



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

We are in the weeks of Easter again. The root of "Easter" is "East" – the place of dawn. It's not a biblical word, but "dawn" works. After Easter, we live into a new day.

How might this image work for us as a church? The church evolves and grows and lives into each day as a new day. One new day for this church is our search for a new Minister of Music because our long-time and faithful Music Director Dick Judd is retiring. Replacing Dick will be a herculean task as his successor must fill his many roles including playing the organ and piano, directing the voice and bell choir and administering the music program of the church. Dick has done all of this and more with artistic and professional aplomb and dedication.

Dick announced his retirement last month and his letter was received and read at the April Session meeting. He feels it is time and has graciously offered to continue in the position until we find a new person for the job. The search committee has swung into gear and is working diligently.

Dick began at Redwoods in 1970 as organist. Georgene Gmahling directed the choir. Georgene's move out of town moved Dick into both positions. He became the Minister of Music until his first retirement in 1989.

The church was blessed by a number of musicians and when it became difficult to find an organist Dick returned in 1990 and has been here since. That's 40 years!

There will be an occasion down the road when we will acknowledge Dick's ministry of music with us in a fuller way. For now, I say on behalf of us all: It's been an amazing journey and words are not enough to thank him. God has been palpably present in his music and directing, and our sanctuary and choir room will always echo with the sound of his music.

In the dawn of our new day, we pray that God will help us find the right person for the church's future music, and that this person be someone with as much grace and dedication as Dick and someone who will take us forward with the familiar and the new.

God bless the search committee and God bless our church. This is the day that God has made. It's God's moment for Redwoods.

On another note: Christina's last Sunday is May 22. Please come to church for her send off. I am grateful for her ministry with us. She filled the church and our lives with the Holy Spirit's energy, love and grace. God is blessing her calling into ministry. We will miss her.

Blessings and Love, Cornel

May Church Mouse

Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



April has been a great month!

Good things are happening! Bob Bellen has returned from Florida and is back to work at Paradise Foods. On lucky days, you may have Bob as your checkout person.

It's baseball season! We have Matthew Phipps playing with the Twin Cities Giants Little League team. Matthew is a catcher! And then there are the S.F. Giants who are giving us more of the "sweet torture" we got last season.

Virginia McGuire spent time with her mom, Hazel, in Larkspur. This was a helping-out visit. Now she's back in Elko, Nevada with Dennis and their birds.

Congratulations for Georgene and George Gmahling who were named 2011 "Volunteers of the Year" at the Tamalpais residence facility! They produced, directed and performed in the 40th Anniversary Show, organized the Ukulele "Strummers," Karaoke Nights, 4th of July & Veterans Day programs and the "Fortissimos," resident pianists, who perform twice a year.

Margaret Erwin gets around! She and two sisters spent a week at Tahoe in late March and early April and had a very snowy time! She'll soon be off to Arizona to attend a bridal shower for a granddaughter. Margaret has twelve great grandchildren and there will be two more in August! She says it makes her think of the "Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe." But, she's got bread.

Thanks to the Membership Committee who had the idea, and Dan Phipps who made the Easter Banner

for the front of the church. Incidentally the azaleas out there are especially lovely just now.

Margie and Jim Egger have just returned from a visit with relatives on the East Coast. They flew to Florida and then drove north stopping in North Carolina and Virginia. We are glad they made it back for Easter!

On the home front, Melissa Gill just moved to 1441 Casa Buena, #406, Corte Madera, 94925.

How time flies! The "younger church" persons are eagerly awaiting Molly Rademacher's return from France. She plans to be in church on May 15.

Another big thing will happen in May. Our Seminary Intern, Christina Jensen, will be graduating on May 21 and preaching for us on May 22, her first day as a graduate! We'll miss Christina's cheerful "can do" presence at Redwoods. She has brought us a breath of fresh air and we know she'll bring that same joy to another lucky congregation sometime in the future.

Finally, thanks to Nancy Rademacher for the good asparagus recipe!

So long 'til next month, **Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

May Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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

2 – Georgene Gmahling, 4 – Marilyn Paulson

7 – Patrick Little ('95) and 30 – Jack Forster.

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 the congregation can wish you a happy birthday.

Polly

May Choir News

From Music Director Dick Judd

Last month in the LOG, we told you about the choir's musical observance of Lent and Easter. First, we noted that the color of the choir stoles would change from purple during Lent to white at Easter and thereafter. Then we promised you that the music would include a new powerful anthem and the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" each week until Easter.

Some of the more elaborate choir productions during Holy Week were the songs sung on Good Friday that depicted Jesus on his way to die and the end of his life. The last piece from "The Shadows of the Cross" was an extremely dramatic conclusion of a service. We hope you heard it.

Now that Lent and Easter are past, the choir plans to work on music that is in more of a light vein and songs that are less difficult to sing. This allows the choir to enjoy a more "low key" mode for the summer. Another Redwoods custom you might know about is that starting June 1, the summer choir has no mid-week practices. Instead, we encourage folks to just drop in as we rehearse prior to the morning worship. This is a great time to try out the choir because we sing choruses that are easy to learn.

A few Sundays ago, you heard the Parke Kurtz Memorial Handbell Choir. The Handbell Choir also enjoys a more "low-key" mode for summer and breaks until the Fall. We look forward to hearing their beautiful ringing after their break.

Finally, I want to let you all know about my impending retirement after 40 years of serving as your Music Director. It has been my greatest pleasure to work with so many faithful sanctuary choir and handbell choir members over the years and I will miss this aspect of my personal worship at Redwoods very much as I move from the choir loft into the pews. **Dick**

From Seminary Intern Christina Jensen

Dear Redwoods family,

It seems like it was just a few weeks ago that I was sitting in Cornel's office and we were discussing what an internship with all of you would look like, when really, that meeting took place in December. And wasn't February 6, when I started, just yesterday? Where has the time gone?

I have absolutely cherished my time here and I have loved getting to know each and every one of you. The things I have learned from Cornel and all of you are things that will remain with me the rest of my life. Please know that you all will always be in my heart and prayers. I'll never be able to say thank you nearly enough for all of the things you've given me.

As my time as your seminary intern comes to a close, there are a few things I have left to do with you. First, I am preaching twice more in worship—on May 15 and 22. I'll be doing a two-part series on saying hello and saying goodbye. May 22 is the day after my graduation, so my family will be in worship with us.

Also, you are cordially invited to attend my graduation events at the Seminary. Baccalaureate is on Friday, May 20 at 4 pm in Stuart Chapel at the top of the hill. The commencement exercises are Saturday, May 21, at 9 am on Bouick Field on the lower seminary campus near the corner of Bolinas Ave. and Kensington Ave. Please ask me if you'd like more information.

Finally, please know that you are more than welcome to pop by the church library and visit Monday through Thursday, or give me a call at 248-217-7178. I'd love to have the opportunity to talk with each of you.

Peace and love to all of you, always, **Christina**

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair **Debbie Lundberg**

Marin CROP Hunger Walk

The 15th Marin C.R.O.P Hunger Walk took place on Sunday, March 27. Redwoods members and friends supported the walk by raising over \$100! A special thank you goes to Maisie Campbell who walked the walk. Be sure to ask Maisie about her experiences! For an inspiring video of this year's walk, go to www.crophungerwalks.org/marin. The message of ending hunger one step at a time is profound and hopeful.

A Helping Hand

At the April meeting of the Mission Outreach Committee after review and discussion it was decided to renew our membership (\$150) in the Marin Interfaith Council and to support Meals of Marin by sending \$150 which grows to \$300 as each donation is matched due to a grant program.

One Great Hour of Sharing

On Easter Sunday we received donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you to those who were able to contribute. It is remarkable what these gifts can do. What a wonderful way to experience the joy sharing brings to others, to God and to us!

Debbie

Saturday Breakfast

On April 17, members and friends of Redwoods gathered in the library for a lovely potluck "breakfast" and program. We were blessed indeed to have Alan Edmonson share his poetic response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, which took place on April 20, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico.

Alan skillfully wove his experiences of living on the Gulf, his scientific background, his work as an oil in-

dustry seismic explorationist with Chevron, and current work as a history, earth sciences and physics high school teacher with his poems. It was a moving and inspiring program.

Anna, Cornel and Suellen's daughter, enriched the program by sharing pictures of the damage to wildlife as a result of the spill. We all were moved by Alan's poems and hope to be able to present one or two in LOG in the near future. Our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to Alan and Anna!

Debbie

Earth Prayers

From **Helen Morita**

The following prose poem comes from the writings of Cedric Wright, who grew up in California and taught at Mills College. A very talented man, Wright was first a classical violinist—a love he had to abandon when he got severe arthritis. He then became a photographer and writer and ultimately a friend and mentor to Ansel Adams.

Consider the life of trees.

Aside from the axe, what trees acquire from man is inconsiderable.

What man may acquire from trees is immeasurable. From their mute forms there flows a poise, in silence, a lovely sound and motion in response to wind.

What peace comes to those aware of the voice and bearing of trees!

Trees do not scream for attention.

A tree, a rock, has no pretence, only a real growth out of itself, in close communion with the universal spirit.

A tree retains a deep serenity.

It establishes in the earth not only its root system but also those roots of its beauty and its unknown consciousness.

Sometimes one may sense a glimmer of that consciousness, and with such perspective, feel that man is not necessarily the highest form of life.

Helen

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

What wonderful fellowship, spiritual programs and worship services during the six weeks of Lent and into Holy Week and Easter!

A special thanks to Barbara Slusher, Gabriele Putzi and June Bellen who organized the Lenten suppers, with much help from all who attended. Thanks also to Cornel and Christina for providing the contemplative programs following the suppers.

Holy week culminated with an emotional Good Friday service and a joyous Easter Sunday celebration. We had a scrumptious and well attended Easter morning breakfast. Worship was very moving as we transformed the bare wooden cross into a magnificent floral display and enjoyed special music from our talented choir and from cellist Dan Phipps. The Easter Egg Hunt was fun for all ages, especially as the kids entertained us with their enthusiasm and energy. I think we have a new Easter tradition!

A special thank you to Barnett family friend, Alan Edmonson, an oil industry seismic explorationist, teacher and poet who talked about his lifelong personal experiences with the Gulf of Mexico at the April Saturday Breakfast. He has recently become an accomplished poet and shared several poems written in response to the gulf oil spill a year ago. It was a remarkable program and we appreciate his willingness to share his talents with us. Several guests from the local community joined us.

The Membership/Fellowship Committee is busy planning fellowship events for the near future. More details on these will be forthcoming.

Blessings to all, **Nancy**

Redwoods Superstars! From Facilities Committee Chair Jack Forster

The Facilities Committee would like to thank two special people who put in a lot of time and effort to help make our church building a cleaner and more well-cared-for place to meet and worship.

Robert Putzi came all the way from San Rafael and spent considerable time and talent painting one of our downstairs restrooms. Salvador Garcia, Jennifer's dad, trimmed the plum trees in the back of the church and hauled the debris away, leaving a neat and professional appearance.

Many thanks to both of these exceptional people for caring for this facility—we really appreciate your efforts.

Jack

SFTS Events Seminary for a Day

Join "Seminary for a Day," 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Friday, May 13 to experience a day in the life of a seminarian, including worship, two lectures and lunch. The day features Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, SFTS Professor of Homiletics and Speech Communication presenting "I Love to Tell the Story," and Dr. Chris Ocker, SFTS Professor of Church History, speaking on "Who's Afraid of Anne Askew (1520-46)?" Cost is \$15. Call 451-2800 to register.

Christina L. Jensen Commencement

*The President, Trustees, Faculty, and
Graduating Class of San Francisco Theological Seminary
announce that*

*Christina Louise Jensen
is a Candidate for the Degree of Master of Divinity
Commencement will take place
Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 9:00 am
Bouick Field, 2 Kensington Road*

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 Elein Phipps, LCSW

Dealing with Disaster

The recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan has been an important reminder that disaster can strike at anytime.

Warnings are everywhere. The U.S. Geological Survey calculates that “there is a 99% chance that in the next 30 years Californians will experience one or more magnitude 6.7 or greater quakes, potentially capable of causing extensive damage and loss of life.”

The local town websites for Corte Madera and Larkspur warn that we live in a prime earthquake and fire hazard area, and that, “In the event of a major disaster, professional emergency services may be overwhelmed and unavailable for long periods of time.”

Knowing that a disaster is not a matter of “if”, but “when,” what should we do to protect our family and community? First, we can start by taking Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Sponsored by the Marin County fire departments, the CERT course is designed to train citizens to care for themselves and neighbors in the event of a disaster. See Corte Madera’s website for information on class dates and registration: <http://www.ci.corte-madera.ca.us/firedepartment/cert.html>

We can also prepare ourselves mentally and emotionally by acknowledging that disasters are often unexpected, sudden and overwhelming. Even when there are no outwardly visible signs of injury, there is nonetheless a serious emotional toll. The American Red Cross offers the following as tips to recover emotionally after a disaster:

- Recognize your own feelings.
- Talk to others about your feelings; this will help relieve your stress and help you realize that your

feelings are shared by other victims.

- Accept help from others in the spirit in which it is given. Wouldn't you help them?
- Whenever possible, take time off and do something you enjoy.
- Get enough rest.
- Get as much physical activity as possible, such as running or walking.
- Give someone a hug; touching is very important.
- Recognize that this is a challenging time but one that you can work to manage.

One of our greatest resources to help us manage life’s challenges is our church community right here at Redwoods. I feel reassured that we are here for each other.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

Elein

The Redwoods Prayer Chain

The Redwoods Prayer Chain has an important purpose within the church. It is the means by which the members and friends of the congregation share in the ministry of prayer on behalf of each other.

Calls for prayers are initiated through the pastor. The pastor activates the Redwoods Prayer Chain by calling its chair, Marilyn Sutherland, after first seeking permission from the recipient of the prayers to do so.

The Prayer Chain has three separate “chains” headed by three head callers, Marilyn Sutherland, Barbara Slusher and Inga Coleman, who each have around a dozen callers in their chains. Each member of the chain has a designated person to call after receiving the call for prayer. The privacy and confidentiality of the prayer recipient is always respected and no messages are left that might be overheard. If you would like to participate in the Redwoods Prayer Chain, please contact Cornel Barnett or Marilyn Sutherland.

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Skit Rehearsal 11:15 Musician Search Focus	2	3 8:15 Facilities Use Committee 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Mission Outreach Committee	4 3:30 Worship/Christian Education Committee 7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	5 7:30 Choir	6 8:30 Walking Group	7
8 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Skit Rehearsal 12:00 Mill Street	9	10 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	11	12 7:30 Choir	13 8:30 Walking Group	14 10:00 Presbytery Meeting, FPC, Fort Bragg
15 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Skit Rehearsal 2:00 Convalescent Ministry	16	17 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Session	18 <i>LOG Deadline</i>	19 7:30 Choir	20 8:30 Walking Group	21 9:00 Christina Jensen's SFTS Graduation
22 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Skit Rehearsal	23	24 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Membership/Fellowship Committee	25	26 <i>LOG Mailing</i> 7:30 Choir	27 8:30 Walking Group	28
29 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Skit Rehearsal 11:00 Bible Discussion	30	31 10:15 Bible Study	1	2	3 8:30 Walking Group	4

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in April – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals:

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Diane & Jack Forster,
Iris Giacotto, Georgene & George Gmahling, Melissa Gill,
Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Debbie Lundberg,
Marilyn Paulsen, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour:

Suellen Barnett, Marian & Dick Judd,
Membership/Fellowship Committee,
Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser,

Convalescent Ministry:

June Bellen, Margaret Erwin,
Dick Judd, Marilyn Sutherland

Liturgists:

Melissa Gill, Tani Girton,
Jim Gorder, Debbie Lundberg

Greeters & Ushers:

Bob & June Bellen, Barbara Garcia,
Iris Giacotto, Marilyn Paulsen,
Dan & Elein Phipps,
Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi,
Nancy Rademacher

Nursery Monitors:

Margie Egger, Barbara Garcia,
Tani Girton, Ani Lelea,
Jan Salas, Barbara Slusher, Clay Wiens