

December 2017



# *The Redwoods LOG*

Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Avenue,  
Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org)

**From Rev. Stephanie Ryder**

**Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!**

As the days grow shorter and shorter and the darkness and coldness urge us to snuggle in, I am reminded that "There is No Place Like Our Church Home for the Holidays." While there is a month ahead of hustle and bustle, shopping and cooking, wrapping and sending, hosting and decorating, traveling and party-going, our church home ever reminds us of the Reason for the Season.

We are called, as a church family, to be witness to the coming light of Christ in the darkness, and to let the light within us shine forth. We are called to make room for this light and love in our lives. We are called to be still and silent as we await and behold the shining star leading us to peace.

One of our committee members shared a devotional recently from the chapter "A Place to Belong" in *The Purpose-Driven Life* by Rick Warren, highlighting the benefits of a church family: Only in regular contact with ordinary, imperfect believers can we learn real fellowship and experience the New Testament truth of being connected and dependent on each other. Participating in the life of a church builds spiritual muscle and helps us to grow in spiritual maturity.

As a church family, we are instructed to love each other, pray for each other, encourage each other, counsel each other, greet each other, serve each other, teach each other, accept each other, honor each other, bear each other's burdens, forgive each other, and be devoted to each other. Each of us has a unique role to play in our church family by sharing the spiritual gifts we have been given. Our church home allows us a place to discover, develop and utilize these gifts. In summation: "In Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5).

I look forward to the entering and celebrating this season of Advent and Christmas with all of you in our church home, which extends beyond our building and into the greater community, world and lives of others.

Blessings,

Stephanie

*"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them... and the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:9-11*

## Music Notes Denise Wharmby

"We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
and a Happy New Year!"

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!"

"For unto us a child is born....."

So many lyrics of songs and beautiful melodies form part of our culture and experience from birth and weave their magic into and throughout our lives. Which songs resonate most with you? And why?

During the next weeks, we will hear and sing songs which are timeless and familiar, listen as the choir and bell choir feature with their anthems and special music, and reflect on this amazing thing called Life, as we all join to sing and celebrate the season.

So much to be thankful for! Merry Christmas!

Musically, *Denise*

## Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee

The Membership/Fellowship Committee would like to introduce Kay Louisson, our newest member at Redwoods Church. Many of you already know Kay as our hard working, dedicated and talented Office Administrator.

Kay has lived in the Bay Area since 1990. Originally from New Zealand, she moved to Sydney, Australia when she was 19 years old and has never looked back, finding her way to San Francisco and settling in the U.S.

We are so happy that Kay has decided to join our church community. Please introduce yourselves to Kay if you haven't already done so and give her a warm welcome.

Blessings, *Nancy*

## Deacons Corner

As Deacons we treasure the part we play in this special family at Redwoods. We diligently pray for all of you and we celebrate our combined ministry with you.

A former pastor of Jim's and mine reminded us that he was the Pastor but we members were ALL ministers. (Stephanie says "Amen!")

Now we look forward with great anticipation to the Advent season where we embrace the season of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace.

Blessings, *Polly*

## Mission Outreach

Christmas Joy Offering – “Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift” – 2 Corinthians 9:15. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. The following information was shared with us by the Presbyterian Mission Organization in their leader's guide for the Christmas Joy Offering:

This offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. Funds are distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. The money received by the racial ethnic schools provide education and leadership development to equip future leaders for ministry.

More information about this offering will be shared in the weeks leading up to the offering in Worship, bulletin inserts and posters. Please check out the “What Does The Christmas Joy Offering Do?” sheet posted in Fellowship Hall by the sign-up sheets by the coffee table.

Blessings from the Mission Outreach Committee,  
*Debbie*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December 2017</b>					1	2
<b>3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT/ HOLY COMMUNION</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am Deacons Meeting 11:15am Mission Outreach Committee	4	5 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Choir	6 3:30pm Compassionate Kids	7 7:30pm Choir	8	9
<b>10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:30am Session Meeting 12:00pm Mill Street Meal Delivery	11	12 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Choir	13 3:30pm Compassionate Kids	14 7:30pm Choir	15	16
<b>17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/ BIRTHDAY SUNDAY</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am Membership/Fellowship Committee	18	19 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Choir	20 3:30pm Compassionate Kids	21 7:30pm Choir	22	23
<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship  7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30
<b>31 CAFÉ-STYLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	<b>We will continue our tradition of honoring loved ones during Christmas with donations of poinsettias and fruit trees. Please see your bulletin or call the office to make a donation.</b>					

## December Mouse



November was a time away for some in our congregation. Pastor Stephanie spent part of her vacation visiting her son Brooks in Seattle where he attends the University of Washington. Blessings to her and others from the congregation who volunteered their time with evacuees of the North Bay fires.

Before the fires our office administrator Kay Louisson rode the Smart Train from San Rafael to Santa Rosa. She hopped off in Santa Rosa and rode her bike around the area and returned by train. She thoroughly enjoyed the trip! We are very happy to welcome Kay as a new member of Redwoods.

Joyce Wells traveled on a cruise ship from Miami visiting different ports in the Caribbean through the Panama Canal all the way to San Diego. Sounds like an adventurous trip.

So happy to have Georgene Gmahling back worshipping with us. Also very nice to see Marjorie Egger along with son Steve.

Such a blessing to have the Compassionate Kids participating in worship November 19. Their talented singing, announcements and scripture readings fill us with joy.

Our continued prayers for June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Iris Giacotto and Marilyn Sutherland.

The Mouse would like to “pass the cheese” on to someone who might like to nibble (meaning write) the Mouse column next year. If this sounds like something you might be interested in please leave a message at the church office.

Wishing all a joyful and blessed Christmas,  
The Mouse

Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
110 Magnolia Avenue,  
Larkspur, CA, 94939



## Helping Hands in November – Thank you!

### Mill Street Meals

Karen Carmody, Joan Emerson, Diane Forster,  
Polly & Jim Gorder, Bonnie Kaiser, Sara Laureyns,  
Debbie Lundberg, Gabriele & Robert Putzi, Nancy  
Rademacher, Joan Robinson, Stephanie Ryder,  
Joyce Wells.

### Coffee Hour

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – TBA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Mission Outreach Committee  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Deacons  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Membership/Fellowship Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – TBA

A special  
thank you and  
blessings to all  
of the Liturgists,  
Greeters and  
Ushers during  
November.

### Liturgists – December

3 – Tani Girton  
10 – Clay Wiens  
17 – Katie Zwarg  
24 – Compassionate Kids  
31 – Café-style Worship

### Happy December Birthdays!

**From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder**

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

1 - Bryan Webb  
10 - Helen Morita  
21 - Maisie Campbell  
24 - Robert Putzi

Add your name and birth date to our list by con-  
tacting [office@redwoodspres.org](mailto:office@redwoodspres.org) or 415-924-4832.

**Polly**