



# The Redwoods Log

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

## From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Thanks to Melissa Gill, John Girton, Dan Phipps, Nancy Rademacher and Mari Robinson for their excellent work in advertising and preparing for the March 13 "Raising the Roof" concert with the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Thanks also to all the kind folk who greet at the door, sell tickets and do the good work for the reception.

We are getting a great deal for this renowned community-oriented group which is easily paid back by ten people or families selling five tickets each. Everything beyond that goes to pay off the roof loan. We know that these excellent artists will have a better chance of attracting an audience, especially in the Bay Area where the music banquet is so rich.

We also hope to support the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir which has a mission of outstanding community service with non-profits like the Red Cross and youth programs.

John Girton, who is spearheading the event as an *ad hoc* member of the Membership and Fellowship Committee, has the best ministry perspective about this event.

For him, it's about attracting people to our church, to see what a beautiful place it is, what wonderful music we offer, and what we want to share with the community. We are inviting the community to share with us the raising of our sanctuary roof and to share good music and community relations.

In essence, he says, this is an evangelistic event. It is good news for us and our community. It is one of the ways we reach out to the community. Every ticket we sell is an opportunity to tell someone about our church. We think it is a wonderful church and others can share our joy but they will not know who we are and what we offer if no one tells them.

We had a lovely time at the last concert and learned some things. One was the overabundance of food items for the reception. Now, we will go with a simpler fare of wine, bread and cheese. This in itself is a gracious offering to the community.

When I was called to be a pastor to Redwoods, one of the goals of the church was to: "Plan musical programs...that would appeal to the community at large." This concert meets that goal. The energy and excitement around this concert is palpable. It's a caring gesture from a caring community.

"Do as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (11 Corinthians 9:7).

Blessings and Peace, Cornel

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# March Church Mouse



## Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Spring is almost here and that's good for all of us, especially Giants baseball fans, as the players are returning to Arizona for preseason games. We miss Dave McIntosh's enthusiasm as he and Merna often took off for Phoenix this time of year.

Herb and LaVerne also have good reasons to celebrate the baseball season. Grandson, Conrad Schmidt, now a catcher with the Arizona Diamondbacks, began preseason training this month. Here are cheers to all our baseball players and fans!

A lot of nice things are happening at Redwoods. Helen Morita attends regularly, as she did before her illness early in 2010. We especially enjoy seeing Audrey and Jack when they visit their grandmother Helen.

Tani Girton went to Paris for a finance meeting at the Bank National de Paris (BNP). Tani is Treasurer of Bank of the West. Congrats to Tani for having such a responsible job!

Jolyne Liberati, one of our newer members, and her husband Lou, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 10th. Congrats.

Iris Giacotto and her family have two items of good news. First, Grandson, Kyle Trotsky, returned home safely from Afghanistan after a tour of duty with the U. S. Army.

Second, the Giacotto family has a new great-grandchild (their fourth) named K'Mira Roary. K'Mira's parents live in Suisun City, close enough for great-grandparents to visit. GG says K'Mira is beautiful.

That cheerful young woman you see around Redwoods is our new seminary intern, Christina Jensen. Christina will be with us for three months. It is a real pleasure to have a Seminary Intern after many years without one. Welcome Christina!

Speaking of seminary, Jeff Lelea was back from the Seminary at Princeton for ten days and then returned to school right in the middle of the worst storms. Ani is very grateful that he made it back to school safely!

Jennifer Garcia has been busy selling Girl Scout cookies! Thanks for keeping us sweet, Jennifer.

Last month we listed line dancer-drummer, Ed Elliott as being 90 years old. Ed corrected Mouse. He is really 92 and going strong!

On our "thinking-of you" prayer list we include: Bob Bellen; Klara Larsen; Gerry Scofield; Hazel Nelson and the Bradys.

*Something personal--* Mouse Spouse wants to know who brought that good asparagus to the luncheon on February 13? How did you do it?

**Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

## March Happy Birthdays!

### From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Please join the Deacons and congregation in wishing the following members a happy birthday this month:

- 3 – LaVerne Schmidt, 11 – Hazel Nelson, 16 – Marilyn Sutherland, 24 – Harry Richards

The Deacons keep a Members and Friends Birthday List. If you have not already done so, please provide your birthday information to the church office at 924-4832 or office@redwoodspres.org so that we can offer birthday wishes to you in the future.

**Polly**

## March Choir News

### From Music Director Dick Judd

Last year at this time we started our column speaking about the event of Lent coming upon us. Each year we seem to feel that the church years move faster and faster but this year Easter comes on April 24, two weeks later than last year! We just *feel* rushed.

Plans are being made for the music during Lent. For the Good Friday worship service on April 22, listeners might recognize parts of the cantata from past worship, however, there will be sections new to the congregation. At the service, we will end with solemn music that mourns Christ having been taken forth to die. The extremely dramatic music mirrors the feelings of loss evoked by that horrible day.

Again, we are asking that our locally famous cellist, Dan Phipps, be our guest musician for the Easter Sunday service. How fortunate we are to have Dan so willing to enhance our music program by bringing the evocative sound of the lower strings of the orchestra.

We are also fortunate to have dedicated members of the congregation assisting the music for the service from the choir loft! What a remarkable group of consistent singers who are so faithful! **Dick**

## From Seminary Intern Christina Jensen

Dear Redwoods PC Family, Thank you very much for your warm and loving welcome on February 6! I am so blessed to have the opportunity to get to know all of you and grow in ministry with you.

I've been thinking about the Scripture passage that Cornel preached on that day - about being the salt of the earth and light to the world. I love that passage, and I think I could even say that it is one of great importance to me, especially when I think about my jour-

ney through the process of becoming a Presbyterian minister. How wonderful, and what a gift from God, that this particular passage came around for my first Sunday with all of you!

Since starting my internship with all of you, I have had the opportunity to participate with Cornel at the Presbytery meeting up in Sonoma, and meet with the Deacons and the Session. I've also had the chance to sing with the Chancel Choir and participate at Bible Study. I'm looking forward to meeting with the other committees of the congregation, and getting to know all of you, and hoping that you will get to know me, as well.

I'll be in the office (library) at the church Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 am until about 6 pm. Please know that you're more than welcome to pop by the church to visit - I'll be sitting in the library! If you'd like to chat with me over the phone, you're more than welcome to do that, too. My phone number is 248-217-7178.

One last thing - my Senior Sermon at the seminary is Friday, March 18 from 12:00-12:30 pm. You're all invited to come participate in this Chapel service at the Seminary, which will also include Communion. Please ask me if you'd like more information. Blessings and love to all of you, **Christina**

## Convalescent Ministry

### From Coordinator Marilyn Sutherland

On the third Sunday of each month, a small group from Redwoods leads a worship service at Greenbrae Care Center, a convalescent facility on South Eliseo Drive. We distribute large print worship books to the residents so they can follow the service and, if possible, sing the four hymns included in the book. If anyone is interested in joining us in this effort to bring God's love to the GCC residents, please contact me.

**Marilyn**

## Preparation for Easter

How do we prepare for what is arguably the most significant celebration in Christianity?

As in past years, Redwoods Presbyterian Church is offering a number of worship services and spiritual practices to prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Beginning with the imposition of ashes at our Ash Wednesday service, Redwoods is again offering a series of Lenten suppers followed by spiritual practices on the five Wednesdays of Lent.

The Rev. Cornel Barnett and SFTS intern Christina Jensen will facilitate this year's practices. The format will again be a light supper followed by a the practice.

Mark the following dates on your calendars:

### **Ash Wednesday Worship & Imposition of Ashes**

Wednesday, March 9, 7 pm

### **Lenten Suppers and Spiritual Practice**

Wednesday, March 16

6:30 pm—Supper

7:00 pm—***Spiritual Practice Review***

Wednesday, March 23

6:30 pm—Supper

7:00 pm—***Walking the Sevenfold Path of Christian Well-Being***

Wednesday, March 30

6:30 pm—Supper

7:00 pm—***Enriching and Empowering Your Spiritual Life***

Wednesday, April 6

6:30 pm—Supper

7:00 pm—***Empowering Your Mind for Healing, Creativity and Loving Outreach***

Wednesday, April 13

6:30 pm—Supper

7:00 pm—***Loving and Empowering Your Body for Fitness, Pleasure and Service***

All are welcome to attend these casual suppers and spiritual practices in preparation for our Holy Week and Easter services.

## Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

Please join the Redwoods worship community at the following Holy Week and Easter worship services:

### **Good Friday Worship**

Friday, April 22, 7 pm

### **Easter Breakfast & Worship**

Sunday, April 24

9:00 am—Breakfast

10:00 am—***Easter Sunday Worship Service***

Please encourage your neighbors and friends to join us at the Easter Sunday breakfast and worship service. The breakfast is always delightful and there will be special music by cellist Dan Phipps at the service.

## Youth Skit

### **From Coordinator Suellen Barnett**

The church youth will present a skit based on the story of the Good Samaritan in worship on Sunday, March 20. Please plan to join us in this fun event!

**Suellen**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

Our “Raise the Roof” concert is fast approaching! At 4 pm on Sunday, March 13, members of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, a lively and extremely talented group, will raise their voices literally to the new roof of Redwoods Presbyterian Church .

The Membership/Fellowship Committee and many others are busy designing advertising flyers and programs, printing tickets and planning the wine and cheese reception following the concert.

Please invite your friends, neighbors and family to this very special event. Tickets are \$20. Not only will the proceeds of our concert help pay down the loan for the new sanctuary roof, the concert itself is a great way to introduce and remind the community of this vibrant, active and caring church.

Keep your eyes focused on the Narthex. We are actively working on ways to make this “first glimpse” of our church more inviting. Some of our Ideas include: improved soft, focused lighting; additional wall hangings; rearrangement of furniture; and the addition of more plants in strategic places. If anyone has any other ideas, please contact a committee member.

The next couple of months offer lots of fellowship as well as spiritual training. The Wednesday night suppers and spiritual practices sessions will be ongoing during Lent and we will have our annual Easter breakfast on April 24.

We will, of course, continue with our monthly Saturday Breakfast (formerly Women’s Breakfast) with its inspiring programs that are held on the third Saturday of the month. All men and women in the congregation are welcome to join us.

Thanks for the support and help from all in the congregation. The spirit truly moves among us! **Nancy**

## Special Needs & Endowment Committee News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

**“On Earth As It Is In Heaven...” What On Earth Is A “Planned Gift” Anyway?**

Our favorite charities hold a special place in our hearts—and in the IRS tax regulations—because they provide meaningful value and services to our communities, yet they exist by the grace of their members and supporters. Typically, such organizations depend upon contributions from one’s checkbook—it is the rare exception that someone is able to make a special gift from “working capital.”

When we speak of “planned gifts,” we often think of bequests of assets no longer needed. It is the fortunate charity that finds itself included among family and other heirs in a will.

Yet there are also planned gifts that can be made during one’s lifetime. There are some who might wish to shift a high capital gain asset, such as real estate or securities, to produce a well-managed income for themselves or a loved one without a huge tax loss, and to benefit their church and other charities after their lifetime. Such charitable trusts or annuities allow generous members—not just wealthy philanthropists—to make significant gifts to fund special projects or endowments when they or their family no longer need the capital themselves. This is a way to make a gift “on earth” and receive earthly benefits from an asset intended to be left “from heaven.”

At Redwoods, we are fortunate to have professionals among our congregation who are experienced in guiding and managing such arrangements. If curious how such arrangements might work, with complete privacy and no obligation, talk to me or any member of the Committee.

**Nancy**

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**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”*

Jesus in Luke 10:27-28

March is Women’s History Month and we’ve just celebrated the gifts of women here at Redwoods. Our denomination designates a Sunday, usually closest to March 8, International Women’s Day, to participate in this celebration. This event was started at the turn of the century with women in many countries, rallying for the right to vote among other rights, and also for world peace.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to celebrate one of the women I’ve appreciated as a therapist – Virginia Satir, a world-renowned family therapist and author. When I was working toward my marriage and family license, I first read her books, *Conjoint Family Therapy, Peoplemaking and Making Contact*. She was located in the Bay Area at that time and I attended several of her workshops.

Satir’s idea regarding therapy was that the family is a microcosm, and by knowing how to heal the family, each family member can be healed. When one person in the family shows some form of symptom, it will affect the whole family. This may seem quite obvious these days, but at that time individual psychotherapy was the main focus in healing.

Satir also emphasized the spiritual aspects of healing and felt that healing reaches from the individual to the family, the community and the whole world. She served on a number of international organizations relating to world peace.

I encourage you to read some of her writings. I will end with one of her poems in *Making Contact*.

I believe  
The greatest gift  
I can conceive of having  
from anyone  
is  
to be seen by them,  
heard by them,  
to be understood  
and  
touched by them.  
The greatest gift  
I can give  
is  
to see, hear, understand  
and to touch  
another person.  
When this is done  
I feel  
contact has been made.

**Suellen**

## Poetry for the Soul

**From Helen Morita**

The following prayer is by Julian of Norwich, 1342-1416. She is generally considered to be one of the greatest English mystics.

Although she lived in a time of turmoil, her theology was optimistic, speaking of God's love in terms of joy and compassion as opposed to law and duty.

Be a gardener,  
Dig a ditch,  
toil and sweat,  
and turn the earth upside down  
and seek the deepness  
and water the plants in time.  
Continue this labor  
and make sweet floods to run  
and noble and abundant fruits  
to spring.  
Take this food and drink  
and carry it to God  
as your true worship.

**Helen**

# March 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> Holy Communion  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> Ash Wednesday  7:00 Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes	<i>10</i>  7:30 Choir	<i>11</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 1st Sunday of Lent  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street 4:00 Raising the Roof Concert	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study  7:00 Session	<i>16</i>  LOG Deadline  6:30 Lenten Supper & Spiritual Practice	<i>17</i>  7:30 Choir	<i>18</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>19</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>20</i> 2nd Sunday of Lent & Birthday Sunday  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Youth Skit 1:30 Convalescent Ministry	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study  7:00 Membership/Fellowship Committee	<i>23</i>  6:30 Lenten Supper & Spiritual Practice	<i>24</i>  LOG Mailing  7:30 Choir	<i>25</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 3rd Sunday of Lent  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Bible Discussion	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study	<i>30</i>  6:30 Lenten Supper & Spiritual Practice	<i>31</i>  7:30 Choir		

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

## Helping Hands in February – Thank you so much!



### Mill Street Shelter Meals:

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Diane & Jack Forster,  
Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes,  
Dick & Marian Judd, Debbie Lundberg, Diana Matthews & Sal Newton,  
Marilyn Paulsen, Marissa Phipps, Nancy Rademacher, Marilyn Sutherland, Joyce Wells

### Coffee Hour:

Membership/Fellowship Committee, Elein Phipps,  
Kitty Prosser, Barbara Slusher

### Convalescent Ministry:

Margaret Erwin, Polly Gorder,  
Dick Judd, Marilyn Sutherland

### Liturgists:

Suellen Barnett, Christina Jensen, Ani Lelea  
Nancy Rademacher

### Greeters & Ushers:

June Bellen, Jack Forster, John Girton, Tani Girton, Marian Judd,  
Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg, Diana Matthews, Sal Newton,  
Marilyn Paulsen, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher, Clay Wiens

### Nursery Monitors:

Barbara Garcia, Tani Girton, Elein Phipps,  
Nancy Rademacher, Jan Salas, Barbara Slusher, Clay Wiens