



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Summer is finally here. It took its time to get here. The sun is shining on the church with the momentous change in our denomination's ordination standards.

At its meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, the Presbytery of Twin Cities Area became the 87th presbytery to approve an amendment that will remove the constitutional requirement that all ministers, elders, and deacons live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" (G-6.0106b in the church's Book of Order).

The new language reads, "*Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*"

The new provision reaffirms the long-held right and responsibility of ordaining bodies (local church sessions for deacons and elders or presbyteries for ministers) to determine the suitability of each candidate for ordination. The effect of the new language also opens up the possibility that persons in same-gender relationships can be considered for ordination.

The 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) approved Amendment 10-A last summer, but required a majority of presbyteries to ratify the provision for it to become part of the church's Constitution. The change will take effect July 10, 2011, one year after the adjournment of last summer's assembly.

In response to the vote, denominational leaders issued a letter to all congregations of the PC(USA), calling the debate about ordination standards "a Presbyterian family struggle." The letter goes on to say that Presbyterians have "sought to find that place where every congregation and every member, deacon, elder, and minister of the Word and Sacrament can share their gifts in ministry while, at the same time, the integrity of every congregation, member, deacon, elder, and minister is respected."

God's bless the Presbyterian Church (USA) and may the sun always shine upon us.

Love and Peace, Cornel

June Church Mouse

Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



Suddenly it's time for summer things such as graduations, weddings and travel, and the Redwoods family has all of them! Our Seminary intern, Christina Jensen, graduated on May 21, and Diana Matthews and Sal Newton have a May 28 wedding date (on a boat!) at South Lake Tahoe. Congratulations and best wishes to all. Polly and Jim Gorder are traveling in Europe for two weeks.

So it's good bye to Christina who is leaving us and welcome back to Molly Rademacher who came home from France where she has spent another year teaching in the Loire Valley. Marissa Phipps and Jennifer Garcia, those two imaginative girls, made a colorful sign to surprise Molly on May 15, her first Sunday back at Redwoods. All the younger church people are preparing a skit, "The Prodigal Son" which will be presented on June 5. We thank Sullen Barnett for being the facilitator for these good productions.

We have had a lot of sad news in May. The Redwoods Family lost four good members in just six days. We extend our sympathy to the families of Leo Brady, Gerry Scofield, Hazel Nelson and Jack Sutherland.

Thanks to Larkspur history buff, James Holmes, we have the latest update of *Larkspur Past and Present: A History and Walking Guide* in the library. On pages 180-81, 79-80 and pages 136 there are references to Redwoods Presbyterian Church. Mouse likes the item on page 136. Although attendance was low, one family brought their dog every Sunday!

The Giacottos are one patriotic family! Great grandson, Kyle Trosky, a ranger in the U. S. Army, had

been in Afghanistan and now is in a special dog training unit. His brother, John Rivera, has just joined the Air Force. Cheers all around!

Marilyn and Jack Sutherland added a second great granddaughter to their family on April 28, just two weeks before Jack's death. The latest arrival, Rosemary Golden, shares a birthday with her cousin Isla, who was born on April 28, 2009. We have both sad and very happy thoughts for Marilyn and all the family.

Merna McIntosh is happy that her broken wrist is healing and that her daughter in law, Kathy Dye, has come from Oklahoma to be with her.

Jim Egger had a knee replacement surgery and will be glad to be home from the rehab center soon.

Baseball news! Matthew Phipps stole home at his Little League game on Sunday! Great move, Matthew!

See you next month! **Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

June Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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

- 2 – Herb Schmidt, 3 – June Bellen,
- 11 – Diane Matthews, 20 – Jan Salas,
- 21 – Iris Giacotto, 26 – Ann Barnecut and
- 30 – John Girton

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

June Choir News

From Music Director Dick Judd

Last month in the LOG, I let you all know about how the handbell choir would be taking a sabbatical over the summer months. I also gave you the heads up that the sanctuary choir would go into a more “low key” summer mode. In June, the choir will be working on music that is in more of a light vein. Since these songs are also less difficult, this allows the summer choir to omit mid-week practices and to rehearse just once a week prior to the Sunday morning worship. This is a great time to try out the choir because the choruses we sing are so easy to learn. We encourage folks to just drop in if they would like to join us during the summer months.

By this time, I am sure that most church members have become aware of the fact that Dick Judd is planning a change of pace! Last month I announced my impending retirement after 40 years of serving as your Music Director. After so many years at the position of Minister of Music, I am going to miss being at the organ each Sunday morning. I want everyone to know that it has been a privilege to serve the church in this capacity. Still, it is time for new leadership and I look forward to hearing what a new Minister of Music will offer Redwoods.

One thing that I want to emphasize is that it has been my joy to have such dedicated choir members helping prepare music for services during the many years of my service as Minister of Music. Never has there been a more dedicated group nor one so consistent and faithful in their service. Few have sung with choirs as long as some of our members. One of our choristers has been singing at Redwoods since the age of 12 and we have some choir members in their eighties. It is a sad event that Gerry Scofield, one of our choir members of long standing, died recently. Gerry had been ill for the last few years, but we considered her an emeritus member of Redwoods' Choir.

Dick

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

The following poem comes from the pen of Alan Edmonson, a friend of the Barnett family. Alan worked as an explorationist, imaging seismic data from around the world, including the Gulf of Mexico, before he began teaching high school in Oakland. Alan was deeply moved by the devastation in the Gulf of Mexico following the Deep Water Horizon oil spill a year ago last April. In addition to his jobs, he is a poet. Here is his heartfelt poem about the destruction of our ecosystem because of the oil spill.

2010 Passion Play

BP, another brand of Pharisee,
which purveys what is orthodox,
peddles the drug, false truth,
and jealous of its prerogatives,
wields those instruments of policy:
torture and murder.

How foolish has been our behavior
to have invited for a second time
the sacrifice by God of what is held
most precious: that which is of God
and is God.

Daughter or Son, does it matter?
You, who are called Kemp's Ridley sea turtle,
I have seen You stretched upon Your
stinking, black ooze cross
dead, and forsaken.
Who was there to watch You die?
Scourged by the black fire that lashed
Your lungs and painted Your body,
were You too scourged by the red flames
of a burning sea?

And who now will care for Your body?
The Gulf, Your dual Marys,
would wash You clean,
if we had not made of them
the instruments of Your execution.

Helen

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

The Pentecost Offering for Children, Youth and Young Adults at Risk will be received on Sunday, June 12. If making the world a better place includes helping the homeless and nurturing youth, then you are doing just that when you give to this offering. Both the homeless and youth are served by the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program, which is supported by the offering.

Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities. The Mission Outreach Committee is asking the congregation for ideas of where the 40% we keep should go.

The General Assembly's 60% provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries. For more information please take a look at the Mission/Outreach Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

Earth Day – Every Day

A big "thank you" to Cornel and Suellen for sharing materials on table in Fellowship Hall that provide a wide range of ways we all can help make the earth "greener." Small steps result in tremendous changes. Please check-out the display on H2O and take the Bottled Water Quiz and also feel free to take as much of the handout material on the table that you would like. It is all free. Blessings, **Debbie**

Saturday Breakfast News

**From Membership Fellowship Member
Debbie Lundberg**

Summer is here and many Redwoods groups go on sabbatical, including the Saturday Breakfast. No breakfast meetings will be held in June, July or August. The Membership Fellowship Committee will host its next Saturday Breakfast on September 17 and would like everyone to plan to attend! We are looking forward to an interesting program to begin the new "year."
Debbie

A New Look

Take a moment to look at the recent changes in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall to improve both areas and make them more welcoming. Please contact members of the Membership Fellowship Committee with any suggestions and or ideas for ways of continue the up-date process. Thank you, **Debbie**

Cameron House Notes

From Coordinator Helen Morita

To all the faithful group of women who work for the needy of Cameron House: first, thank you so much for all you do for Cameron House. As you finish your blankets, you may bring them to the church and put them in the closet. Last time I looked it had been pretty well cleaned out.

Remember to check off the items that you have returned. If you take any more, please note it on the same piece of paper affixed to the inside door. Hope you are all doing well on this very worthwhile project. Please feel free to address any questions to me.

Helen

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

It's a busy time for everyone with graduations, weddings and end of the school year approaching. Our own wedding couple, Salvadore Newton and Diana Matthews celebrated their marriage on May 28 at Lake Tahoe. The Membership/Fellowship Committee is hosting a special coffee hour to honor them on June 12 when they return from their honeymoon. We hope you can all attend.

June 12 is going to be a very busy day at Redwoods as we are also planning a fellowship event that day. We will be attending a theater performance at Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond—*The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)*. The play rolls a number of Broadway musicals into one and parodies the composers. It promises to “keep you laughing from start to finish.”

The plan is to have a sandwich lunch after coffee hour at the church and then carpool to the performance which begins at 2:00 pm. The Barnett's, who live in Point Richmond, have graciously invited us to their home afterwards for drinks and hors d'oeuvres. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Tickets are \$20 and will need to be ordered well in advance. There will be a small additional fee for those having lunch. Announcements will be made in church and a sign-up sheet provided.

Christina Jensen's graduation was a very special time and an impressive ceremony. It was bitter sweet sending her off after church and coffee hour celebration on May 22. She has been a wonderful friend to all of us and has contributed tremendously to the life of our church. We wish her much success in her future endeavors!

Blessings to all, **Nancy**

Special Needs and Endowment Committee

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

If you might be considering including Redwoods Church among the beneficiaries of your estate plan, one simple way to do this without revising a will or trust can be to simply name Redwoods Presbyterian Church as a *successor* beneficiary of your IRA, 410 (k) or similar tax deferred retirement account.

Retirement plans are the most heavily taxed assets in most people's estates. If left to heirs, they are substantially diminished after paying the income tax and other taxes. However, if left to a charitable organization like Redwoods, no taxes are due and the full amount left in your account can help advance our mission and continue your support into the future.

You and your heirs can avoid income tax and other potential taxes on your retirement account when you designate Redwoods Presbyterian Church as the remainder beneficiary of the plan, and leave your heirs other, less-taxed assets.

With a simple designation of beneficiary form (available from your plan administrator), and without impacting your own financial security, you can make a lasting difference.

Please feel free to contact any of the Special Needs and Endowment Committee members with questions. The current members are Tani Girton, Clay Wiens, Nancy Rademacher and Cornel Barnett as an ad hoc member.

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

I recently attended this year's California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists conference at the San Francisco Airport Marriott, entitled "Navigating Modern Challenges: Opportunity, Growth, and Resilience." This title would probably work for all of us in our daily lives, navigating challenges of work, leisure, relationships, responsibilities, etc. It was excellent and helpful as always. Cornel attended the last day and appreciated some of the talks he signed up for.

One keynote presenter talked about "The Browning of America in the 21st Century" and the importance of being culturally competent to work with individuals from all different ethnic groups. He said currently California is 57% people of color, and in our public high schools 50% of the students are Latino (6.2 million) (Erickson, 11/12/10) Why would that be important to us at Redwoods? As we look for ways to share our faith and community, it's helpful for us to learn about all the communities around us.

A psychologist from a medical school in New Jersey presented genograms, graphs that trace the interplay of generations within a family, to understand family patterns more clearly. She started with her Irish family and her husband's Scandinavian background. The presentation illustrated the possibilities for transforming family relationships based on exploring family history in ways that foster acknowledging the connections between our lives, our history and the potential for our future. I encourage you to try this – genograms are fun and interesting to do.

A medical doctor that I've heard several times, Dr. Daniel Amen, presented "Change Your Brain, Change Your Life" about organic food, exercise, sleep – all the things we know we should do properly but don't al-

ways adhere to. The latest brain imaging technology shows how these good practices improve your brain.

Cornel attended a workshop on grief recovery outreach. Question: "I have heard that it takes two years to 'get over' the death of a loved one; five years to 'get over' the death of a parent; and you never 'get over' the death of a child. Is this true?" Answer: "Part of the problem is the phrase 'get over.' It is more accurate to say that you would never forget a child who had died, anymore than you would ever forget a parent or a loved one. Another part of the problem is that time, of itself, is a recovery action. Although recovery from loss does take some time, it is the actions within time that lead to successful recovery."

So after three days of attendance at this conference, you can imagine, I had many ideas to consider, and implement in my work and life. **Suellen**

From Christina Jensen, M.Div.!

Dear Redwoods family,

Thank you so much for all of your kind words and beautiful gifts that you gave me on my last Sunday as your Seminary Intern. I have such love and admiration for all of you, and words will never be able to express just how much you all mean to me, and how thankful I am for all of your kindnesses.

Some of you asked for my new contact information. For now, my address is: Christina Jensen, 896 Muer Dr. Troy, MI 48084. My phone number is still 248-217-7178 and email is christina.l.jensen@gmail.com. I'll be sure to let you know if and when those change.

May God bless all of you, and me, until we meet again. I don't think this is goodbye, but rather, see you later. All of my prayers and love, always,

Christina

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 3:30 Worship/ Christian Education Committee 7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Skit 3:00 Jack Sutherland Memorial Service	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Mission Outreach Committee	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 6:30 Finance Cmte	<i>10</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	<i>15</i> <i>LOG Deadline</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>18</i> 3:00 Gerry Scofield Memorial Service
<i>19</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Session	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>LOG Mailing</i>	<i>24</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Bible Discussion	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Membership/ Fellowship Committee	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in May – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals:

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Majorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin,
Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Debbie Lundberg,
Marilyn Paulsen, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher,
Joyce Wells, Lori Wood

Coffee Hour:

Melissa Gill, Membership/Fellowship Committee,
Zach Paulson, Gabriele Putzi, Barbara Slusher

Liturgists:

Barbara Garcia, George Gmahling, Georgene
Gmahling, Debbie Lundberg, Joyce Wells

Greeters & Ushers:

Barbara Garcia, Melissa Gill
John Girton, James Holmes,
Marian Judd, Debbie Lundberg,
Marilyn Paulsen, Dan & Elein Phipps,
Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher,
Jan Salas, Clay Wiens

Nursery Monitors:

Suellen Barnett, Margie Egger,
Barbara Garcia, Tani Girton,
Ani Lelea, Kitty Prosser, Jan Salas