



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

October ended on Reformation Day and November began on All Saints' Day. What a wonderful set of back-to-back days.

Reformation reminds us that everything we have is a gift of God's grace.

Our entire life is a blessing from God who shines on us. We live into God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ who makes us whole. We are a community that cares for each other and those in the world.

The Membership and Fellowship Committee is looking into ways we can reach into our community and they are coming up with great ideas to connect with and reach out to our local community. Barbara Bacon-Shaw is exploring ways of developing a children's sacred choir.

The Mission Outreach Committee is planning the Alternative Christmas Fair whose proceeds support missions through the world. The fair is on November 20 after worship.

The worship service that day will host the Redwoods Presbytery Mission Presbyter/ Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. Bob Conover, who will preach the stewardship sermon.

Yes, November 20 is Stewardship Commitment Sunday. During the service we dedicate our pledges for 2012. Our giving is always a response to God's gift of grace to us.

All Saints reminds us that we are endowed with special gifts from God.

Every Christian is a saint. Sainthood is our Christian self-concept and we do God's good work with the gifts given us.

It's not difficult to recognize the saints in this church. We visit saints who are no longer able to come to worship and church activities. Saints practice inside and outside the church.

How is one a saint at work? It's a tall order. We "speak" our faith without words at work. It is done through the way we treat our employees, the ways we relate to our colleagues, our just and fair practices, and every way that we affirm the high values of Jesus Christ.

People know that we are Christ's disciples by our love for each other (John 13:35) and I might add by our love for everyone in the world, no matter how difficult. We are all God's children. It's not easy to love everyone. God does by grace.

God bless you as you enter this busy time of the year. May we have a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Alternative Christmas Fair.

Love,
Cornel

November Church Mouse



Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

It's autumn and time is flying by very quickly! These are good days for watching the egrets, pelicans and other shore birds by the restored wetlands on the East side of Corte Madera. For a pleasant diversion, take your bird book and see how many other species you can identify!

Exciting things are happening! Jennifer Garcia and some of her classmates at Hall School, along with professional child actors, made a commercial video for Corning Glass, a wonderful learning experience that took 15 hours on site in Livermore—hard work, but fun! Look for *A Day Made of Glass* on You Tube.

Zach Paulson and Ben Girton have been great helpers with shelter meals. It's amazing how all that food fills a car trunk!

Cornel preached at the October 1 service honoring the 140th anniversary of Community Presbyterian Church in Calistoga where he served for eight years in the 90s.

The breakfast group had a treat on Saturday, October 15. Kurt Rademacher has been with Nature Conservancy for 22 years and loves his job! His presentation was very informative and a lesson on an organization that is an enabler for projects around the world. Thanks Kurt. Incidentally, Nancy and Kurt had an awe inspiring trip to the Utah's national parks in September.

On Sunday, October 23, the women's sewing group displayed their handiwork in Fellowship Hall! This year there were 11 crocheted blankets, 22 receiving blankets, five caps and a variety of other layette items like shirts, sweaters and night clothes.

The items will be delivered by Melissa Gill to Cameron House in San Francisco's Chinatown. The wonderful women who made it all possible are June Bellen,

Margie Egger; Margaret Erwin, Maisie Campbell, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi, LaVerne Schmidt and Helen Morita, who had been busy before her latest illness. Thank you!

Marge and Jim Egger went to San Diego to visit with their granddaughter at San Diego State University. On the way they took a side trip to Yosemite.

Don't forget to vote on November 8! Melissa Gill is our gal in Corte Madera!

We need prayers for Mercedes Erwin, Klara Larsen, Marilyn Paulsen and Marilyn Sutherland.

Last month all the school kids were mentioned in the *Mouse*, but we forgot to include our substitute teachers, who never get much recognition. Molly Rademacher, Faith McClellan and Anna Barnett fit that category. Thanks to you all for your worthy work!

Baseball season is over but almost everybody's college team seems to be on TV somewhere on Saturday! Penn State is number 1 at *Mouse* House.

Count your blessings and have a Happy Thanksgiving!
Mr. Mouse and Spouse

As we go to press: On behalf of the congregation and staff, Cornel offers prayers of comfort and peace for Diane and the rest of the Forster family following Jack's death on October 25. He will be missed by all.

November Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

Please join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday this month: 6 – Diane Forster, 12 – Kurt Rademacher, 13 – Tani Girton, 18 – Gabriele Putzi, 25 – Polly Gorder, 27 – Margaret Erwin, 28 – Bob Bellen, 29 – Ruby Carter, 30 – Marisa Phipps and 30 – Matthew Phipps. Add your name to our birthday list by contacting the church office at office @redwoodspres.org or at 924-4832.

Polly

November Choir News

**From Music Director
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

Greetings! It's been a grand six weeks getting into the main stream of life here at Redwoods. The church grounds are so pretty, the people are so nice and the fellowship is so warm.

The Choir and Bell Choir have been wonderful throughout the transition. The Choir meets Thursday evenings at 7:45 pm and is singing music from a variety of sources. The Bell Choir meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am and is enjoying music from its library. Come join us if you like to sing or are interested in the bells. We would love to have you.

The Choir has had very positive feedback so far and we love requests—anything from classical through gospel. Just let me or a choir member know. I hope everyone is looking forward to the music of Advent and Christmas. I don't know about you, but I wish Christmas music would last for about three months of the year. There's so much great music that it is hard to fit it all in just the month of December!

The Bell Choir will likely perform the Sunday before or after Thanksgiving. Also, Redwood's tenant, the Marin Girls Chorus, offers a holiday concert on December 10 at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo.

Again, it's nice to be here. Be well. **Barbara**

A Word from your Intern

From SFTS Intern Faith McClellan

There is always something demanding our attention. It seems as though we don't have enough time to do everything we want to do. Sometimes, we are so busy that we forget to take that much needed break, to return a phone call to that very special friend, and to even take that once a year vacation that we've been putting off, because we're just not sure if we have time! When I was a child, I used to hear adults say, "You know, sometimes, I don't know if I'm coming or

going." And "Where is the time going?" As an adult, I now find myself saying the very same things.

When I look at my devotional life, or lack thereof, I have to admit that it has not been near the top of my to-do list. In fact, lately, the thought of spending any time only with God hasn't even been on my radar! What am I doing? What are we doing? Spending a few minutes a day with God is a necessity for hectic lives. Spending a few minutes a day meditating on a Biblical text will not only move us into God's presence, it will also help to relax and calm us in the midst of those busy activities. There will always be a lot of things demanding our attention. What we might want to ask ourselves is: Besides the Sunday sermon, when else am I being fed?

Many Blessings to you all, **Faith**

Join Our Church Key Recycling Efforts

Do you know where your church keys are, and do you still need them? The special Primus non-duplicating keys that open the outside doors of the church and that are regularly provided to officers—along with a key to open the office—tend to be forgotten and left in a drawer when the user no longer needs them.

If you received keys in the past, but are no longer using them for church business, please help the church by returning your keys to the church office in an envelope with your name on it. That way, your keys can be recycled to new users and the church is spared the expense of having to make new keys (special Primus keys are more expensive!)

Also, in an effort to identify what keys are still in circulation, we also need to hear from those who had a set of keys but have misplaced or lost them. You can call 924-4832, email office@redwoodspres.org or mail to 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur 94939. We very much appreciate your help and efforts.

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee! The Saturday morning breakfasts have resumed on the third Saturday of the month. We invite and encourage all in the congregation to attend these inspiring events. We start at 9:30 am with a light breakfast (everyone brings a small contribution) and the program is from 10-11 am.

Thank you to Kurt Rademacher, our October presenter, who gave an informative talk on The Nature Conservancy and its impact on open space in Marin County and beyond. Our next speaker will be our treasured office administrator, Mari Robinson, talking about her faith story, including her wonderful artwork. The date is November 19, so please put it on your calendar. We will have a reminder in the "Happenings" in the Sunday bulletin as well as announcements in church.

The Alternative Christmas Fair and Consecration Sunday are both scheduled for November 20, which will be an eventful day. The Mission Outreach committee is busy planning the Alternative Christmas Fair and the organizations which will be represented this year.

We are working on plans for more outings, including a possible theater date, so stay tuned for details. If anyone has ideas for possible fellowship events, please let one of the committee members know.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving! **Nancy**

Special Needs and Endowment Fund Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Many of us gathered this summer to honor our beloved member, Hazel Nelson, and her long and faithful involvement with Redwoods Church and the surrounding community. Wonderful news we would like

to share with the congregation is that she has generously included Redwoods as one of the beneficiaries in her estate plans. Her love and support of our church will help secure its viability into the future.

Redwoods Special Needs Fund and The Endowment Fund were established to fund needs and programs within the church, mission projects, or other special purposes designated by the donor. These funds are **not** for annual support of the church budget unless so specified. By building upon the assets currently in the Funds, donors make a lasting gift to the church and help ensure that Redwoods will be a vital and economically strong church to perpetuate the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ for future generations.

Gifts to the Special Needs Fund or Endowment Fund may take many forms, such as wills and living trusts, liquid assets, securities, real estate, IRAs, life insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities.

Existing wills and trusts do not necessarily have to be rewritten in order to include Redwoods as one of the beneficiaries--they may only need to be amended. (Please consult your advisor.) You need not inform the church in advance and gifts may be either anonymous or announced when received, as you wish.

It is very important that the following wording be included for gifts designated for Redwoods Presbyterian Church: "Designated to Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939; Tax ID no: 94-1347047."

Redwoods Presbyterian Church is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and any gift to it is tax deductible to the fullest extent as provided by law and may lower one's estate tax obligation.

For more information, please contact a member of the Special Needs and Endowment Fund Committee: myself, Tani Girton or Clay Wiens. **Nancy**

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair **Debbie Lundberg**

BFW 2011 Offering of Letters

Thank you to members and friends of Redwoods who participated in Bread for the World's 2011 Offering of Letters. During Worship on Sunday, October 16, over 40 letters were blessed.

The letters were written to our senators and representatives with the specific request that while we have to make cuts in the federal deficit, not to do so on the backs of poor people. The letters also asked for support of the Global Partnership Act of 2011 to reform U.S. Foreign aid.

We were honored by the presence of the new president of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, The Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald and his wife, Dean. Rev. Dr. McDonald spoke eloquently about Bread for the World from his personal experience working for BFW in Washington, DC for 13 years.

Thanks to all who wrote letters which demonstrates there are ways we can be part of the process of ending hunger through faith. May it be so.

Alternative Christmas Fair

On Sunday, November 20, following the worship service, the Mission Outreach Committee will hold the Alternative Christmas Fair in Fellowship Hall. As many of you know, this wonderful fair provides an opportunity for you to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas by making contributions to many charitable organizations in honor of spouses, children, friends, neighbors, teachers, co-workers and others on your Christmas list.

Organizations represented at the fair include Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, Bread for the World, Faith In Practice, Church World Service and Fair Trade and Equal Exchange products.

When you purchase a "gift" from one of these sponsors, you will receive a gift card and an ornament to hang on the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall.

A descriptive sheet, "How to Shop for Joy at the Alternative Christmas Fair," along with more detailed information about each sponsor, will be posted in Fellowship Hall in early November.

In addition to the shopping, there will also be wonderful Christmas refreshments. Please join us in offering the true spirit of Christmas—hope, joy and love—to those in need around the world. **Debbie**

News from the Deacons

From Deacon **Elein Phipps**

Have you thought about what you would do if an earthquake or other disaster happened here in Marin?

"Get Ready Marin," a countywide disaster preparedness program, emphasizes the critical importance of the ability of Marin residents to survive in their homes for 72 hours following a disaster. This first line of defense, called "Shelter in Place," is expected to save more lives than any other personal preparedness effort.

"Get Ready" says that we must prepare mentally (know what to do) and prepare physically (assemble supplies). So how do we get started? We prepare by taking a class and by gathering up what we will need. You can find listings of class times and supplies at www.getreadylarkspur.org. Just click on "Take a class" or "Download materials."

But wait, how many times have you thought about attending a class and you just don't seem to get around to it? To make it easier for you, the Deacons are arranging for a class at the church, most likely right after Sunday worship, on a date to be decided. Please contact Elein Phipps at 924-2603 or demm@dpaweb.com for more information, to indicate your interest in attending and to let the Deacons know what dates and times would work best for you.

Elein

Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

“Commit to God all that you do, and your plans will be fulfilled.” Proverbs 16:3

Optimists may not be more accurate about life – whether interpreting the past or predicting the future – but they live longer than pessimists, writes Dr. Bernie Siegel.

As I shared in the last column, I would be attending a seminar in Berkeley entitled, “The Science of a Meaningful Life: Taking in the Good.” The main speaker was Dr. Rick Hanson. Following are some interesting points to think about from this workshop.

How can we make the brain like Velcro for positive experiences but Teflon for negative ones? According to the speaker, resources for healing are embedded mainly in implicit memory – bodily and emotional and soulful memories.

Just having positive experiences is not enough. They pass through the brain like water through a sieve while negative experiences are caught. We need to engage positive experiences actively to weave them into the brain.

We look for positive facts and let them become positive experiences – savor the positive experience, feel it in our bodies and emotions.

The speaker had us think of a powerful, painful childhood, or adult, experience and cover it with warmth and caring, and interpose that experience with a positive one around that same time. This gives one today the caring and support one should or might have had before. This increases our positive resources and heals the negative.

Other steps of taking in the good: When you are having a positive experience, sense the current positive experience sinking down into old pain and soothing and replacing it. When you are having a negative experience, bring in mind a positive experience that is the antidote. In both cases, have the positive experi-

ence be big and strong, and at the forefront of awareness, while the negative experience is small and in the background. You are not resisting negative experiences or getting attached to positive ones. You are being kind to yourself and cultivating positive resources in your mind.

The seminar was helpful in giving ideas and resources to cultivating a positive mindset. And as I mentioned in the last column, as a Christian, we have access to God’s positive light and support. Also in this Christian community, we have access to a lot of positive energy which can help heal some of the difficult situations we find ourselves in and of those in our memories.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13
Suellen

Thank You from Dick Judd

Dear Congregation, Upon my recent retirement as your Minister of Music, I was asked by your representatives what you could do to show appreciation for my 40 years of service. That was a difficult question until I remembered that the Town Band was enlisting members for its upcoming season. While I once directed and belong to a recorder group, I had often wished that in my musical career that I had learned a band instrument like the clarinet, so I mentioned that.

Nevertheless, it was quite a surprise at worship on October 16 when I was presented with a most marvelous clarinet made in France along with handmade reeds from a local reed maker—both gifts are greater than anything I could have expected to receive. I am delighted with this gift and I declare that I will do my best to learn to handle this fine instrument. Thank you to all of you who made this gift possible. **Dick**

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

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 9:30 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 7:45 Choir	<i>4</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 9:30 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 7:45 Choir	<i>11</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 9:30 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Session	<i>16</i> LOG Deadline	<i>17</i> 7:45 Choir	<i>18</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>19</i> 9:30 Saturday Breakfast
<i>20</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> <i>Stewardship</i> <i>Commitment Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Alternative Christmas Fair	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 9:30 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study 7:00 Membership/Fellowship Committee	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> LOG Mailing 7:45 Choir	<i>25</i> 8:30 Walking Group	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 9:30 Bell Choir 10:15 Bible Study	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 7:45 Choir		

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in October – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Tani & John Girton, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, Barbara Slusher, Joyce Wells, Lori Wood

Liturgists

Suellen Barnett, Tani Girton,
Ani Lelea, Faith McClellan

Nursery Monitors

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

Coffee Hour

June Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin,
Tani Girton, Gabriele Putzi, Marian & Dick Judd,
Lori Wood

Greeters & Ushers

June Bellen, Marjorie Egger, Barbara Garcia, Iris Giacotto,
Melissa Gill, Tani Girton, Debbie Lundberg, Marian Judd, Marilyn
Paulsen, Elein & Dan Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy
Rademacher

November Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

November 6: Nancy Rademacher (L), Kitty Prosser (G),
Marjorie Egger (U), Clay Wiens (U)

November 13: Jim Gorder (L), Marilyn Paulsen (G),
Melissa Gill (U), Zachary Paulsen (U)

November 20: Ani Lelea (L), Barbara Slusher (G),
Nancy Rademacher (U), Jan Salas (U)

November 27: Joyce Wells (L), James Holmes (G),
Marian Judd (U), Debbie Lundberg (U)