



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

We welcome the new school year! Our children and youth are back at school with new teachers and new and old friends. They are learning new things every second of the day. The world is opening up for them in wonderful and exciting ways. We wish them all the best and God's richest blessings.

Here at church we are also experiencing new things. Barbara Bacon-Shaw comes to us as our new Director of Music. Her first Sunday is September 18, which the Session has established as "Homecoming Sunday" this year. She will meet with the choir for the first time the Thursday before, September 15, and with the bell choir the Tuesday following, September 20.

Barbara is a seasoned church musician, coming from a long line of church musicians. She offers a wide array of music, from "high church" classical music on the pipe organ through contemporary Christian pop, rock and gospel and all the way to choral anthems and children's music, reflective of her work for many years in churches, schools, choral organizations and retirement communities. We welcome Barbara and look forward to her new relationship with Redwoods Presbyterian Church and trust that God will bless our partnership and her ministry.

Our current music director Dick Judd is ending his 40 year music career with us—years of faithful, tireless and dedicated service to this church. It's been a labor of love. We have been blessed by his leadership of the music program, and we hope he shares our complete confidence in his continued warm welcome in this church, along with his wonderful wife, Marian.

Dick's last choir practice will be on Thursday evening, September 8; Sunday, September 11 will be the last day he serves as Director of Music. Our community will honor his ministry with us during a celebration and appreciation party after the worship service on September 25. We are not saying "goodbye" to Dick as a member of this church, rather we are celebrating his ministry with us.

Along with this tectonic shift in the church, we welcome to our ministry Faith McClellan as a part-time intern. Faith is a student at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. She graduated from Agnes Scott College, a Presbyterian women's college in Decatur, GA, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature with concentrations in Creative Writing and Latin American Studies. She taught English as a Second Language to adult learners and worked as a crisis counselor for individuals diagnosed with autism.

Faith has the last word for this letter. It's an inspiration to us as we enter the new church year: "As I matured in my faith, I came to see the world as what John Calvin calls, "the theater of God's glory," that we are to not only be awed by God's beauty within it, but that we are called to actively participate in God's mission of love, healing and reconciliation to a ruptured world."

God bless Dick, Barbara and Faith. God bless you all. God bless our church, community and world. With love, Cornel

September Church Mouse



Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Greetings! Summer went by so quickly! Lots of things have happened these last two months.

Some people traveled. The Girton family took Tani's mom, Harriet Roberts, back to Colorado Springs where she lives part time, and then went on to visit John's parents in Michigan.

Kitty Prosser visited her active 98-year-old sister, and lots of nieces and nephews in South Carolina. She even got to spend three days at the beach!

Inga Coleman and her family had their annual get-together in Solvang; and Barbara Slusher and her family and long time friends spent two weeks camping by the river at McCloud, a 60-year tradition!

Joyce Wells flew to Oklahoma City for a meeting of the Forty-Nines, the international organization of women pilots in which Joyce has been active for many years.

It was good to see several folks at church: Jim Egger after his recovery from knee replacement surgery, Wayne Slemph who is recovering from a bad fall and David Barnett, who had a Sunday off from his job, which made all of us really happy.

Also good to see Klara Larsen at service one Sunday while son, Mark visited from New Hampshire. Their friend Joy Dryden made it a real "Joy"!

Gerry Parsons had stem cell transplant surgery and is now doing nicely at home with Nancy after two weeks in the hospital. We send good thoughts for continued healing.

Helen Morita is currently undergoing treatment for a recurrence of her brain tumor and is being lovingly cared for by her entire family. While her tumor is now gone (great news!), she must continue with four more

rounds of chemotherapy. Our prayers are with her for strength and courage during this time.

Ten Redwoods folks had a delightful evening seeing the comedy, "The Complete History of America (Abridged)" at Dominican University's Forest Meadows Amphitheater. This was a very witty production!

Herb and LaVerne Schmidt are having a super summer watching grandson, Konrad, play baseball. Konrad plays with the Reno Aces, and was chosen to be on the Triple A All Star Team! Konrad has batted .308 with five home runs and 26 RBIs for the Aces. Now that's something to make any grandparent proud!

We have exciting news about Anna Barnett's tomato plants. Both Jolyne Liberati and Melissa Gill are reporting great crops! Is there anybody else out there with tomato news? Thanks, Anna!

Melissa Gill is proud of her boys and we thank them for doing some necessary things in the Redwoods kitchen. Greg cleaned the ovens and Zack made a new Coffee Hour chart. We are so pleased!

Mercedes Irwin's niece, Cindy Holleran, came from Kingman, NC to help Mercedes celebrate her 87th birthday. Congrats to Mercedes!

Jeff Lelea was home for a short visit and then went back to Princeton Theological Seminary for classes in Greek. Mom, Ani, says, "Jeff likes Greek." Jeff is in the second year of a Master's program at Princeton.

And now for some great grandparent news! Margaret Erwin's family added Lila Tayte Kester on August 2 in Ogden, Utah. That makes a baker's dozen for the Erwins.

The Mouse family now has three greats. Nicolas Christian Davies was born August 8 in Coos Bay, Oregon.

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

September Choir News

From Music Director Dick Judd

This will be my last time writing in the LOG, at least in my current capacity as your Music Director. As hopefully everyone knows by now, I am stepping down from that position after 40 years, and so, starting September 18, you will find me in the pews during worship on Sundays rather than on the organ bench.

I will hold one last choir practice on Thursday, September 8 at 7:30 pm and my last Sunday directing the choir will be on September 11. I am also being honored with what Cornel and others are calling a "celebration and appreciation party" after the worship service on September 25. I hope to see you there.

As you might suspect, I have been spending some time thinking about my many years as your Music Director. I have always tried my best to offer beautiful and appropriate music and to work as economically as possible. However, as I have said many times in past columns, the most enjoyable part of being Music Director over these past 40 years has been working with the core of faithful Redwoods members who come week after week to sing and to play hand bells. These folks have made my job a true joy and I heartily thank them for that. **Dick**

Special Needs and Endowment Committee

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

All committees, Session and Deacons are gearing up after a short summer break. The energy is flowing as we welcome new seminary intern, Faith McClellan, our new Director of Music, Barbara Bacon Shaw and celebrate the gifts and many years of service of our amazing retiring Director of Music, Dick Judd. Special blessings to them, our wonderful and energetic pastor, and the entire congregation as we embark on a new chapter at Redwoods Presbyterian Church.

The Special Needs and Endowment Committee is pleased to report that we have received nearly \$4,500

in memorial funds over the last few months. These were donated in honor of three of our long term, devoted members and a former member who passed away recently: Hazel Nelson, Gerry Scofield, Jack Sutherland and Leo Brady. Some of the funds have been designated towards repayment of the new roof loan, some for a Music Fund. Undesignated gifts may be used for future needs of the church as recommended by this committee and approved by Session. On behalf of Redwoods Church, we are very grateful for these heart-felt gifts.

Ongoing contributions to Redwoods Special Needs and Endowment Funds are always welcome, no matter the size, made now or through a will or living trust. They can be in many forms: liquid assets, securities, real estate, a life insurance policy, an IRA or other retirement plan, a charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity, perhaps second to another beneficiary. You need only designate: Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939, Tax ID no. 94-1347047. Please consult your financial advisor or one of the Special Needs and Endowment Committee members.

Thank you all for your continued support of our church!

Nancy

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

From Chair Marilyn Sutherland

The Tuesday morning Bible Study class will resume on September 6 at 10:15 am. We will begin with a new Horizon Study entitled, "Confessing the Beatitudes." This promises to be an interesting and thoughtful study in that it focuses on connecting faith with daily life and, in doing so, addresses many of the issues facing the world today.

If you are interested in joining our lively and inquisitive group or have questions, please speak with Cornel or myself. Or, just come to our first meeting of the church year on September 6 and you will be warmly welcomed!

Marilyn

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

The Membership/Fellowship Committee is pleased to welcome everyone to a busy fall. School is starting, church programs are beginning anew and the spirit is moving among us as we welcome our seminary intern, new music director, and celebrate and thank our loyal and talented music director of many years.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Saturday Morning Breakfast on September 17 when seminary intern, Faith McClellan, will be speaking about her faith journey. This will be a wonderful time for us to get to know Faith and for her to spend some time getting to know us. We will meet at 9:30 am for a light potluck breakfast before the program starts at 10 am. We hope to see you there!

I would like to share the letter of introduction that Faith sent to me:

“Dear Redwoods Family:

I am very excited to begin this year as your intern. I look forward to getting to know all of you in the coming months.

I would like to tell you a little about myself as we begin our journey together. My name is Faith McClellan and I was born in New Orleans, LA where I was an only daughter with two younger brothers.

Being the only girl, and being the oldest child afforded me many privileges. For example, I have always enjoyed telling stories, so I would entertain my brothers with stories when I was in charge of babysitting them. They were too busy laughing at my ridiculous characters to get in any sort of trouble.

Being an only girl also meant that I didn't have to share my room with my brothers, which meant I could decorate it any way I wanted without any sibling objections.

It has always been easy for me to make friends, and I have had friends of diverse ages and cultures most of my life. This led to my interest in literature and international relations. Although I received a BA in English Literature, I also have concentrations in both Creative Writing and Latin American Studies.

As a seminarian at SFTS, I am pursuing a concentration in Christian Spirituality. I am very interested in how people imagine and sense God's movement in their lives. I look forward sharing more with you as we journey together on September 17. Faith”

It is sure to be an enjoyable and meaningful morning, so please join us!

Other upcoming events on the calendar are a welcome coffee hour on September 18 for Barbara Bacon-Shaw, our new Music Director. Many of us met Barbara when she shared her music talents with us several weeks ago during worship. This will be an opportunity to warmly welcome her to the Redwoods community.

On September 25, the church is planning a very special celebration honoring our long term, amazing, talented, creative and devoted music director, Dick Judd. Dick and Marian are long-time active members who have given so much over the years. It will be a joyous occasion!

Please stay tuned for other fellowship events being planned.

Nancy

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

Boxtops for Education

The Boxtops for Education Program continues! As school begins, we want to remind Redwoods members and friends to cut those boxtop coupons to help raise money for Neil Cummins School. It is an easy and cost free way to provide funds for education.

Participating products have a coupon you clip and bring to church. For each coupon collected, ten cents is contributed to the program. You will find a collection box for the box tops in the kitchen next to the box of toiletries we collect for the Ritter Center.

Some of the participating products include, but are not limited to: Kleenex, General Mills Cereal, Pillsbury rolls, Gold Medal Flour, Ziploc Bags and Avery business products. A display along with more information about the program will be found in Fellowship Hall soon, hopefully by the time you receive this LOG.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Once again the Mission Outreach Committee will host an Offering of Letters program in October. Sample letters with background information will be available, so we can join with other Christian voices urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. We know from past successful Offerings of Letters that one letter makes a big difference. This is something we can all do to make a difference in our world so sharpen those pencils! The exact date for the Offering of Letters is yet to be decided, so please stay tuned.

Peacemaking Offering

This year the Peacemaking Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 2.

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special

offerings received each year by the Presbyterian Church.

Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

The 2010 Peacemaking Offering Financial Summary will be posted in Fellowship Hall with other material promoting the offering. Once again, this seems to be an answer to the question many of us have when we view the current condition of our un-peaceful world.

A Personal Observation

I believe members and friends of Redwoods are amazing with all the support they give to various ongoing Mission Outreach Committee programs during the year. While those I am going to mention are not necessarily under the purview of the Mission Outreach Committee, they support the church's mission "to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace."

Thanks for the faithful support of the Two Cents A Meal Program, Food Barrel, supplies for the Ritter Center's Shower Room, monthly meals for Mill Street, the sewing program for Cameron House, and many more! The world is less dark as a result of the light love generated by all.

An Invitation

Did you every wonder what goes on at Mission Outreach Committee meetings? You are invited to join us for our next meeting, which will be held on September 6 at 7 pm in the church library. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing some new faces. Please note by attending a meeting there is no obligation to join, but it would be great and grand if the Spirit would move you to do so!

Debbie

Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

I just visited my sister, Jane, and her family back in Indiana the second week in August, and was able to attend a conference with her entitled "Surviving and Thriving as a Caregiver." Jane's husband has been suffering from dementia for several years now, so this conference was very relevant for her, and had some good information and perspectives for all of us.

The speaker was Elaine Sanchez, a caregiver survivalist, as she says, and an author and speaker around the country. She has written a book from letters her mother wrote to her through the years her father needed caregiving. She says, "Caring for an aging, chronically ill or disabled loved one is one of the most difficult and generous acts of love any of us will ever be called on to perform."

Ms. Sanchez offers stories and helpful counsel. She talks about developing an attitude of creative, yet sensitive, indifference through the practice of not allowing yourself to become emotionally ravaged by events or the progression of this disease, or any terminal disease. Whatever the illness or disease, it is important to become aware of the specific issues that cause you the greatest amount of emotional stress. She says accept the fact that those issues can be extremely difficult to manage. Take charge of the things you can change and release the things which you have no power, influence or control over.

This sounds like the Serenity Prayer – "God, help me to change the things I can, accept the things I can't, and the wisdom to know the difference." If we have this kind of perspective, it will prevent some of the guilt, regret, anger and depression we sometimes feel when trying to cope with some of the difficult situations in our lives.

Ms. Sanchez's mother, Madelyn, married her father at the beginning of World War II and her father served 3 ½ years in the Pacific before she saw him again. Then they moved immediately to a dairy and wheat

farm in rural Kansas. They all helped on the farm, the four children moved away, and the last six years of his life, Madelyn cared for her husband who had had several strokes and cancer.

One of Madelyn's regular prayers getting out of bed in the morning was, "So, God, what are WE going to do today?" She knew God was along side her every minute of the day. This is a great prayer for each of us every day – we immediately include God in all our thoughts and actions for the coming day, and for always.

Suellen

Earth Prayers

When I rise up
Let me rise up joyful
Like a bird

When I fall
Let me fall without regret
Like a leaf.

Wendall Berry

From Earth Prayers from around the World

September Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Please join the Deacons and congregation in wishing the following members a happy birthday: September 7 – Bill Mills ('65), 11 – Jackie Palmer, 13 – Marian Judd, 19 – Blaise Salas and 24 – Melissa Gill.

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

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

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8:30 Walking Group	3
4 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	5	6 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Mission Outreach Committee	7 3:30 Worship/Christian Education Committee 7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	8 6:00 Finance Committee 7:30 Choir	9 8:30 Walking Group	10
11 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	12	13 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	14	15 7:30 Choir	16 8:30 Walking Group	17 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
18 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Barbara Bacon-Shaw Reception	19	20 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Session	21 LOG Deadline	22 7:30 Choir	23 8:30 Walking Group	24
25 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Dick Judd Reception	26	27 9:00 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Membership/Fellowship Committee	28	29 LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	30 8:30 Walking Group	

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in July/August – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

July & August—Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Diane & Jack Forster, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells,
July—Marjorie & Jim Egger, Tani & John Girton, James Holmes, Jolyne Liberati, Barbara Slusher
August—Iris Giacotto, Debbie Lundberg, Kitty Prosser, Marilyn Sutherland, Lori Wood

Coffee Hour

June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Marjorie Egger, Margaret Erwin, Melissa Gill, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Membership/Fellowship Committee, Gabriele Putzi, Barbara Slusher

Liturgists

Tani Girton, Maria Henderson, Ani Lelea, Diana & Salvador Newton, Nancy Rademacher, Marilyn Sutherland, Joyce Wells, Clay Wiens

Greeters & Ushers

June Bellen, Marjorie Egger, Margaret Erwin, Jack Forster, Barbara Garcia, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, John Girton, Marian Judd, Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg, Marilyn Paulsen, Elein & Dan Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Jan Salas, Barbara Slusher, Marilyn Sutherland, Clay Wiens

Nursery Monitors

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Barbara Garcia, Elein Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher, Barbara Slusher