



The Redwoods Log

February 2012 Redwoods Presbyterian Church 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

The church is a ship. I love that metaphor. Redwoods Presbyterian Church is a ship of faith. I happen to think it is moving strongly along but that's an assessment we all make.

We know that a ship moves most strongly when all hands are on deck. I was a shipping reporter for a large evening newspaper in the biggest harbor in Africa, Durban, South Africa, so I know a little about the world of shipping.

I embarked on many ships and spoke with captains and without exception they affirmed their crews and mentioned that all able hands had their duty and task. Every person from officers to crew to engineers to cooks was needed.

Every member of the ship of faith has his or her working place on the ship. Like ships at sea, we would and could also be carrying members, such as those ill and homebound. They do their duty by praying for the ship and those prayers are valuable and powerful.

The Redwoods ship of faith has an excellent crew and especially excellent officers – deacons and ruling elders. The council (session) members mostly head committees and they welcome members to join them on those committees. So if you're looking for more active engagement in the church, please approach the chairs to learn more of the work and times of meeting and express your willingness to serve. A list of these committees is on page 4.

The deacons are responsible for a number of duties and tasks (see page 4) and they may call you to be a greeter, usher, liturgist or helper in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall events. Please be open to their requests and risk involvement.

All this is excellent for the soul.

Our officers heard this month and they take to heart this paragraph from the *Book of Order: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)*: "Ordered ministries (deacon tasks and council committees) are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the church."

"Flourishing" is a drummer's creative act of twirling the drumsticks while playing a drum. It's an enjoyable and lively endeavor that takes practice and concentration. That's also a good metaphor, in this case, for our involvement as members of the church.

God bless you all.
Peace, Cornel

**February
Church Mouse
Greetings from
Mr. Mouse and Spouse!**



It's always good to see Helen Morita at church. Also good to see Klara Larsen. Mouse people went to visit Klara at the Marin Rehab and Convalescent Hospital, January 3. That turned out to be the same day they were putting new carpet in the halls. We got to exchange smiles.

It's 2012 and we're still here!

We start the year with happy reports from the Redwoods people who traveled. Kitty Prosser had a wonderful time seeing great grandson Blake for the first time. He's at the cute smiley stage.

Melissa Gill and her sons had a great cruise to Hawaii! Lots of interesting things to do and see!

Jennifer Lopez and her father went to Mexico where they had an exciting time with their larger extended family. Jennifer was only a few years old when she last saw her grandmother. Some of the family own a blackberry farm that ships produce to the U.S.A. Jennifer has lots of cousins, something in common with Mouse Spouse who still has twenty-one who are alive!

The weather man pulled a fast one on Jeff Lelea! While he was visiting mom, Ani, hoping to avoid bad weather at Princeton, New Jersey, the weather was really nice back there.

Joyce Wells had a very interesting trip to India, where she participated in the International Conference for Women in Civil Aviation 2011. Joyce and two other U. S. women pilots participated in a panel discussion. When not at the conference, she and friend, Joe, did some touring -- rode elephants and were in a wagon pulled by a camel. There were so many interesting things -- perhaps Joyce will tell the big story at breakfast sometime. Mouse says, "Pretty please?"

Marilyn Sutherland is moving! As of January 26, she will be at the Tamalpais Residence which is at 501 Via Casitas, Room 409, Greenbrae, CA 94904. Marilyn's room is directly above the Gmahlings space. Will foot stamping as communication be possible?

Mouse loves hearing from you! We got this amusing anecdote from James Holmes. "The Lord must look with special favor on the sending of the Log as it has arrived without the stamp being canceled on the last few I've been mailed—a minor miracle." Thanks, James!

Those of us attending the breakfast on January 21 had a big treat in store. Mari Robinson, Redwoods Office Administrator, shared her "Spirituality in Art" story and displayed her bird paintings. Everything added up to a lovely experience all around.

We're sending good "no-ouch" thoughts to Debbie Lundberg, who injured her back a few days ago.

See you next month!

Mr. Mouse and Spouse

(Ed. Note: You wouldn't know it from that fact that the Mouse column is here on its page of the LOG as usual, but Mouse spouse has sciatica and that's something deserving of prayers for speedy healing!)

February Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Please join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends 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, 27 – Klara Larsen.

Add your name to our birthday list by contacting the church office at office@redwoodspress.org or at 924-4832.

Polly

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Member Debbie Lundberg

I Feel Like a Goose!

When the question of who would like to write the LOG article was asked at the Membership Fellowship meeting in January, quite to my surprise I found my hand go up! With the article deadline fast approaching, I was getting a bit desperate for a subject, until I saw a big flock of geese in Corte Madera Town Park as I was taking a walk. Believe it or not, my problem of what to write was solved! Here is:

Lessons from Geese by Angeles Arrion, based on the work of Miltons Nelson. (Note: Some revisions made)

Fact: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follows. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the uplift of one another.

Fact: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents and resources.

The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to maintain their speed.

Lesson; In groups where there is encouragement, production is much greater. The power of encouragement is the quality of "honking" we seek.

I feel that members of the Membership and Fellowship Committee are part geese as they encourage

each other, provide support, rotate leadership roles, honk loudly and flap their wings enthusiastically. Here's to the wisdom of geese!

I have only one other very important subject for this article: our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 12 immediately following the worship service. It features our Annual Reports and a potluck salad luncheon. The congregation is invited to bring a favorite salad to share and the Membership/Fellowship Committee will provide plates, utensils, setup, drinks and dessert. We hope to see you there! **Debbie**

News from the Deacons

From Moderator Polly Gorder

With this New Year, there is a new Board of Deacons enthusiastically ready to perform their tasks to facilitate the way things work in worship as well as in the life of our church family.

We sadly say goodbye and thanks to Margaret Erwin and Marilyn Paulsen for the good work they have done over the past years.

At the same time, we welcome Maisie Campbell, a new Deacon, and Gabrielle Putzi and June Bellen, who have been such devoted members of the Board in past years. Both Diane Forster and Polly Gorder have agreed to continue on the Board as well. Other continuing members are Kitty Prosser, Elein Phipps, Dick Judd, Marilyn Sutherland, Helen Morita and Barbara Slusher.

It is obvious that many church members, although not officially on the Board of Deacons, act in a caring supportive manner to contribute to the wonderful warm feeling of our church family. We have so many blessings to be thankful for!

Throughout the year we will keep you up to date on the workings of our Board. We pray for you and appreciate your prayers for us as well. **Polly**

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

As we begin 2012, the Mission Outreach Committee is busy as usual. At our January meeting, we had a veritable host of agenda items:

- Alternative Christmas Fair improvements
- \$732 Christmas Joy Offering
- 2012 denomination wide offerings
- CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)
- Gifts of Women Sunday, March 4
- Sewing Group continuation
- Box Tops for Education revival
- April 29 CROP Walk planning
- Annual Reports
- Two Cents a Meal local distribution

Wow—a busy and full meeting to say the least! Once again, the committee offers thanks, blessings and appreciation for the never-ending support, help and energy of the members and friends of Redwoods. The world is indeed a brighter place thanks to all of you. Amen!

Debbie

Ecology Corner

From Helen Morita

Our first “Ecology Corner” submission is from Paul Watson, as follows:

“If I were to spit upon the revered black stone in Mecca during the height of the annual pilgrimage, I would be slain on the spot by enraged pilgrims for daring to profane the sacred symbol of Islam.

An Israeli soldier's bullet in the back would be my fate for scrawling graffiti upon the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

Life would not be pleasant for me if I took a hammer to the Pietas in the Vatican, for we humans hold our creations dear and we deal harshly with those who fail to share our reverence for old stone, walls, meteorites, marble statutes, icons and architecture.

Yet each and every day, humans enter the sacred and reverential cathedrals of the natural world—the redwood forests of northern California or the rain forests of Amazonia—and each and every day, we profanely rape these great mysteries with chain saws and bulldozers.”

Helen

Join Our 2012 Ship of Faith!

If you are looking for a more active engagement with the church, are open to requests to serve, would like to risk getting involved, do something excellent for the soul and/or meet some exceptional people, join the excellent officers of the church below as they steer our Redwoods Ship of Faith in 2012.

Session committees:

Facilities: Clay Wiens

Facilities Use: Melissa Gill

Investments: John Girton

Membership/Fellowship: Nancy Rademacher

Mission Outreach: Debbie Lundberg

Personnel: John Girton

Special Needs/Endowment: Nancy Rademacher

Worship/Christian Education: Melissa Gill

Deacon opportunities:

Coffee/Special Events: Barbara Slusher, June Bellen

Greeters: Kitty Prosser

Liturgists: Elein Phipps

Mill Street Meals Delivery: Gabrielle & Robert Putzi

Transportation: Diane Forster

Ushers: Maisie Campbell

If you have any questions about Session committees or Deacon opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact those listed above or the church office. We look forward to working with you!

Your Elders, Deacons and Staff

Important Upcoming Dates

- February 12—Congregational Meeting and Potluck Salad Lunch, 11 am
- February 22—Ash Wednesday Service and imposition of ashes, 7 pm
- February 29 and March 7, 14, 21 & 28
 - Lenten Supper, 6:30 pm
 - Spiritual Practice, 7:15 pm

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:30 Choir	3 8:30 Walking Group	4
5 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	6	7 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Mission Outreach Committee	8	9 7:30 Choir	10 8:30 Walking Group	11
12 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Annual Mtg Potluck Luncheon 12:00 Mill Street	13 7:00 Spirit and Work	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	15 LOG Deadline	16 7:30 Choir	17 8:30 Walking Group	18 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
19 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	20	21 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	23 LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	24 8:30 Walking Group	25
26 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	27	28 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Membership/Fellowship Committee	29 6:30 Lenten Supper 7:15 Spiritual Practice			

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in January – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells, Lori Wood

Liturgists

Melissa Gill, Ani Lelea,
Faith McClellan, Clay Wiens

Coffee Hour

June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Melissa Gill, Kitty Prosser & Jenny Garcia, Nancy Rademacher, Barbara Slusher, Lori Wood

Greeters & Ushers

June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill,
Debbie Lundberg, Marian Judd, Dan & Elein Phipps,
Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher,
Barbara Slusher, Lori Wood