

# The Redwoods Log

July/August 2010 Redwoods Presbyterian Church 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832

## From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

It is summer and like schools we are winding down. The church never goes on vacation, but it does slow down. While worship takes place every Sunday and I continue my pastoral ministry, the Session, Deacons and most committees don't meet in July. They resume in August to prepare for the new church year, just as schools prepare for the new school year.

The church's fiscal year begins in January. New officers begin in January. This "year" business, with some things beginning in September and some in January, is confusing. It took me a long time to get used to it coming from South Africa almost 30 years ago where everything – church, school and fiscal – begins in January.

Since our church year is coming to an end, it is time to reflect on this year of ministry. It has been a good year and, according to the Session, we are meeting our goals, which were established before I came onboard almost two years ago.

There's a palpable sense that God is in this place, sprucing up the premises and inviting new people here. I'm a firm believer that the Spirit is at work in the lives of all human beings and draws them into our buildings. Of course, we partner with God. The Spirit relies on us to be a place of grace, welcome and care. We are!

There is much to highlight in how we are meeting our goals. I shall mention a few:

Goal: Further develop The Redwoods website with an emphasis on improving the website and making it more inviting. If you haven't visited our website, please do at [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org). It is updated every Monday morning. My sermon on Sunday can be read online on Monday at noon.

Goal: Expand the Special Needs and Endowment Committee to encourage bequests. The committee convened and revised the Special Needs and Endowment Fund document and now invites members in every *Redwoods Log* to endow the church with special gifts. Your gifts make a difference. Remembering the church in your will or living trust is a wonderful way to support the church's programs and mission.

Goal: Plan musical programs. We began a tradition of Christmas music with a high tea and we are working on a special fund-raising classical concert for this Fall called "Old Music for a New Roof." Marin Symphony member and friend of the church, Dennie Mehocich, and her string quartet are offering their music as a gift to the church. How wonderful is that!

Many good things are happening at Redwoods. I've scratched the surface. Thank you all and have a great summer. With love, Cornel

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# July-August Church Mouse



## Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Summer is here and Redwoods people are busy!

We've had more graduations! Ben Girton and Zack Paulson are leaving eighth grade behind and will be freshmen at Redwood High in September.

Georgene and George Gmahling's granddaughter, Taylor, graduated from Vacaville High School on June 12.

Mercedes Irwin had a special day on May 15! Grandson Delmar got married in the Napa Valley and his brother, Jesse, graduated from Dominican University so he couldn't go to his brother's wedding. Mercedes went to the wedding.

Jennifer Lopez and Marissa Phipps had a special honor in May when the Girl and Boy Scouts from Marin sang at a Giants baseball game. They were heard only on the radio, drat.

Ani Lelea is having a special summer. Son, Jeff, is home for a break after finishing (and passing!) the course work in Hebrew at Princeton Theological Seminary. Daughter, Leann, did a half-marathon along with 4,000 other people to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. That took many months of training and fund raising. Our hats are off to both Jeff and Leann!

Ed Elliott had his picture in *Marin Magazine* when the Tam High School came over to The Redwoods retirement home for their annual dance.

Other assorted news items: Almost 30 eager workers got rid of cobwebs, washed windows, took out trash, painted, did yard work and got Redwoods Church looking good on June 5. All were rewarded with a good lunch provided by the Membership Fellowship Committee.

There were thirteen singers in the summer choir! The group included new members, Diana Matthews and Jolyne Liberati! That's the way to make a joyful sound!

We send good wishes with June and Bob Bellen who are moving to Florida! Sorry to see you go and we will certainly miss you.

June is the month for weddings and anniversaries. Jack and Diane Forster - June 19, 1955; Georgene and George Gmahling - June 30, 1956; Iris and Peter Giacotto - June 12, 1948; LaVerne and Herb Schmidt - June 26, 1942. Congrats to all you good people! Merna and Dave McIntosh were married on the very same day as The Forsters. We thank Merna for the beautiful Baldwin Piano in our sanctuary that was given in memory of Dave, who left us too soon.

Prayers are needed for Gerry Parsons, Morgan Benezra and Shirley and Leo Brady.

See you in September—meanwhile be sure to look at the gorgeous magnolia blossoms on the tree by the office entrance of the church!

## Mr. Mouse and Spouse

**Correction:** On page two of the April issue, the LOG incorrectly stated that Tani Girton works at West America Bank and that she was overseas for a World Bank treasurer's conference. Tani reports that she works at Bank of the West and was at a BNPP global treasury conference.

## July/August Happy Birthdays!

### From Deacons Chair, Gabriele Putzi

Please join us in wishing the following members a happy birthday this month: July 1 – Suellen Barnett, 4 – Kitty Prosser, 10 – Ani Lelea, 15 – Dan Phipps, 12 – Helen Caldwell; August 2 – Merna McIntosh, 4 – Mercedes Irwin, 8 – Deb Lundberg, 10 – Cornel Barnett, 17 – Erik Rademacher, 18 – Barbara Linse, 19 – Eva Peoples, 25 – Lawrence Reh.

Call 924-4832 to add your name and birthday to our birthday list.!

**Gabriele**

## July-August Choir News

**From Music Director Dick Judd**

I am pleased to report that on June 13 the choir was honored with a 'Day of Recognition' at the coffee hour after morning worship. Many nice words were said about the choir members, thanking them for the work they do to provide special music for worship services.

At least three of the singers recognized have been with the chancel choir for 40 years! These consistent folks are Marilyn Sutherland, Joyce Wells and Diane Forster. Special honor was given to Diane who started singing with a choir at Redwoods at the age of 12. It is amazing that she has been singing for Redwoods for 60 years —a record for any church!

The choir is going on a "summer mode" which means that we do not have mid-week rehearsals. This is an opportunity for people who enjoy singing to come to a informal rehearsal at 9:30 am on Sundays and help prepare a simple song for the service at 10 am. Come help sing!

**Dick**

## Membership/Fellowship News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

The Membership/Fellowship Committee is working on some great upcoming events. We are planning a hot dog barbeque lunch in mid-July when the Putzis are briefly back in town. Our expert barbeque chef, Robert Putzi, will be firing up the grill. The exact date will be announced soon in the Sunday bulletin and on the website, [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org) (check it out!).

At 4 pm on September 12, we are holding a fundraising concert to help pay down the new sanctuary roof loan. The concert features a quartet of classical musicians organized by Dennie Mehocich who has played at Redwoods in the past. We hope you will join us and invite all your family, friends and neighbors.

Thanks to Zach Paulson's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class fundraiser, those of us who purchased tickets will be going on an Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry Sunset Cruise on Friday, September 24. Bring a picnic supper and enjoy a beautiful trip on the bay and some great Redwoods fellowship. Tickets are \$20/adult, \$10/child and can still be purchased by contacting Zach or Melissa at 924-2458 or at [melissa.gill@marchesecco.com](mailto:melissa.gill@marchesecco.com).

Two other planned events are a group get-together for *Taming of the Shrew* at Dominican University on August 27 and for Corte Madera Recreation Center's Big Band Night on Wednesday, October 13. Let one of the committee members know what interests you.

The Women's Breakfast will not take place during the summer and will resume in September. We have some great program ideas for the fall, so stay tuned.

We continue to work toward making Redwoods more visible in the community and to encourage more visitors. We are always open to ideas and suggestions. We thank all of you for the warmth and hospitality you so willingly share. All of our recent new members mention that this is at the very top of their list of reasons for joining our church.

Blessings for a wonderful summer!

**Nancy**

## Earth Prayer

**From Helen Morita**

The following is from Aaron Kramer of the U. N. Environmental Sabbath Program. This would be relevant at any time, but especially in these last two months with the horrendous destruction in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Today the ability of the Earth to support life is being deeply eroded. The evidence is everywhere. We are mindlessly destroying the very web of life, millions of people are dying each year as a result of direct ecological collapse. Within the animal and plant kingdoms we are witnessing the greatest holocaust in history. Millions of species are on the verge of extinction. The old forests are being felled, the top soil washed away, and the groundwater contaminated. The air is polluted and the rain is acid. So the litany goes on, every aspect of life on the planet is profoundly altered by the way our culture has organized the business of its existence...Citizens from around the world express their fears and their grief at what is happening to the Earth.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security

We have exploited simply for our own ends

We have distorted our knowledge

We have abused our power."

Aaron Kramer

In gratitude for your support,

**Helen**

## Mission Outreach News

**From Chair Debbie Lundberg  
Ritter Center Shower Room**

A dear friend of mine volunteers one morning a week at the Ritter Center in the shower room. She has told me many times how much the clients appreciate donations of toiletries. So if you ever have wondered what happens after you put your contributions in the collection box, wonder no more! Everything is welcomed and used. Thank you!

### **Mission Outreach Meeting**

A warm welcome is extended to new committee members Suellen Barnett, Melissa Gill and Ani Lelea! Each brings special gifts and energy to enrich the committee's work.

We invite anyone interested to our Tuesday, July 6 meeting at 7 pm. The agenda items include: Green America's Guide to Fair Trade; the Open Garden Project partnership with Homeward Bound to harvest excess fruit and vegetables for the homeless across the county, Bread for the World's 2010 Offering of Letters; the 2010 Alternative Christmas Fair and the Peacemaking Offering – "Celebrate Christ, Our Peace." The committee will not meet in August.

In closing, I offer a quote from Albert Einstein that I recently found on a greeting card with a picture of the earth taken from space, and his words below the picture: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." Something to think about!

Peace, freedom, justice, love and hope for all. **Deb**

## Counseling Corner

**From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT**

### **Healthy Relationships**

There are always people we are communicating with and forming relationships with – whether we have young children in our midst, teens, are experiencing the empty nest, or if our children have children of their own, or if we are on our own.

Relationships take time, energy and care to make them healthy and keep them healthy.

There are many things we know we can do to keep our relationships healthy: good communication which is listening with no judgment; sharing honestly our feelings; having no hidden agendas.

The Center for Work and Family Living at the University of Southern California suggests a good rule for family members is to treat each other as they would a guest.

The Center proposes other things for healthy relationships – forgiving one another including a definite decision to let go of the past and focus on the present, taking responsibility for ourselves, showing appreciation, not having unreal expectations and giving each other space to think about what has happened if there has been some kind of misunderstanding.

Good relationships are essential to our happiness and emotional health – they can affect our physical health as well. One thing researchers know for sure is that our ability to feel love and intimacy is what keeps us well. Studies have shown that loneliness is a risk factor for disease and that warm relationships have a positive effect on everything from heart health to age-related health issues.

Therefore, it's important for us to nurture our relationships to keep them healthy—visit with friends and family. Take time to make a phone call, send an email and write a quick note. Make new friends; it's healthy to establish new contacts.

As I have mentioned before in this column, we are grateful for our community here at Redwoods Presbyterian Church, for the friendships we can share and the support we can receive through worship, social events and service.

Enjoy the summer with friends, family and the Redwoods community!

**Suellen**

## Give a Gift that Keeps on Giving From Nancy Rademacher

Last month the Special Needs and Endowment Committee wrote about the many ways Redwoods has enriched our lives and the lives of our families—a very compelling reason to leave a gift to the church.

Another is the enormous generosity of our congregation to spread God’s love and grace through our varied mission projects. Redwoods has always been extremely generous with mission giving and continues to support outreach in a very meaningful way. Here are some of our projects:

- One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking, Pentecost and Christmas Joy denominational offerings
- Church World Services CROP Walk
- Marin Interfaith Council
- The Sewing Group support of Cameron House
- Mill Street Shelter meals
- Alternative Christmas Faire support of Bread for the World, Heifer Project, Habitat International, Faith in Practice, Church World Service and Marin Interfaith Homeless Chaplaincy.
- Marin Community Food Bank
- Homeward Bound
- Roto Care
- Ritter Center Shower Room
- Two-Cents-a-Meal Program
- Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America (fruit trees at Easter and Christmas)

Please help assure that these and other wonderful programs receive support in the coming years by considering a gift, either now or through your will or living trust. Each donation, no matter the size, will help ensure the future viability of Redwoods’ missions.

Existing wills and trusts do not necessarily have to be rewritten in order to include Redwoods 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.

Please contact a member of the Special Needs and Endowment Committee with further questions: Chair Joyce Wells, Jim Egger, Tani Girton or Nancy Rademacher. We wish you a happy summer. **Nancy**

## Spring Cleaning Party & Administrator Thank You From Facilities Chair Jack Forster

On Saturday, June 5, about 30 volunteers, including two scouts and three leaders from Pack 43, took on many projects here at the church. Here’s a partial list of what they did:

- window cleaning (both levels)
- repainting the Fellowship Hall restroom
- safety striping the steps to the office
- refinishing the sanctuary door wood handles
- cleaning/dusting pews, cushions & cold air returns
- cleaning room 7 downstairs
- polishing brass fittings on doors
- straightening the paraments closet
- cleaning the music room and kitchen.

At noon everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the Membership Fellowship Committee. Special thanks to all for doing a great job—we would name you, but didn’t want to risk the chance of omitting anyone. We really appreciate all you do for the church!

The Committee would also like to recognize our office administrator, Mari Robinson, for being extremely helpful with our management of the approximately 300 people who meet weekly in the lower level of the church (six AA groups, scouts, two yoga groups, Soloquest and Marin Interfaith Task Force). Special thanks to Mari for her diligent and faithful work, and a happy summer to everyone! **Jack**

## Photographer Needed!

Help Redwoods update its website with new photos! If you would be interested in taking photos during a few church activities or if you have photos of a recent church activity, please contact Cornel Barnett or Mari Robinson at 924-4832.

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

# July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Independence Day</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 7:00 Mission Outreach Committee	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group 12:00 Mill Street	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> <i>Birthdays Sunday</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group 1:00 Convalescent Ministry	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>31</i>

# August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Communion</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30 Walking Group	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group 12:00 Mill Street	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  7:00 Deacons	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30 Walking Group	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group 1:00 Convalescent Ministry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  7:00 Session	<b>18</b>  LOG Deadline	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:30 Walking Group	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  7:00 Membership/ Fellowship Committee	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> LOG Mailing	<b>27</b> 8:30 Walking Group	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 Adult Bible 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education/ Youth Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

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



### Mill Street Shelter Meals:

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger,  
Margaret Erwin, Diane & Jack Forster, Melissa Gill,  
Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd,  
Debbie Lundberg, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher,  
Marilyn Sutherland, Joyce Wells

### Coffee Hours:

Suellen Barnett, Melissa Gill  
Marian & Dick Judd, Zach Paulson  
Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser

### Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes:

June Bellen, Ed Elliott, Melissa Gill, Tani Girton,  
Marian Judd, Ani Lelea, Lindsey Merritt,  
Marilyn Paulsen, Kitty Prosser, Herb Schmidt

### Liturgists:

Melissa Gill, Polly Gorder, Joyce Wells, Clay Wiens