



The Redwoods Log

December 2014 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspress.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,
Greetings in the name of Jesus whose birth brings hope to world.

When December comes around my heart celebrates the season of Christmas. Memories of this special time bring joy and warmth to my soul.

Since we planned to mail this Log earlier, you may receive it before November 30, a Sunday beginning with the First Sunday of Advent in the morning and ending with Stephanie's ordination in the afternoon. It is a big day for the church.

While we look towards Jesus' entrance into the world in Christmas, we also look forward to Stephanie's entrance into ministry as an ordained pastor. The Presbyterian Church (USA) nowadays calls pastors teaching elders. Other ordained persons in the church are ruling elders and deacons.

Both Stephanie and I take our teaching ministry both seriously and joyfully. There are components of teaching in our sermons and in various other forms of ministry. Stephanie facilitates the Tuesday morning Bible study and meets with children on Friday afternoon and I shall begin a class the second Sunday of January from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

My new class will take place once a month on the second Sunday, run for six sessions, and discuss Marcus J. Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity*. The cover of the book has two sub-titles. One is "Rediscovering a Life of Faith" and the other, "How to Be Passionate Believers Today."

These sub-titles communicate Borg's passion to share a faith that is believable to those who left the faith because it no longer spoke to them in the modern world. He outlines two forms of Christianity: an outmoded "earlier paradigm" and an "emerging paradigm" that speaks more meaningfully to the modern and post-modern world.

Borg looks at Christian tradition (faith, the Bible, God and Jesus) in new light and proposes a new way of living the Christian life by redefining concepts such as born again, the kingdom of God, sin and salvation. It is an insightful and energizing study.

Please let me know that you would like to attend or you may let Mari in the office know and I will get a book for you. We shall read a couple of chapters on our own between sessions. This will provide more time for discussion when we meet.

In the meantime, we will anticipate Jesus' coming into the world through Advent each Sunday in December and celebrate his coming on Christmas Eve. We also look forward to our afternoon Annual Christmas Concert followed by the Alternative Christmas Fair. On the last Sunday of the month after Christmas, we will continue Christmas songs, and affirm our transition from the old year into the new in a cafe-style worship service.

God bless you, peace and goodwill, Cornel

December Church Mouse



Mark Morita was here visiting the Sunday of game five of the World Series. You couldn't miss his spirit while dressed in a orange and black suit cheering for the home team along with the rest of us. The Giants certainly came through showing their true colors! We couldn't help thinking how thrilled Marian Judd would have been with this win.

Debbie Lundberg was excited about a neighbor who is with the Giants management team, and who owns a genuine Giants 2012 World Series ring. He now looks forward to getting his 2014 ring.

Have you peeked in at the choir room lately? Stephanie, along with a decorator friend, transformed it, including an array of colorful religious painted posters, a lovely quilt on the piano and Stephanie's office desk. Look closely at the quilt and notice two of the squares were created by Gabriele Putzi. It was made when Redwood's youth group went to Alaska on a mission trip in the early 80's.

We are grateful to David Barnett who re-constructed the shelf over the re-cycling bins in the kitchen. Many of us, including David, had bumped their heads often! Thanks David! Also, many thanks to all those who helped make the church sparkle on Clean Up Day.

We have received a nice long letter from Erik Rademacher describing his many exciting adventures hiking the Swiss Alps while on leave from his teaching job in France. His love for the outdoors was very descriptive and included beautiful photos. Sounds like Erik is discovering his real passion in life. We wish him well.

Also, Rory Little wrote to say that he enjoys hearing about Redwoods happenings and added that his son Robert is a senior at Pitzer, Patrick is a sophomore at Pomona and Andrea is a senior at Marin Catholic, off to college next August. Bravo to all the Littles!

Bonnie Kaiser won the Penning Award for the second time at her latest cattle drive. Congratulations, cowgirl!

Good news! Pete Giacotto is back home with therapy under the watchful eye of Iris. We are sorry to hear about George Gmahling in Marin General after a set-back. Also, Helen Wiens is home recovering from surgery. Member Bob Towler has moved into assisted living in Denver, CO. All are in our thoughts and prayers.

We welcome new members Carrie Kim and Joan Robinson. Also very happy to have Carrie Kim and family here to celebrate daughter Olivia's baptism. Redwoods Church is blessed by all.

So nice to see Shirley Brady worshiping with us recently. She was as happy to be here as we were to see her. We hope she returns soon.

News from Karen Carmody is that Wayne Slep is doing well at Yountville. He is singing in the church choir.

That's all for this month. See you in the New Year—2015 already! Until then, have a wonderful Advent, Christmas and New Year's!
The Mouse

Deacons Corner

From Margaret Erwin

The Difference, Author Unknown

*I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.*

*"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered,
"You didn't ask."*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day tolled on gray
and bleak;*

*I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you
didn't seek."*

*I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at
the lock.*

*God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't
knock."*

*I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering
the day;*

*I had so much to accomplish that I just had to take time to
pray.*

Margaret

Music Notes

**From Stephanie Ryder
Interim Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Interim Music Director! It is with great joy that we usher in Advent and the anticipation of our Savior, the Messiah! Our choirs have been preparing for two upcoming concerts. The first is our second annual performance of the Bell Choir at the The Tam on Saturday, December 13 at 3 pm. The Tam is located at 501 Via Casitas in Greenbrae. This was such a well-received event last year, and we are looking forward to ringing for God's glory again this year! The following day the Bell Choir will be playing at the annual Advent Concert and Alternative Christmas Fair, here at Redwoods Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, December 14 at 4 pm.

The Choir of voices will be also be performing at the Advent Concert, of course, and this year, we are pleased that there will be a joint child/adult piece. The Compassionate Kids group has been not only studying God's Word through Scripture, but has been preparing songs for the Sunday, December 14 service and for the Advent Concert. We are delighted that John Girton will be joining us on violin for one of our songs we will sing at the concert and at the 10 am Sunday service on December 7.

I look forward to welcoming highly recommended musician, Heather Creighton, who will be our accompanist on December 21. Heather has played at various congregations in Marin, including most recently, Westminster and First Presbyterian, San Rafael.

Christmas Eve we will be blessed with talented musician Devon Lawrence, who played and sang with us for our Easter Sunday service this past year. Devon will be home from college and has offered to be with us in song at the December 24 service at 7 pm.

Blessings,
Stephanie

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called--his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. Ephesians 1:18

Community Formation

**From Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

I have been filled with such joyful abundance this year in my new role. Thank you to all of you at Redwoods Presbyterian Church, who have shown such tremendous support and encouragement. I love being a part of this warm, caring, loving community.

The Tuesday Bible study continues to thrive as we contemplate and discuss "Forgiveness"—how God commands it of us, and the steps we take to we best manifest this powerful practice in our lives today.

Compassionate Kids is growing, with a strong and mighty seven children coming each Friday, first for delicious snacks brought by our loving helpers (Diane, Debbie and Molly)! We light a candle, pray, read God's Word, and then act, play, create, discuss and sing! It certainly has been a time of jubilation!

Our first session will conclude at the participation of some of the children singing at our Sunday service on December 14 at 10 am, followed by their participation in the Advent Concert and Alternative Christmas Fair at 4 pm later that day!

I continued to be humbled by the privilege of preaching God's Word on the third Sundays of the month. It is a beautiful and powerful process for me.

Peace and joy,
Stephanie

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 95:11-13

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Season's greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee. This is a very special time of year for the church with many activities planned and a festive and meaningful time for all of us as we share holiday gatherings with family and friends. The highlight is our joyous Christmas Eve service.

Those who attended the November Saturday breakfast had the pleasure of hearing Katy Mann's presentation on the San Francisco Food Bank (which has now incorporated the Marin Food Bank) about the critical and amazing work they do. The Redwoods Church congregation has been a supporter of the Food Bank for years. The Saturday breakfast will be on hiatus in December but will resume in January.

We are excited to welcome two new members to our congregation: Carrie Kim and Joan Robinson. Carrie is the mother of Aiden and Olivia, who have been attending with her and participating in Sunday School. Joan has also been attending worship for some time. Please introduce yourselves if you haven't already and continue to show our new members a warm welcome in the coming weeks. I hope to give you more information on them in a future *Log* article.

As we go to press, we will be blessed as a congregation sharing in Stephanie Ryder's impressive and moving ordination service on November 30. We are all thrilled to be part of this very special service and we send our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Stephanie.

We hope to see all of you at the holiday music program and alternative Christmas fair on Sunday, December 14. The music is always wonderful, with an added bonus this year of the Lighthouse Singers Gospel Choir. And our beloved alternative Christmas fair offers convenient and thoughtful shopping for everyone on our list while supporting many good causes. Please spread the word to family, friends and neighbors.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas season!

Nancy

Mission Outreach News

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

Alternative Christmas Fair

December 14 – After the Christmas Concert

Come one, come all! Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas fair. After we enjoy our Christmas concert, we will have the chance to "Shop for Joy" at the fair. This is a chance to truly celebrate the coming birth of Christ, when we shop to support agencies that work for peace and justice in our world. In addition to agencies like Habitat for Humanity, we can purchase items from Equal Exchange and others.

After you shop for family and friends, you will receive a statement about the agency for inclusion in your gift card. We will also decorate the Christmas tree with ornaments from each agency, as an on-going reminder of our joy of the season. This is truly a meaningful celebration of Christmas in our world! Bring a friend!

Jan

Christmas Joy Offering

"O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me." Psalm 43.3

On Sunday, December 21, we join with Presbyterians everywhere in the Christmas Joy Offering, a tradition since 1930. The offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the church and also supports education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Half of the offering provides funding to the Board of Pensions assisting retired church workers and their families in need. In 2013, 304 households were provided income supplements and 287 households received housing supplements.

The other half continues support of racial ethnic schools and colleges by providing scholarship assistance and help with basic operating costs. (All PC USA schools and colleges are open to any qualified student, regardless of race.) Many of these students are the first in their families to attend college.

The Mission/Outreach h Committee thanks the members and friends of Redwoods Church for your participation in this special offering.

Jan

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>6</i>
7 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>8</i>	9 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	10 NOTE: Early LOG Deadline	11 7:30 Choir	12 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>13</i>
14 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 12:00 Mill Street 4:00 Concert/Fair	<i>15</i>	16 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	<i>17</i>	18 Early LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
21 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/	22 Church Office Closed	23 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study Church Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 Worship Service Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	<i>27</i>
28 Café Style Service 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve Church Office Closed	1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	<i>3</i>

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in November – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meal

Anna Barnett & Alan Edmonson, Suellen Barnett,
June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster,
Iris Giacotto, John & Tani Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder,
James Holmes, Bonnie Kaiser, Nancy Rademacher,
Marilyn Sutherland, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

Nov 2 June Bellen, Barbara Slusher
Nov 9 Ed Vorous, Nancy Rademacher
Nov 16 Sunday School
Nov 23 Margie Egger
Nov 30 June Bellen, Barbara Slusher

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

Nov 2	Ed Vorous (L), Anna Barnett (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)	Dec 7	Nancy Rademacher (L), Suellen Barnett (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)
Nov 9	Joyce Wells (L), Debbie Lundberg (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)	Dec 14	June Bellen (L), Nancy Rademacher (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)
Nov 16	Clay Wiens (L), June Bellen (G), Iris Giacotto (U)	Dec 21	Polly Gorder (L), Jan Salas (G), Iris Giacotto (U)
Nov 23	Ani Lelea (L), Clay Wiens (G) Ed Vorous (U)	Dec 24	Cornel Barnett (L), Suellen Barnett (G), Maisie & Jim Campbell (U)
Nov 30	Alan Edmonson (L), Bonnie Kaiser (G) Margie Egger (U)	Dec 28	Cornel Barnett (L), Café Style Thanks in advance to Dec. liturgists, greeters and ushers!

Happy Birthdays in December!

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

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