



November 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!

I traveled quite a bit this past month, on study leave and vacation. One of the highlights during my study leave at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center at Lake Tahoe was meeting Rev. Bill Norton, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Mesa, Arizona.

Rev. Bill is the great grandson of Rev. James Gardiner, the "founder" of Redwoods Presbyterian Church! We were very excited to make one another's acquaintances, and he and his wife told me stories and even showed me photos of Rev. James Gardiner, who also happened to build the yellow Victorian house on the creek by Dark Park, where he lived with his wife and eight children. Bill told me that James cut down a redwood tree and split it for benches for the congregants to sit and worship.

It brought me such joy to meet Bill, a descendant of our church "founding father," and know that we have faithfully kept on the stewardship and vision that his great grandfather began. Our 2006 Mission Vision Report, on page 17, names Rev. James Gardiner as the first in the long list of ministers here; Gardiner being a guest preacher in October 1896-1900.

I am confident that Rev. James Gardiner would be pleased with the congregation today -- the close relationships, love, care for one another, fellowship, discipleship, generosity, service, and mission outreach of its members. God is alive and well here at Redwoods church, partnering with us as we continue to manifest the kingdom of God through discipleship of Jesus Christ our Lord.

I visited many great cathedrals while traveling in Prague and Rome this month; they were breathtakingly beautiful, awe-inspiring, and profoundly historical. I attended a Sunday worship service with my husband, Bill, at the Pantheon in Rome, built in 128 BCE. With all the splendor and magnificence of these grand buildings, I am just as appreciative of our church at 110 Magnolia Ave. It was a joy to return to this warm, comforting, hospitable, spiritually-rich place that I call home.

We are a well-watered garden and we are primed for growth. May we be continually grateful for who we are and what we have together here as Redwoods Presbyterian Church.

"The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." Isaiah 58:11-12

Yours in Christ, Stephanie

Rev. Stephanie Ryder & Rev. Bill Norton,
great grandson of Redwoods Church
"founder," Rev. James Gardiner



November Services

(All services at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

November 2: Beth Benz Memorial Service, 5-6 pm
Reception 6:30-8:30 pm at
Corte Madera Community Center

November 6: Communion

November 13: Handbell Choir, Congregational
Meeting after the worship service

November 20: Birthday Blessings

November 27: First Day of Advent,
Compassionate Kids in worship

Music Notes

From Denise Wharmby

Music Director

Hello All,

Music is alive and well at the Redwoods! A highlight this month was the Blessing of the Animals service where the animals either silently listened, or erupted with their own interpretations of the music.

Our choir has sung at all services this past month and last Sunday led the congregation in some spirited singing of a rousing new hymn.

We have sung some beautiful arrangements, which live in the 'not too hard' basket, so anyone who thinks they'd like to join, but are uncertain of their voices, please come to a rehearsal and check it out. I have singing tips to share! We meet on Thursdays from 7:30 - 8:30 in the choir room.

Bell choir is also preparing some great music and will contribute their music on November 13, with a special surprise next month. Stay tuned! Musically, **Denise**

Facilities Notes

From Chair Clay Wiens

The Facilities Committee has continued its efforts to make sure that our facilities are in good shape, and we are now getting ready for the rainy season ahead. Our first priority this month is the buckling sidewalk in front of the church caused by redwood tree roots. Steve Egger, our landscape expert, and a consulting

arborist, are guiding the handling of this issue, with a foremost goal of promoting safe use of the sidewalk.

This month we are also putting out the new mats purchased for the downstairs courtyards by our beloved former member and custodian Ed Vorous. These extra heavy duty mats will be very helpful to keep dryer floors with the use they now get from NBA students.

Jim Gorder is also directing our new handyman Gilberto in making sure our upstairs deck and downstairs doors are repaired and waterproofed. We also thank him for working with Gilberto to add a new paper towel dispenser to the pastor bathroom.

Office Administrator Mari Robinson also added some paint and decorative touches to the bathroom and she and Debbie Lundberg completely cleaned out the overflowing closet that had been used for storage. Rev. Stephanie was pleased to find her newly freshened bathroom upon her return from her travels to Prague and Rome.

Clay

Compassionate Kids

From Rev. Stephanie Ryder

It is not too late to start this program for K-7 graders which meets on Wednesdays at 3:30-4:30 pm on the following dates: November 2, 9, 16, 30 and December 11.

We learn ways to create peace, tolerance, kindness and empathy through Bible stories, art, music and participation in the CROP Walk and REST shelter meals. Please contact me for more information.

Peace, **Stephanie**

Deacons Corner

From Moderator Tani Girton

Dear Friends,

Coffee hour is a wonderful tradition we have here at Redwoods, and so many of you contribute generously all of the time.

We want to remind you that if you bakers feel inspired, or anyone has a treat you want to share, please feel free to contribute at any time. We promise not to ask you to serve or cleanup!

Tani

November Church Mouse



Where did the month of October go? Must have something to do with everyone coming and going and enjoying the many events here at Redwoods.

The Blessing of the Animals at worship on October 9 was very special. There were many dogs, one well behaved cat, two feline stuffed animals and a parrot named "Lovey," all graciously blessed one by one by Rev. Stephanie Ryder.

Throughout the service, Gracie, Stephanie's little pooch, sat with husband, Bill, and Stephanie's parents, while Lovey sat patiently on the shoulder of Bonnie Kaiser, her human. The Mouse's dog, Sadie, was present in the choir loft helping with the anthem, "Bless the Beasts and the Children," arranged by Denise Wharmby. Special blessings to Stephanie for continuing this loving service for all our beloved animal friends.

The October Saturday breakfast was heartwarming with a special presentation by the Putzi's daughter, Sibylla, and her husband, Ruben Ortiz. Every year at this time, the two have been involved with "Operation Christmas Child" through their church home, Marin Covenant.

Sibylla and Ruben demonstrated how one may fill a decorative shoebox with fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies for a girl or boy in a third world county. The special "Operation Christmas Child" shoe boxes are available for the taking in Fellowship Hall. The boxes will be picked up at Redwoods on November 13 and then shipped in time for Christmas.

What a special blessing for a child who may have nothing at all! If you care to be involved, please get in touch with Gabriele Putzi.

It was a special evening at the annual spaghetti dinner October 21. Chef Robert Putzi and his crew cooked up a delicious meal, followed by viewing the wonderful film, *Brooklyn*. The library became a movie theater, complete with popcorn! So happy to have Maisie and Jim Campbell in attendance.

Maisie is very happy to be home recuperating from surgery after her fall. Jim and family, along with their pooch, Lilly, are taking good care of her. She has a special walker called Hemi-Walker that can be operated with one hand since her left arm remains in a sling. One day, Jim took her for a ride in her wheelchair to enjoy the lovely fall scenery. Our special thoughts and prayers are with Maisie for her healing because we miss her very much!

We are very happy to have Stephanie back from her recent trip to visit their oldest son, Charlie, who is studying in Prague through December. Stephanie and Bill stayed at a lovely hotel in the Jewish section and walked the entire beautiful city in days viewing many of the special sights.

Then they traveled to Rome where they toured the Vatican, the lovely Assisi and attended a church service at the Pantheon built in 128 BCE. They enjoyed the Italian food and returned home just in time for Redwood's Spaghetti Dinner!

So nice to have Keenan Kelsey preaching in Stephanie's absence. Her sermon regarding stewardship was inspiring. Keenan was a Pastoral Associate here at Redwoods from 1995-96.

We are saddened with the loss of our friend and member Beth Benz. Beth led a very active life. A memorial service is planned for November 2 at 5 pm at Redwoods Church. The reception will be held at the Corte Madera Community Center following the service. Our special thoughts and prayers are with the Benz family.

The Mouse

On the Lighter Side

Three young boys are talking on the playground
The first one says, "My dad writes some words on a paper, calls it a poem, and he gets \$25."
The second one says, "My dad writes some words on a paper, calls it a song, and he gets \$50."
The third boy smiles and says, "That's nothing. My dad writes some words on a paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect the money."

Debbie Lundberg

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee!

Redwoods Presbyterian Church has much to celebrate, especially as we approach the holidays. We are thrilled that Rev. Stephanie Ryder has moved into the position of full time pastor after Cornel's retirement at the end of August. We are so fortunate and blessed that Stephanie accepted this position and has made the transition seamless for us.

We are planning a special coffee hour to "welcome" her. Even though Stephanie has been a part of Redwoods Church for some time, we want to celebrate her new position as our pastor. Please join us for this special occasion and warm welcome after worship on Sunday, November 6.

The November Saturday breakfast on November 19 will feature Ginger Gmahling presenting a program on water use. This will be an update from the informative and fun program she presented last year with new information she would like to share with us.

Ginger has a long term and strong interest in water use and conservation and has been involved with several organizations that specialize in this issue. The light pot-luck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am.

Come after worship on Sunday, November 27 for the Alternative Christmas Fair. This is an opportune time to invite family and friends to Redwoods so that they can experience firsthand our amazing church community and the outreach we do in our community and the world. Special holiday refreshments will be served.

Thanksgiving blessings to all! **Nancy**

Mission Outreach Committee News

**From Co- Chairs Debbie Lundberg
and Jan Salas**

17th Annual Alternative Christmas Fair
Enjoy a better holiday shopping experience at Red-

woods on Sunday, November 27 after worship! Our fair provides an alternative way to celebrate the birth of Christ by offering shoppers the way to give more meaning to Christmas rather than the usual giving of more things.

Gifts of Joy, Love and Hope will be available from: Bread for the World, Church World Service, Faith In Practice, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, Equal Exchange, Presbyterian Gift Catalog and EcoViva. In the coming weeks information about each group will be available in Fellowship Hall for your review.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair where in addition to shopping for great gifts Christmas refreshments are offered for your enjoyment. For more information or questions please contact Mission Outreach Committee members: Ani Lelea, Deb Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher, and Jan Salas. **Debbie**

Mark Calendars Now for Souper Bowl Sunday

The Big Game will be here before we know it. Join us in using its energy to help those who are without. Since 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring has generated over \$125 million in cash and food donations. This year alone, over \$10 million in cash and food donations was collected by almost 7,000 participating groups, including Redwoods Church. As is true every year, 100% of the food and funds were donated to local charities.

The Souper Bowl of Caring started as youth-led movement at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina inspired by this prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Twenty-two Columbia churches participated that first year, reporting their results so a total could be determined, and then sending all \$5,700 they had raised to area non-profits. Since then, this extraordinary movement has spread across the country.

The leadership of Souper Bowl of Caring knows we can continue to grow this movement and help end hunger. The Mission/Outreach Committee will begin planning for the 2017 Super Bowl and our opportunity to join in prayer and share with our neighbors. **Jan**

November 2016

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in October – Thank you!

Mill Street Meal

June Bellen, Jim & Maisie Campbell, Diane Forster,
Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, Tyler Green,
James Holmes, Bonnie Kaiser, Jolyne Liberati,
Debbie Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher, 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

Oct 2 Ani Lelea (L)
Jan Salas (U)
Debbie Lundberg (G)
Oct 9 Ginger Gmahling (L)
Tani Girton (U&G)
Oct 16 Debbie Lundberg (L)
Nancy Rademacher (U)
Gabriele Putzi (G)
Oct 23 Bonnie Kaiser
John Girton (U & G)
Oct 30 Compassionate Kids (L)
Ani Lelea (U & G)

Nov 6 Clay Wiens (L)
Nancy Rademacher (U)
Gabriele Putzi (G)
Nov 13 Jan Salas (L)
Clay Wiens (U & G)
Nov 20 June Bellen (L)
Tani Girton (U & G)
Nov 27 Compassionate Kids (L)
Debbie Lundberg (U & G)

Happy Birthday!

From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton
Join the Deacons in wishing the following members
and friends a happy birthday this month:
6 – Diane Forster, 12 – Kurt Rademacher
13 – Tani Girton, 18 – Gabriele Putzi
25 – Polly Gorder, 28 – Bob Bellen
30 – Marisa Phipps, 30 – Matthew Phipps
Add your name and birth date to our list by con-
tacting office@redwoodspres.org or 415-924-4832.

Tani