



The Redwoods Log

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

From The Rev. Dr. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Hallowthanksmas is upon us. Halloween this year brought us a lovely All Saint's Day when we honored the saints in our lives in worship. We saw displayed pictures and memorabilia of friends and loved ones.

Our church is amazing!

We acknowledged Thanksgiving in worship with guest preacher, the Rev Bob Jones. There is so much to be thankful for. If all we did in life was say "thanks" that would suffice, wrote Meister Eckhart. It's hyperbola but he makes an excellent point.

Our church is amazing!

We are already into the Advent/Christmas season, truly one of the most wonderful times of the year. The weather has turned into winter chill and it's a great excuse to enjoy hot-mulled cider and a fire in the fireplace if you have one. More overtly spiritually, worship comes alive in beautiful ways and we boost our mission giving at the Alternative Christmas Faire.

Our church is amazing!

If this LOG has reached you before the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, try to be in worship when we decorate the Christmas tree in worship with Chrismons interspersed with Advent and Christmas songs. This year, our Christmas concert will take place during worship on the second Sunday of December, which will be the Third Sunday of Advent. Advent is also meaningful in that we light the Advent candles at the beginning of worship. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we will support the Christmas Joy Special Offering which is distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (helps low-paid mission workers earn a livable pension) and Racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Our church is amazing!

Finally, Christmas Eve invites us to celebrate the birth of Jesus with the Annual Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols and special poetry chosen for the occasion. The singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night" with candles in hand is a fitting way to usher in Christmas and end the Hallowthanksmas season.

Peace and Goodwill,
Cornel

Community Formation

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Pastoral Associate**

Greetings from your Pastoral Associate!

May God's blessings be upon you this Advent season, as we look forward to witnessing a light in the darkness—the birth of our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Compassionate Kids are growing in number as soccer season has ended and thus freed up time for former participants. We also have a new sibling joining us! We look forward to the participation of Compassionate Kids in the worship service on Sunday, December 13. We have been following and adapting the new PC(USA) curriculum, "Growing in Grace and Gratitude." That title has certainly been my experience working with these wonderful children, along with the great help from Debbie, Diane, and Molly.

The Tuesday morning Bible study also has some brand new participants as well as returning ones! We will be finishing our PC(USA) study, "Come to the Waters" on December 1, with a special end-of-year gathering on December 8. We will spend this time for fellowship and reflection and also will be creating care-bags for the homeless: bags filled with water, nutrition bars, socks, toothbrush/toothpaste, and a list of food pantries and shelters, along with the Bible verse: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Phillipians 4:13). Our Bible study members will leave our last session of the year with these bags to personally distribute to those in need.

I look forward to all of the special services this month as we celebrate Advent and Christmas, and as we conclude the year on December 27 celebrating the baptism of our newest member.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:30-33

Grace and Peace, **Stephanie**

Music Notes

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder
Music Director**

Glad Tidings from your Music Director!

The musicians of Redwoods are looking forward to a special service of music on December 13! Our 10 am service will be joyous with special music from the Bell Choir, Family Band and Compassionate Kids. At our 7 pm Christmas Eve service on December 24, we welcome back musician Devon Lawrence, who blessed us last Christmas Eve with her powerful and unique vocals and playing.

The Bell Choir will be sharing their glorious gift of music for the third year in a row at The Tamalpais Community in Greenbrae on Sunday, December 6 at 3 pm. We appreciate the participation of our wonderful Master of Ceremonies, Tani Girton, along with all of the Bell Choir members who underestimate the value of their ringing! It is truly a precious and enriching gift to all who are fortunate to hear.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:76-79

Blessings and Peace, **Stephanie**

Deacons' Corner

From Chair Tani Girton

As the holidays approach, the Deacons encourage all to be fully present in each moment with family, friends and neighbors.

Take time to be still and give thanks for the wondrous world we live in and to understand how God wants us to spread his love around it.

Remember that those moments are the most precious gifts we can give to our loved ones, ourselves and our Lord.

2 Be calm and let the holidays carry on!

Tani

December Church Mouse



We were very moved at the All Saints Sunday worship service on November 1. Many photos and mementos were placed on a table where Cornel gave a blessing. We also gave special recognition to Wayne Slem, our long time faithful member who died on October 21. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wayne's daughter, Susan, who attended the service along with Wayne's friends. Sadly, we also lost long time member, Herb Schmidt, on November 9, Herb along with wife, LaVerne, were faithful, dedicated members. Herb was an elder and treasurer.

Cornel and Suellen Barnett attended the two-day Preaching Conference Retreat at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe and spent extra time enjoying the lovely area. So happy to hear Bonnie Kaiser, husband and cat have moved into their new home in Novato. We have enjoyed having Gabriele's sister, Angie, visiting from Canada. She has been Gabriele's "right hand" as Gabriele anxiously awaits the removal of her arm splint from previous hand surgery. Dick Judd's daughter, Liza, visited recently keeping her Dad company. Dick enjoyed her delicious meals! We are pleased to have Sharon MacQuarrie join our chancel choir. Sharon and husband Dan are now living in Greenbrae as they await the sale of their house in Montana.

On Stewardship Sunday, the Parke Kurtz Handbell Choir, directed by Stephanie, performed lovely music during worship. At coffee hour, Tani and John Girton treated everyone to scrumptious crepes. They were busy bees in the kitchen cooking and serving as fast as possible! Special thanks to the Girtons, Ed Vorous, Nancy Rademacher and the Mission Outreach Committee for the very special treat. And special thanks to Jan Salas, who drives two hours each way to attend bell choir practices! That's dedication!

Happy news and congratulations to the Rev. Dan White who was recently sworn in as the Marin County Sheriff's Department Chaplain. Along with wife Becky and son Dan Jr., who recently moved from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department to Marin Sheriff's Department, Cornel attended representing Redwoods. Merry Christmas and blessings to all! **The Mouse**

Mission Outreach News

From Jan Salas
Christmas Joy Offering
Promises Made, Promises Kept

"For God who has promised is faithful."

Hebrews 10:23

On Sunday, December 20, we will join with Presbyterians everywhere in the Christmas Joy Offering.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since 1930. One half of the offering provides funding to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. These programs provide critical financial assistance to qualifying retired church workers and their families.

This funding is a way of caring for Presbyterians who have supported the church throughout their lives, at times when they find themselves in need. In 2013, 304 households were provided income supplements and 287 households were assisted with housing supplements.

The Christmas Joy Offering also continues the Presbyterian Church's commitment to higher education, including the support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Many students receive much needed scholarship assistance and the schools get help with basic operating costs. With the burden of debt reduced, today's students and future church leaders are more able to pursue their professional goals.

All PC USA schools and colleges are open to any qualified student, regardless of race. Many of the students attending these colleges are the first in their families to enroll in higher education. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will allow these schools and colleges to continue their ministries in an ever changing world.

The Mission/Outreach Committee thanks the members and friends of Redwoods Church for your participation in this special offering.

Jan

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Ginger Gmahling

A few weeks ago I gave a talk on water issues at the Saturday Breakfast and offered information in the form of a quiz. Nancy Rademacher, Chair of the Membership/Fellowship Committee, the sponsor of the Saturday Breakfast, asked me to provide the quiz in the LOG for everyone.

So, here is your opportunity to test yourself about important water issues. The answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. Where does Marin water come from?
2. What percentage of our oxygen do we get from the ocean?
3. What is the average number of gallons a person uses in a day?
4. What is Irvine famous for?
5. How many gallons of water does it take to produce one pound of meat?
6. How many years has it been since California's water regulations have been updated?
7. Who said, "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting?"
8. What is the profit percentage that Nestle Corporation makes bottling hundreds of millions of gallons of our water to sell back to us?
9. How much does Nestle Corporation pay us annually for extracting millions of gallons at one of these locations?
10. Are our toilets flushed with drinking water or recycled water?

I hope you enjoyed learning more about our precious resource of water during this historic drought!

Ginger

Earth Prayers

From Helen Morita

This poem is from *Earth Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

If I were alone in a desert
 and feeling afraid,
 I would want a child to be with me.
 For then my fear would disappear
 and I would be made strong.
 This is what life in itself can do
 Because it is no noble, so full of pleasure
 and so powerful.
 But if I could not have a child with me
 I would like to have at least a living animal
 at my side to comfort me.

Therefore,
 let those who bring about wonderful things
 in their big, dark books
 take an animal
 to help them.
 The life within the animal
 will give them strength in turn.
 For equality
 gives strength, in all things
 and at all times.

**Meister Eckhart
Helen**

Quiz Key

1. 80% Mt. Tam Reservoir 20% Russian River
2. 50%
3. 115 gallons
4. Irvine is known for watering their parks with recycled water.
5. 1000 gallons to produce a lb of meat.
6. How many years has it been since California water regulations have been updated?
7. Mark Twain famously said, "whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting!"
8. Profit percentage for Nestle corp. is 1000%
9. Amount Nestle corp. pays in one year at one location to extract millions of gallons of water is \$524!
10. Drinking water

Special Note: Now in the colder weather, all of us using church rooms need to remember that when we raise the temperature on a thermostat, we must lower it when leaving. Please conserve energy!

December 2015

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939



Helping Hands in November – Thank you!

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/Fellowship Committee
5th Sunday – June Bellen

Liturgists, Greeters & Ushers

November 1	Ed Vorous (L) Alan Edmonson (G) Carrie Kim (U)	November 29 1st Advent	N & M Rademacher (L) Debbie Lundberg (G) Iris Giacotto (U)	December 20	Selin Holder (L) Tani Girton (G) Ani Lelea (U)
November 8	June Bellen (L) Clay Wiens (G) Nancy Rademacher (U)	December 6	Carrie Kim (L) Suellen Barnett (G) Clay Wiens (U)	December 24	TBA (L) Margaret Erwin (G) Rademacher Family Maisie & Jim Campbell (U)
November 15	Ani Lelea(L) Bonnie Kaiser (G) Debbie Lundberg (U)	December 13	Tani Girton (L) Gabriele Putzi (G) Ed Vorous (U)	December 27	Bonnie Kaiser (L) Ani Lelea (G) Maisie Campbell (U)
November 22	Clay Wiens (L) Nancy Rademacher (G) Margie Egger (U)				

Happy Birthday! From Deacons Moderator Tani Girton

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

9 – Beth Benz, 10 – Helen Morita, 21 – Maisie Campbell, 24 – Robert Putzi

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