



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

On my way to work I passed the entrance to San Quentin on the Larkspur Ferry side. A man was standing near the gate with suitcase. It looked like he was waiting for a ride.

I imagined that he was just released from jail much like one sees in the movies. The gate is opened and the prisoner is released. I imagined further what it must be like to be in San Quentin for one, two, five, 10 or 20 years and be released. How wonderful that must be.

If this is the case with this man I pray that he is well met and that he has a good life. I hope he unites or re-unites with his church or religious community for support and encouragement.

Needless to say, these thoughts come to me strongly in these special weeks of resurrection which help us think about life after death. Prison is a death-like experience.

Resurrection is freedom for everyone. Because Jesus rose from his own pain, suffering and death so we too rise from our pain, suffering and death-like experiences when we believe in Jesus.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) approach to personal salvation affirms that we die with Jesus in his death and rise with him in his resurrection. We die to whatever oppresses us and anything that brings us down whether of our own doing or the doings of others that affect us. We receive God's forgiveness and we move on to new life in Christ. We are released from the prisons that hold us.

Jesus was beaten and oppressed and so he knows what it feels like to be oppressed. He knows what people in oppressive communities and countries are going through and he promises new life to all in their struggle for liberation.

God in Jesus is concerned for communities and individuals in struggle. And, God in Jesus desires more than anything that we have life in all its fullness.

In a way, we all stand with the man outside San Quentin and we celebrate our freedom.

God bless you as you continue to enjoy these special weeks and Sundays of resurrection and remember that every day is a resurrection day. Celebrate the life within you and let it overflow to enliven the world.

Peace, Cornel

May Church Mouse

Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

We're with you in spirit! Thanks to our Mini Mouse, we're still "carrying on" from Room 10 at the Greenbrae Care Center. More on that later.



Easter Sunday was an especially beautiful service this year, with many visitors, including lots of young people and children. Some of their parents were folks who grew up at Redwoods, such as Bill Coleman, wife Sara and son Matthew; Tamara Wood, and Frank Wood, with wife Gema and 3-year-old Sofia. The Easter Egg Hunt was a happy event for all.

Thanks to Sal and Diana Newton, we get to see baby Hunter often. How nice for Diane Forster to have a great grandchild nearby.

Speaking of Diane, who is Redwood's "Secretary of Transportation," reminds us that she and her Deacon crew have been a life saver for Mouse Spouse and others who don't drive. (Please see her article on page five and consider becoming one of her team!)

Also, great news from Diane about her trip to New York City via the California Zephyr train! She'll get to see the USA east of Reno for the first time! And that's really special.

Mouse heard rave views of the debut performance of the Redwoods Band at the St. Pat's Irish evening last month. It was a most eclectic group of musicians, including a wide (very wide) group age wise and with instruments from ukuleles to cello! Thanks to George and Georgene Gmahling for organizing the group and Robert and Gabriele Putzi and crew for cooking the delicious corned beef and cabbage.

Other news: Klara Larsen has moved back to Creekwood Home at 830 Tamalpais Ave. in Novato (234-0160 or 897-2661), where she is doing very well.

Margaret Erwin had an "adventurous" time up at Lake Tahoe where there was snow, which was beautiful to see, but chains were needed for driving and their chains were left at home!

Lots of folks traveled on vacation during spring break, including Molly Rademacher who went skiing and the Girtons who went to Los Angeles. Clay Wiens went on a business trip to Tennessee and Melissa Gill and son Zach enjoyed a train trip to Oklahoma to visit family and found the food to be surprisingly good!

We need prayers of healing for Helen Morita, Bonnie Kaiser and Margaret Erwin's husband, Richard, and of concern for Merna McIntosh, whose live-in friend Rachel is returning home to Texas. Baseball season has begun and we may need a few prayers for the Giants until they get back into form!

Last of all, many, many thanks to all the Redwoods people who have supported us with cards, prayers and visits, including the exciting 85th birthday party on April 4. Pam Rosa baked a most delicious chocolate cake. (Strict safety rules at the Greenbrae Care Center wouldn't allow lighted candles on the cake!)

Mini-Mouse here: I just heard some very good news from Marian after she sent the May Church Mouse. Dick was discharged from the Greenbrae Care Center on April 20 and the Mouse family is now happily back home in Corte Madera and loving it. We're all glad about our beloved Mice being back where they belong!

Mr. Mouse and Spouse (with Mini Mouse)

May Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Please join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month:
2 – Georgene Gmahling, 4 – Marilyn Paulson and
7 – Patrick Little ('95)

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

Polly

May Choir News

**From Music Director
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

Summer is in the air! April brought us a few warmer days here and there and we are looking forward to the return of many more in May.

I hope you're enjoying the variety of music during the worship services. As you've probably noticed, we're doing every conceivable kind of music genre. That's what makes it all so interesting. You're never sure what you get until you arrive in church. It might be the great Western classical tradition of the 16th and 17th century composers, or it might be some gospel or some standard hymns, or maybe some solo work or perhaps praise band type music. Be sure to let us know what you like!

The Parke Kurtz Memorial Bell Choir continues to practice every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. and they recently played the anthem on Easter Sunday. They put in a lot of hard work, rehearsing on both Tuesdays and Thursdays for three weeks to prepare the "Easter Bell Carol." Their efforts were rewarded on Easter when the Bell Choir's lovely ringing was very well received. They will play again in a worship service during the month of June.

The Redwood choir also continues its practices on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. We select our music by making our way through the archives, sight reading four or five selections every week, seeing what we like and what we don't. We always have many wonderful songs to practice. Come out and join us at any time if you have an interest in either the choir or the bell choir.

The 10-member strong Redwoods Band, which debuted at the St. Patrick's Night Dinner, was very well received and will no doubt perform in church very soon.

Barbara

A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern
Faith McClellan**

As I walked in front of the church last Sunday, I was struck by the beautiful purple flowers that caught my attention as I walked up the path to the church door. They were in full bloom!

I had been at the church a few days ago and I didn't remember seeing them before, and because I don't know much about flowers or gardening, I thought that they were among some of those flowers that you sometimes see at nurseries, already in full bloom and ready to be planted. Some of you might even think that this is funny, but I actually thought that the church had paid the gardener to transport those flowers from one of those nurseries!

I later learned from Barbara Slusher, one of the deacons at our church, that they were azaleas and that they had always been there. For many months of the year they are just green bushes, but then in spring, their flower buds break into full bloom.

Those azaleas remind me of discipleship, and how we can get so busy with our lives that we fail to see those times when we really bloom. As disciples, we are always working toward being better Christians, toward being more involved with church activities and helping others that we can't see how far we've come.

Those azaleas were being nurtured in the ground for months so that they could one day bloom into the spectacular sight I saw on Sunday. And that seems to be how it is with us and God. God nurtures us daily. We can't see at that time what we are becoming, and though we may not yet be in full bloom like those azaleas, we might always want to be open to the possibility that God is creating us to be beautiful!

Many Blessings, **Faith**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

What a glorious Easter and busy month of April we have had! Over 40 people enjoyed Easter breakfast at Redwoods Church and twice that attended our joyful worship service with exceptional music. The kids certainly had fun hunting for Easter eggs after worship. Thanks to all (too many to mention) for the love and energy that went into our wonderful celebration.

Twenty-four of us attended the Ross Valley Players madcap comedy *The Twentieth Century* on April 22nd. The Sunday afternoon plays have been very popular fellowship activities and we are planning more as the year progresses.

The month came to a close celebrating Scout Sunday on April 29. Redwoods Presbyterian Church has been a sponsor of our local Pack 43 for many years and it was a pleasure to welcome them to our church for a special celebration. Later that afternoon, we participated in the CROP walk to raise funds for feeding the hungry both locally and internationally. This event was planned and spearheaded by the Mission Outreach Committee.

The May Saturday breakfast has been moved to May 12 so as not to coincide with the church spring clean-up day on May 19. Since May 12 is the day before Mother's Day, we thought it appropriate to honor our mothers or an important woman in our lives. Please bring pictures and a memory to share, if you like. There will also be a short film honoring women.

The June Saturday breakfast will be held on June 9 and will be a presentation on health care reform sponsored by the California Council of Churches. More details on this event will be forthcoming.

Please invite family and friends to worship with us. That is a great opportunity to share this wonderful, friendly and welcoming place with an upbeat spiritual message to others in the community.

Happy Spring! **Nancy**

Secure Redwoods' Future From Special Needs and Endowment Committee Chair Nancy Rademacher

Redwoods Presbyterian Church enriches and brings spiritual blessings to our members and their families through our friendships, worship services, music programs, spiritual development and the sense of community we feel through our involvement in mission outreach. The Church has a rich history in this community with a long term vision by those who came before us. Securing its future has been a continual goal over the years. We are all working hard toward this end and advancing the mission and vision of the church.

Including Redwoods as a beneficiary in your will or living trust is another way to make a difference in Redwoods' future. Existing wills and trusts do not necessarily have to be rewritten in order to include Redwoods Presbyterian Church as one of the beneficiaries--they may only need to be amended. (Please consult your advisor.) You need not inform the church of your plans in advance and gifts may be either anonymous or announced when received, as you wish.

Please prayerfully consider how much Redwoods Church has affected your life and what you can do to help continue its viability into the future.

We appreciate your ongoing generosity and support for Redwoods. Thank you. **Nancy**

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

Many thanks to members and friends of Redwoods for their generous support of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering received on Easter Sunday. Thus far, the funds contributed are \$600 and counting. It is not too late to contribute! Blessings.

Suellen Barnett reported that she has sent over 40 postcards to Washington in support of CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. We are very grateful to all those who signed the postcards.

Almost ten members and friends of Redwoods signed up to take part in the Marin County Crop Walk, which took place on April 29. Results of the walk will be reported in the next LOG. "One step at a time" we hope to end hunger here in Marin County and around the world.

We will be offered an opportunity to help children at risk and to provide support for child/youth advocacy programs through the Pentecost Offering that takes place each May. More information about this denomination offering will be available in the weeks to come.

In closing, I would like to thank and offer blessings to all those wonderful people who so faithfully support the Mission Outreach Programs of the church. All are welcome to attend our next meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, May 6 following our Redwoods worship service. Hope to see you there.

Peace, **Debbie**

Board of Deacons Transportation Committee

From Chair Diane Forster

One of many Board of Deacons responsibilities is providing transportation for members and friends of Redwoods Church.

Whenever possible, rides are given to those who would like to attend Sunday worship, other church functions, doctor appointments, visiting a loved one in the hospital and grocery shopping.

There is an ongoing need in our church community for transportation but the need is particularly acute right now.

We would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone willing to volunteer as a driver. Please contact Diane Forster or the church office for more information.

Diane

Church Spring Clean Up From the Facilities Committee

Chair Clay Wiens

Please mark your calendars for 9 am—12 noon on Saturday, May 19 to help the Facilities Committee in our Spring Clean Up of the church. A list of the projects we are planning is in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up for any that appeal to you and add any other tasks that you think should be done. All cleaning supplies and light refreshments will be provided. Thank you for helping make our church sparkle! **Clay**

Per Capita

A 2012 per capita of \$29.11 is due to the Presbytery from Redwoods Church for each of our 80 members. We would appreciate your contributions as soon as possible.

Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

Some time ago I wrote about the fast pace of time, which older people feel often more than the younger. Yet even younger people are feeling time moving faster these days.

One person said time has hit warp speed. "I've actually woken up not knowing what year it was, in a blurry haze and heart racing. I am wholly attributing the episode to this funneling/warped perception of time, and this is not age related – I'm 24!"

Some say time is an illusion, and the best way to break away from it is to be present in the moment. "Now" is a fabulous place to live your life, they say. As a therapist, I tend to encourage people to live in the present – not worrying about the seeming mistakes of the past, or the uncertain future, but to experience and enjoy their lives in the present.

Life, others say, is moving faster due to the rapid growth of technology and information dissemination. E-mails, smart phones, etc. - we have so much we have to keep track of these days that time seems to run away from us. So in the midst of this, it is definitely important for us to take time away from all the technology, and have times for meditation and quiet – taking a breather at home, or walking through the garden or city park.

Another interesting philosophy is that we have entered the final wave of the Mayan calendar this year and time is speeding up because of it. Some have said December 21, 2012, signifies the end of the whole world. However, I attended a Mayan presentation at Chabot Planetarium on the Mayan Calendar, and they said that that date signifies the beginning of another 3000 years in this calendar.

How *do* we feel about the passage of time, and how is it affecting our lives? As Christians in the midst of

this time period, we can appreciate each day as it comes, not worrying about yesterday or tomorrow. We can turn to the Scriptures and our Christian community to help us live in the "Now."

Ps.31:14-15: *I trust in you, O Lord: I say, "You are my God. My times are in your hand."*

Eph. 5:15-16: *"Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time."*

Ps.62:8: *"Trust in him at all times, pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us."* **Suellen**

Kids on Camera

This summer Redwoods Church will be the site of the Kids on Camera TV/Film Acting Day Camp. This award-winning acting/audition training camp provides kids age 6-13 with an opportunity to perform on camera, improve their confidence and communication skills and have fun in the process.

Topics include comedy, film acting, scenes, characters with costumes, physical comedy and improvisations. The camp has been run by Director Judy Berlin for the past 31 years and camp success stories include speech contest winners, the voice of Andy in the movie "Toy Story," the star on Disney's "Good Luck Charlie," an Emmy winner, actors in commercials and all those who "found their voice."

The camp runs from July 30 to August 3 and/or August 6-10. Camp hours are 9:30 am-3 pm, with extended care available from 8 am-5:30 pm. The cost is \$380/week with a \$20 sibling discount. More camps and weekend workshops are available in Ross and San Francisco. For more info, contact Judy Berlin at 440-4400 or see www.kids-on-camera.com.

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

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>4</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:15 Mission Outreach Committee	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>11</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>12</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>13</i> Communion 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	<i>14</i> 7:00 Spirit and Work Group	<i>15</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	<i>16</i> LOG Deadline	<i>17</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>18</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>19</i> 9:00 Spring Clean Up
<i>20</i> Birthday Sunday 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:15 Lunch Theater Group	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Membership/ Fellowship Committee	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> LOG Mailing 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	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 7:30 Choir		

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, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Diane Forster, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes, Marian & Dick Judd, Debbie Lundberg, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells, Lori Wood

Liturgists

Melissa Gill, Debbie Lundberg,
Faith McClellan, Joyce Wells

Greeters

June Bellen, Cub Scout Pack 43, Marjorie Egger,
Marian Judd, Ani Lelea, Kitty Prosser

Ushers

Iris Giacotto, John & Tani Girton, Ani Lelea
Debbie Lundberg, Elein Phipps, Gabriele Putzi,
Jan Salas, Clay Wiens

Coffee Hour

Board of Deacons, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Melissa
Gill, Membership/Fellowship Committee, Elein
Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher

May Helping Hands

May 6—Faith McClellan (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),
June Bellen (U), Melissa Gill (U)

May 13—Elein Phipps (L), Marian Judd (G),
Marjorie Egger (U), Marilyn Paulsen (U)

May 20—Marilyn Sutherland (L), Kitty Prosser (G),
Dan Phipps (U), Kitty Prosser (U)

May 27—Clay Wiens (L), Ani Lelea (G),
Iris Giacotto (U), Ani Lelea (U)