



The Redwoods Log

February 2011 Redwoods Presbyterian Church 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

The New Year has begun and we are thoroughly into it. New leaders are in place and both the Session and Deacons are moving dynamically forward.

The Membership and Fellowship Committee is working with John Girton to host members of the famous Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir in concert and reception here on March 14 at 4 pm.

The Deacons are intentional about caring for the members through their parish groups, prayer chain and other tasks.

The Session has voted on the special offerings for the year which is our support of our denomination's ministry in every corner of the globe: doctors in the Sudan, assistance in Haiti, peace advocates in the Middle East, racial ethnic schools in the US, you name it, we do it.

We anticipate another Lent/East season beginning with the Ash Wednesday worship service on March 9 at 7 pm to be followed by five Wednesdays of Lenten suppers and spiritual practice sessions. Note these in your date book: Supper from 6:30 – 7:15 and the spiritual practice sessions from 7:15 – 8:15. The subject for the latter: "Anchoring Your Well Being: Christian Wholeness in a Fractured World."

Another important up-coming event is the annual meeting of the congregation and pot-luck salad luncheon following the worship service on February 13. At this meeting we celebrate the ministry of the past year. Copies of the annual report will be available online and through the church office no later than February 7.

There is so much to say about the spirit, energy, caring and mission of this church. Much has been unsaid. The church is the people and the people of Redwoods are loving, faithful and committed.

The purpose of these highlights is to affirm that the most important thing about our church community is not how many people come or don't come to worship or any of our gatherings but that those who do come *enjoy* the Spirit of God in this special place and enjoy our relationships with each other and what we are doing to make this world a better place.

One final note: Christina Jensen, a San Francisco Theological Seminary student will begin a three-month internship here on Sunday, February 6. She will participate in as full a range of general ministry as possible and meet with our youth and their families. A brief biography is in this Log. Please join me in welcoming Christina on the February 6.

Love and peace,

Cornel

February Church Mouse



Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Here we are in January 2011! Redwoods finished 2010 and segued into the New Year with lovely memories of Christmas! The Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols was especially joyful with multi-generational families from the community joining us.

During the holiday season some traveled. The Girtons and Zach Paulson skied at Homewood and Incline Village. A few weeks later Zach and Ben Girton went back for more!

Eric Rademacher went to France and spent a few weeks with Molly who is enjoying another year of teaching in the area of Tours. It was good to see Eric at Redwoods for several Sundays before he returned to Humboldt State.

It's wonderful to see our young church at work. Matthew Phipps pinch hit for the liturgist and took the microphone to members who had joys and concerns to share. Other young church people are participating now. Marissa Phipps read beautifully during the Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve. Jennifer Garcia is a very pleasant Greeter on many Sundays.

Thanks to Kitty Prosser who started the ball calling for the younger church when Jennifer came to live with her. By the way, Kitty has a new great grandson named Blake Ryan Prosser who lives in Southern California.

Redwoods has some special birthday people! Margaret Richards turned 95 on January 7 and Inga Coleman on January 8. Klara Larsen will be 95 on February 27. Congrats to all! And then we have Ed Elliott who is 90 and is enjoying line dancing and drumming

at the Redwoods in Mill Valley. Ed also has a wonderful sense of humor and knows a lot of funny stories.

One of the special joys of Christmas is sending and receiving cards. The Millers, who moved to Texas last year, sent a photo. Clay (age 7) said recently, "I miss our friends at Redwoods." They hope to visit us in the spring. The photo is on the bulletin board by the kitchen. We miss the Millers too!

Prayers and good thoughts are needed for: Anne Bennezra who lost her husband, Morgan; Gerry Scofield who has been in the hospital twice; and Merna McIntosh's daughter-in-law, Kathy Dye, who is having surgery on January 20. Kathy is planning to move to Corte Madera when she is well. We hope that will be soon. Barbara Linse called to say that there is lots of snow in Boston. Barbara is lonesome now that daughter, Caroline, has gone back to her job in Ireland. Cards would be welcomed by all the good people mentioned above. Addresses are in the new Church Directory.

We end on a cheerful note. We missed Mercedes Irwin for a few Sundays when she went to Key West Florida with her family. She lolled in the sun and was spoiled by the younger family members. Now she is home with lots of pleasant memories and "has to take care of herself," she says in her pleasant way.

All for now. See you next month.

Mr. Mouse and Spouse

February Happy Birthdays!

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Please join the Deacons and congregation in wishing the following members a happy birthday this month: 6 – Marjorie Egger, 6 – Andrea Little ('97), 9 – Ben Girton ('96), 12 – Barbara Garcia, 14 – Jim Gorder, 15 – Dick Kohler and 27 – Klara Larsen.

Polly

February Choir News

From Music Director Dick Judd

It is hard to believe that Lent and Easter will be here so soon—time has a way of slipping by so quickly! As we look ahead, we realize that we have much to do in preparation for this time of the church year. When we put the Christmas music away, we changed our vestment color to green and we refer this season in between Christmas and Lent as “Ordinary Time.” When we get to the season of Lent, the six weeks prior to Easter, the stole color will change to purple.

Not only will we be changing our outer apparel, we will also be changing the kind of music we present. During this significant season of Lent, the music is not intended to be happy and celebrative, but rather more in tune with our turning inward to learn what Christ’s impending crucifixion means to each of us. There are countless beautiful anthems and hymns that are appropriate for this purpose during the services of worship approaching the solemn period of Holy Week. One of the hymns you will hear sung will be “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.” We hope these beautiful anthems and hymns add to your worship during this deeply sacred period in the church year.

Dick

Welcome Christina!

Please join in offering a warm welcome to Christina Jensen, a San Francisco Theological Seminary student who will intern here from February 6 to May 19.

Christina was born August 20, 1985 in Big Rapids, Michigan. When she was 9, her family moved to Troy, Michigan, where she still lives with her mother, brother and maternal grandparents. She graduated from Troy High School in 2003, and then went to Alma College, where she graduated in December 2007 with a BA in Sociology.

Christina is expected to graduate from San Francisco Theological Seminary in May 2011 with her Master of Divinity degree. She has been a member of Greenfield Presbyterian Church, in Berkley, Michigan, since 2000, and served as that congregation’s first youth deacon, serving a three-year term.

She has played the violin for 15 years and has sung in various choirs since the age of 4. She sings in the SFTS Choir. She hung up her violin during her studies at SFTS.

When Christina isn’t studying or doing church work, she enjoys crafting, baking, and spending time with friends.

We look forward to getting to know Christina better during the time she spends with us. Again, welcome, Christina!

Deacons Say Goodbye

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

It is with gratitude for a job well done with grace and generosity that the Board of Deacons bids goodbye to Gabrielle Putzi and June Bellen. They will be greatly missed! In moving forward, the Board thanks the new members, Elein Phipps and Dick Judd, for their willingness to join the Board. Marilyn Sutherland’s term had expired and she graciously agree to continue for another term. Now our new board is off and running with our continuing emphasis on care-giving for our Redwoods family.

Polly

News Brief!

The Marin Food Bank is now partnering with the San Francisco Food Bank to lower costs and to expand much needed services to Marin. More information is posted in Fellowship Hall.

Mission Outreach News From Chair Debbie Lundberg

The 2011 CROP Hunger Walk

Due in great part to the efforts of Helen Morita, one of our most important outreach efforts at Redwoods is the annual Marin CROP Hunger Walk, scheduled this year for Sunday, March 27. As Helen is still in recovery, we are putting out a call for a point person to help organize sign-ups, car-pooling and registration for Redwoods. If you need more information, please talk with Deb Lundberg and/or check the flyer posted in Fellowship Hall.

The Marin CROP Hunger Walk is co-sponsored by the Marin Interfaith Council and Church World Service (CWS). Caring individuals throughout Marin may participate in several ways:

- * You can walk 5 K (3.1 miles) through downtown San Rafael. Each walker must secure at least one sponsor—a person who pledges money for your walk. Walkers can secure pledges from as many people as possible, including by signing up for sponsors online. Checks and sponsor forms (and money collected) are turned in on WALK Day, or delivered to Marin Interfaith Council by April 30.

- * You can recruit other walkers to join you as you walk.

- * You can sponsor a walker.

- * You can volunteer to help the WALK committee.

- * You can ask your employer/corporation to sponsor the event through matching gifts, in-kind donations and sponsor donations.

The 2011 Marin CROP Hunger Walk local recipients (25% of the total) will be the Marin Community Food Bank, St. Vincent De Paul Society of Marin County and Marin Street Chaplaincy.

The Church World Service uses the remaining 75% of funds to:

- * Support sustainable self-help development projects such as digging wells, providing tools and

seeds, rebuilding homes and teaching trade skills through micro-enterprise loans;

- * Meet emergency needs, such as for survivors of the Central Valley freeze, floods, fires, and other natural and human-made disasters;

- * Aid refugees by providing hope for those from the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iran, Burma, Somalia, Sudan, Ukraine, Russia, Laos and Vietnam and other countries and by resettling them in the U.S. through our regional affiliate offices;

- * Address the root causes of poverty and powerlessness

Alternative Christmas Faire Update

Thanks to the angels of Redwoods and friends, the following funds were generated by those who shopped for joy at this year's event:

Bread For The World	\$235
Marin Homeless Chaplaincy	\$295
Church World Service	\$430
Faith In Practice	\$858
Habitat for Humanity	\$387
Heifer International	\$726
TOTAL	\$2,931

The light that shines brightly in the darkness brings gifts of light, love, caring, security, nourishment and shelter to people around the earth on behalf of your loved ones. This is the true blessedness of Christmas giving.

Christmas Joy Offering Update

The members and friends of Redwoods contributed an amazing \$687 in support of the Christmas Joy offering. Of the funds collected, fifty percent are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that support retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.

Thank you all for your generosity at the Christmas Faire and for the Christmas Joy Offering. **Debbie**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee! We feel God's spirit moving among us as we begin the new year and are very excited about a couple of upcoming events.

The Redwoods Church annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 13, with a potluck salad luncheon following the meeting. The scrumptious and varied salads are always a church favorite. Drinks and desserts will be provided by the Membership/Fellowship committee. This is an opportunity to celebrate Redwoods Church accomplishments during the last year and share in fellowship. We hope you can all attend.

Save the date of Sunday, March 13 for a lively gospel performance, our second fundraising music concert. It will be held at 4 pm with a reception following and will feature a wonderful and talented group from Oakland. We hope to attract a large number of people from the community, so think about who you would like to invite. Getting the word out to the community will be a big part of the planning process, so if anyone has ideas, please contact John Girton or one of the committee members. We will have more details in the next few weeks. Blessings to all, **Nancy**

From Member Debbie Lundberg Saturday Breakfast

The first 2011 Saturday Breakfast on January 15 was well attended by 16 members and friends of Redwoods who enjoyed the potluck goodies and the program that followed.

Gwen and Hamp Mauvais, representing the Center for Domestic Peace (formerly known as Marin Abused Women Services aka MAWS), presented a 17-minute video that showcased the real lives and real situations

of individuals who have sought the services of the Center. Gwen and Hamp also shared information about the many services offered by the Center and provided several brochures and other materials. Questions and answers followed the presentation.

We offer our thanks and appreciation to Gwen and Hamp for their talk and video. All of us learned an amazing amount of information about the problems of and solutions to the crime of domestic violence. Information about the Center's work is available in Fellowship Hall and on the Center's website: www.centerfordomesticpeace.org

We are pleased, excited and honored to have Ani Lelea present her faith journey with us at the February 19 breakfast. Please join us at 9:30 am for conversation and potluck goodies with the program to follow at 10:00 am. **Debbie**

Marin Interfaith Council Sacred Concert

The Marin Interfaith Council is offering *Music of the Beloved: An Interfaith Concert*, featuring wonderful musicians representing a number of faith traditions: Clerestory, an acclaimed 9-man classical a cappella ensemble from the Bay Area; Arjun Verman, an Indian sitarist; Tsering Dorjee Bawa, a Tibetan singer, musician and sacred folk dancer; David Margules and Rita Glassman, Jewish cantors, with singer/songwriter Fred Ross-Perry, bass player Stuart Dubey and percussionist Mike Spinrad.

The concert is at 2 pm, Sunday, February 13 at Showcase Theater, Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. Tickets are \$20-50. See the Marin Interfaith Council site, www.Marinifc.org for more information. **Debbie**

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

Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

In the support groups I've facilitated over the years, we've talked about the stresses in our lives and ended the discussions by saying what our hopes are for the next week and beyond. We talk about how to cope with the stresses and keep our hopes alive.

In one of my current groups, all the kids are on probation, so they talk about the stress of having probation on their shoulders all the time. Their suggestions for each other are helpful for us as well.

They say, if we have something heavy weighing on us, we need to take a day at a time and not focus on the whole situation. Such as, for them, when they will be getting off probation, which could be two months, two years or longer.

These students suggest that if you think of any kind of ending, it makes the present too difficult to handle.

We also talk about *how* they can keep fulfilling their probation contracts – staying away from drugs, gangs, fights, etc. – so that eventually that day comes when they are off probation.

I think their counsel about taking it a day at a time and finding practical solutions when we are working through some difficult situation is good for all of us.

Perhaps we are dealing with an illness of our own or of a family member or friend; or with a problematic colleague at work. We might be facing a difficult task at work which we don't really want to do. Whatever the problem, taking it day by day (or sometimes hour by hour!) and working on the problem for that day keeps us from getting too overwhelmed about the whole thing.

What are the small steps we can take to solve the situation? In dealing with a problematic colleague we can take care of ourselves first. We can meditate on the problem: What is the problem? Why is it a problem? Can we live with the problem? Sometimes we grow by living with a problematic person. Talking with a trusted friend or therapist or your pastor can help. Can we find a win-win? We pray.

Paul's word to the church in Philippi helps: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). Also: "Commit to God whatever you do, and all your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3).

Suellen

The Sense of Wonder

From Helen Morita

When my children were young, I purchased the book, *The Sense of Wonder* by Rachel Carson, published in 1956, the first of several books in which she later dealt with ecological issues. However, even before she dealt with pressing ecological issues, she was concerned with sharing with children her own sense of wonder at the beauty of the earth. The following is a quote from *The Sense of Wonder*:

"What is the value of preserving and strengthening this sense of awe and wonder, this recognition of something beyond the boundaries of human existence? Is the exploration of the natural world just a pleasant way to pass the golden hours of childhood, or is there something deeper, something lasting and significant? Those who dwell as scientists or laymen among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. Whatever the vexations or concerns of their personal lives, their thoughts can find paths that lead to inner contentment and to renewed excitement in living. Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." by Rachel Carson

Helen

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Mission Outreach Committee	<i>2</i> 3:30 Worship/ Christian Education Committee 7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	<i>3</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>4</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education Skit Rehearsal	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>11</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch 12:00 Mill Street	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Session	<i>16</i> <i>LOG Deadline</i>	<i>17</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>18</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>19</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>20</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 1:30 Convalescent	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Membership/ Fellowship Committee	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> <i>LOG Mailing</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>25</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Bible Discussion	<i>28</i>					

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in December – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals:

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Melissa Gill, John & Tani Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes, Dick & Marian Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Marilyn Sutherland, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour:

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Marian Judd, Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi, Barbara Slusher

Convalescent Ministry:

Margaret Erwin, Polly Gorder, Dick Judd, Marilyn Sutherland

Liturgists:

George Gmahling, Georgene Gmahling, Debbie Lundberg, Clay Wiens, Joyce Wells

Greeters & Ushers:

June Bellen, Jim Egger, Marjorie Egger, Jack Forster, Barbara Garcia, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Ben Girton, John Girton, Tani Girton, Marian Judd, Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg, Diana Matthews, Sal Newton, Marilyn Paulson, Zachary Paulson, Dan Phipps, Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Barbara Slusher, Clay Wiens

Nursery Monitors:

Suellen Barnett, Margie Egger, Barbara Garcia, Tani Girton, Ani Lelea, Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Lindsey Merritt, Nancy Rademacher, Jan Salas