



# The Redwoods Log

July/August 2011 Redwoods Presbyterian Church 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832

## From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

I thought summer had arrived and it has – sort of. It is late June and rain is forecast for tomorrow. Is climate change the new norm? It changed this year and has wreaked havoc in other parts of the country and world.

What can be done about it? We know that we can be more cognizant with the way we interact with the environment. We can care for nature in a way that it can care for us. We can reduce whatever it is that adversely affects the environment to prevent adverse reactions of abuse.

Whether we care for the environment or for children, the results seem to be the same. Care given is care received. Abuse brings abuse.

Whenever I want to keep on track in my own way of thinking and acting I turn to the fruit of the spirit communicated by Paul in his letter to the church in Galatia. “The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22).

Paul contrasts the “fruit of the Spirit” with “works of the flesh” which are “fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these.” (5:19-21).

This is quite a list. One would have to up-date interpretations of these actions but one gets the general sense that they are damage-producing actions; the kind if practiced would mess up healthy relationships with human beings and the environment.

Thank God that Paul offers the contrast of the fruit of the Spirit. In fact, he begins 5:22 with the words, “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is...”

As we go into summer let us thank God for another beautiful summer and let us pray for those hurt by adverse weather. Let us take time to enjoy the sunshine and return to a new school year refreshed and ready to take on new projects and enjoy our worship and work together.

We will begin our new year with a new part-time intern from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Some of you have already met Faith McClellan. She will begin her internship with us from mid-August and work two days a week and Sundays. She will be here for a year. Faith hails from New Orleans and graduated from Agnes Scott College, a Presbyterian women’s college in Decatur, Ga. She has completed two years of a Masters of Divinity degree at SFTS.

The new year will also probably bring to us a new musician. The Music Director search committee has been hard at work and is in the process of looking at new musicians. Please keep them in your prayers and let us continue to pray for our dedicated, long-time, retiring director, Dick Judd.

In conclusion, thank you, thank you, thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to the mission of this wonderful place we call Redwoods Presbyterian Church.

God bless you and peace, Cornel

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# July/August Church Mouse



## Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Summer weather is finally here and lots of things are happening at Redwoods.

Jim Gorder retired from Marin Council of the Boy Scouts of America after twenty-five years. Jim became involved in scouting over forty years ago when son, Peter, became a Cub Scout! Good work Jim! Redwoods church has a history with scouting. Those wooden signs above the Library and Music Rooms and Fellowship Hall doors were made by Bill Mills as an Eagle Scout project. Eric Rademacher is our latest Eagle Scout at Redwoods. Incidentally Eric is working at several Nature Conservancy properties in northern California this summer.

It's baseball season and thanks to modern technology, LaVerne and Herb Schmidt can watch grandson, Konrad, on the internet! Konrad is with the Reno Aces, the Triple A Club of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Konrad is a catcher and we'll think good thoughts that he won't be run over and injured like Buster Posey.

Other baseball news: Diane Forster's sister, Nancy Altman, was a ball dudette at AT&T Park one evening last month. Sounds like a very interesting experience being in the dugout with all those fellows!

Cheers to Joyce Wells who is up in the air right now. This is her 33rd year to participate in the Air Race Classic which begins in Iowa City this year and ends in Mobile, Alabama. Joyce learned to fly in 1968 and belongs to the Ninety-Nines (International Organization of Women Pilots).

Down here on the ground, we had 22 people having a delightful time going to the theater in Richmond followed by goodies at the Barnett's home on June 12. Anna Barnett did a tomato-plant giveaway one Sunday. All those healthy plants came from seeds that were nurtured by Anna. Mouse hopes we'll have a report on the produce later this summer.

Debbie Lundberg traveled to San Diego to visit her sister, Pat, and to see her beautiful grand-niece, Lauren, age 6 months. Debbie also got to see her niece, Debbie, dance the Queen of Hearts role in "Alice in Wonderland" ballet.

Redwoods had something rare and wonderful happened on May 28! Diana Matthews and Sal Newton, Jack and Diane Forster's grandson were married at South Lake Tahoe. Sal and Diana are both members of Redwoods and were feted at a reception after church on June 12.

Diane and Jack were married at Redwoods Church on June 19, 1955. On Sunday, June 19, 2011, they and their family hosted coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, which was used as the church sanctuary before the present sanctuary was finished. Pam Forster Rosa baked that good chocolate cake. Congratulations and good wishes to Diane and Jack as well as seven other Redwoods couples with June anniversaries!

- Georgene and George Gmahling, No. 55 on June 30
- LaVerne and Herb Schmidt, No. 69 on June 26
- Iris and Peter Giacotto, No. 63 on June 12
- Nancy and Gerry Parsons, No. 46 on June 5
- Jan and Blaise Salas, No. 36 on June 28
- Peggy and Bill Thomas, No. 59 on June 15
- June and Bob Bellen, No. 17 on June 26

We need prayers and good thoughts for Helen Morita and Klara Larsen.

Until September, **Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

## July August Happy Birthdays

### From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Please join the Deacons and congregation in wishing the following members a happy birthday: 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 ('91), 18 – Barbara Linse, 19 – Eva Peoples and 25 – Lawrence Reh.

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**

## July/August Choir News

**From Music Director Dick Judd**

For several years Dick Judd has had a good time writing about the choir, but he has gone fishing! The choir is pretty much on summer mode now, and that means that there are no midweek rehearsal times, but on Sundays, the singers come early and a simple chorus is prepared for the morning worship. This would be a good time for those who have not been able to attend regular rehearsal times on Thursdays to just come on Sunday mornings and join the choir for that day. Easy, isn't it? It is my hope that you have a joyous summer!

**Dick**

## Facility Committee News

**From Chair Jack Forster**

On May 3, the Facility Use Committee (a Facility sub-committee composed of Chair Melissa Gill, Mari Robinson, Jim Gorder, Cornel Barnett and myself) met with Deborah Stewart, the head of Soloquest Learning Center, a longtime tenant of the church who wanted to expand her space usage. The committee entered into an agreement that expanded Soloquest's space and the church's rental income. In exchange, the church agreed to clean up and improve the spaces prior to June 1.

A generous family donated funds to remodel the two toilets and the sink area and to resurface and paint the deck. Soloquest and Redwoods shared the cost of installing carpet in the space downstairs next to the door from Fellowship Hall, planned to be the Soloquest reception area. All the restrooms were painted and several lock changes were made.

The groups who normally meet downstairs (the 300 people weekly from six AA groups, Boy Scouts and Marin Interfaith Task Force) have been asked to avoid using Soloquest's reception area. At the same time, our Sunday Church schoolroom was relocated and two of the AA groups began sharing a room (on different nights) with the Tamalpais yoga group.

We greatly appreciate the work of several members whose efforts were invaluable to this project, including Mollie Rademacher, Debbie Lundberg, Robert Putzi and Jim and Polly Gorder.

In addition, Cornel and Mari Robinson, our church administrator, kept on top of everything, from moving furniture and touching up paint to sending letters.

The Larkspur Fire Department recently completed an annual inspection of our facility. We replaced exit light bulbs, added one extinguisher downstairs and a few signs noting the location of extinguishers, which were checked and refilled last May. We also had a furnace contractor check a thermostat last month.

A special thanks to all of you for your dedication in keeping our church facility clean and safe. It's in good shape for an old building.

**Jack**

## Deacons Board News

**From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder**

Although summertime is a nicely slowed-down time, the Deacons just wanted to remind you that they don't take the summer off as far as caring and supporting all of you in our church family. Be sure to call on any of us if there is some way we can support you. Our monthly meetings begin with taking turns sharing a particularly meaningful message. This month, it was titled: "Fresh Fruit" from a devotional booklet titled *Our Daily Bread*. We'd like to share a portion of it with you, as follows:

"Too often, those who have had a long life feel sidelined when they reach their later years. Psalm 92, however, reminds us that no matter how old we are, we can have a fresh and fruitful life. Men and women who have been "planted" in the rich soil of God's vineyard will continue to "bear fruit" and be "fresh and flourishing." Yes, muscles may ache and joints may hurt and life may slow down a bit, but inwardly we can be "renewed day by day" (II Corinthians 4:16). The writer makes reference to seeing a T-shirt on a beautiful white-haired woman that read: "I'm not 80, but rather 18 with 62 years of experience." No matter how old we get, we can still be young at heart but with the benefit of a well-lived lifetime of knowledge and wisdom."

We felt this was an affirmation that we would all do well to remember every day.

**Polly**

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

### A Fun Event for All!

Join the Membership Fellowship Committee at 8 pm on Friday, July 22 at the first preview performance of *A History of America (Abridged)*, a wonderful comedy performed by the Marin Shakespeare Company at Forrest Meadows (outdoor) Amphitheatre at Dominican University in San Rafael. Attendees will enjoy a potluck picnic before the performance. This is a “pay-as-you-will” evening, so the cost for the event is whatever you wish/can afford. There will be a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall, and an opportunity to offer/request carpools. We look forward to a fun evening — hope to see you there!

From Member Debbie Lundberg

### Down Memory Lane

While organizing my church files recently, I came across a list of “Sentence Sermons” – short phrases providing humor, wisdom and inspiration which the Membership/Fellowship Committee posted on our former Reader Board. Many of these “sermons” came from a book “Roadside Church Signs Across America” put together by Mary Katherine and David Compton. Here are a few for your enjoyment:

We Have A Prophet Sharing Plan  
Soular Powered By The Son  
Praying Will Give You A Calm-plex  
This Church Is Prayer-Conditioned  
Soul Food Served Here  
In The Dark? Follow The Son  
The Best Things In Life Aren't Things  
Psalms Are Read Here  
God's Grace A Gift For All  
Enter Here For A Faith Lift

Blessings and peace to all for a wonderful, interesting, meaningful and happy summer

**Deb**

## Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

### Go Green – Short and Sweet

I wonder if anyone else has noticed that when talking with the “younger” generation some unusual “words” come up that seem to make no sense? While visiting my niece and nephew recently I heard “LOL,” “OMG” and “OOT,” and wondered what language was being spoken! It certainly seemed that another language was being used these days, especially for texting.

I discovered later that what I was hearing was a quick/short way to say/write: LOL – “Lots of Love”; OMG – “Oh My God”; BBL – “Be Back Later” and OOT - “Out of Town.”

So, wanting to at least appear with it, I have made up a text “word” to remind myself to help care for the earth. Here it is: “TIO” – which means “Turn It Off.”

I am switching off lights in rooms not being used, turning off the water while brushing my teeth and turning off heat when not needed - small simple steps which can make a big difference!

Have a blessed and green summer,

**Debbie**

## Special Needs and Endowment Committee

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

The Special Needs and Endowment Committee continues to receive memorial donations from the families and friends of Leo Brady, Hazel Nelson, Gerry Scofield and Jack Sutherland. We will report on these donations in more detail in the September LOG.

**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**

The school year is over; students have graduated or advanced to the next class. Summer programs are beginning and families are going off on vacation.

How has the school year been for you? And for your family and extended family? What have you planned for this summer? Will you take some time to relax, take some yoga classes, meditate more, go for long walks, visit the beach, read some books that have been waiting for you?

This is a wonderful time to take stock. How was your spiritual journey in the last year? When did you feel God's closeness and when did you feel God's distance? What precipitated these feelings? What is God saying to you in each and every situation?

The church has been a marvelous center for community, peace and well being. Everyone who enters this place is blessed. Thank you and thank God that you are there.

A fun conclusion to this year's "Counseling Corner": Our agency's "Hope Health Letter" recently carried an article entitled, "Living a Dog's Life." The subtitle was "Look to a pet for how to live. Here's what Fido might tell you: (These are nice ideas for the summer!)"

Live in the moment.

Take a nap, and sleep hard.

Discover the simple joy of a long walk.

Celebrate each snack with anticipation.

Get outside as much as possible.

Greet everyone always, no matter how long he or she has been gone.

If you love someone, show your affection.

Blessings for a great summer!

**Suellen**

## Earth Prayers

**From Helen Morita**

The following poem comes from poet Alan Edmonson, a friend of the Barnett family. Alan worked as an explorationist, imaging seismic data from around the world, 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. 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.

### **From "Catholic Wisdom Leader's Guide"**

Good and gracious God, we stand in awe of your power to create a magnificent world for us to enjoy during our lifetime. Help us to see it anew as the wonder that it is. Open our eyes and enlighten our minds to understand the power we hold and the responsibility we have to keep it as a gift that we only borrow for our lifetime, to return to you and the generations to follow. Send your Holy Spirit to be here as we reflect in our hearts and minds on your call to us as human beings and Christians to keep this treasure, your earth, safe from harm. Amen.

**Helen**

# July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 Walking Group	2
3 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	4	5	6	7	8 8:30 Walking Group	9 11:00 Hazel Nelson Memorial Service
10 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	11	12	13	14	15 8:30 Walking Group	16
17 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	18	19	20	21	22 8:30 Walking Group	23
24/31 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	25	26	27	28	29 8:30 Walking Group	30

# August 2011

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

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, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Debbie Lundberg, Helen Morita, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells, Lori Wood

### Coffee Hour:

Suellen Barnett, Diane & Jack Forster, Membership/  
Fellowship Committee, Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser

### Liturgists:

Melissa Gill, John Girton, Debbie Lundberg,  
Elein Phipps

### Greeters & Ushers:

Marjorie & Jim Egger, Iris Giacotto,  
Melissa Gill, Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg,  
Marilyn Paulsen, Kitty Prosser,  
Gabriele Putzi, Barbara Slusher,

### Nursery Monitors:

Suellen Barnett, Tani Girton,  
Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser,  
Nancy Rademacher, Jan Salas,  
Barbara Slusher, Clay Wiens