



The Redwoods Log

December 2013 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspress.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this article three days after surgery to my right ear, which is plugged up, and I have partial but fairly good hearing in my left ear. It feels like a compression chamber. The surgery was successful and I shall hear better after my post-op visit with the doctor. Thank God for medical science. Thank God for ears to hear with, and thank God for your prayers.

I was conscious of your prayers before I entered surgery and felt buoyed throughout the entire experience. We are indeed fortunate to have each other in times like this. It is really great for me as your pastor to feel personally what you feel when I visit you in difficult situations and mention that the church is praying for you. It's uplifting.

Here we are again at one of the most beautiful seasons of the year: Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and New Year. When you read this article Thanksgiving will be behind us and we will have entered Advent in its glow. It is wonderful to have a time of year when giving thanks is a primary focus. When we hit the pause button on the sadness and violence of our world, there is so much for which to be thankful. Thankfulness covers a multitude of concerns. It opens us to God's grace and beauty in our lives.

In Advent, we reflect on God's special manifestation as God incarnate in the babe in Bethlehem. Wow, we see our Lord and Savior as a baby in the stories of Christmas! That's a special aspect of our faith. The stories are rich and meaningful and I'm looking forward to ways we will celebrate them this year. Advent also looks to the second coming of Christ, which is God's reign of peace. How this will come about God alone knows. We certainly need peace and that's why we say: "Come, Lord Jesus."

This LOG will highlight the ways we will celebrate the season. In short, we will light Advent candles, decorate our Christmas tree in the sanctuary with Chrismons on the first Sunday of Advent, we will enjoy the music of our choirs and our singing in our annual Christmas concert, we will shop for good causes at the alternative Christmas faire and decorate our second tree, we will honor and remember our friends and loved ones with the purchase of trees, we will enjoy another lovely Christmas Eve Candlelight service, and we will end the year with more singing of carols.

All this takes a lot of work from a lot of people. Thank you one and all.

I hope to see you in these celebrations, events, and undertakings and please invite your family and friends. It's a most wonderful time of the year and Redwoods makes it so.

Peace and blessings,
Cornel

December Church Mouse

Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



2013 is flying by! Remember at the beginning of the year when we cautioned “carpe h6ra” because there are only 8,760 hours in a year? Well, 2013 will be over in just 744 hours!

Mr. Mouse and Spouse have seen quite a bit of hospitals recently. Mouse Spouse was at Marin General Hospital for a back problem and is now at St. Francisco Memorial Hospital (900 Hyde St., Rm. 716, SF 94109). She is very thankful for the great therapy she is receiving for her back and wants to get back to being like the Mouse at the top of this page!

Mr. Mouse and Spouse decided to ask Redwoods people what they were thankful for during this holiday season what they are hopeful for during Advent. Based on the whopping response, Redwoods people have a lot of hope and thankfulness!

Gabriele Putzi reports that on Christmas Eve, husband Robert will “truly turn 85 years old.” Gabriele adds, “We are truly thankful to our heavenly Father and earthly angels for all the blessings of our combined 165 years.”

Children and grandchildren are what make lots of Redwoods folks hopeful for the future! Helen Morita’s daughter, Trish Mullaney, received her doctorate in education and is teaching a class in education at Purdue University! Helen is quite the proud mother. Also, Helen’s son, Mark, and daughter, Lilly, were in church with Helen recently.

George and Georgene Gmahling’s granddaughter, Taylor, has an internship at the DeYoung Museum assisting new artists when they are preparing their work for exhibit. She is a Senior at her granddad’s alma mater, San Francisco State. Granddaughter Becky, a Junior at U.C. Davis, is studying Computer Art and is the Philanthropy Chairman of her sorority.

David Paulson, Melissa Gill’s son, recently visited from Santa Cruz and attended church with her. He may relocate closer to home! (We are guessing that

Melissa is very hopeful about that!) David graduated from UC Santa Cruz last spring.

Dick Kohler is thankful for the memory of his wife Irene and hopes Redwoods people remember her too. “She passed away on the 17th and her birthday was the 23rd.” He noted that Irene “dearly loved the time she was able to spend in church—it was a major part of her life. Happy Holidays to you and all.”

We think Dick will be happy to know that Irene is well remembered at Redwoods. In fact, the plaque Jack Forster made honoring her teaching is still on the Sunday School door! We also wish Dick well at his new home in Southern California (His new address is 4859 Palmetto Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057.)

Diane Forster reports that her granddaughter, Heather Newton (Sal’s sister), and her three children, surprised her by coming to worship the same Sunday David Paulson visited. Heather forgot about the time change and came one hour early! The Redwoods Afterschool children sang that same day. Diane says, “They were precious. It was so nice to have their parents and a grandmother attending.”

Kitty Prosser is grateful for her only sister, Mary, who was 100 years old on November 10. She says, “All the nieces and nephews were excited to celebrate at Mary’s assisted living center in Greenville, SC.”

June Bellen is thankful that Barbara Slusher is home from the hospital and improving every day—doing well with speech therapy, transitioning to a normal diet and getting functioning hearing aids. June asks Redwoods folks to continue their prayers for Barbara!

Bonnie Kaiser is “eternally thankful for great health care and good health insurance coverage, because with all my surgeries, I’d be broke without it!”

Anne Benezra took pen to paper to say that “time doesn’t keep me from missing Redwoods as much as ever and to offer love and good wishes to all. She happily added, “My grandson’s wife had a baby girl, Morgan, (also my husband’s name) on November 17! Everyone is doing well. Baby weighed 7lbs. 11oz. This makes me a Great-Grandmother! Yikes! “

That’s all for now. See you next month!

Mr. Mouse & Spouse

Music Notes

From Stephanie Ryder
Interim Music Director

Glad Tidings of Great Joy from your Interim Music Director!

The bell and adult choirs have been diligent this month preparing for their respective upcoming concerts. The bell choir will be playing at the Tam on Sunday, December 1 at 3 pm, with Tani Girton as our Master of Ceremonies. We look forward to a fun and challenging program, with many beloved Christmas songs in a variety of different tempos and keys. The audience will not only hear the beautiful music, but will learn a bit about the history of hand bells. The bell choir will also be performing at the Christmas concert at Redwoods on Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm.

The adult choir has grown and we are so grateful for the new voices, which add a fabulous and fresh dimension. At our concert on Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm at Redwoods, we look forward to welcoming Korean dancer Jong Lee, and our own violinist, John Girton, to the program. The choir has been open to trying songs with new challenges such as non-traditional rhythms and non-native language (ie., Korean!). We are thus embodying Psalm 96:1:

“Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth (Psalm 96:1).”

Peace,
Stephanie

A Word from your Intern

From SFTS Intern
Stephanie Ryder

Greetings from your SFTS Intern!

I appreciated the personal time spent with those of you this month when I accompanied Pastor Cornel on home and hospital visits. I am able to see even more clearly the powerful and meaningful connections in this wonderful Redwoods community.

We began the study of Acts this month, and our Bible study continues to grow in membership! This Acts study developed by N.T. Wright is insightful and encourages enlightened sharing and discussion. It is a

blessing and privilege to lead this dynamic, compassionate and thoughtful group. As we look at the formation of the original church in the 1st century, we are re-inspired to be Christ's disciples in the world!

The afterschool program was a great success and I will miss the children while we are on holiday hiatus through January 22. We all enjoyed the children's singing during worship earlier this month, and look forward to the children singing again for the Christmas concert at Redwoods on Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm. In our final group, the children were begging to sing solos and had written their own lyrics to a popular song. I look forward to our 2014 session!

A blessed Christmas to you all,
Stephanie

After School Program Update

From Melissa Gill

Our “After School: Study, Fun and Music at Redwoods,” afterschool program for children in grades 1-4 completed its first session on November 20. The program—study with Suellen Barnett and Molly Rademacher, snacks by Diane Forster and singing with Redwoods intern and music director Stephanie Ryder—was a great success. We ended the session with seven fun and lively kids who got along well and had a great time together.

We are really looking forward to our second session that begins on January 22 and to working with more of these wonderful young students. They not only bring their energy to Wednesday afternoons at the church, we have also enjoyed their singing in worship. It will be great to hear them sing on December 8.

Melissa

Happy Birthdays!

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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

10 – Helen Morita
21 – Maisie Campbell
24 – Robert Putzi

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

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

What a wonderful afternoon we had when 24 of us attended the Masquers Theatre performance of *A Year with Frog and Toad!* The frosting on the cake was going to Cornel and Suellen’s beautiful home for a fun and festive reception following the performance. A huge thank you to the Barnett’s for their generous and superb hospitality.

The November Saturday breakfast program featured the non-profit group, Eco-Viva, which our church has been supporting for several years. It was a very informative program in which we learned that Eco-Viva is involved in various projects in El Salvador, including providing fruit trees and community gardens for local schools where the students plant, weed, water, harvest and enjoy the fruits and vegetables of their labor.

We will not have a December breakfast but it will resume in January when we are planning a presentation on our local recycling program and hope to have members of the nearby community join us.

In my LOG article over the next couple of months, I will be introducing and highlighting our newest members—Anna Barnett, Alan Edmonson and Ed Vorous.

This month I would like to introduce new member, Ed Vorous, who was born and raised in the Sacramento area. Two of his grandparents were native Californians, and Ed’s great-great grandfather, William Thompson, developed the Thompson seedless grape in Sutter, California.

Growing up, Ed was a member of a neighborhood Methodist Church and active in Boy Scouts where he earned his Eagle Rank. He continues to be active in Boy Scouts through his involvement with the Marin Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Ed put himself through college and graduated from California State University Sacramento with a major in Political Science and a minor in Business. His career has spanned a wide variety of experiences. He has

worked at the Bohemian Grove on the Russian River for 31 summer seasons; he owned his own flower shop in San Francisco for 15 years; he has managed a professional photo lab and he is currently the owner of a house cleaning service, Dustbusterz, that he started in 1988. He is semi-retired but still runs the business.

Ed has traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. He is married but separated from his wife who is currently in the Philippines caring for a family member.

He is active in many civic groups including The Marin Democratic Central Committee; the Marin Council of Boy Scouts of America; Marin Women’s Political Action Committee; The Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods; Health Care for All, Marin Chapter; and most recently, the Corte Madera Lion’s Club. He is on the Volunteer Council of the San Francisco Symphony and currently is Vice President of the Marin League of the San Francisco Symphony.

Ed has already become an enthusiastic member, generously sharing his varied experiences with us. He frequently brings home made treats to coffee hour, has prepared a lunch for the group attending the Masquers Theatre outing, supports our shelter meal program, has become a member of the Membership/Fellowship and Facilities committees, and has taken the lead on the design and execution of our new Christmas Eve banner which will be hung outside the entrance to the sanctuary.

Please introduce yourselves to Ed, if you have not yet done so, and warmly welcome him to this special place we call Redwoods Presbyterian Church. We are delighted that he has decided to become a member of our church community!

Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas, **Nancy**

Please consider including:
Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939
Tax ID No. 94-1347047
among the beneficiaries of your estate plan.

Mission Outreach

Committee News

From Chair **Debbie Lundberg**

Come One and All!

December 8 is the date of this year's Holiday Music Program, Reception and Alternative Christmas Fair. The music begins at 4 pm, with both choirs—vocal and bell—taking part. This year, the students in our afterschool program will also sing for us. Following the music program, we will have a reception and our Alternative Christmas Fair.

The fair is the "big" event for the Mission Outreach Committee as we support many mission projects both local, national and international. A wide range of organizations are represented—Church World Service, Habitat for Humanity, the Heifer Project, Faith in Practice, Twin Cities Authority's gift program for foster children, Bread for the World and more.

Blessings and thanks for your support and participation and for inviting your friends and family! What a wonderful way to honor the birth of Jesus by helping others—a true expression of loving our neighbors, both near and far.

Christmas Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 22. Redwoods has always strongly supported this denominational offering.

A quote from the Presbyterian Church USA:
"This holy season, let the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem illuminate our hearts and shine in our actions by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. By giving to this offering, you'll be helping families of active and retired church workers. The Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and college educations."

You will learn more about how these funds assist those in need in special inserts to the worship bulletins in December. So with joy in our hearts we are blessed to have this opportunity to support the offering. Joy to the World, indeed!

Debbie

Deacons' Drips & Drabs

From Usher Coordinator

Maisie Campbell

I would like to express my thanks to all the faithful people who usher for the church. The deacons appreciate your dedication! Being an usher is not a difficult task, especially when we all work together. I know our congregation appreciates seeing happy, welcoming faces on Sundays.

Ushers open the church doors at 9:30 am and put out the "No Parking" sign; turn on the electricity in the Choir loft, get out the microphone and test it, light the Christ candle, bring out the offering plates and hand out bulletins to those arriving. Then at the appropriate time, ushers collect the offerings and bring them forward to be blessed. There is an usher reminder sheet and I am always happy to answer any questions.

By the way, if any of you men or women feel the Spirit moving you to join us as an usher, we can always use more helping hands!

Faithfully yours, **Maisie**

From Greeter Coordinator

Margaret Erwin

I want to give a big "THANK YOU" to each person (past, present and future) who has so graciously agreed to serve as a greeter for Sunday morning worship. Greeters are one of the most important elements in making each person who arrives for worship feel welcomed. There is no substitute for someone offering a hand shake, salutations or even a big hug, when appropriate, to all those who enter our doors.

That's why as a greeter you can leave the job of handing out bulletins to the ushers. Our biggest commitment on Sundays at 9:30 am is to be there in the narthex, ready and waiting to be the face, the voice, the hands, and in some cases, even the arms of the church reaching out to all worshippers. During the worship services, you can again offer a welcoming face and voice as you share the task of passing the collection plate with the ushers.

So, "Thank you and God Bless You" to the greeters and warm wishes for Christmas and New Years to all,

Margaret

Quiet Corner

From Cornel Barnett

Cultivating Deeper Prayer

This is the second article in our new “Quiet Corner” series. The first was Breath Prayer. I hope you will collect these articles to use as resources for your prayer life. Breath Prayer and regular prayer discussed here are great to use individually or together in one sitting. You may say them in either order. I give seven minutes for each and a minute to wrap up. I do it in the morning but you may do it in the morning, noon or night. It’s your prayer life, so do it the way that best suits you.

The following suggestions for cultivating deeper prayer comes from Harvey Seifert’s book, *Explorations in Meditation and Contemplation*.

Seifert says prayer can be used to mean the conscious expression of our thoughts and feelings as an intentional communication to God. This is what we mean when we speak of “saying our prayers,” whether the “saying” is silent or vocal, in solitude or in a group. Prayer always involves personal expression with a Godward reference. It is our part of a conversation with God.

Our readiness allows God to do things through us that God could not do before because God respects our freedom. By withholding or granting our consent, we retard or expedite the enterprises of God. The universe is an interrelated structure of energy. Our dedication in prayer contributes to the available energies expressing love. We become co-creators or co-workers with God.

Four Ways to Enhance the Prayer Experience:

1. Pray receptively

We do not call God’s attention to our wants so much as call our own attention to God’s will.

2. Pray honestly

Prayer is honest communication of what we really feel.

3. Pray comprehensively.

A more fully developed prayer life includes at least

eight forms of expression:

- *adoration*, articulating our awareness of God in all the vastness of God’s ultimate power, goodness, and truth;
- *confession*, recognizing the many specific ways in which we have fallen short of God’s expectation;
- *aspiration*, affirming also our untouched potentialities which, through the forgiveness and empowerment of God, can transform us into children of God;
- *thanksgiving*, celebrating the multiplied gifts of God, including little things which we usually take for granted and big things throughout history which we often forget;
- *petition*, sharing our hopes and desires in the light of the intentions of God;
- *intercession*, or altruism in prayer, expressing our concerns for others both near and far;
- *commitment*, dedicating ourselves to new life patterns beyond our previous responses;
- *acceptance*, or the benediction element in prayer, receiving God’s supernatural resources of poise, peace, perspective, and power with the assurance of God’s continuing presence.

These eight elements are not rigidly to be given equal weight, nor do they necessarily enter into every prayer. But unless our prayer life as a whole includes them, we remain comparatively impoverished in both personal growth and social competence.

4. Pray dangerously. Associated with mature prayer is a quality of courageous boldness, more strenuous and venturesome than the previous limits to our endurance and accomplishment. Some persons have prayed and then moved to sacrificial lives in remote mission fields. Jesus might have compromised more and lived longer had he not gone to a garden to pray.

As you think back over your typical private prayers, which of the types of prayer (adoration, confession, etc.) have you tended to omit? Write a brief prayer of that type and sincerely pray it. What else might you do to overcome whatever imbalances there are in your prayer life?

Cornel

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 1st Sunday of Advent 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Mission Outreach Committee	2	3 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	4	5 7:30 Choir	6	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 M/F Cmte 12:00 Mill Street 4:00 Concert/Fair	9	10 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	11 <i>NOTE: Early LOG Deadline</i>	12 7:30 Choir	13	14 1:00 Inga Coleman Memorial Service
15 3rd Sunday of Advent Birthday Sunday 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship/CE	16	17 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	18	19 LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	23 Church Office Closed	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Church Office Closed	25 <i>Christmas</i> Church Office Closed	26 7:30 Choir Church Office Closed	27	28
29 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	30 Church Office Closed	31 <i>New Years Eve</i> Church Office Closed	1 <i>New Years Day</i> Church Office Closed			

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in November – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

Anna Barnett & Alan Edmonson, Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Melissa Gill, Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| Nov 3 | Ani Lelea (L), Tani Girton (G),
June Bellen (U) , Iris Giacotto (U) | Dec 8 | Phipps Family (L), Melissa Gill (G)
Iris Giacotto (U), Suellen Barnett (U) |
| Nov 10 | Margaret Erwin (L), Gabriele Putzi (G)
Melissa Gill (U) Ani Lelea (U) | Dec 15 | Melissa Gill (L), Barbara Slusher (G)
Nancy Rademacher (U), Ani Lelea (U) |
| Nov 17 | Tani Girton (L), Marjorie Egger (G)
Suellen Barnett (U), June Bellen (U) | Dec 22 | Clay Wiens (L), Suellen Barnett (G),
Margie Egger (U), Melissa Gill (U) |
| Nov 24 | John Girton (L), Iris Giacotto (G),
Ani Lelea (U), Melissa Gill (U) | Dec 24 | Multiple Readers (L), Margaret Erwin (G),
Maisie Campbell (U), Jim Campbell (U) |
| Dec 1 | Rademacher Family (L), June Bellen (G),
Debbie Lundberg (U) , Margie Egger (U) | Dec 29 | Casual Worship (L), Debbie Lundberg (G), |

Thank you to all December Helping Hands!

Visit and Share our Website!

A great way to keep up with what is happening at Redwoods and to introduce the church to your family and friends is via

www.redwoodspres.org