



# The Redwoods Log

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

## From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

I trust you had a meaningful Thanksgiving. Ours was quiet and less busy than other years so it gave me an opportunity to draw aside for a while and think of this lovely church and its mission and give thanks for you all.

I'm sorry that a number of our members, disciples, departed from us this year. I'm reassured when I think that they are with God in God's eternal home. I give thanks for them.

Now, we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. We don't know when he will come again but scripture exhorts us to prepare for his coming anyway. Advent helps us on the way.

We prepare by being watchful and awake as best described in the benediction: "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous and strong; let all that you do be done in love." This was the theme on the first Sunday of Advent this year.

Advent is also about expectation for God's peaceable realm which will come. Advent is faith, hope, joy and love. Advent is a beautiful time of reflection and an invitation to pray and meditate.

In addition to more prayerful Advent reflection, we joyfully hear and sing Christmas carols and songs. We hear the Christmas bells. We reread and tell treasured Christmas stories. We remember the Christmas stories of our lives. We think about giving. We delight in receiving.

So many images emerge when we come into the season: holly, ivy, greens, angels, wise ones following a star (T.S. Eliot's "The Journey of the Magi"), shepherds, a Christmas tree and ornaments, a festive home and table, saying grace...a baby in a manger.

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)

We are having a lovely "Spirit of Christmas Sing-Along." here at the church on December 11 at 4 pm with Dick Judd and Georgene Gmahling on organ and piano and a reception following. Come along and bring your friends. We will sing Christian and secular favorites: Rudolf, his red nose and all that...

We also look forward to our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols at 7 pm. This year I look forward to sharing the liturgy with Faith and the music with Barbara. We look forward to worshipping God and celebrating the coming of our Savior into our weary and wonderful world.

Peace and Love,  
Cornel

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# December Church Mouse



Convalescent and Rehabilitation Hospital. She can receive cards and letters at 30 Hacienda Drive, Tiburon, CA 94930. Watch for her new phone number in the Sunday bulletin and next month's LOG.

## Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

Time is flying by! Advent began November 27, the start of a new liturgical year at Redwoods. Redwoods Church had its 115th birthday in mid October.

We're still alive and vital but missing Jack Forster. Jack maintained our building and grounds with loving care and was always there to lock and unlock the doors or turn off the lights and was always pleasant. Jack also was great transportation person on Sunday mornings.

Meanwhile we have busy parishioners. Debbie Lundberg did her civic duty and recently served on a jury trial. Lori Woods began a new job at the Marin Interfaith Council.

The double Gs, George and Georgene Gmahling, organized a group, "The Fortissimos," resident pianists and friends to give two concerts a year. George keeps busy teaching ukulele to 18 residents called "The Strummers." Plus, they do monthly karaoke nights. Georgene just spent a week in Hawaii with a friend who won a prize! How about that for active people?

Margaret Erwin's grandson, Brendan Kester, is a federal government engineer. He just got a promotion and has moved to Hong Kong with his wife and four children! Sounds like a great adventure to the Mouse.

Thanks to Melissa Gill who delivered the sewing group handiwork to Cameron House where it was gratefully received.

Merna McIntosh is expecting her daughter-in-law, Kathy Dye, to be relocated from Oklahoma in January. In the meantime, Kathy's friend, Rachel is living with Merna. We think of Merna often when our new music director, Barbara Bacon-Shaw, plays the piano, which was a gift from her to honor Dave's memory.

Prayers for Klara Larsen who recently spent a weekend at Kaiser to stabilize her heart rate and oxygen levels and has since moved from Creekwood to Marin

Redwoods is truly grateful and blessed to have Seminary student, "Amazing Faith" McClellan as an intern this year. Her friend and our former intern, Christina Jensen, writes:

I'm settling in for the colder Michigan weather and getting ready for Christmas with my family. I recently participated in my first arts and crafts show, and was busy in November crocheting and getting things prepared for sale at the show. I think of everyone in the Redwoods family often, pray for the congregation daily, and wish all a happy and blessed Advent!

Redwoods' oldest member, Ruby Carter died on November 7, just a few weeks before her 101st birthday. Although Ruby was not able to attend services for many years she was a lovely caring person who always sent beautifully handwritten thank you notes.

On November 9, Jan Salas presented Mouse with a grand Coffee Table Memory Book. The kind expressions of appreciation are cherished by Dick and Marian. Thanks to all.

Be sure to take time to enjoy the new plantings in front of the church office.

Hope to see you all in church during Advent!

See you next month. **Mr. Mouse and Spouse**

## December Happy Birthdays

### From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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

- 10 – Helen Morita
- 21 – Maisie Campbell
- 24 – Robert Putzi.

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

**Polly**

## December Choir News

**From Music Director  
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

Here we are in the wonderful season of Advent and Christmas, my favorite time of year musically. As usual, I am having a hard time picking among the many glorious hymns and carols. I hope you will enjoy the selections during our Advent and Christmas worship services.

The Choir and Bell Choir continue to meet faithfully on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm and they are happy to sing all types of music from a wide variety of sources. The Bell Choir is getting ready to showcase the results of their recent practices at 9:30 am on Tuesdays and you will be seeing the fruits of their musical labors in worship very soon. Both groups enthusiastically welcome new members, so come join us if you like to sing or make beautiful music.

We cannot ask too often for requests as the choir loves pleasing the congregation with anything from classical to gospel to old favorites. Just a whisper in one of our ears or a short note or email to me or any other choir member will get results, I promise you! My email address is [barbarabaconshaw@pacbell.net](mailto:barbarabaconshaw@pacbell.net).

A plug for our Redwoods tenant: the Marin Girls Chorus holiday concert at 7 pm, December 9 at the Terra Linda High School Performance Center is sure to be wonderful.

Looking forward to hearing from you. **Barbara**

## A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern Faith McClellan**

One day as I was walking through downtown San Anselmo, I heard someone call my name. As I turned around I saw my friend who I had not seen in a long time. She had her two grandchildren with her. The two-year-old smiled at me and said with excitement, "I have eyes!"

Ever since that day, the phrase 'I have eyes' has stuck with me. I am reminded how God often uses the innocence and wonder of a child's vision to remind us that we, too, have eyes, eyes that are already gifted with seeing God's newness in a child's eyes, in the autumn leaves that lie scattered in our yards and along sidewalks, and in circumstances that challenge us to give up the old, familiar way of doing things.

Often, we are so caught up in the details of our lives that we cannot see what God is doing around us. Many of us have seen so many Advents that we wonder what makes this year's Advent so different.

So as we begin this season of Advent, let us remind ourselves to not take for granted what God is already performing in our midst. Let us truly take the time to look into a child's eyes and to pay attention to how bright they appear, especially when a child is smiling.

The next time you take a walk, try to take in the landscape around you. Take a moment to really look at the leaves. Notice the different colors and shapes before walking by or raking them up for disposal.

God has a remarkable way of speaking to us through the mundane activities we perform each day. And as Advent begins this year, may we be able to say with heartfelt appreciation, "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

Many Blessings to you all, **Faith**

## Join Our Church Key Recycling Efforts

A gentle reminder: Please return your church keys if you no longer need them or alert the church if you have lost church keys that were assigned to you. If you don't remember what keys you were assigned, you can contact the church office at 924-4832, [office@redwoodspres.org](mailto:office@redwoodspres.org) or 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur 94939 for more information. We very much appreciate your help and efforts.

## Membership/Fellowship Committee News

**From Chair Nancy Rademacher**

Holiday greetings to all from The Membership/Fellowship Committee! Sixteen in our congregation have signed up to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Sunday December 4 at the Marin Art and Garden Center. I'm sure it will be an inspiring afternoon.

Please join us for a "Spirit of Christmas Sing-Along" at 4 pm on Sunday December 11 in the church sanctuary. Dick Judd, Minister of Music Emeritus, and Georgene Gmahling, pianist and long-time choir member, will lead the singing of both religious and secular favorite carols. A festive holiday reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. Please bring family and friends!

Due to everyone's busy schedule, there will not be a Saturday morning breakfast in December. It will resume in January.

This is the perfect time of year to extend invitations to family and friend to join us at one of our holiday events, including our Christmas Eve service. We are sure to have visitors during the month, so remember to make them feel welcome and extend our warm Redwood's hospitality to them.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season. **Nancy**

## Saturday Breakfast

**From Coordinator Debbie Lundberg**

A warm and cordial invitation to members and friends of Redwoods to join us on Saturday, January 21, 2012 for a delicious potluck breakfast and a program presented by our wonderful Office Administrator, Mari Robinson, who has graciously agreed to share her

faith journey and her art work. Mari is a lifelong artist who has found spiritual inspiration and discernment in the painting and contemplation of wildlife, primarily birds. We gather at 9:30 am for coffee and refreshments with the program beginning at 10:10 am. See you there!

**Debbie**

## News from the Deacons

**From Deacon Moderator Polly Gorder**

One of the missions that Redwoods Presbyterian participates in is our contribution throughout the year to the Marin Food Bank.

Recently the Marin Food Bank merged with the San Francisco Food Bank and the merger is helping them to have a greater impact in the amount distributed in Marin. In fact, starting in 2013, the San Francisco Food Bank will be distributing twice as much food in Marin as had been done in the past.

Our church recently received a heartfelt thank you for our participation from Laura Gilbert who is the San Francisco Food Bank's Food Drive Coordinator. They are extremely grateful for the food donated by the church.

At this time of year there are reminders and opportunities to donate at every turn. During the rest of the year we need to be mindful of the continuing need.

Our food barrel resides in the Fellowship Hall just waiting for canned and non-perishable packaged foods with a long shelf life.

Mari calls the food bank when it is getting full and its contents are then picked up by the Food Bank.

Please remember when you shop to get a little extra for the barrel and help keep many families in Marin from hunger.

**Polly**

## Mission Outreach Committee News

**From Chair Debbie Lundberg**

At our November meeting the committee voted to send our local 25% of the Peacemaking Offering to Cameron House. Thanks to all who were able to contribute to the offering.

Thanks also to all who attended and were able to participate in the Alternative Christmas Fair held on Sunday November 20. Once again Christmas came early as members and friends "Shopped for Joy" stopping by the various sponsors' tables.

Thanks also to all who helped set-up, decorate, sponsor tables, bring refreshments, do publicity, play music, prepare the shopping list, take in the money, print the gift – the list goes on and on. As a result of all the hard work many who dwell in darkness will see a great light.

The fair provided an opportunity for all to feel the glow of bringing gifts of light, love, caring and security, nourishment and shelter to those in need. "Shopping for Joy" indeed! The amount raised by each sponsor will appear in the January LOG. Christmas Blessings now and always.

Another opportunity to express the Christmas Spirit comes to us through the Christmas Joy Offering which will be received on Sunday December 18. As many of us know this is a way to celebrate the good news of great joy – God's love in human form is now among us!

Funds received support scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic schools and colleges. It also helps families of active and retired church workers

meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

More information about this Good News of Great Joy offering will be available in Fellowship Hall, through bulletin inserts and Mission Minutes.

**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](http://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](mailto: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**

One of the topics I have written about in this column is dealing with stress during this time of year – a time that is fun and exciting and yet also can be anxiety-producing.

We can't avoid stress in our lives. It's an integral part of being human and we're designed to cope with it as part of everyday life – even at times when there is excessive stimulus, like the holidays. Without stress to challenge us and keep us active and alert, we would atrophy and never progress. Stress in itself is neither good nor bad, right or wrong.

Recently a colleague gave a group of us at Aldea a list entitled "Ways to Feel Better Right Now!" as ways of coping with stress. I think some of the ideas can help us get through some of the intensity of this time of year. They are small things, yet effective if used at the right time.

- Stop whatever you are doing, close your eyes, and take ten slow, deep breaths.
- Go to a quiet room and read a good book for a short time.
- Listen to your favorite music.
- Pray, meditate, or focus on your special relaxation word or phrase.
- Drink a nice, warm cup of chai tea.
- Listen to, watch, or read something funny.
- Go outside and take a walk.
- Run in place for five minutes.

- Call a friend and have a good conversation.
- Sing aloud.
- Take a warm bath.
- Tell yourself that things will calm down.

You probably have your own techniques for calming down when the holiday preparations and activities become too much. Let's share them with each other!

God bless everyone for a wonderful and fairly stress free holiday!

**Suellen**

## Thank You from Diane and the Forster Family

My family and I wish to express sincere appreciation to the Deacons, Membership/Fellowship Committee, church staff and others for their hard work and contributions of delicious food for Jack's recent memorial reception.

We are grateful to Dick Judd for his music and lovely bouquet he and Marian provided in Jack's memory. Many thanks to Marian and James Holmes for ushering at the service. Our heartfelt appreciation to Cornel for his caring and loving support during this difficult time. I am truly blessed with my extended Redwoods Church family.

Most sincerely,

**Diane Forster and family**

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

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8:30 Walking Group	3
4 <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>  9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	5	6 9:30 Bell Choir 11:00 Bible Study  7:00 Mission Outreach Committee	7  7:30 Choir	8	9 8:30 Walking Group	10
11 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education 12:00 Mill Street 4:00 Christmas Carols	12	13 9:30 Bell Choir 11:00 Bible Study  7:00 Deacons	14  LOG Deadline  7:30 Choir	15	16 8:30 Walking Group	17
18 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education Fair	19	20 9:30 Bell Choir 11:00 Bible Study  7:00 Session	21  7:30 Choir	22 LOG Mailing	23 8:30 Walking Group	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>  7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols
25 <i>Christmas</i> 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Children's Education	26	27 9:30 Bell Choir 11:00 Bible Study  7:00 Membership/Fellowship Committee	28  7:30 Choir	29	30	31

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, California 94939

## Helping Hands in November – Thank you so much!



### Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes, Marian & Dick Judd, Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele Putzi, Nancy Rademacher, 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

### Greeters & Ushers

June Bellen, Marjorie Egger, Melissa Gill, James  
Holmes, Debbie Lundberg, Marian Judd, Zachary Paul-  
son, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher, Jan Salas, Bar-  
bara Slusher, Clay Wiens

### Coffee Hour

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Margaret Erwin, Membership/ Fel-  
lowship Committee

### December Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

**December 4:** Nancy Rademacher (L), Debbie Lundberg (G),  
Elein Phipps (U), Dan Phipps (U)

**December 11:** Faith McClellan (L), Kitty Prosser (G),  
John Girton (U), Ben Girton (U)

**December 18:** Elein Phipps & Family (L), June Bellen (G),  
Marjorie Egger (U), Clay Wiens (U)

**December 24:** Melissa Gill and Youth (L), Kitty Prosser (G),  
June Bellen (U), Marilyn Sutherland (U)

**December 25:** Kitty Prosser (G),  
Suellen Barnett (U), Ani Lelea (U)