



The Redwoods Log

September 2013 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspress.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

It's amazing that summer is almost over. I'm writing this letter before Suellen and I take off for our August vacation to Europe. It's an unusual time to be going on vacation but it's the only time we could get our free flights to Europe with Mileage Plus.

When I go on vacation I like to see ways that God is revealed to me along the way. Some of you might wonder if a pastor is on vacation if he or she is always looking for the presence of God. I can't help it. It's who I am and I hope to tell some stories of God's presence in Germany, Belgium, England or Scotland in my sermons after we return.

God is always active in our lives whether we are at home or abroad, which reminds me of the lovely words in the Psalms: "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you."
(Psalm 139: 7-12)

This is quite assuring, really. It's great to know that God will be with me in the plane, in our visits with friends and family, in our driving on roads with foreign signs, on narrow English country roads, and at the Apollo Theatre in London. There will be stressful and fun times. Mostly, it will be relaxing and enjoyable. I can't wait...

The big things after we return on August 25 are the arrival of our new seminary intern and interim music director, Stephanie Ryder; Homecoming Sunday on September 8; and the start on September 18 of the Wednesday After School Study, Fun and Music program for grades one through four here at Redwoods. Of course, all the vibrant programs at Redwoods will continue.

Stephanie's first appearances on the job will be at the session meeting on Tuesday, August 27, her first choir rehearsal on Thursday August 29, and her first worship service on Sunday September 1 when we will officially commission her to this important ministry.

There's never a dull moment at Redwoods and this is due to the amazing commitment of all of you to this lovely church and its ministry. I believe that God has great things in store for us as we move into the next school year. I trust this for our church and for each of us in our personal lives.

God bless you in the remaining days of summer and for the new school year.

Love and peace,
Cornel

September Church Mouse

Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!



Summer is going by very quickly and Redwoods people have been active! Thanks to the twenty volunteers who served lemonade to the 4th of July parade crowd! That's good PR!

Giant baseball fans take heart – there's always next year!

July and August were travel times for lots of folks. Melissa Gill and Zach took the train to Colorado and then went to New Mexico to visit Melissa's cousin who also has a seventeen year old son. Good vibes all around!

Inga Coleman and her family had their annual get together in Solvang. Barbara Slusher's family and friends did their long time campout by the McCloud River.

Diane Forster had a triple whammy of visitors and travel. Son Dan came from Australia to work and visit; son Tom, who works for George Lucas, and wife Maureen, were invitees to George's wedding! And then there was a trip to Washington State with time for boating. Wow!

Mollie Rademacher spent eight days back packing with Eric in the Trinity Alps where Eric is working for a second summer.

And there were weddings! Kayla Gorder, granddaughter of Polly and Jim was married June 29 in Colorado. The Gorders drove there! Mouse Family also had a wedding in Colorado. Granddaughter Meredith Salimbeni was married on July 5. Mr. Mouse and Spouse settled for photos!

Kayla is studying Veterinary Medicine at Colorado

State University and her new husband, Clint Carlisle, is in law school at University of Colorado, Boulder. Meredith and her new husband, Jason Coomes, have a band called The Symbols. On July 20, they won the International Blues Competition for the Denver region. It's great to have "young bloods" in the picture!

Ani Lelea reports that Jeff had an interesting summer. He became a grounds keeper at Princeton Theological Seminary after his painting job lasted for only a day. His real job as chaplain at Barwood Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey began August 1. Now Ani can relax!

On August 5, Redwoods had another seminary intern "good bye" reception. It was a pleasure knowing Ian Vallega, with his unique background in the U.S. Marines. Our best wishes go with you, Ian!

We have some young thespians at Redwoods Church. Nathan Girton and Marissa Phipps performed in "Once Upon a Mattress" at Redwood High School. "Quite a learning experience," was Tani's comment.

Tani Girton has a new job as chief financial officer for Bank of Marin! Congrats to Tani whose previous job was executive vice president and treasurer at Bank of the West. Mouse hopes this job will cut down on travel time for Tani!

Other news of note: Its' always nice to see Helen Morita and her smile when she's able to come on Sundays. Prayers are needed for Bonnie Kaiser, who is experiencing health issues, and for Inga Coleman, who was hospitalized and is now receiving 24-hour care at Aegis.

Joyce Wells did something different and took an auto trip to Montana for a 99s meeting! And then on a whim, she and friend, Joe, went on to Mt. Rushmore. After all these years of airplane travel, scenery at a much lower altitude looked good!

Kicking Off the New Church Year!

From Dick Judd

Board of Deacons Secretary

Did you know that if you have access to a computer, there is a vast amount of information about Redwoods Church activities that you can access? Just Google or Bing or use whatever search engine you prefer and type in "Redwoods Presbyterian" and you will find a marvelous collection of things your church will be doing.

This month the church website mentions all the events that will be happening to kick off the new church year. Our annual Homecoming Barbeque is on September 8 and will take place at the conclusion of the morning worship service. The Membership/Fellowship Committee and David Barnett are providing and preparing most of the food and drinks, but you can help by bringing a salad or dessert—we thank you very much!

The website also notes the start up of the Bell Choir and Bible Study on September 10 and that there will be a new Children's Afterschool Program starting on September 18. AND the Saturday Breakfast will return on September 28 and the new Prayer Support Group will start up on September 29.

Perhaps you are familiar with all these dates and activities, however, in our family there is a bit of a joke about being reminded a second or third time about things that are happening.

I had a family member who, upon being told about an upcoming date that we were pretty sure she already knew about, would respond in typical Pennsylvania Dutch fashion with, "That's all right, I have to hear things twice to remember them once!"

I hope you are twice reminded!

Richard

A Word from your Intern

From SFTS Intern

Stephanie Ryder

Greetings, Redwoods Presbyterian!

I am the new seminary intern and interim musician, and am looking forward to spending the year with you, sharing and growing our faith together! On Tuesdays, I will be leading bell choir and Bible study; Wednesdays, helping with the children's program; and Thursdays, leading choir. I am also excited to be worshipping with you on Sundays.

I was raised a Presbyterian in Wilton, Connecticut, and have been a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian in Marin City for the past 12 years, serving as Deacon and Assistant Music Director, and working with the youth. I have lived the past 18 years in Mill Valley with my husband, Bill, who works in the solar industry, and two sons, Charlie (age 17) and Brooks (age 15), who delight in football, baseball and lacrosse.

Prior to attending San Francisco Theological Seminary, I taught piano, guitar and band groups from my home, and spent many years as a drama therapist working in various schools, hospitals and treatment centers in the Bay Area. I feel it is a great privilege to now be welcomed as a part of the Redwoods Presbyterian community!

Peace, **Stephanie**

Happy Birthdays!

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month:

7 – Bill Mills, 11 – Jackie Palmer, 13 – Marion Judd, 19 – Blaise Salas and 24 – Melissa Gill

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

Polly

Membership/Fellowship Committee News From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from your Membership/Fellowship Committee!

Fall is just around the corner. Folks are coming back from summer vacations, students are heading off to school and the trees are beginning to show their fall colors. We are experiencing changes at Redwoods Church as well!

We extend a very fond and heartfelt thank you to Ian Vellenga for all he has done for us during his past year at Redwoods as our seminary intern and we offer him our very best wishes for his last year at S.F. Theological Seminary. We also warmly welcome our new seminary intern, Stephanie Ryder, whom we will soon have the pleasure of getting to know.

Redwoods Church welcomes everyone back from wherever their travels and summer plans have taken them. Sunday, September 8 is our annual Homecoming Sunday. Please join the Membership/Fellowship Committee for a festive barbeque following worship.

We will have plenty of great food at the barbeque! David Barnett, Cornel and Suellen's son, will be grilling burgers, both beef and veggie. The burgers will be provided by the committee, along with condiments and drinks. As in past years, we are asking the congregation to bring a salad or dessert to share. We especially look forward to your delicious offerings!

I hope many of you can join us. This is a great opportunity to invite family, neighbors, and friends—everyone loves a barbeque!

The next Saturday breakfast is on September 28 and

will feature hiking "gurus" Jim Gorder, Alan Edmonson and Anna Barnett, and Kurt Rademacher, all talking about their favorite Bay Area hikes. All four of the speakers are seasoned hikers and will be sharing their enthusiasm and experiences with us. The breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program from 10-11 am. Please bring something to share and come be inspired by our hiking "gurus"!

Also, please mark your calendars now for Sunday afternoon, November 10, when we will be attending Masquers Theatre in Pt. Richmond for a performance of *A Year With Frog & Toad*. This is our third trip to the Masquers Theatre and it is always a very professionally done and entertaining show. Cornel and Suellen have invited us to their home afterwards for a post-theater party. We will ask for sign ups a little closer to the event.

Enjoy the Bay Area glorious fall!

Peace and blessings to all, **Nancy**

September Church Mouse

Continued from page 2

The Redwoods Family has lost two long-time beloved members: Klara Larsen and Jim Egger. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. We are also sorry to hear about the death of Alice Fujiwara, who with husband Norm, were also beloved active members until their retirement to Hawaii.

Some good news is that members Gema, Frank and big sister Sofia, now of Mountain View, have announced the birth of Mateo Diego Wood on July 26.

That's about all except to say that Mouse loved the "My County 'Tis of Thee" in the July 7 bulletin.

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

Mission Outreach

Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

Matthew 5:9! That's what the following group—Anna Barnett and Alan Edmonson; Suellen and Cornel Barnett; Tani, John and Nathan Girton; Jolyne Lib-erati; Debbie Lundberg; Gabriele and Robert Putzi; Nancy and Molly Rademacher; Joyce Wells and Clay Wiens—experienced as we prepared and shared lemonade and ice water with the Twin Cities parade participants and on-lookers.

It was quite amazing how appreciative everyone was. It was one of those seemingly rare events where everyone was a winner! This outreach was done jointly with the Membership/Fellowship Committee. Plans call for a repeat performance next year—a wonderful opportunity to share our Redwood spirit of love and caring with the community.

Our committee is preparing for the 2013 Peace-making Offering to be received on Sunday, October 6. This year's theme just happens to be the afore-mentioned Matthew 5:9, "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.*" More information on the offering will be forthcoming.

We are working on selecting a Sunday in October to celebrate Bread for the World Sunday and gathering material to share for the 2013 Bread for the World's Offering of Letters.

Peace Be With You Now and Always, **Deb**

Visit and Share our Website!

A great way to keep up with what is happening at Redwoods and to introduce the church to your family and friends is via our church website:

www.redwoodspres.org

Earth Prayers and Thanks

From Helen Morita

The following prayer poems were taken from the wonderful book, *Earth Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

Almighty God, who are mother and father to us all,
Look upon your planet Earth divided:
Help us to know that we are all your children;
That all nations belong to one great family,
And all of our religions lead to you.

Multiply our prayers in every land
Until the whole Earth becomes your congregation,
United in your love.

Sustain our vision of a peaceful future
And give us strength to work unceasingly
To make that vision real. Amen.

Helen Weaver

Oh God of all, at this time of our gradual awakening to the dangers we are imposing on our beautiful Earth, open the hearts and minds of all your children, that we may learn to nurture rather than destroy our planet. Amen.

Lorraine R. Schmitz

Helen

New Prayer Support Group

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

From September 2012 to May 2013, Redwoods members participated in an online prayer program. Last June, it was decided that the group would continue meeting monthly on the last Sunday of the month, using the prayer program in print format to discuss prayer practices. The group was also renamed the "Prayer Support Group" to better reflect its role as a supportive place to discuss whatever is in one's prayer practice. This new group will meet for the first time at 11:15 am on Sunday, September 29 and all those interested are encouraged to participate. Peace, **Cornel**

Counseling Corner From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

Appreciating and Engaging Children in Our Community

With the beginning of "After School Study, Fun and Music at Redwoods," I have been thinking about why it's pleasant and stimulating to have kids around the house, the community, the church.

My sister, Jane, back in Indiana, shared a story of her four-year-old grandson, Haydon, who has a younger sister, Elizabeth. His mother and father were sharing about a new baby coming along, and saying that Elizabeth wasn't going to be the youngest child any more. Before they could continue, Haydon said, "Please don't give Elizabeth away! I will take her and look after her!" They sorted out his worry and confusion and now three happy kids are in their family.

We are not going to have very little kids in our after-school program, but they will be lively elementary school children nonetheless. Each Wednesday after school their energy will be felt in Fellowship Hall – studying, eating and singing.

I've included here some benefits from an effective after-school program such as the one we hope to initiate come September 18. At this point we don't know how many students and families will join us, but we are planning extended learning opportunities in a safe, supportive and developmentally appropriate learning environment.

In this kind of environment, research shows that some of the following will be provided:

- Opportunity for building skills that enhance learning and close the achievement gap – students can better retain and even enhance what they are learning in a classroom each day. We are approaching Dominican University and College of

Marin for interns to help with the program

- Opportunity to experience new activities in arts and recreation
- Opportunity to belong and be part of a caring community
- Opportunity to build strong relationships and connections with peers

Mind you, there will be only one day a week of programming, but even if the students pick up on a little bit of the above, it is positive.

We are doing something new in and for our community and appreciate your prayers and support.

Suellen

Afterschool Program Info

From Melissa Gill

If you haven't read about "After School: Study, Fun and Music at Redwoods," Redwood's new afterschool program for children, here is some basic info for you (there's more online at www.redwoodspres.org).

The program was developed by Melissa Gill, Suellen Barnett, Molly Rademacher, Diane Forster, Clay Wiens and Jan Salas. Beginning Wednesday, September 18 and running through November 20, Redwoods will sponsor a weekly afterschool program for grades 1-4, with study hall at 2 pm, snack time at 3 pm and music session at 3:30 pm. Wednesday was selected because Neil Cummins school gets out early that day at 1:30 pm. We are hoping that the students will prepare for a musical presentation in a worship service once a month, with parents invited.

We will charge \$6 per session with sliding scale and encourage you to share this info with local families.

Thank you for your support and prayers! **Melissa**

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Mission Outreach	2	3	4	5 7:30 Choir	6	7
8 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Homecoming BBQ. 12:00 Mill Street	9 7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	10 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	11	12 7:30 Choir	13	14
15 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship/CE 11:15 Membership/Fellowship	16	17 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	18 LOG Deadline	19 7:30 Choir	20	21
22 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Inquirer's Class	23	24 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	25	26 LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir	27	28 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
29 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Prayer Group	30					

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

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



Mill Street Shelter Meals

Anna Barnett, Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Board of Deacons, Alan Edmonson, Margie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Jan Salas, Joyce Wells

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

July 7 Debbie Lundberg (L), June Bellen (G),
Clay Wiens (U), Suellen Barnett (U)
July 14 Nancy Rademacher (L), Kitty Prosser (G)
Ani Lelea (U), Iris Giacotto (U)
July 21 Margaret Erwin (L), Ani Lelea (G)
Suellen Barnett (U), Melissa Gill (U)
July 28 Anna Barnett (L), Suellen Barnett (G),
Margie Egger (U), Nancy Rademacher (U)
Aug 4 Melissa Gill (L), Lori Wood (G),
June Bellen (U), Ani Lelea (U)
Aug 11 Ian Vellenga (L), Melissa Gill (G)
Melissa Gill (U) Iris Giacotto (U)
Aug 18 Nancy Rademacher (L), Clay Wiens (G)
Suellen Barnett (U), Margie Egger (U)
Aug 25 Debbie Lundberg (L),
Ani Lelea (U), Melissa Gill (U)

Sept 1 Suellen Barnett (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),
June Bellen (U), Iris Giacotto (U)
Sept 8 Debbie Lundberg (L), Lori Wood (G)
Suellen Barnett (U) Nancy Rademacher (U)
Sept 15 Melissa Gill (L), Elein Phipps (G)
Ani Lelea (U), Debbie Lundberg (U)
Sept 22 Nancy Rademacher (L), Dan Phipps (G),
Margie Egger (U), Melissa Gill (U)
Sept 29 Alan Edmonson (L), Jan Salas (G),
Iris Giacotto (U), Clay Wiens (U)

Coffee Hour

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Melissa Gill, James Holmes,
Membership/Fellowship, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher,
“S&J” (no name given), Ed Vorous