



The Redwoods Log

October 2012 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspress.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

This LOG is filled with annual events that happen at this time of the year such as World Communion Sunday/Peacemaking Offering (September 7) and Bread for the World Offering and Blessing of Letters (October 14 and 21). We are also planning for Stewardship Sunday (November 18) and the annual Christmas Faire and Concert (combined this year on December 9 at 4 pm).

There are three other upcoming events of note. The Worship/Christian Education Committee invites you to their meeting immediately following worship on October 7 to provide your feedback about our summers services. It will greatly help our planning.

We also have two special musical events. Our last Clavinova fundraiser is a spaghetti supper and square dance with a professional caller to be held on Saturday, October 13 from 5-8 pm. It will be fun for everyone. The Redwoods Presbyterian Church Family Band & Choir, the brainchild of George and Georgene Gmahling, will support our worship service on October 21. Be prepared to enjoy wonderful music at both events.

This year we implemented an excellent prayer practice called "Exploring Contemplative Prayer: A Nine Month Journey of Prayer." It is downloadable for those with computers and given as a hard copy for those who request it. Call Mari at 924-4832 if you want a copy of the current month's outline or speak to me. You'll be glad you did.

The Session, our governing body, welcomed the Rev. Daniel R. White, Sr., known to us as "Dan," into the fold as a parish associate minister. This new relationship with the church is nominated by the pastor and approved by the presbytery. We jumped the hoops and Dan is now officially related to us in this capacity. Basically, he will serve the church on an "as needed, as available" basis.

Dan proved to be invaluable last year to our seminary intern, Faith McClellan, when she encountered a difficult pastoral emergency when I was out of town. Dan is the sheriff's chaplain for the City and County of San Francisco and leads worship services most Sundays but he plans to worship here as often as he can and help out when needed.

Dan's last church pastorate before he retired from ministry in a local church was St. Luke Presbyterian Church in San Rafael. I followed him as interim pastor at the church and heard wonderful things about his ministry. He grew up at Redwoods Presbyterian Church, came under care here when a seminary student and was married here. He has come full circle, he says.

On behalf of the congregation and session, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Dan to this ministry. The relationship will last as long as I am a pastor of the church and I look forward to Dan's service and to our relationship as colleagues.

God bless you and peace,
Cornel

October Church Mouse



Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Here we are at the end of summer and of the regular baseball season! SF Giants fans are over the top because the Giants have won the Western Division title. Thank goodness those pesky Diamondbacks (Konrad Schmidt's team) didn't get in the way! Konrad was called up to the majors on August 31 – one day before his Bobblehead Day in Reno. LaVerne and Herb are proud Bobblehead grandparents!

Homecoming Sunday, September 9 was a “really homecoming time” for some in the Redwoods church family! Wayne Slep was back after a three weeks time in the hospital. Mark Larsen came from Boston and brought his mom, Klara. Faith McClellan came back. Marilyn Sutherland returned from her wonderful train trip across Canada. To top off the day, David Barnett was a super barbeque chef! Thanks David.

In the “where are they and what are they doing now” category, we have Jeff Lelea who completed a twelve week Summer Chaplaincy Internship at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Jeff is in his final year at Princeton Theological Seminary and hopes to graduate in May 2013. He has been offered a year's chaplaincy residency after graduation, which is very exciting. Jeff will appear before the Presbytery of Sacramento in early December to be voted upon as a candidate for ministry. Let's all have good thoughts and prayers for Jeff!

Eric Rademacher, who turned 21 recently, is a fourth-year student at Humboldt State. Mom, Nancy, had a special visit with him a few weeks ago.

Kyle Trosky, Iris Giacotta's great grandson, is back in the USA after another time away with the Armed Forces on a special assignment.

Kyle and his wife, Alma, are expecting their first child in November which will make Iris a great greatgrandma!

We have a wonderful tomato story! In 2010, Anna Barnett bought some tomato seeds. In 2011, she used the seeds from the tomatoes to produce seedlings to share with Redwoods people. One of those people, Melissa Gill, had a very productive plant. This year, 2012, Melissa has another good crop. Does that make Anna “tomato grandma?”

We've had to say “good-bye” to another Redwoods family member, Marilyn Paulsen, who moved to Colorado Springs to be nearer to her son and his family. Ann Benezra, who moved to Bend, Oregon recently, is enjoying life there near her daughter and family. We miss those good people.

Somehow things balance out and we have seven-month-old Hunter Newton to give us smiles. Of course we like to see his dad, Sal, too. We miss mom, Diana, who has to work on Sundays.

On Saturday, September 25, we celebrated the life of a longtime member, Barbara Linse. Barbara was remembered for many things – her unique personality and for being a choir member, author and teacher. But the one thing we have all enjoyed as the result of Barbara's time at Redwoods are the pew cushions given by her Aunt Margaret Johnson, who didn't like our hard seats!

The Girtons are a finance family! Last year, Tani shared her insight as Treasurer/VP of Bank of the West with the Breakfast Group. This year, John shared his philosophy of socially-responsible investing. We hope to hear more from them in the future.

Please continue to remember Helen Morita and Klara Larsen in your prayers. That's all for now!

Mr. Mouse and Spouse

October Choir News

**From Music Director
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

The Sundays in October will be quite eventful musically! On October 7, we celebrate World Communion Sunday. After the service, packets of eight songs—crowd-pleasing “oldies-but-goodies”—will be made available to the congregation. These songs will be featured at the worship service on October 21, when the Redwoods Family Band will play for us again.

The choir practices at 7:30 pm on Thursdays and 9:15 am on Sundays and regularly sings the Anthem at Sunday worship. At the Thursday, October 18 practice, the choir will be joined by the Redwoods Presbyterian Church Family Band & Choir. Any Redwoods member or friend interested in singing with the choir or playing with the Band is welcome to join us at any rehearsal. Those who would like to sing or play their own drum instrument with the band, may set up with us either at the 7:30 pm October 18 or 9 am, October 21 rehearsals.

The Parke Kurtz Memorial Handbell Choir will return in November, and anyone interested may join us at our Tuesday 9 am practices, just before Bible Study.

We look forward to sharing our musical worship with you in October. **Barbara**

A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern
Ian Vellenga**

Greetings, everyone!

Let me start off by saying that I am excited to be working at Redwoods. I have only been working here for about a month and I have already learned a lot about the church and its functions. Being a pastor's kid, I went in with a “been there, done that” mentality. But as the past month has shown me, there is a lot more goings-on behind the scenes, and a lot more hard working, dedicated people, than I have ever imagined.

It is a pleasure to work with such a wonderful congregation, and I am looking forward to being more of a

part in the ministry of the church as the year progresses. Even though the church is small, as I have experienced in the past month with all the committee meetings, pastoral visits and the session meeting, there is never a dull moment.

I am anticipating a great year filled with great moments and valuable knowledge as I move forth with my internship. **Peace, Ian**

Worship Service Feedback

**From Worship/Christian Education Chair
Melissa Gill**

The Worship and Christian Education Committee will meet after church on Sunday, October 7. We are inviting the congregation to the first part of the meeting to give feedback on our summer worship services — the café style, the contemporary/innovative style and the traditional/contemporary style.

If you cannot attend, please give your feedback to me or to Cornel. We will use this feedback to plan future services. Thanks. **Melissa**

Spiritual Growth Opportunity

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Last month I invited the Redwoods congregation and friends to participate in an amazing new online prayer practice called “Exploring Contemplative Prayer — A Nine Month Journey of Prayer.”

The practice is meant to be done by individuals in their own time, space and pace. Each month, background material and guides are available online and reminders and encouragements are sent out weekly. It is not too late (it is really never too late) to begin.

If you need to request the passwords again, that printed materials be sent to you or that a family member or friend be included, please contact the church office at 924-4832.

There is also an optional monthly meeting the last Sunday of the month after the 10 am service for anyone in the program to get together to share thoughts, ideas and ways the spirit is moving in your life. I encourage you to take this opportunity to expand and grow in your spiritual life. **Cornel**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Square Dance & Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

We are very excited about the upcoming square dance and spaghetti dinner planned for Saturday, October 13 from 5-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. This is a fund raiser to complete the purchase of the Clavinova.

We have had many generous donations toward the cost of the Clavinova, but still need to raise some additional funds. Please invite family, friends and neighbors of all ages to this very special event.

Eric Henerlau, who lives locally and is a professional caller, will be leading us. Also, rumor has it that Robert Putzi will be cooking his famous and well-loved spaghetti sauce!

The cost is \$20 per person; children and youth under 18 are free. Tickets will be passed out ahead of time to encourage everyone to come and bring guests.

Theater Outing

Another wonderful event is planned for Sunday afternoon, November 11. We will be going to Masquers Theatre in Point Richmond to see a matinee of *Little Women—A Musical*. A special bonus is the Barnett's have graciously invited us to their home afterwards for a post-theater party.

We expect a large turnout for this delightful afternoon so please sign up as soon as possible. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall with a place to indicate if you are able to drive or need a ride. We will also be arranging for a light lunch at the church prior to leaving for Point Richmond.

The committee continues to share ideas on how to make Redwoods Church more visible in the community. We welcome any and all ideas.

The Committee also appreciates the enthusiasm and generosity of all of our members. Thank you for your participation and contributions to the Homecoming barbeque. It was a rousing success!

See you at the square dance!

Nancy

Coffee Hour From Coordinators

June Bellen & Barbara Slusher

We all enjoy our Redwoods Coffee Hour after the 10 am church service because it is a wonderful chance to relax, talk and share coffee and a light bite. Also, when new people come to the church, it is an easy way to meet and talk to them.

We would like to continue this great tradition and are asking for some help with food donations. We know that not everyone is able, but please know that all food donations—from sweets to savories—would be very welcome. Just drop off your donation on Sunday before the service and our servers will be glad to “plate” it. Thank you and God bless.

June & Barbara

October Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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

Ann Benezra—October 3, Joyce Wells—11
Salvatore Newton—17, George Gmahling—21
Robert Little ('91)—21, Nathan Girton ('00)—25
Bonnie Kaiser—29 and Ed Elliott—30

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

Polly

Per Capita

A 2012 per capita of \$29.11 is due to the Presbytery from Redwoods Church for each of our 80 members. We appreciate your contributions

Mission Outreach Committee News From Chair Debbie Lundberg

Good News

Have you ever wondered when reading the paper or looking at the news if there is any good news? Judging from the content of papers and news programs it seems the focus is on the negative!

A few weeks ago as I was leaving Pet Club in Corte Madera I noticed the banner on a free newspaper which read: *Positive News!* I could hardly believe my eyes so I picked up a copy and sure enough to my delight found this paper contained positive news!

Positive news brings hope, exemplifies solutions and inspires action. To quote: "We envision a world in which people treat each other with respect and kindness, where we consider the Earth to be our home to care for and to enjoy. And we see that this world is in the process of emerging!"

I have left a copy of the Summer 2012 *Positive News* in Fellowship Hall to share with all. More information about this organization can be found at www.positivenewsus.org.

Peacemaking Offering - Sunday October 7

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

On October 7, World Communion Sunday, we will receive the Peacemaking Offering. These funds support efforts of Presbyterian members, congregations, presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly to work for peace by tearing down the walls of hostility.

"We live in a world that is filled with conflict and strife. Every level of society is affected . . . God calls us to be peacemakers." These words from the PC (USA) Peacemaking Offering materials provide inspiration

and hope by making it clear that there IS something all of us can do to make the world more peaceful. Information about the offering and how it is used will be available in Fellowship Hall.

Redwoods has a long history of peacemaking. Our Peace Pole, placed many years ago at the front of the church, is inscribed with our mission in several languages, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." Amen.

Bread For The World's 2012 Offering of Letters

This year, those of us who write letters as part of Bread for the World's Offering of Letters will ask Congress to create a circle of protection around programs vital to hungry people here and abroad.

Presbyterian Hunger Program Coordinator Ruth Farrell says, "God calls us to be faithful and is clear about how God would have us treat one another and creation." BFW's Offering of Letters is an opportunity for us to treat those who hunger with such care and compassion. Letter writing materials and sample letters will be available on October 14. Join us after church on October 14 and put pen to paper. Our letters will be blessed on October 21.

Briefly noted: The California Council of Churches IMPACT ballot recommendations for the November 6, 2012 California General Election are available. Copies may be found in Fellowship Hall for your review.

We continue to participate in the Box Tops For Education Program. Participating brands and a collection box are available in Fellowship Hall.

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering will be sent to the Canal Alliance, which is celebrating 30 years of care, collaboration and community service.

May peace be with you. **Deb**

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**

Music as Therapy

There are all kinds of therapies for healing these days in addition to one-to-one talk therapy. Several of my colleagues do art therapy with children. Gymnastics, yoga, dance, sailing, swimming, even public speaking are therapeutic.

One of the most helpful therapies for me and my adolescent clients is music. Every two weeks we have a process group with the probation students and I begin with five or ten minutes of Enya, with the youth closing their eyes, taking a few deep breaths and just relaxing before talking about how things are going.

It's amazing that these dysfunctional and very active young people are willing to engage in this special form of therapy, although they don't know its therapy! The music centers them and they become calmly present for conversations that follow.

I asked several people at church how important and meaningful music is in their lives, and got some great replies. June says it's helpful and enjoyable in all kinds of ways. She loves all kinds of music from jazz, blues and rock, and she likes dancing and singing.

George says he and Georgene began enjoying music together from back in college days in Seattle – and have been making music together ever since! Latterly, they have brought together the Redwoods Band for worship and fellowship.

Anna and Alan combined their responses and said music touches a cord deep within, brings back warm and fun memories, is comforting. Its energy is vital in life, and the huge range of musical vibrations brings energy, solidarity, even eternity, and affirms our connection with God.

Cornel loves music. It connects him to the divine, to his deeper self, to other people, and to memories – and all of it is therapeutic.

Singing and dancing and listening to wonderful music in our church touches all of our hearts in a deep, spiritual way. Our date with square dancing coming up soon at the church will be a lot of fun and therapeutic too.

Thank God for the Beatles, Bach, Beethoven, Barbara and our Redwoods Band. Their music is wonderful and it's healing too!

Suellen

Earth Prayer

From Helen Morita

This lovely poem by Wendell Berry is from the book, *Earth Prayers*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon, Harper Collins, San Francisco, 1991.

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Helen

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

We appreciate your help getting the word out!

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	3	4 7:30 Choir	5	6
7 <i>World Communion Sunday Peacemaking Offering</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:15 Worship Cmte Feedback	8 7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	9 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	10	11 7:30 Choir	12	13 5:00 Square Dance Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
14 <i>Bread for the World Offering of Letters</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	15	16 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	17	18 7:30 Choir	19	20 9:00 Saturday Breakfast
21 <i>Birthday Sunday Bread for the World Blessing of Letters Redwoods Family Band & Choir</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	22	23 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Membership Fellowship Committee	24	25 7:30 Choir	26	27
28 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:15 Prayer Group	29	30 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	31			

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in September – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, Jim & Marjorie Egger, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher, Joyce Wells

Liturgists

Suellen Barnett, Melissa Gill, John Girton,
Tani Girton, Nancy Rademacher

Greeters

Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Kitty Prosser,
Barbara Slusher, Lori Wood

Ushers

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Iris Giacotto, Melissa
Gill, John Girton, Tani Girton, Ani Lelea, Debbie
Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher

Coffee Hour

Suellen & Cornel Barnett, June Bellen,
Margaret Erwin, Jennifer Garcia, Marian & Dick Judd,
Membership/Fellowship Committee,
Molly Rademacher, Barbara Slusher

October Helping Hands

October 7 Debbie Lundberg (L), Marian Judd (G),
June Bellen (U),
October 14 Marilyn Sutherland (L), Melissa Gill (G),
October 21 Ian Vellenga (L), Ani Lelea (G),
Nancy Rademacher (U),
October 28 Joyce Wells (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),