



# The Redwoods Log

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

## From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

As usual it has been a great Easter at Redwoods. We celebrated the glorious resurrection with flowers in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and enjoyed a wonderful series of worship service throughout the Sundays of Easter.

We saw the return of Scout Sunday where scouts, scouters and families of Pack 43 attended one of the services. The liturgy was geared for a youthful congregation and the scouts had their own rituals. Everyone enjoyed the occasion and we hope to make this an annual event.

The weeks of Easter appropriately also saw the arrival of the Clavinova which will be dedicated in worship on June 3. More details appear inside the Log. The Clavinova is our attempt to augment our worship with modern sounds.

We have a wonderful music director and musician in Barbara and now have a full complement of keyboards – organ, piano and clavinova – to glorify God in worship.

With this in mind we are experimenting this summer with different worship formats: Blended (traditional and contemporary), contemporary and café style. More details of this also appear inside the Log.

It's exciting and new. Barbara and I hope to create the kind of synergy that honors God in our changing world. It's difficult to know what will work but we are trying and experimenting anyway knowing that the Presbyterian "reformed and always reforming" spirit of God is with us.

For those who were not in worship on May 20 you may want to read a rather difficult sermon I preached on evil called "Jesus prays for us." It's online at [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org). I since came across a fascinating statement by Morton T. Kelsey in his amazing book, *Companions on the Inner Way: The Art of Spiritual Guidance*.

He writes: "The cross stands at the center of the Christian faith and points to the reality of evil. Evil cannot be dismissed as an illusion created by our egocentric point of view, nor can it be seen as only the accidental lack of perfection of the universe. In addition to the Divine Lover there appears to be a reality that would drag us away from our final meaning in life: communion and relationship with God. It is part of God's world that has revolted against God. Human beings need salvation, and they cannot obtain it by their efforts alone. We may not understand the nature of evil, but Christianity offers a way of being lifted up out of its power and being saved again and again."

Enjoy the summer and summer worship at Redwoods!

Peace and blessings, Cornel

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## June Church Mouse

### Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Summer is almost here! Mouse and Spouse are at home (to stay!) and getting reacquainted with the house and garden! "The wound" continues to heal and things are looking up! Having a church family helped make this all possible.



Wow, Redwoods people are a busy bunch! Nine people did the Crop Walk and raised \$490. Kudos to coordinator Debbie Lundberg, who thankfully is feeling well again!

Thirteen Boy Scouts from Pack 43 and their parents were guests and helpers at the April 29 Sunday service. Nice to have lots of young blood with us.

Bible Study finished their season with a lovely lunch in the library. What a nice way to experience The Beatitudes!

Mother's Day Sunday church visitors included both of the younger Barnetts—David and Anna. Tani Girton's mom, Harriet Roberts, was also there, as was Jeff Lelea, home from Princeton to visit mom, Ani. Mouse spouse discovered that Jeff and his sister, LeAnn, are Giants fans!

Speaking of baseball, Herb and LaVerne Schmidt's grandson, Conrad, was called to the majors—the Arizona Diamondbacks—and he will play with them at AT&T Park on May 28, 29 & 30!

Diane Forster went to New York City by train and had a marvelous time sightseeing with her sister Nancy. Highlights included a trip to Ellis Island, attending services at the oldest Presbyterian Church in the U.S., visiting the Twin Towers Memorial, plus meeting her granddaughter Heather and her family in Central Park and going to the theater to see Mama Mia! How's that for a big weekend?

Polly and Jim Gorder are traveling in France and Switzerland. We'll report on more travels next month.

We have lots of people on the recovering list. We miss Wayne Slemp and hope he will be back in circulation soon. Bonnie Kaiser is wearing special glasses. Maisie Campbell is recovering after a fall and Kitty Prosser is taking it easy after minor surgery. Margaret Erwin's husband is doing well after foot surgery.

Iris Giacotta has exciting news. She's going to be a great great grandmother. The happy parents to be are Alma and Kyle Trosky. Kyle is an Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan last year and is now stationed in Washington State. We're happy for the Giacotta family.

We are also happy for Margaret Erwin's family who now have fifteen great grandchildren! The latest is a baby girl born in China where grandson, Brendan Kester and family now live!

Marilyn Sutherland has two new great grandchildren. Makenna Marie Sutherland was born in Canada in January and Eli Huerta was born March 20. That makes four for Marilyn.

Things are looking brighter and cleaner at Redwoods thanks to a small and energetic group led by Clay Wiens on May 19. Also many thanks to Diane Forster for rewarding the workers with a great hotdog lunch!

Here's special thanks to our mini Mouse who lives in the Office at Redwoods! Mari is a wonderful editor, news source and "tweaker." We all think we're a good team!

**Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

## June Happy Birthdays

### From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month: June 2 – Herb Schmidt, 3 – June Bellen, 11 – Diane Newton, 11 – Oakley Dexter, 20 – Jan Salas, 21 – Iris Giacotta, 26 – Ann Barnecut and 30 – John Girton.

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

## June Choir News

**From Music Director  
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

Big news! Our fabulous new Clavinova will be dedicated on Sunday, June 3 and the Parke Kurtz Bell Choir will offer the lovely sound of their bells on June 10. After all this excitement, the music program at Redwoods will move to a summer schedule. During the months of July and August, Redwoods is planning to offer the congregation a taste of some different styles of Sunday worship and music, with the idea that the congregation can decide in September what was well received and should be continued as we start the new church year.

As reported by Melissa Gill on page five, the Worship and Christian Education Committee has decided to try out three types of services this summer: 1) our usual "blended traditional/contemporary" service on the first and third Sundays of the month, 2) a "contemporary" service on the second Sunday of the month and 3) a "café style" service on the last Sunday of the month.

Very important to all these styles of worship are the instruments. We will continue to offer "traditional" music on the organ and acoustic upright piano. At the "blended/contemporary" and "contemporary" services, I will play the small electric piano and also make great use of our new Clavinova, which offers the ability to layer music with rhythmic and nontraditional sounds. Finally, our "café style" service seated around the tables in Fellowship Hall will feature music played on the beautiful white grand piano, just as we did at our Christmas Day service.

Please join us this month and throughout the summer to experience these new services. We will also be gifted with a performance by the "Redwoods Family Band" at the July 1 worship service. We hope all these new musical experiences during our summer services will lift your spirits in worship. If you are interested in joining the choir for the summer (or longer), please let me know.

**Barbara**

## A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern  
Faith McClellan**

The academic year at San Francisco Theological Seminary has ended, and I can't help but feel how amazingly blessed I am! Last week was very memorable for me and our presbytery!

On Tuesday, May 15, I became a Candidate for ordained ministry in the Presbytery of the Redwoods. It was the same day that most of us stood in solidarity with Janie Spahr as the "rebuke" was read, in a show of support for her years of ministry.

I sensed God's presence hovering over us as the presbytery struggled to discern God's will for making some pretty, tough decisions in the not-too-distant-future. As I sat through the meeting and learned more about our presbytery, I was reminded once again how God moves through the activities of our lives.

As summer begins and as I begin my last few months with you, I am reminded again how blessed I am! As Rev. Cornel, Ani Lelea and the members of my home church stood with me, prayed for me, and laid hands on me, I thought of all of you at Redwoods Presbyterian Church and the support and guidance you have given me since my internship began.

God moves through each of you. I would never have been able to stand before the presbytery and confidently tell them that I was ready to move on toward candidacy were it not for all of you affirming my call.

As we begin these summer months together, I look forward to seeing more of the movement of God in this congregation!

Many Blessings, **Faith**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

### From Chair Nancy Rademacher

We have exciting news about a special program at Redwoods on health care that we will be offering in place of our June Saturday Breakfast. This program has promised to move beyond sound bites, press releases, politics and fears to more fully examine health care reform as it pertains to our faith.

The California Council of Churches and Faithful Reform in Health Care will meet in the Redwoods library on Saturday, June 9, from 11 am– 1 pm and cover the following: how health care reform fits our values, what is in reform, how to access programs tailored to specific conditions, how congregations can link communities with health care programs and how current state and federal budget talks may impact the future.

If you are concerned about what health care is available now and what will be available in the future, please join us for the program. Lunch and health care materials will be provided. The Council has asked that attendees RSVP to Marijke Fakasiieiki at 510-529-5011 or mfakasiieiki@gmail.com.

As in past years, the Saturday Breakfast will not meet during July and August, but will resume in September with a program to be planned over the summer months. It will be announced in the July/August or September LOG. We are always open to program ideas, so if you have something in mind, please feel free to share it with us.

A group of us have signed up to attend the Corte Madera Recreation Center's periodic spaghetti dinner and bingo on Friday, June 1. Former attendees and volunteers (Barbara Slusher, Kitty Prosser, Jennifer Garcia, and Molly Rademacher) report it is a really fun evening, especially spending it with fellow Redwood friends. We'll see how our luck holds up when the bingo starts!

Many of us met in April to brainstorm about growing Redwoods Church. The spirit moved us as we worked on ideas for growth and health and many excellent ideas came out of this first session. We hope many more of you will attend our second brainstorming workshop planned for June 24 following worship.

We are planning to serve lemonade in front of the church on the morning of July 4th and during the parade. This is another chance to show off our warm and friendly congregation and, hopefully, make us more visible in the community. Blessings for a wonderful summer.

**Nancy**

## Clavinova Dedication Service From John Girton

On Sunday, June 3, we will be featuring a special worship service to dedicate our new Clavinova piano. Barbara Bacon Shaw and our choir will be performing several songs that use the Clavinova's special abilities. The Clavinova has a number of features, including a player piano capability, and many new unique sounds, including clavichord, drums, bass and guitar. It can even project a video on a screen for sing-alongs, and can be hooked up to the internet for piano radio programs!

In addition, we will begin a special fund for the purchase of the Clavinova. Our goal is to raise \$7286 this year through a special offering, pledges, donations and fundraising concerts. Please contact John Girton or Treasurer Jim Gorder if you would like to make a contribution.

Thank you! **John**

## Redwoods Family Band

Mark your calendars for the 10 am worship service on Sunday, July 1 to hear our wonderful new Redwoods Family Band & Choir, featuring 15 church members, young and old, playing a wide variety of instruments, from ukulele to mandolin and cello and singing. You won't want to miss their worship debut!

## Worship/Christian Education Committee News— From Chair **Melissa Gill**

### **Worship Plans for the Summer**

The Worship and Christian Education Committee met recently to discuss our worship plans for the summer. We want to continue the work that our new Music Director, Barbara Bacon-Shaw, has begun to bring a more contemporary feeling to our services.

We also want to try out some different styles of music that are now possible with our recently purchased Clavinova—we have already heard a small sample of its wide range of beautiful new sounds. Our wonderful piano and organ will, of course, continue to be integral to our music program.

Our goal is to become a church that is welcoming to people who would be attracted to a more contemporary style of music, while also honoring the preferences of long-time members.

During July and August we will have three types of services:

- “Blended” services will combine traditional and contemporary music and liturgy. We have already begun this with Barbara’s wonderful music selections and her use of music in ways that were new to us. We will continue to include many favorite old hymns.
- “Contemporary” services will probably use a percussionist and will be similar to the service we had with the Scouts on April 29. The music will be more contemporary.
- “Café Style” services will be held in Fellowship Hall. Although this service will be more informal, like one we recently held on Christmas, we will have a sermon, and music will be provided by

Barbara on the grand piano. She plans to let us select hymns for these services.

The schedule for July and August will be as follows:

- Contemporary services will be held on the second Sunday of each month.
- Café-Style services will be held on the last Sunday of the month.
- All other services will be the Blended traditional/contemporary style.

As a special treat on July 1, the Redwoods Presbyterian Church Family Band & Choir will participate in worship. We heard them at our St. Patrick’s Day dinner and they were very well received.

We welcome any comments that you have on this plan. We will probably do some type of survey to get a good understanding of your reactions to these changes, so that we can determine how we want to move forward after the summer.

We hope you enjoy the summer services. Please invite your friends!

### **Church Health and Growth**

On Sunday, June 24, right after church in Fellowship Hall, there will be a second Brainstorming Session for members to contribute ideas about ways our church can be more healthy and grow. This session will be facilitated by Melissa Gill, Chair of the Worship & Christian Education Committee.

We encourage all to attend to help us plan for our church’s future. After this session, we plan to develop a Church Health & Growth Report to prioritize and refine the ideas that have come out of our brainstorming sessions. If you have any questions or comments, please call Melissa at 924-2458. **Melissa**

### **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**

Cornel and I were in San Diego the first week in May to attend the annual California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists' Conference. There's always a wealth of information presented, as you can imagine.

Dr. Daniel Siegel, author of "The Whole-Brain Child" shared ideas for developing a child's brain that are helpful for all of us. He says, "remember to remember": to make recollection a part of your family's daily life. We've heard this one before—the more we exercise memory, the stronger it becomes.

He also says when we need help in calming down or regaining control, look for ways to get moving—walking, swinging the arms, throwing a ball, etc. The involvement of the body helps bring our whole self into a state of integration—the emotional and intellectual parts of the brain and the whole body.

Another talk was on intergenerational family narrative for healing—looking at family patterns of health—the physical, mental, emotional and relational. It invited a look at how family members have related to each other in the past and how that might give us insight into what is going on in our lives now. The speaker suggests that we visit these family histories to help us communicate in healthier ways.

One speaker listed various global crises and said that in a sense the world is experiencing a psychological emergency. "Cultural anchors of coherence are unraveling." This speaker quoted Victor Frankel who said: "When people stay in touch with stable traditions they can handle all kinds of traumas."

Thank God for our church which is a stable tradition and anchor for each of us! **Suellen**

## Mission Outreach Committee News

**From Chair Debbie Lundberg**

### **A Lot of Rolling Going On!**

A short note to share results of all the Fish Bank coins turned in support of One Great Hour of Sharing: \$53.20! Wow! Well fed fish!

### **One Step at a Time!**

That is how the journey began for the Redwood members and friends who took part in the Church World Service - Marin Crop Walk held on Sunday April 29th. It was a very warm day and most of the 3.1 mile path was in the sun but we all persevered. Walking the walk were Nancy and Molly Rademacher, Nanette Ettinger (Molly's cousin), Joyce Wells, Ani Lelea, Jennifer Garcia, Faith McClellan, Lori Wood, Suellen Barnett and Debbie Lundberg. Funds raised as of now equal an amazing \$490! Thanks and blessings to the walkers and their sponsors.

Peace, **Debbie**

## Word of Thanks

**From Dick Judd**

I want to express my appreciation for all the kindnesses extended to me during my leg injury. The lovely birthday party was grand and all of the cards encouraging wellness were so meaningful. I hope my leg will soon be completely healed—it was a very long eight weeks in the hospital and in rehab!

We wish to especially thank the folks who were Marian's drivers while I was laid up. Marian was so much help to me throughout my ordeal. Again, thank you all for your good wishes. **Dick**

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

# June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 Walking Group  6:00 Bingo Dinner	2
3 <i>Communion</i> <i>Clavinova</i> <i>Dedication</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:15 Mission Outreach Committee	4	5 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	6	7  7:30 Choir	8 8:30 Walking Group	9 11:00 Health Care Program
10 <i>Bells in Worship</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	11  7:00 Spirit and Work Group	12 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study  7:00 Deacons	13	14  7:30 Choir	15 8:30 Walking Group	16
17 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	18	19 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study  7:00 Session	20  LOG Deadline	21  7:30 Choir	22 8:30 Walking Group	23
24 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:15 Church Growth Brainstorming	25	26 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study  7:00 Membership/Fellowship Committee	27	28  LOG Mailing  7:30 Choir	29 8:30 Walking Group	30

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, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi, Kitty Prosser, Joyce Wells, Lori Wood

### Liturgists

Faith McClellan, Marilyn Sutherland, Clay Wiens

### Greeters

Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg,  
Marian Judd, Kitty Prosser

### Ushers

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Iris Giacotto,  
James Holmes, Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg,  
Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher

### Coffee Hour

Suellen Barnett, Board of Deacons, Gabriele Putzi

### Spring Clean Up Day

Cornel, David & Suellen Barnett, Margaret Erwin,  
Diane Forster, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Joyce Wells,  
Clay Wiens (Facilities Chair)

### June Helping Hands

**June 3**—Melissa Gill (L), Nancy Rademacher (G),  
Ani Lelea (U)

**June 10**—Debbie Lundberg (L), Gabriele Putzi (G),  
Marjorie Egger (U), Ani Lelea (U)

**June 17**—John Girton (L), Kitty Prosser (G),  
Suellen Barnett (U), Iris Giacotto (U)

**June 24**—Clay Wiens (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),  
Melissa Gill (U)