



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

It's hallowthanksmas once again. It's called the blur from Halloween through Christmas. For me, it's a time of significant events on the theological, spiritual and liturgical calendar.

Halloween reminds me that Reformation Sunday and All Saints' Day are near. These days have more significance for me although we loved Halloween when the children were young.

One of the fun things we did in our small town at the time was place a life-sized, straw-stuffed St. Francis with dark brown robe on our front porch. For a month children walked onto the porch and mischievously mistreated St. Francis. Well, St. Francis came alive on Halloween night and treated them with a warm greeting.

Reformation Sunday is the Sunday on or before October 31 and commemorates the beginning of the Protestant church. On that day Martin Luther offered theological perspectives to the Catholic Church by way of 95 Theses which were soundly rejected. Luther was asked to renounce his theses. He refused and was excommunicated. Thus began the reformed movement from which we sprang.

On Reformation Sunday we sing Luther's brilliant hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." The words of the hymn are super powerful. This, for instance:

"And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us;
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him."

I love All Saints' Day because it reminds us that we are called to live saintly lives, which means living in God's grace, expressing faith in Jesus Christ, and being guided by God's word newly expressed in the changes of our day. We affirm life, love, compassion, peace and justice. We especially remember the saints departed.

Thanksgiving is not a liturgical holiday but it is a holy day. A friend says it's pretty weird to have a day focused primarily on eating and yet any day that emphasizes thanksgiving is good. Meister Eckhart said if all you did in life was give thanks that would be sufficient.

Finally, Christmas. There's a cartoon of a child sitting on Santa's lap and he says, "I want everything." Gift-giving can get out of hand but giving and receiving gifts is a good thing. We recall the gift of Jesus whose birth we celebrate. We build up to Christmas with Advent and end with candles and singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night" on Christmas Eve. It certainly is a most lovely time of the year.

New Year follows and I look back and give thanks and look forward to a new year in my personal and church life. I trust and expect God's best.

Here's hoping for a great hallowthanksmas and beyond.
Peace, Cornel

October Church Mouse



Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Oh! Wow! What a month this has been! The S. F. Giants are in the World Series again! All that finger crossing and rally rag waving paid off for us fans! It may all be over by the time you read this, but if it is, keep on cheering! There's always next year!

Lots of news of visits this month. Jennifer Garcia's mom, Ana, has come for a visit. Ana drove from North Carolina and got to Redwoods in time for church on October 14 after five days on the road. Welcome Ana!

Debbie Lundberg and husband, Richard had a pleasant visit with her sister and getting to see 22-month-old grandniece. A visit to the Getty Museums and the LaBrea Tar Pits were also on the schedule, plus a stop in Solvang!

The Square Dance to raise funds for the Clavinova was a "stomping success" with lots of fun and exercise for all. The Putzis provided another of those good spaghetti dinners for the hungry dancers!

It is really great to have Dan White circle back to Redwoods as a Parish Associate. The Mouse people arrived at Redwoods when Dan was a student and the faithful church janitor with a cranky vacuum cleaner. Thanks to Sears Roebuck commercials during the '76 Olympics, Carl Meister, the person in charge of such things, got a new vacuum that made Dan's work more enjoyable. Mr. Mouse was the organist for Dan and Becky White's wedding in 1971.

Melissa Gill has a wonderful tradition! She and the Camp Fire Girl friends from Oklahoma still get together from time to time. This year they met in Seattle.

Our pastor, Cornel, had successful hernia surgery and is back at work with his usual enthusiasm.

October was Joyce Wells' month! Her family had an awesome birthday surprise party for her. Seven of her ten grandchildren plus a great granddaughter were

among those attending. Joyce is the person who puts flowers or greens in the sanctuary most Sundays. Joyce also has a way with weeds that she finds on her morning walks! Thanks, Joyce.

Speaking of birthdays, Redwoods had a birthday in October and is now 116!

Molly Rademacher's experiences while teaching in France are paying off at home! Besides being a substitute teacher in the local public schools she also teaches English at the French Immersion School in Corte Madera. Good work also on Sundays at Redwoods, Molly!

The elder Rademachers, Kurt and Nancy, took a two week trip to Moab, Utah to visit Canyonlands and Arches National Parks; then to Colorado-Aspen, Leadville, Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park (where Nancy worked a summer right out of college). They ended up in Lander, WY where Kurt had a Nature Conservancy business. The scenery was spectacular and the fall colors (especially Aspens) gorgeous.

On Sunday, October 21, Redwoods Presbyterian Church Band and Choir (aka the Eclectic Band) added their special touch to the worship service. It was a big day for George Gmahling, who "shepherds" this multi-instrumental group—everything from Dan Phipps on the cello to Nathan Girton playing the ukulele. It was George's birthday and all of his family was present! Besides that, there was a busload of friends from The Tamalpais. It was especially good to see Harry Richards.

Bonnie Kaiser passed the eye exam and is driving again! Great news.

We need to cheer on Helen Morita who is starting another round of chemotherapy. Klara Larsen, whose son, Mark, brings her to church when he is in town, also appreciates cards and visits.

That's all for now! See you next month.

Mr. Mouse and Spouse

November Choir News

**From Music Director
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

Wow.... it's hard to believe we're talking about Christmas already... of course, the children's most magical time of year. Big doin's are always the order of the season featuring church activities, school activities, activity activities and the usual plethora and assortment of holiday traditions. Our church tradition, the Christmas concert, will be on December 9 this year and it will be joined for the first time by the Alternative Christmas Fair.

Both choirs, the vocal and the bell, have been preparing music for this big Christmas event on Sunday the 9th, which will again be later that afternoon at 4 pm. We're doing a bit of a variety theme this year, just like the Family Band, and featuring something that every generation will like. There will be multiple sounds from multiple instruments from multiple players. So, be sure to invite your family and friends to come to hear us!

Be well and as the holidays come upon us, don't forget to take time to enjoy every moment. **Barbara**

A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern
Ian Vellenga**

Greetings one and all!
I am in the midst of Reading Week right now at SFTS. Ironically, it is supposed to be a time of relaxation, where students get a chance to catch up on school work that they did not have time to do, or for the students that keep up with their work, a brief vacation from the hectic life at seminary. The irony lies in the fact that I am probably more busy this week than when classes were going on! I cannot wait for them to start up again!

With all the hustle and bustle going on in my life, I am reminded of what a professor said to me my first year at seminary. She said that when you are the busiest, that's when you need to make the most time for yourself. You need to force yourself to put in time for spiritual reflection, prayer, self-care, etc. That may sound

like a paradox, especially if you do not have time with all the other things going on in life, but I completely agree with it. But no one said it would be easy.

So, all I ask is for prayers, that I may make the time, and we all would make the time, to get our own "Sabbath," even if it is just for a few hours. Because spending time with God is just as important, and even more so, than trying to constantly keep up with all of the things life can throw at you. Peace, **Ian**

Spiritual Growth Opportunity

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Our online prayer practice, "Exploring Contemplative Prayer," is still available to church members and friends. If you would like to explore prayer practices in your own time, space and pace, this is the program for you.

Each month, background material and guides are available online and reminders are sent out weekly. If you need the passwords again, or printed materials to be sent to you or to include a family member or friend, please contact the church office at 924-4832.

You are also invited to a monthly meeting on the last Sunday of the month after the 10 am service—this month November 25—to share thoughts, ideas and ways the spirit is moving in your life. **Cornel**

Deacons News

**From Deacons Moderator
Polly Gorder**

It's a generally accepted fact that people who attend church regularly tend to sit in the same area, often the same seat, in their home church. At Redwoods we notice seats of long time members that are empty and we're reminded each Sunday how we miss them.

At our recent Deacons meeting we discussed how we continually pray for all our members. Our request to all of you is to pray also for each other and special prayers for the folks not able to be present in their usual places for Sunday Service. It's a privilege to be part of a community such as Redwoods that loves and supports each other. **Polly**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

We had a great turnout for the recent fun and lively square dance and delicious spaghetti dinner fundraiser. A huge thank you to Robert Putzi who cooked his fabulous sauce and pounds of spaghetti and to John Girton for making the square dancing arrangements.

Erik Henerlau, our professional caller, kept us moving the entire evening. I think we all did a super job learning/relearning how to square dance. And we also raised funds towards the cost of the Clavinova. I'm sure all who attended will agree that it was a great evening of fellowship and fun. Thanks for all of your generosity and participation.

Saturday Breakfast

The November 17 Saturday breakfast will feature Ian Vellenga, our new seminary intern. Ian is the son of a pastor, has served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is currently a student at S.F. Theological Seminary. We appreciate his willingness to share his faith story with all of us. There will not be a breakfast in December but it will resume again in January.

Christmas Reception/Alternative Christmas Fair

Please join us for our annual Christmas Reception with its wonderful holiday music on Sunday afternoon December 9. Redwoods Church will also be hosting the Alternative Christmas Fair, another well-loved annual event, that same afternoon. The Membership/Fellowship committee will provide traditional refreshments. Mark your calendars so that you won't miss these unique events.

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

Nancy

Endowment and Special Needs Committee

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

There are many reasons to leave a gift to Redwoods but one of the most compelling is to give back to an organization that has given so much to us. Redwoods has been such an important part of many of our lives and has enriched our families through our friendships, spiritual development, sense of community and the many ways the church supports mission.

What better way to be a part of continuing this wonderful history and tradition for generations to come than by giving something in return for all the grace, love and support that have been showered upon us!

Another very compelling reason is to continue the over 100 year legacy of this church. Many people have given their heart, soul, faith and resources over the years and we not only want to honor their contributions but make sure this extraordinary place will be available for those in the future.

We have a beautiful and unique facility in a prime location and an energetic, active, generous, warm and friendly congregation. Our Sunday services are joyful, engaging and inspiring. I know we all want to make sure this wonderful spirit continues. A gift, no matter the size, will help to make a positive investment towards Redwoods Presbyterian Church's long term future viability.

Gifts may take many forms, such as wills and living trusts, liquid assets, securities, IRAs or 401Ks, real estate, life insurance policies and charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities.

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

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Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

A Bit Different This Year

The Alternative Christmas Fair will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 9 following the Christmas Reception with its wonderful music! The Mission Outreach committee felt this timing would provide an opportunity for a wider group to take part in the fair.

New this year will be a table sponsored by the Twin Cities Police Officers Association. This group does a collection every Christmas to raise money to buy gifts for foster kids and teens in Marin County.

Along with several sponsors from past fairs, such as Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service, The Heifer Project, etc., there will be a table with actual Fair Trade gifts. Mission statements, gift cards and ornaments for the tree will also be available.

Please note if the spirit moves you we are still looking for people to help sponsor tables. The Mission Outreach Committee will assist you in preparing for the fair.

More information about the fair, sponsors, gifts, and how to shop will be forthcoming as we get closer to the fair. Last, but definitely not least - while you browse the various sponsors' tables enjoy what some consider the best holiday goodies in Marin County. Come and enjoy!

Bread For The World

Thank you to all who took part in Bread for the World's 2012 Offering of Letters and for asking Congress to create a circle of protection around vital programs for hungry and poor people in the United States and abroad. Pen and paper make powerful tools helping us turn our faith into action.

We are blessed to be able to create new hope and opportunity for hungry people.

Two Cents A Meal Sunday

On Sunday, November 4, members of the Mission Outreach Committee will present a skit during worship focused on the Two Cents A Meal Program. New Two Cents A Meal collection banks will be available. Get the Oscars ready as our actors are working hard on their roles!

Short Mission Items:

You are invited to pickup information in Fellowship Hall from the California Council of Churches IMPACT concerning positions on the November 6 propositions.

Thank you to all who were able to take part in the Peacemaking Offering by contributing funds and prayers. May peace be with you. **Deb**

November Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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
- 30 – Matthew Phipps

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

Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

Perhaps one of the most encouraging messages I brought away from the recent 23rd annual Bioneers Conference that Cornel and I attended was the one of hope and empowerment – that caring and committed human beings can succeed in moving the world around us toward a sustainable civilization, toward a healthier and just planet for all life on earth.

The conference featured plenaries, workshops, films, panel discussions – all around what is happening in the world today and visionary solutions for restoring the earth and human communities and plant and animal life.

As a psychotherapist, I appreciated hearing Dr. Gabor Maté from Vancouver, Canada, speak on “Toxic Culture: How Materialistic Society Makes Us Ill”. He also spoke on several panels – one following a film entitled “The House I Live In”, a disturbing but excellent documentary about our failing correctional system in the U.S.

Dr. Maté has written a number of books on ADHD, mind/body unity in illness, and child development and parenting. His most recent book *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction* has become a best-seller in dealing with addiction.

I also appreciated hearing a talk by Bill McKibben, a leading global climate activist and founder of 350.org, 350 being the number determined to be the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in the air measured in parts per million. In October 2009, people in 181 countries came together for one of the most widespread environmental action events ever. Cornel and I participated in this event with a huge group at the Embarcadero in San Francisco.

Fletcher Harper, an Episcopal priest and the executive director of the interfaith environmental coalition GreenFaith, spoke on “Greening Our Faiths: From Belief into Action for the Environment and Environmental Justice.” It is exciting to see faith groups getting involved in environmental justice.

And I could go on and on about all the other excellent speakers and ideas we heard at the conference. John Girton, who actually motivated us to attend Bioneers a few years ago, also can share what he heard there this year as well.

How does all this relate to counseling? Well, if we have a healthy exterior environment, it certainly will contribute to a healthy internal – emotional, psychological – environment too!

May each of us enjoy God’s creation and join together in the Bioneers’ spirit to heal it.

Suellen

Endowment and Special Needs Committee

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

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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 Redwoods Presbyterian Church Special Needs and Endowment Fund Committee: Clay Wiens, Tani Girton, Nancy Rademacher.

Thanks for everyone’s generosity and support of this very special place.

Nancy

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!

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 Choir	2	3
4 Communion 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Mission Outreach Committee	5	6 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	7	8 7:30 Choir	9	10
11 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 12:00 Mill Street	12 7:00 Spirit and Work Support Group	13 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Deacons	14 NOTE: EARLY LOG DEADLINE	15 7:30 Choir	16	17 9:00 Saturday Breakfast
18 Birthday Sunday Stewardship Sunday 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership/ Fellowship Cmte	19	20 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving!	23 LOG Mailing	24
25 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Prayer Group	26	27 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	28	29	30	31

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, Jim & Marjorie 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, Joyce Wells

Liturgists

Marilyn Sutherland, Ian Vellenga, Joyce Wells

Greeters

Melissa Gill, Marian Judd,
Ani Lelea, Deb Lundberg

Ushers

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Melissa Gill,
Marian Judd, Ani Lelea, Nancy Rademacher

Coffee Hour

Suellen & Cornel Barnett, Anna & Alan Barnett,
James Holmes

November Helping Hands

- November 4** Nancy Rademacher (L),
Iris Giacotto (G)
Marjorie Egger (U)
- November 11** Ani Lelea (L),
June Bellen (G)
Iris Giacotto (U)
- November 18** Clay Wiens (L)
Ani Lelea (G)
Melissa Gill (U), Suellen Barnett (U)
- November 25** Suellen Barnett (L)
Barbara Slusher (G)
Debbie Lundberg (U), Ani Lelea (U)