



The Redwoods Log

December 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!

With December's arrival, we enter the beautiful season of Waiting. Many of us are not inclined to wait; I know I am not. I prefer to pounce on things, make it happen immediately, achieve and accomplish and then move on to the next goal or to-do item on the list.

Advent offers us a reprieve from this type of behavior.

It is difficult to slow down and let go when the month is filled with extra activities and commitments: parties, shopping, hanging lights, decorating, entertaining, baking, wrapping, and general rushing around. Many of us have a tough time sitting still the other 11 months of the year as well.

I would like to invite us all to make a commitment this month to remember the reason for the season: preparing for the birth of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our world and our lives. If we are scurrying around, in body and/or mind, we may literally miss it.

What if we were to take a moment of silence for a portion of each day this month? A time that we intentionally offer our whole selves, beings and presence to the Christ-child. Perhaps if we sit in silence for a moment each day, we may even be more available to hear what God has to say.

Martin Luther allegedly said, "*The fewer the words, the better the prayer.*"

Let the intentional moment of silence for the Christ-child to be a time of rest, a time of recognizing the breath within you, the God-given breath of life. Allow yourself to feel God's love and adoration of your uniqueness, of your true essence, the image of God in you.

This verse from an unknown 15th century author exemplifies the beauty and possibility of sitting in silence:

*Lo, in the silent night
A child to God is born
And all is brought again
That ere was lost or lorn.*

*Could but thy soul, O man,
Become a silent night!
God would be born in thee
And set all things aright.*

I wish you all a hope-and-peace-filled Advent season and a joy-and-love filled Christmas.

Blessings, Stephanie

December Services/Events

(All services at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

December 4: Second Sunday of Advent.
Holy Communion

December 11: Third Sunday of Advent
Baptisms of Tyler and Ryan Green

December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Birthday Blessings

December 24: Christmas Eve, 7 pm Worship Service

December 25: Christmas Day

Music Notes

From Denise Wharmby

Music Director

Hello All, The year is passing by so quickly. But all feels good at Redwoods.

The music at the service on November 13 was played by our wonderful bell choir, and we dedicated the music to Ed Vorous, a member of the bell choir who passed away earlier this year.

The choir has sung at every service and we are, all of us, looking forward to Advent and Christmas.

But first, it's that time of year where being thankful has its dedicated place in the calendar. I'm so thankful for this church and the great community here.

Musically, **Denise**

Facilities Notes

From Chair Clay Wiens

The Facilities Committee is still working hard getting the facilities ready for the rainy season ahead.

Last month we took care of the buckling sidewalk in front of the church caused by redwood tree roots. Steve Egger, our landscape expert, and a consulting arborist, guided this issue with a foremost goal of promoting safe use of the sidewalk. To this end, the sidewalk was removed and a new concrete slab laid.

Our new handyman, Gilberto, also made sure our upstairs deck and downstairs doors were repaired and waterproofed so that, along with the new outdoor mats, our entryways are now in the best shape they can be for wet weather.

Inside, Gilberto painted the Fellowship Hall bathroom and added a new paper towel dispenser. Now all the bathrooms in the church have a refreshed look, including functioning paper towel dispensers. He also added new safety GFI outlets in the kitchen.

The Facilities Committee welcomes our new tenants, the Tuesday Night Al Anon Speaker Group and the Saturday morning CODA group. The former started meeting at the church in October and the latter will begin meeting this month.

Clay

Deacons Corner

From Polly Gorder

Dear Friends, Thanksgiving Day is just past, but this story of persistence is too good to wait until next year! I hope you enjoy reading its message of perseverance.

"It was a magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, whose work led to the celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday we observe today. Hale wrote letters to governors and presidents, and editorials in magazines, books and newspapers, promoting the observance of Thanksgiving.

"In 1863, after 40 years of letter writing and campaigning (that's not a typo, she really wrote letters for 40 years), Hale's persistence paid off and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving.

"We can learn from Hale's perseverance. Just like her story, the Christian faith is often described as a marathon, not a sprint. Each day of our life is another day to choose between right and wrong, to help someone in need, to pray and to study God's word."

As Paul reminds us, Christians are called to persevere, to press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ. May that be so!

Polly

December Church Mouse



The Mouse stuck its head out of a tiny hole in the Fellowship Hall, whiskers twitching, to see what all the activity was about. What was going on?

The hall was rockin' with a celebration of Diane Forster's Big 8 - 0! Family and friends came from near and far; even son Dan from Australia made the occasion.

But Diane wasn't the only one celebrating a "Big Birthday"...

Joan Robinson celebrated a Big 9-0 with a luncheon prepared by her daughter, Carol, in her historic Larkspur home atop Hawthorne Avenue.

Jolyne Liberati, visited her birth place in Lodi with her husband, Lou, and family to celebrate her 85th birthday.

Kurt Radmacher's special friend flew in from Southern California to celebrate Kurt's 70th birthday with all his family and friends.

To all this birthday bustle, the Mouse says, "Wowzers! Time to rest in the nest and munch on delicious birthday cake crumbs!"

But unlike the Mouse warming the nest, many Redwoods members are on the go...

Joyce Wells, ever the adventurer, and her friend, Joe Sheean, traveled by train to Montreal where they boarded the "Oceana" and cruised down the east coast. East coast cousins agreed that it was a smooth ride.

Speaking of smooth rides, do you have trouble getting to church on time? Jan Salas drives 93 miles twice a week from Capitola—to bell practice on Tuesday and church on Sunday.

The Mouse plans to sneak into Jan's trunk and visit cousins at the beach!

The younger set are "on the go" in a different way!

Liam Wallace, an accomplished percussionist and son of Redwood's delightful new Music Director, Denise Wharmby, recently performed at Oakland's St. John's Episcopal Church.

As they say, "the apple doesn't fall far..."

How did a large stack of beautifully decorated Xmas shoe boxes appear magically in the library? Sibylla and Ruben Ortiz brought them in so that they could be filled with toys and supplies for needy children around the world. Sibylla is the daughter of Gabriele and Robert Putzi.

Another apple that doesn't fall far!

(Psst...Mouse is always looking for apples and other good food and highly recommends the Saturday Breakfast. The programs are good, too—that's where everyone heard about the boxes!)

The Mouse is not worried about the future when "Compassionate Kids" like Ella Clinard, Tyler Green and Nathan Girton assist Reverend Stephanie in the service.

And not when Mouse hears the "Kids" describe Heaven as a "beautiful place," "joyful," "no anger, sadness or fighting," "everyone is kind, polite and care for each other," "like a family" and.... "like Redwoods Church!"

Whew, bringing you all up to date is making Mouse tired and ready to curl up in the nest and munch on cheese.

That means it is time to wish you all well and hope that you get lots of food and Heaven (to me, pretty much the same thing) during the Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!.

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee!
We wish everyone a blessed holiday season.

We will not have a Saturday breakfast in December but will resume in January. We will be announcing the program soon.

Please join us on Sunday, December 4 to celebrate Molly Rademacher and the nearly ten years she has served as the Sunday school teacher at Redwoods Church. We will be having a special coffee hour to honor her dedication and service following the worship service.

As most of you know, Molly has been hired by Lycée Francaise de San Francisco to teach English to their fifth grade classes and feels she must step down as the Sunday school teacher at Redwoods.

I know it is a bittersweet time for her as she has so enjoyed and cherished being involved with all the children who have come to our church over the years. We hope you can join us for this special celebration.

Have a joyous Christmas and all best wishes to the New Year!
Nancy

New Member News!

We are very happy to announce that on December 11, Katie Zwarg will become a member of the church.

An introduction to Katie and her family will be included in the January LOG. Meanwhile, we are pleased to announce that on December 11, Katie's two sons, Tyler and Ryan Green, will be baptized, and the whole family will participate in lighting the candle for the third Sunday of Advent.

We are currently planning an after worship welcome for Katie and her family that will also include a welcome for Sara and Jerry Laureyns. The Laureyns' membership was reactivated at their request at the November Session meeting and announced on Sunday, November 13. Redwoods is blessed to have these wonderful new members.
Stephanie

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Co- Chairs

Debbie Lundberg and Jan Salas

Continuing the Christmas Fair

If you didn't have a chance to shop at the alternative Christmas Fair on the first day of Advent, please stop by immediately after worship on Sundays during Advent to see what Fair items are still available. The full Fair included Bread for the World, Church World Service, Faith In Practice, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, Equal Exchange, Presbyterian Gift Catalog and EcoViva. Some of these will be available on subsequent Sundays.
Debbie

Christmas Joy Offering

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth..."

Psalm 89.4

On Sunday, December 18, we will join with Presbyterians everywhere in the Christmas Joy Offering, which has been a Presbyterian tradition since 1930.

One half of the offering provides funding to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. In 2015, \$1.1 million was used by the Board to provide grants to current and retired Presbyterian leaders in times of need.

The offering also continues the Presbyterian Church's commitment to the support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Students at these schools receive much needed scholarship assistance and the schools get help with basic operating costs.

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

Thank You!

From Rev. Stephanie Ryder

Thank you to everyone for a lovely and grace-filled welcome party on November 6. I am grateful for the special event to acknowledge my new position here as pastor. The decorations, food, flowers, cards, cake, and kind words were all meaningful and appreciated. God bless you all!
Love, **Stephanie**

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:15 Children's Ed 10:00 Worship 11:00 Molly's Coffee Fair Items 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Bible Study	<i>7</i> 3:30 Compassionate Kids	<i>8</i> 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship & Fair Items 12:00 Mill Street Meal Delivery	<i>12</i> LOG Deadline	<i>13</i> 9:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Bible Study	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> LOG Mailing	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship & Fair Items 11:15 Membership Fellowship	<i>19</i> Office Closed	<i>20</i> 9:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Session Office Closed	<i>21</i> Office Closed	<i>22</i> Office Closed	<i>23</i> Office Closed	<i>24</i> <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:00 Traditional Candlelight Service
<i>25</i> <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed	<i>26</i> Office Closed	<i>27</i> Office Closed	<i>28</i> Office Closed	<i>29</i> Office Closed	<i>30</i> Office Closed	<i>31</i>

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in November – Thank you!

Mill Street Meal

Karen Carmody, Deacons, Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder,
Tani & John Girton, Georgene & Ginger Gmahling, Tyler Green,
Sharon MacQuarrie, Bonnie Kaiser, Sara & Jerry Laureyns,
Jane Purkey, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele & Robert Putzi,
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

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)

Dec 4 Tani Girton (L)
Jan Salas (U)
Gabriele Putzi (G)
Dec 11 Bonnie Kaiser (L)
Ani Lelea (U/G)
Dec 18 Polly Gorder (L)
Nancy Rademacher (U/G)
Dec 24 Charlie & Brooks Ryder (L)
Dec 25 Joyce Wells (L)

Happy Birthday!

From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton
Join the Deacons in wishing the following members
and friends a happy birthday this month:

1– Bryan Webb, 10—Helen Morita,
21–Maisie Campbell, 24–Robert Putzi

Add your name and birth date to our list by con-
tacting office@redwoodspres.org or 415-924-4832.

Tani