

# The Redwoods LOG

January 2010 • Redwoods Presbyterian Church • 110 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, California • 415-924-4832

## From Your Pastor

Dear Friends,

Can you believe it is 2010 – one decade after Y2K? Yes it is! If I was into numerology, I might look more closely at 2010. It is a good looking number. Anyway, here we are in 2010. New years for me are *signs* of hope. What will this year bring?

I'm looking forward to this year at Redwoods Church. We can expect great things to happen here as we continue to be prayerful and open to God's Spirit in our midst.

Talking about signs, it is wonderful to have a new sign gracing the front of our church. An enormous 'thank you' goes to Jim Egger for all the work he did and time spent to make this happen. His heart is in the beauty of the church's landscape just as Jack Forster's heart is in the building. They love the church.

I'm on dangerous ground when I single out people. We all know that there are an amazing number of people doing an amazing amount of things to bring this church alive. And it is alive on every level.

The sign: we intended it to be simple. It contains the Presbyterian Church (USA) seal, the name of the church and the time of worship. Most people nowadays see the name and if they want to know more about the church they "Google" the name and, thank God, they will see an updated website of the church.

The PC (USA) seal is comprised of the symbol, the basic components of which are the cross, scripture and a descending dove at the upper part of the cross and flames on either side of the lower part of the cross. There are other spiritual objects in the seal. What do you see?

I read the quote recently that all symbols are neutral until someone interprets them and that interpretation gives it power. Our new sign is a symbol of our presence at the juncture of Larkspur and Corte Madera, the Twin Cities. It's our task to interpret it to our family and friends.

As we interpret, we invite. You did that in December. We had a tremendous turn-out for the Christmas Concert and High Tea. You invited family and friends to one of the best events in town and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. This was a gift to ourselves and to the community and it will benefit the church in the long run.

Our new sign, our updated website, our new roof, our communal spirit of caring and sharing, and every aspect of our ministry and mission are signs of hope for our church, community and world.

God bless you and God bless Redwoods Presbyterian Church in 2010.

Love and Peace, Cornel

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## Church Mouse

### Advent Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



The Mouse family had an early Christmas visit from granddaughter, Rosie Skipper, from Alabama.

We are full of hope as we wait for Christmas, and then the New Year!

What a lovely joyful time we had at the Christmas Concert and High Tea on December 13. The choir sang, the bells rang and the people sang! Then there was the High Tea with goodies galore. Thanks to the wonderful women who did all the planning and sharing their vintage tea cups and saucers.

Most of all, there were the people — Redwoods members and friends from the neighborhood. There were old timers we were happy to see. To name a few — Klara & Frank Larsen, Merna McIntosh, Jane & Joe Purkey, Margaret & Harry Richards and Joan Richardson. Lawrence Reh attended the morning service and was present in the spirit.

The Millers said “farewell” to us in the morning — we’re sad to lose this family of “light,” but happy that Chris has found a new job with lots of potential in Texas.

We’ll miss hearing Spensely and Clay’s responses during the children’s time. “God loves you no matter what you do, just like your dog,” was the essence of Cornel’s message, and the children added, “But the dog has four legs!”

Here’s to safe traveling for all those going away for Christmas. Kitty Prosser is going to visit her son and family including a great grandson, Logan Lloyd Prosser, in Los Angeles; Melissa Gill and her three sons will be cruising to Acapulco.

Other items of note. Mercedes Irwin lost her wallet and found it after some worrisome time.

Eva Peoples is looking for a two bedroom apartment. Any suggestions? Call her at 785-4599.

On January 3 in the New Year, Eric Rademacher will officially become an Eagle Scout. The Court of Honor will be held at Redwoods Church and you are all invited to this afternoon event. Congrats, Eric!

Happy New Year to all. See you in 2010!

**Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

## Theological Poetry

At a recent officer training session, two church officers shared some of their theology. This poem was written from this sharing. The theology noted here reminds us that our leadership is in good hands.

### **Faith in 2009**

Two in training  
and they say  
It’s not a Sunday thing  
this faith  
that helps me sing  
of compassion  
and of those in need  
Indeed faith  
guides me  
leads me  
and assures me  
of answered prayer  
I believe God  
will do right by me.

## Choir News

### January

As we adjust our calendars to a new year, we look back on 2009 with nostalgia and recall some of the good things that happened in '09.

Somehow, through the past year we were able to have a choir that participated throughout the whole year, missing only a few Sundays. For all but perhaps a couple services, anthems of special numbers were presented at morning worship.

This is quite unusual, for in many small churches the choir tends to "take the summer off." It can be remembered that at Redwoods during the summer months, we often had to rely on soloists for special music.

How fortunate we are to have such dedicated people help with anthem music performed throughout the year! Now that we see what a small group can do, such as was presented at the Christmas Concert on December 13, we realize how blessed our congregation is to produce the music that we do.

Also, how fortunate we are to have such a fine bell choir, for there is no better time to hear bells than during the Christmas season. Our aim is to have the hand bells to be heard more often through 2010.

We feel so fortunate to have been able to use Christmas music during the Advent season for there is so little time between Advent and Epiphany to be able to present all the wonderful Christmas music available. We hope you enjoyed the additional time this year to hear and sing these familiar carols and hymns.

**Dick Judd**

## Alternative Christmas Faire – Full of Angels!

On the day of the Redwoods Alternative Christmas Faire, Fellowship Hall was definitely awash with angels. In fact, the room was glowing from all the halos!

On the Redwoods Church website, we announce that our congregation is committed to following Jesus Christ in his ministry of compassion. That is exactly what the members and friends of Redwoods did at the Faire. Amazing, amazing, amazing!

The Faire raised \$2,693 to bring hope, freedom, justice and dignity to those in need. Your generous support of the Faire will make a difference to those in need.

As thank you letters are received from the sponsoring groups, they will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

Blessings to all the Angels from your grateful Mission Outreach Committee!  
**Debbie Lundgren**

## Earth Prayer

Almighty God, who are mother and father to us all,  
Look upon your planet Earth divided:  
Help us to know that we are all your children,  
That all nations belong to one great family,  
And all our religions lead to you.

Multiply our prayers in every land  
Until the whole Earth becomes your congregation,  
United in your love.  
Sustain our vision of a peaceful future  
And give us strength to work unceasingly  
To make that vision real. Amen. Helen Weaver

May this prayer be ours in 2010! **Helen Morita**

## Women's Breakfast

The Saturday Morning Women's Breakfast last met in November when we enjoyed a highly entertaining presentation by Suellen Barnett about her travels far and wide.

A huge 'thank you' to Suellen for her talk and for being such a draw—the room was packed! Following her adventure travelogue, we all wanted to pack our bags and set out for far away places!

After its December break, the Women's Breakfast resumes on Saturday, January 16. Our guest speaker will be Molly Rademacher who will share with us her story, illustrated by her photographs, of teaching English in Bois, France in the Loire Valley.

Please join us at around 9:30 am for our potluck breakfast and fellowship before what is sure to be a fun program with exciting photographs at 10 am. We hope to see you on January 16!

**Debbie Lundberg**

## January Birthdays

Please join us in wishing the following members a very happy birthday this month: January 7—Margaret Richards; 8—Inga Coleman; 8—Jim Egger; 8—Zach Paulson ('96); 11—Rory Little; 11—Wayne Slemper; 19—Clay Wiens; 25—Molly Rademacher ('85).

If you would like to give Redwoods members the opportunity to wish you a happy birthday, please contact 924-4832 or [office@redwoodspres.org](mailto:office@redwoodspres.org) and give your name and birthday (month and day) and we will add you to the Redwoods Church Family Birthday List.

## Ushering in the New Year

I call myself 'Head Usher' though I really haven't ushered much since I joined the choir two years ago. I'm not a good singer, but I love praising the Lord in song. I don't read music and I never sang in a group before, so thank you, Dick, and choir group for letting me be a participant.

As a deacon, one of my duties is to make a schedule for two persons per week to serve as ushers for our Sunday worship service and for special occasions. I schedule for three months at a time and I have been doing this for the past four years. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered to usher all these years: "Thank you, thank you."

For those who do not know all the duties required, I have copies of the procedures in the Narthex. We follow everything on the list unless directed otherwise by the pastor or head usher.

Some of the items on the list may be done by our church mouse who comes in early (except when absent). Ushers arrive at 10 am and check every item on the list when opening and again when closing at the end of worship.

Thank you all for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to tell me. God bless and Happy New Year.

**Margaret Erwin**

## A Bit of Wisdom

I found this wonderful quote from Morton Kelsey and thought it would be worthwhile to share with other LOG readers as we begin our New Year's resolution process. "The real test of my loving is not that I feel loving, but that the other person feels loved by me."

**Helen Morita**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee Report

The Membership/Fellowship committee is looking forward to the New Year. We have been discussing our fellowship activities with an eye to what the church would like to offer to the membership.

We will continue the monthly women's breakfasts with its wonderful, informative and very well-attended programs.

We are also working on new programs and other ways to make the community aware of this amazing church and its congregation, its inspiring worship services and its generous mission outreach and giving.

On January 31 at 2:00 pm we are planning an outing to the Ross Valley Players Barn Theater at the Marin Art and Garden Center to see Moliere's *The Miser*. We'll have a light lunch at the church beforehand.

From what I have heard and from having seen other Moliere plays, it should prove to be a very entertaining afternoon. I hope many of you will be able to join us. Announcements will be made in church and in the 'Happenings' section of the Sunday bulletin with more details and how to sign up.

Cornel recently provided the Membership/Fellowship Committee with the results of a U.S. Congregational Life Survey regarding common myths regarding evangelism and church growth.

I thought I would share a few of these myths with you:

Myth: Only large churches grow.

Fact: Thirty-nine percent of fast-growing Presbyterian churches have fewer than 200 in worship.

Myth: Most people have been attending their congregation for years and years.

Fact: One-third of worshipers are new in the last five years; in fast-growing churches one-half are new.

Myth: New people usually learn about the congregation from advertising.

Fact: Many new people (47%) visit for the first time because someone invited them; only 6% came for the first time due to advertising.

Fact: Most new people visit between one and three congregations before choosing their new church home.

Myth: Growing congregations rely exclusively on church signs and big advertising campaigns.

Fact: Growing congregations use multiple methods to attract new people.

Fact: Growing congregations are more likely to hold events to meet new people or to add members, advertise in the newspaper or telephone book, use e-mail, have a church website, and send materials to or telephone first-time visitors.

We have heard this before, but inviting family, friends and neighbors is the most effective way to introduce new people to the church. We will, of course, continue to use the various methods mentioned above to reach out to the community and potential new members.

Blessings to all in 2010! **Nancy Rademacher**

## Counseling Corner

***“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ.”***

**Philippians 3:13-14**

Perhaps the Apostle Paul was meditating on his New Year’s Resolutions when he made the above statement. Perhaps that’s taking poetic license. In any case this is that time of year when we look back at the past year and more importantly, forward to the coming year, and Paul’s statement is comforting.

This is the traditional time of the year to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and resolve to follow through on those changes. Did any of your resolutions make it into this top ten list, ranked according to a research council in Pennsylvania?

1). Spend more time with family and friends. 2). Fit in fitness. Suggestions included walking, running, weight-lifting for at least a half hour every day for mood raising as well as body health. 3). Tame the bulge. This research says 66% of adult Americans are overweight. 4). Quit smoking. 5). Enjoy life more. Holistic healing, hobbies, theater, spa treatments, travel to favorite places were included in this list. 6). Quit drinking. 7). Get out of debt. 8). Learn something new. Lifelong learning programs were suggested. 9). Help others. 10). Get organized.

One writer says no one ever reaches his or her New Year’s goals. But this Pennsylvania study says 12% of the people in their study group did. They suggest setting small measurable goals; for example, instead of ‘lose weight,’ commit to losing a pound a week. They also found that when we share our goals with friends and gain their support, there is more success.

On a different tack, Rebecca Livermore, a Christian freelance writer from Colorado suggests the following

New Year’s reflection that takes only one hour for the entire process and needs only a quiet place and a pen and writing tablet. (Moreover, the process of looking at successes and growth points is very therapeutic.)

First, have a time of laying down concerns and worries from the past year, spending 20 minutes on this. List them all. Go through each one and ask if there is anything you could do about it now. If not, pray that God will give you peace about it. If you can do something about the concern, write down what that would be, and resolve to take this action. Conclude this time by committing all of the concerns to God. “Cast all your anxieties on God because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

Second, have a time of reflection, also for 20 minutes. Think over the events of the past year and on one page make a list of the struggles and possible mistakes and ask for God’s healing in all of this, and on another paper make a list of the blessings and successes and thank and praise God for God’s goodness in your life in the past year.

Third, have a time of looking forward that is also 20 minutes. Ask what God would like to accomplish in and through you in the coming year – in your spiritual life, family life, ministry, career, finances, etc. Take one area at a time and present it to God in prayer. Jot down your thoughts as they come to you.

Conclude this hour by thanking God for insights gained. This can also be done as a group process, with sharing and support taking place throughout.

May God be at the center of our entry into 2010, in our considering New Year’s resolutions, in our time of meditation and self-reflection, and in our lives in general.

**Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT**

# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>Happy New Year!</i>	<i>1</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i> <i>2nd Sunday After Christmas</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:45 Choir 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Education	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Mission	<i>6</i> 3:30 Worship/ Christian Ed Committee	<i>7</i>  7:30 Choir	<i>8</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:15 Session Breakfast 9:45 Choir 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Deacons	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>  7:30 Choir	<i>15</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>16</i> 9:30 Women's Breakfast
<i>17</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:45 Choir 10:45 Children's Education 1:30 Convalescent Ministry	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Session	<i>20</i> LOG Deadline	<i>21</i>  7:30 Choir	<i>22</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:45 Choir 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Education	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Membership/ Fellowship Committee	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>  7:30 Choir	<i>29</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:45 Choir 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Education						

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

## Helping Hands in December – Thanks!

### Mill Street Shelter Meals:

Suellen Barnett, June & Bob Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Melissa Gill, Diane & Jack Forster, Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Debbie Lundberg, Helen Morita, Eva Peoples, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher, Barbara Slusher, Joyce Wells



### Coffee Hours:

Suellen Barnett, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Marian & Dick Judd, Holley & Chris Miller, LaVerne Schmidt

### Convalescent Ministry:

June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Polly Gorder, Dick Judd  
Marilyn Sutherland

### Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes:

June Bellen, Barbara Garcia, Melissa Gill, Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg, Lindsay Merritt, Marilyn Paulsen, Eva Peoples, Herb Schmidt,

### Liturgists:

Suellen Barnett, Anne Benezra, Margaret Erwin, Ani Lelea, Holley & Chris Miller, Marilyn & Jack Sutherland, Clay Wiens