



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It's been an amazing late summer. With change in the weather, we experienced change in our church. We said hello to Faith, goodbye to Dick (as Minister of Music) and hello to Barbara as our new music director.

The beauty is that they all will be a part of Redwoods in the future. It was wonderful that Dick complimented Barbara in his first visit to the church during her second worship service with us. It's lovely to know that Dick will appreciate her music as he becomes a worshipping member in the pews with his partner Marian. We honor his service to us with a new title: Minister of Music Emeritus.

The receptions that took place in our Fellowship Hall during these transitions were organized by the Membership and Fellowship Committee and their many helpers. We thank them all for their wonderful work. It's an amazing expression of grace and love.

That's "fellowship." The other part of the committee is "membership." This aspect of the committee discusses how we attract members to our church, how we best invite and welcome them and how we encourage them to remain as members and become a part of the family.

This is part of Jesus' encouragement to make disciples of all nations and to baptize them, and his promise that he will be with us to the close of the age.

We invite and welcome because we know what it is like to part of a loving, caring, compassionate community. We share our pains and joys. We know that when we experience the good news spoken and lived here, it makes meaningful differences in our lives.

That we have a wonderful community is a given, and it's now been supplemented with Faith's and Barbara's gifts. Please tell people of the new things happening here at Redwoods. Invite them, encourage them and bring them with you to church and trust that the Spirit is working in their lives.

In closing: You've noticed the classy grand piano in our Fellowship Hall. It's on loan to the church by members of the Marin Girls Chorus (MGC) who are rehearsing every Monday in the Fellowship Hall. Barbara, who is a MRC accompanist, will eventually build a sacred choir for children and youth of Redwoods Presbyterian Church.

Things are looking up. God bless you and peace.
Cornel

PS: Mission also kicks into gear at Redwoods with the Peacemaking Offering, Bread for the World Blessing of Letters, Christmas Faire and Stewardship. Never a dull moment!

October Church Mouse



More power to Melissa Gill who is running for Corte Madera Town Council! During Melissa's previous time on the Council, we East Siders were finally recognized as worthy citizens!

Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse! Summer is over!

Fall is definitely here and it's back to school time. Jennifer Garcia, Matthew Phipps and Marissa Phipps are 5th graders at Henry Hall School. Zach Paulson and Ben Girton are sophomores at Redwood High. Eric Rademacher is a junior at Humboldt State, and three-year-old Anita Widney-Large will soon be a preschooler. Happy school days for all!

Mouse family has a preschooler, three-year-old Vivian Chen. On her first day, she did not take kindly to nap time and baffled the teachers with her Chinese vocabulary.

Take heart all you S. F. Giant fans! Spring training begins in February. There's always next year! Those pesky Arizona Diamondbacks have our favorite Triple A Player, Konrad Schmidt, in their farm system so they're not all bad.

Something beautiful happened for Marilyn Sutherland on September 5. A moving tribute was made in honor of Jack at the closing ceremonies of the 146th Annual Scottish Highland Games in Pleasanton. Two pipers, son, Ken, and grandson, John, played "Amazing Grace" and then were joined by the 600 assembled pipers and drummers playing for an audience of several hundred. Ten of the Sutherland family were in attendance, carrying on a family tradition which began in 1953 when Jack, Marilyn, Duncan and Bonnie went to the "Games" for their first time. This year's Games were a memory to be treasured forever by Marilyn.

Other good things happened in the church family. Sal and Diana Newton are expecting their first child. Margaret Erwin's family had their fourteenth great grandchild. Natalie Alexis Zepeda was born in Utah on August 24.

On September 17, Faith McClellan, our seminary intern, gave the Women's Breakfast group an awesome story of her "Spiritual Journey." Mouse calls it "Amazing Faith."

Also on September 17, Redwoods people who attended the memorial service for Robert Gillespie saw many former associates and friends there. Do the names Towler, Scheller, Alden, Webb, Hamilton, or Whitt ring a bell for anyone?

We need continued good health wishes for Jack Forster, Klara Larsen, Mercedes Irwin and Helen Morita. Helen was well enough to attend the memorial service on Saturday.

Welcome home Putzis! We missed you while you were in Canada.

Be sure to look for the magnificent magnolia blossoms as you enter the church by way of the deck.

That's all for now! **Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

P. S. Sunday, September 25 was a "Wow Day" for the Mouse Family! Euphoria abounds at 117 Granada Drive after all the "celebrating and appreciating" by our wonderful congregation after worship.

Thank You!

What a perfect way to end a position of Minister of Music and a lifetime of music at a church! The gala production on September 25 was so nicely done and I felt so honored to have so many lovely things remembered. To see folks who were once part of the congregation return also made the occasion special. The Judd family wishes to thank all who made the party such a success!

Dick

October Choir News

**From Music Director
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

Thank you to everyone who made my first weeks so special at Redwoods Presbyterian. You have a beautiful church and the people are so warm and friendly. It will be nice to spend Sundays with you!

I have been asked to let you know about myself and what I do outside the church. I have a wide and varied schedule. In addition to Redwoods, I work with choruses for both children (Marin Girls Chorus) and adults (Mayflower Chorus). My past church work includes Novato Presbyterian, Trinity Lutheran, Unity of Marin, First Presbyterian of San Anselmo and many others.

I also do all manner of performing, choral and church work at Aegis and Aldersly and I will be starting up at Alma Via soon. At the opposite end of the age spectrum, I provide music services for Coleman and Laurel Dell elementary schools, as well as San Rafael High and Marin School for the Arts. I especially enjoy private teaching and continue with vocal and piano students all over Marin, from Tiburon to Novato.

During the "high season" in the Wine Country, I perform most Saturdays at Silverado County Club, Charles Krug, Beringer and other wineries. On other Saturdays, I perform at the Fairmont in San Francisco. I am also part of a performance company that offers shows in venues all around the Bay Area.

I'd also like to tell you more about my family. My husband Keith and I own the Quiznos in Montecito Shopping Center, so be sure to come out and enjoy a sandwich there and meet him. Son Parker is a freshman at Santa Rosa Junior College majoring in Baseball, having been a stand out player at San Rafael High School in football, basketball and baseball. Daughters Paige and Piper are 14 and 16 and attend two different high schools, one favoring ballet dancing and the other cheerleading.

I enthusiastically look forward to playing and directing at Redwoods and sharing my love of music with you. If you have any songs you'd like to hear or sing, just let me know. I am almost sure to know them as my religious background includes being baptized Baptist, confirmed Methodist, and having been employed by Lutherans and Presbyterians!

Barbara

A Word from your Intern

From SFTS Intern Faith McClellan

Fall has always been one of my favorite seasons. I savor every bit of it, from taking a cool, brisk walk in the morning to watching the leaves change color in late October.

Fall has always spoken to me about new beginnings. Like most seminary students, I look forward to the beginning of each semester, excited about new classes, new challenges and new experiences. I spent most of the summer looking forward to beginning my internship at Redwoods Presbyterian Church. And unlike other years at SFTS, this is my internship year-- a year of decision and discernment, a year where I get an opportunity to put the art of ministry into practice.

As your intern, I can never thank you enough for making my first month with you one of the easiest transitions I have ever made in my life—whether I was accompanying Cornel on pastoral visits, attending church committee meetings on Tuesday evenings, or being a part of the farewell celebration for Dick Judd and the welcome celebration for Barbara Bacon-Shaw—your generosity and hospitality have truly made me feel like a part of the Redwoods family.

I am excited about all the new experiences we will undergo together in the months to come. May this be a year filled with awe and wonder!

Many Blessings to you all, **Faith**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee!

Special Events

September brought many memorable events and celebrations for our church. Our talented, dedicated and creative long-term music director, Dick Judd, retired after more than 40 years of service. His duties officially ended on September 11 and we celebrated with him, Marian, the congregation and many friends on September 25.

We also turned a page in the Redwoods Church history book and welcomed our new Music Director, Barbara Bacon-Shaw, with a special reception on September 18.

Saturday Breakfast

Our lovely and eager new seminary intern, Faith McCellan, provided an inspiring program at our September Saturday Breakfast. Thank you, Faith, for your willingness to share your faith journey with us!

The October 15 Saturday Breakfast will feature Kurt Rademacher (husband to Nancy and Dad to Molly and Erik). The theme of his talk will be "From Ring Mountain Preserve to the Marin Headlands and Beyond."

Kurt's talk will describe The Nature Conservancy's long history of land conservation in Marin County and current projects here and around the world. Kurt is a naturalist and 22-year staff member of the Conservancy's Regional Office in San Francisco.

As usual, we will begin at 9:30 am for coffee and light breakfast, with the program beginning at 10 am. Please bring a small contribution to the breakfast.

Happy Fall to all!

Nancy

From Member Debbie Lundberg

Marin Senior Information Fair

The 26th Annual Marin Senior Information Fair will be held on October 12 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Marin Exhibit Hall, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. For more information check the flyer posted on the back bulletin board or www.marinSeniorInformationFair.org.

Redwoods Sewing Group

Come to Fellowship Hall at 11:15 am on Sunday, October 23 to see the display of the Redwoods Sewing Group. The Group makes baby layette items—outfits, hats, booties, blankets and much more—that are donated to the Cameron House in San Francisco. Public health nurses nominate young mothers in need to receive the donated layettes. Take a minute to view the Group's incredible handiwork. **Debbie**

The Miracle of 110 Magnolia

From Coordinator Richard Judd

The "Miracle of 34th Street" story by Robert Lynch tells how a small girl learns the real meaning of Christmas amid the confusion of commercialism. The real meaning is the act of sharing in a quiet and meaningful way. In the same way, the Redwoods Deacons organize a monthly food drive at 110 Magnolia for the Mill Street Shelter, a place where less fortunate citizens can rebuild themselves in the world.

Although our congregation is small, our people seem to believe in the "meaning of sharing" and each month they find ways of making gifts of food beyond what one would believe! We wish to thank all those who have made this project possible. It is gratifying to see the joy on the faces of the recipients when the food is delivered to the Mill Street Shelter. It is also hoped that those who have not known of this work will perhaps find a place in their hearts to assist in this project of giving. The list of foods needed is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and contributions are delivered to Mill Street on the second Sunday of every month. **Richard**

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

Pentecost Offering

We join other generous congregations to support groups providing assistance to children at risk through the Presbyterian Church (USA) Pentecost Offering. Local congregations retain 40% of the funds received to support local groups. This year the Mission Outreach Committee has selected CASA to be the recipient of our funds. The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program advocates for the best interests of children who are dependents of the Marin Juvenile Court, helping to ensure they have a chance to live in a safe and permanent home.

Peacemaking Offering

We will receive this year's Peacemaking Offering on October 2, which is World Communion Sunday. This offering supports the Presbyterian Church's commitment of peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. The local church retains 25 percent of the offering for local programs, 25 percent is used by presbyteries and synods and 50 percent goes to the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Peacemaking Program.

This year's theme is: "A harvest of justice is sown in peace." (James 3:18). The PC (USA) says, "The God who grants peace and wholeness calls Christians to understand and address the root causes of violence and injustice so that we may share in mending the brokenness that exists in our increasingly conflict-ridden and fragmented world. Peacemaking is the human response to God's gift of peace giving." Amen.

Bread for the World Offering off Letters

This year, the BFW Offering of Letters will take place on Sunday, October 16 following worship. Information about the offering and sample letters will be available following worship on Sunday, October 2 and writing will take place on October 9. I recently received an e-mail from David Gist, California Regional Organizer, who shared the following: "If people assume our senators will protect hungry people and programs that

affect vulnerable people, please inform them that aides to both our senators told us and other advocates earlier this year that the senators were fine with across the board cuts and thus weren't planning to make protecting poor people a priority...so we do need to press them to do the right thing about poor people." Wow! Our letter writing is vital. Thanks in advance for your support.

At the September Presbytery meeting, I had the pleasure of meeting the new president of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, The Rev. Dr. James McDonald, who before coming to SFTS, spent 13 years building a broad movement against hunger and poverty for Bread for the World, a faith-based advocacy organization in Washington, D.C. I am not sure he will be able to join us on October 9, but I sure hope we have lots and lots of letters to be blessed!

Alternative Christmas Faire

The Alternative Christmas Fair will be held following the worship service on Sunday, November 20. The Mission Outreach Committee is hard at work preparing for the event. To make the fair even better, we are asking if any one would like to sponsor a table to support a worthy group. Just contact one of the Mission Committee members who will provide help and assistance. This truly is a case of "the more the better!" This year we are planning to expand the fair by having some actual items from the Fair Trade Program.

Boxtops for Education Program

Thanks to all who have been bringing box tops for the Box Tops For Education program to help fund Neil Cummins. The collection spot in Fellowship Hall shows some of the products in the program. Every box top helps, so keep up the good work. **Debbie**

October Happy Birthdays

Please join the Deacons in wishing the following members a happy birthday: 3 – Ann Benezra, 11 – Joyce Wells, 17 – Salvatore Newton, 21 – George Gmahling, 21 – Robert Little ('91), 25 – Nathan Girton ('00), 29 – Bonnie Kaiser and 30 – Ed Elliott. **Polly**

Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

I think I have talked with some of you about the Mid-western philosophy of “Expecting the worst, but hoping for the best.” The former director of Aldea, who was Jewish and grew up in Brooklyn, said his family had much the same philosophy as those farmers in Indiana. He said to me one time, “Let’s get rid of negative thinking, Suellen. No more fear-based living!” I said, “Yes!” But it’s hard to get that negativity totally out of one’s psyche, especially when very difficult things come up.

Our Christian faith says a lot about leaning into the positive. Philippians says “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” and in Proverbs “Commit to God whatever you do and all your plans will succeed,” and much, much more.

Whatever happens, it just helps us to lean into the light rather than the dark. On October 15, I’m going to attend a workshop in Berkeley called “The Science of a Meaningful Life: Taking in the Good” given by neuropsychologist and a physician. They say that attendees will learn the following:

- Identify ways the brain has a negativity bias and the effects that has on our well-being. (This reminds me of a Scottish minister in South Africa, pastor of the church we attended in Pietermaritzburg. He said human beings have an inclination toward the dark side like an English bowling ball has a bias in one direction, even if you throw it straight ahead. But he also said through worship, study and community we can learn to lean into the light.)

- Review steps for internalizing positive experiences in memory systems

- Practice concrete strategies for boosting positive experiences while reducing the effects of negative ones

- Develop neurophysiological strategies for shifting

emotion away from worry toward gratitude (Cornel spoke on gratitude a short time ago and its importance in our Christian walk.)

I’ll share some of what I learn in next month’s Counseling Corner. In the meantime, let’s practice leaning toward the light, seeing the positive even in some of the tough situations that all of us face, and trusting that God will help us succeed. **Suellen**

Peace Poem

From Mission Outreach Committee Chair Debbie Lundberg

A prayer from the “Justice and Peace Shall Kiss: Praying Through the Year,” published by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program in honor the Day of Peace on September 21:

“Loving God, we long for a world at peace,
a world free from violence and war,
a world free from hunger and poverty,
a world free from injustice and oppression.
In Jesus Christ, you show us a force more powerful
Than evil, sin and death.

You show us the power of love and truth
To bring about personal transformation and social change.

Help us to embrace Jesus’ way of nonviolence.

Stir us from our comfort and complacency.

Inspire us with prophetic vision.

Instill in us a passion for the possible.

Give us the courage to speak truth to power.

Help us heal the wounds of our broken world. Amen

Rev. Roger Scott Powers, Pastor,
Light Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore

Debbie

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

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>World Communion</i> <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education</p>	3	<p>4 10:15 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Mission Outreach Committee</p>	<p>5 3:30 Worship/ Christian Education Committee</p> <p>7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 Choir</p>	<p>7 8:30 Walking Group</p>	1/8
<p>9 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street</p>	10	<p>11 10:15 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Deacons</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 Choir</p>	<p>14 8:30 Walking Group</p>	<p>15 9:30 Saturday Breakfast</p>
<p>16 <i>Birthday Sunday</i></p> <p>9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education</p>	17	<p>18 10:15 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Session</p>	<p>19 LOG Deadline</p>	<p>20 8:00 Choir</p>	<p>21 8:30 Walking Group</p>	22
<p>23 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education</p>	24	<p>25 10:15 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Membership/ Fellowship Committee</p>	26	<p>27 LOG Mailing</p> <p>8:00 Choir</p>	<p>28 8:30 Walking Group</p>	29
<p>30 <i>Reformation Sunday</i></p> <p>9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education</p>	31					

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in September – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

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

Coffee Hour

Suellen Barnett, Membership/Fellowship Committee,
Kitty Prosser, Jennifer Garcia

Liturgists

Melissa Gill, Georgene Gmahling,
Debbie Lundberg, Faith McClellan

Greeters & Ushers

June Bellen, Marjorie Egger, Melissa Gill, John Girton, Marian
Judd, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi, Jan Salas,

Nursery Monitors

Margaret Erwin, Tani Girton,
Ani Lelea, Kitty Prosser,
Nancy Rademacher, Jan Salas
Barbara Slusher, Clay Wiens