



The Redwoods Log

November 2015 - Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspres.org

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I'm writing this letter on the eve of Halloween, actually a few days before, and it reminds me of dark nights with my costumed children calling "trick or treat" in the neighborhood. There were no tricks. Consequently, there were many sweets. I'd wished there were strawberries, bananas, pears and oranges but my children wouldn't have liked that. The memories are sweet and I appreciate that the tradition goes on with parents and children today.

More significantly for me though is the celebration of All Saints' Day the day after Halloween. This year we acknowledged and remembered the saints in our midst during worship. Members were encouraged to bring mementos to the service on All Saints' Day (which fell on a Sunday this year) of loved ones and friends who had gone on to be with God in God's heavenly home.

A church member told me that a day for saints was foreign to her. I reminded her that in Roman Catholic teaching, a person does not become a saint unless he/she is "beatified" or "canonized" by the Pope or prominent bishop whereas Presbyterians, and most Protestants, regard all Christians as saints and that's why we sing "For All the Saints" in worship services the closest to All Saints' Day.

Robert Ellsberg, in his book *All Saints*, widens the scope. He quotes Jewish theologian, Abraham Heschel (who he regards as a saint), as saying, "Holiness is not the monopoly of any particular religion or tradition. Wherever a deed is done in accord with the will of God, wherever a human thought is directed toward Him, there is the holy."

Ellsberg writes that Christ himself proclaimed that there were those who were blessed simply because they gave a drink of water to a thirsty stranger or visited a prisoner in jail.

He continues, "Saints did not apply themselves to being 'saints'. If anything they applied themselves seriously to the task of being human, understanding this vocation in the profound sense reflected in the old formulas of the catechism: '*Who made you?* God made me. *Why did God make you?* God made me to know, love, and serve him in this world and to be happy with him in the next.'

"Saints are not perfect humans. But in their own individual fashion they became *authentic* human beings, endowed with the capacity to awaken that capacity in others."

Everyone at Redwoods Presbyterian Church is a saint in their own special way and I thank God for the saints here and those who have moved from their earthly home to God's eternal home.

God bless you all in the up-coming hallowthanksmas season. Keep a close eye and ear on the church. A lot will be happening during this busy and yet very meaningful holy time.

Peace and blessings,
Cornel

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate!

November is perhaps my favorite month, brimming with anticipation of the holidays of gratitude and hospitality. The glow of autumn leaves, aroma of fresh-baked pumpkin bread, and celebration of relatives coming together evoke a welcomed nostalgia for many of us. It is also a time to especially reach out to those who are lost, lonely, hungry and separated from family.

Recently, the members of the Compassionate Kids group each chose a picture of a child in need and created prayers for and identified ways of helping those who are hungry and homeless.

A local girl scout troop visited us recently with donations of food, and the Compassionate Kids members showed them to our food barrel in Fellowship Hall where we discussed how the food barrels are used to help people in need.

Our Tuesday Bible study group has also discussed ways to help those in need. A few members have created bags to keep in their cars to hand to people in need as an alternative to driving by, glancing away or giving an awkward smile and wave.

The bags contain a bottle of water, granola bars, a new pair of socks, and a travel size toothbrush and toothpaste. Also in the bag is a list of local food distribution sites and homeless shelters, with a verse of Scripture: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13. I am grateful for the many ways our Redwoods members and friends support people in need.

As we embark on this month designated especially for gratitude and thanksgiving, it seems appropriate that the month begins with All Saints Day Sunday, and concludes with the Alternative Christmas Fair.

On November 1, All Saints Day, we remember and honor our loved ones who have died by placing an item of remembrance or photo on the communion

table for a special "cloud of witnesses" prayer in the service. We will join Susan Slemp in specifically honoring and remembering her father, Wayne Slemp, who passed away recently.

On November 29, we celebrate after the worship service with the Alternative Christmas Fair where fair-trade gifts may be purchased and donations made to many worthy organizations.

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endures for ever."

Psalm 107:1

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

The Sanctuary Choir continues to impress and amaze me with their dedication and fortitude. Though in the Fall we are often light in number because of the travel schedule of many of our members, the choir never *sounds* light on Sunday mornings! Hallelujah and Amen!

Additionally, I deeply appreciate and admire the willingness and ability of our members to keep on showing up and singing amidst physical and emotional challenges. Hallelujah and Amen. Thanks be to God.

Our Parke Kurtz Memorial Bell Choir will grace us in the service on Sunday, November 8. We look forward to sharing four completely new arrangements, never yet released at Redwoods, from the *Ring and Re-joice!* series.

Like the Sanctuary Choir, there are Bell Choir ringers who appear for rehearsal against all odds... like having experienced great loss, having moved far away, or having just had elbow or hand surgery, and yet they have the miraculous ability to keep on ringing. Hallelujah, Amen, and thanks be to God!

This is the day that the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Blessings, **Stephanie**

November Church Mouse

After the October Saturday Breakfast faithful servant, Debbie Lundberg and helpers greeted the "Peddle for Protein" bikers as they passed through on their 300+ mile fundraiser. Stopping at Redwoods for a break, they were supplied with water, treats and prizes! At the breakfast, Ginger Gmahling gave an interesting talk on water conservation. Lucky attendees were awarded prizes like tickets to the Lark Theater!



We are thankful Mark Morita was able to return to his home in Kelseyville after the devastating Valley fire. The school where he teaches on Cobb Mountain was spared but suffered severe water damage and classes were being held in Middletown. Diane Forster's grandson Chris, a Redbluff fire fighter was there helping for a week. Our prayers are with all who were affected by this tragedy.

Some members are still traveling this fall. The Gorders drove to Colorado to visit their two sons and their families. Karen Carmody visited family and friends in Minnesota where she was raised. Bonnie Kaiser went on her annual cattle drive near Paso Robles. Stephanie and Bill Ryder traveled back east with son, Brooks, to check out colleges. Georgene Gmahling went to famous Bodega Bay with her daughter, Ginger, and son, Gary. The siblings tried surfing but Georgene decided to relax on the beach.

Thanks to Dick Judd for playing the hymns at worship while Stephanie was away. We enjoy hearing the lovely sounds of the organ.

What a blessing for our church when Stephanie led a first time "Blessing of the Animals" at a recent worship service. All the many dogs sat through the entire hour with hardly a peep (I mean bark) and Stephanie blessed each dog (also a stuffed cat and photos) as they went forward with their owners. There were smiles on everyone's faces in the congregation. Thank you and God's blessing to Stephanie for making this happen. Hope it becomes an annual event.

Happy to hear Marilyn Sutherland is back in her

apartment at the Tamalpais. She will welcome her eighth great-grandchild next April. Son, Duncan, and wife, Erin, are expecting their fourth child, a baby girl.

We are very saddened by the loss of our dear friends Kitty Prosser and Wayne Slemp. We will miss them both very much. Our special thoughts and prayers are with their families.

We are looking forward to many happenings coming up this season. Enjoy the warm days because the rains are coming!
The Mouse

Deacons' Corner From Chair Tani Girton & June Bellen Coffee Hour

Each Sunday, a different committee is responsible for coffee hour. There is no obligation to provide food, only to set up, make coffee and tea, and clean up afterwards. The weekly assignments are:
1st Sunday – Worship/CE; 2nd Sunday – Mission Outreach; 3rd Sunday – Deacons; 4th Sunday – Membership/Fellowship; 5th Sunday – June Bellen.

It takes a village and we all appreciate being part of THIS very special community that serves each other and enjoys fellowship together!
Tani

Canal Community Alliance Layettees
Come to Fellowship Hall after worship on November 8 to see layettes (baby blankets, sweaters, booties and receiving blankets) that have been knitted, sewn and crocheted by Redwoods members and friends for Canal Community Alliance clients. For info, call 415-456-6653 or june.bellen@yahoo.com.
June

Earth Prayers From Helen Morita

Apprehend God in all things,
For God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of God
And is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spend enough time with the tiniest creature—
Even a caterpillar—

I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of
God is every creature. Meister Eckhart
Helen

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

The Membership/Fellowship committee is always busy planning events we hope you can attend:

Our November 21 Saturday Breakfast speaker will be Molly Hogan, a Holy Land traveler and friend of Claire Anasta, whose home in Bethlehem is under occupation by the Israelis and surrounded on three sides by the Israeli Wall. Molly will share the story and the difficulties Claire and others experience daily. If possible, Claire will also be at the breakfast. We hope you can join us for this opportunity to hear about the continuing Israeli/Palestinian situation. Please bring something to share for the light potluck breakfast which begins at 9:30 am. The program is from 10-11 am.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall for the November 22 Masquers Theater production of the Tony award-winning *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. It is an unfinished murder mystery with song and dance by Charles Dickens, where the audience gets to decide the ending. The performance is at 2 pm and tickets are \$22. For those interested, we will have lunch at the church prior to leaving and we will arrange for car pools. A special treat that day will be going to the Barnett's afterwards for a post theater party. We so appreciate that Cornel and Suellen generously open their home to us.

Eleanor Freed joined the church recently as our newest member. Eleanor is married to Adrian Freed who is Research Director in music technology at U.C. Berkeley. Their six children are Natalie, 28; Emma, 25; Inigo, 22; Portia 20 and Arthur and Colin, both 17. Eleanor was a Redwoods member growing up in Larkspur. She attended with her mother, Marian Parker Allen Scutter Gohl and six brothers. She was a youth leader and member of Deacons as a teenager.

Eleanor has a degree in Fine Arts from U.C. Berkeley with a concentration in Computer Science. Her career has been as a user experience and communication expert for the technology industry. She also paints, works in ceramics and has taught art for years. Her art mentor and early influence was Redwoods Sunday School teacher Irene Clark. Eleanor was here when the mosaic was designed for the sanctuary.

She is currently applying for PhD programs in Medical Anthropology. Eleanor is enjoying reconnecting with old friends at Redwoods and meeting new ones. Please introduce yourself to Eleanor if you haven't already and welcome her to our church family. Thanksgiving blessings to all.

Nancy

Mission Outreach News

From Debbie Lundberg and Jan Salas

Now That's A Bike Ride! 300 Miles!

Beginning in Crescent City in Northern California and ending at the Golden Gate, 16 riders completed the Redwoods Presbytery's second Pedal for Protein Ride. Six other riders joined the ride in Fairfax. The ride raised funds to help the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Redwoods hosted a cheer stop on September 26. We provided encouragement, protein bars, ribbons of congratulations, balloons, water and bathrooms! We enthusiastically welcomed the riders and offered our thanks, prayers and wishes of good cheer along with a check for \$100. The wonderful news received recently - over \$32,000 was raised by the riders! Many people will now have food they so desperately need. What a blessing!

Debbie

The Alternative Christmas Fair

Come join us as we celebrate the season of Advent at our Alternative Christmas Faire on Sunday, November 29 after worship. Several agencies—Bread for the World, Church World Service, Habitat for Humanity, the Heifer Project and others—will have items on display that represent possible contributions to help people in need in this country and throughout the world.

There will be a sponsor at each agency table to provide information about the agency, answer questions about it's work, explain how donations will be put to use, provide an ornament to decorate the tree in Fellowship Hall, and a gift card for each donation that can be used to honor a friend, family member, teacher, neighbor, etc. There will be delicious refreshments available as you browse the tables to learn about the work of the agencies. This is an opportunity to set aside the commercialization of this sacred season and focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Please feel free to contact any Committee member with any questions.

Jan

November 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>All Saints Day</i> 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Congregation Meeting 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Deacons 11:15 Mission Outreach | 2 | 3 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study | 4 | 5 | 6 3:30 Compassionate Kids | 7 |
| 8 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> <i>Parke Kurst Bell Choir</i> 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Crepe Brunch 11:15 Canal Layettes 11:30 Worship/CE 12:00 Mill Street | 9 | 10 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session | 11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> Office Closed LOG Deadline | 12 7:30 Choir | 13 3:30 Compassionate Kids | 14 |
| 15 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Membership Fellowship Committee | 16 | 17 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study | 18 | 19 LOG Mailing 7:30 Choir | 20 3:30 Compassionate Kids | 21 9:30 Saturday Breakfast |
| 22 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 2:00 Theater Outing | 23 | 24 9:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study | 25 | 26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Office Closed | 27 | 28 |
| 29 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Ed 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Alternative Christmas Faire | 30 | | | | | |

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in October – Thank you so much!

Mill Street Meal

Anna Barnett, Suellen Barnett, June Bellen,
Alan Edmonson, Diane Forster, Polly & Jim Gorder,
Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele and Robert Putzi,
Nancy Rademacher, Ed Vorous, Joyce Wells

Coffee Hour

1st Sunday – Worship/Christian Education Committee
2nd Sunday – Mission Committee
3rd Sunday – Deacons
4th Sunday – Membership Committee
5th Sunday – June Bellen

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| October 4 | Ginger Gmahling (L) Ed Vorous (G) Iris Giacotto (U) | November 1 | Ed Vorous (L) Alan Edmonson (G) Carrie Kim (U) | November 22 | Ani Lelea (L) Nancy Rademacher (G) Margie Egger (U) |
| October 11 | Anna Barnett (L) John Girton (G) Nancy Rademacher (U) | November 8 | June Bellen (L) Clay Wiens (G) Nancy Rademacher (U) | November 29 | |
| October 18 | Joyce Wells (L) Ani Lelea (G) Tani Girton (U) | November 15 | Clay Wiens (L) Bonnie Kaiser (G) Debbie Lundberg (U) | Advent | Nancy Rademacher (L) Molly Rademacher (L) Debbie Lundberg (G) Iris Giacotto (U) |
| October 25 | Debbie Lundberg (L) Iris Giacotto (G) Clay Wiens (U) | | | | |

Happy Birthday! From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and friends a happy birthday in November
6 – Diane Forster, 12 – Kurt Rademacher, 13 – Tani Girton, 18 – Gabriele Putzi, 25 – Polly Gorder,
27 – Margaret Erwin, 28 – Bob Bellen, 30 – Marisa Phipps, 30 – Matthew Phipps

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