



The Redwoods Log

January 2012 Redwoods Presbyterian Church 110 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832

From The Rev. Cornel Barnett

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I trust you had a meaningful Christmas. This is indeed a most wonderful time of the year. I'm actually writing this letter before Christmas.

Most of you know that I made an emergency trip to South Africa recently to officiate at the memorial service of my Uncle Charlie. It was a worthwhile visit. When I take trips outside of my zone I encounter all kinds of "non-religious" or non-churched people and family and friends who are interested in spiritual matters and especially the church.

I spoke with a man on the plane from London to San Francisco who told me that he wasn't "religious" and encouraged me to "imagine there's no religion." I replied that this line by John Lennon was trite and superficial and added that the meaning of religion is "to bind," to bind up wounds and to bind people into a community of meaning and compassion. The world of religions is too vast and deep to be so easily dismissed.

People are legitimately concerned about religion's restrictiveness and religion's engagements in war and conflict. We, too, are critical about this especially when we know of religion's capacity to free us in soul, mind and body and we know, too, that people often confuse religion with political ideology and political ideology's use of religion to foment conflict. It's not simple.

The church really is a valuable community of folk caring and supporting each other, especially in the US culture that has lifted up individualism and has thus isolated people from each other. The church provides community that's been lost from more communally-based cultures.

The church helps us to get out of ourselves, especially in our worship of God who holds the earth and stars and universe together. Through worship and education, the church helps us to build a better world, to be more about love, compassion, peace and justice. The church supports a mission-mindedness where we are concerned about the well-being of the world and all in the world.

One doesn't throw away one's minds when one believes. We value science and all that science brings, and we value the loving, caring energy behind it all that we call God.

We affirm that God came powerfully among us in the person of Jesus Christ who showed the way to all the good things about our faith and promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us in his stead, to enable us to live his life through our own personalities and in our own walks of life. Somehow God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit form a unity. It's difficult to explain this oneness and yet we believe it so, and it inspires our lives.

Bottom-line, the church – and religion – enable us to be fully alive and excited about life. God bless you as you move into this New Year and as we grow together as God's church here in this beautiful part of God's world.

With Love and Peace for 2012,
Cornel

January Church Mouse



Greetings from Mr. Mouse and Spouse!

As we write "The Mouse," Christmas is in the air at Redwoods! The season really got started with the *Spirit of Christmas Sing Along* on December 11. The singers ranged from 95-year-old Klara Larsen in her Santa hat to three-year-old Anita Widney-Large in her adorable Christmas outfit. There was lots of good food and fellowship to cap the evening. Molly Rademacher and the kids made cookies. Mouse spouse and a lot of others hope Nancy Rademacher will share her meatball sauce recipe.

We're happy to have had visitors from Marin Service for Women Residence these past few weeks. Welcome to our new neighbors and their children.

Some Redwoods people are coming home for Christmas. Iris Giacotta's great-grandson, Kyle Trotsky, an Army Ranger, is home after being on a secret mission most of the year. This makes for a very special time! Kyle has a brother, John Riberia, who is in the Air Force and going to school in Mississippi.

Also coming home for Christmas is Jeff Lelea who is looking forward to nicer weather than that in Princeton, New Jersey. All this makes Ani happy too.

Lots of other people are going away! Melissa Gill and her three sons are taking a two-week cruise to Hawaii! That's a "wow" holiday vacation.

Kitty Prosser is going to visit her family in Long Beach where she'll get to see great-grandsons, Logan Lloyd and Blake Ryan Prosser. Kitty will be seeing Blake for the first time!

Jennifer Garcia and her dad are going to Mexico to visit Jennifer's grandmother, who she hasn't seen since she was three. Incidentally, Jennifer's class at Henry Hall sang Christmas carols at the Village Shopping Mall in Corte Madera recently.

Sixteen Redwoods people were playgoers! They saw *To Kill a Mocking Bird* at the Barn Theater at the Ross

Art and Garden Center and were very impressed with the production.

Faith McClellan is using her great talents to work with our younger members. One Sunday she, Zack Paulson and Ben Girton had lunch at Counters where they have those super burgers! Good work, Faith.

We are saddened by the December 6 death of Mercedes Irwin who was always pleasant and had a neat sense of humor. Mercedes was a native of Pennsylvania like the Mouse people!

We miss Helen Morita! We're happy to hear that she is recovering and was recently able to move back to her home, thanks to the addition of a chair lift to take her up and down the stairs.

As always, it was good to see Dan White back at Redwoods on December 4. Redwoods is Dan's "home church" and Dan is Redwood's "forever friend and inspiration."

Oops. Mouse made a mistake last month. Margaret Erwin's grandson, Brendan Kester, who recently moved to Hong Kong, is not employed by the U.S. Government. Sorry about that

That is all for 2011! See you in 2012!

Mr. Mouse and Spouse

January Happy Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder

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

- 7 – Margaret Richards, 8 – Inga Coleman,
- 8 – Jim Egger, 8 – Zach Paulson ('96),
- 11 – Rory Little, 11 – Wayne Slemp, 19 – Clay Wiens,
- 23 – Elein Phipps, 25 – Molly Rademacher ('85) and
- Mari Robinson, 27.

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

Polly

January Choir News

**From Music Director
Barbara Bacon-Shaw**

January is a great month for music. The church season of Christmas extends beyond December 25 to the beginning of Epiphany on January 6, so we still have time in early January to enjoy Christmas music that we didn't have a chance to sing or play in December. Following Epiphany, we move to songs about the visiting kings. Listen for a little music from "Amahl and the Night Visitors" to fill out the Magi theme in early January.

Winter songs can bring a melancholy that suits the season, which you'll hear in songs such as "In the Bleak Mid Winter" by the great composer Gustav Theodore Holst, and also in "See Amid the Winter's Snow," "The Snow Lay on the Ground" and "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime." These songs offer great visual imagery to match the quiet contemplation of the season. During the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, listen for lively racial/brotherhood music from different cultural strains, and at the end of January join in the musical celebration of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan.

I am happy to report that the bell choir has returned to its full complement of members and practice times so that they will be offering some great tunes of the Epiphany and winter season during the January 22 worship service.

As always, if you love to sing or have an interest in the bells, please know you would be warmly welcomed in the choir and bell choir—please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your participation. The regular practice times in 2012 for the choir will be 7:30 pm Thursdays and 9:15 am Sundays; the bell choir will meet at 9 am on Tuesdays.

Happy New Year!

Barbara

A Word from your Intern

**From SFTS Intern
Faith McClellan**

I will never forget New Year's Eve with my family. It was always very quiet, probably because my parents were pretty tired after Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations that always included special time spent with family and friends. New Year's Eve was a far cry from that! My parents told us that New Year's Eve should be a more reflective time, a time to look back on the past year and thank God for the many blessings given to us, a time to reflect on how we could be good stewards to whatever blessings God sent our way in the new year!

My mother wanted us to bring in the New Year as a family, offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God. As my parents would retreat to their bedroom, my brothers and I were instructed to wake them up as soon as the ball dropped from Times Square in New York so that we could pray together.

My brothers and I couldn't believe it! We were young, and falling on our knees to pray didn't sound as exciting as watching all the bands on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve 'til the wee hours of the morning, but we did as we were told. I have come to realize over the years how blessed my brothers and I were to have parents who taught us to remember that God is the source of all of life. It instilled in me an attitude of gratefulness that I practice up to this day!

As the clocks strike midnight this year, and as you bid family and friends a "Happy New Year," don't forget to take a few minutes to say a prayer of thanksgiving to the One who walks with us through every moment of our lives. Happy New Year!

Many Blessings for 2012, **Faith**

Membership/Fellowship Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

Welcome to the New Year! It is a time to reflect on 2011 and to imagine and dream of the possibilities for the year ahead. Our Redwoods family celebrated a joyous holiday season, although tinged with sadness for the significant losses of very special people that occurred this year.

Sixteen of us enjoyed a remarkable *To Kill a Mockingbird* performance by the Ross Valley Players in early December. It was truly a great afternoon of fellowship together. The *Spirit of Christmas Sing Along* was attended by many members, families and friends, who all had the joy of singing memorable carols accompanied by the fabulous musicians in our midst: Dick Judd on organ, Georgene Gmahling on the piano and Dan Phipps on the cello, followed by a festive reception in Fellowship Hall.

The Membership/Fellowship committee is planning some fun and interesting activities as the year progresses, including more play opportunities. Please mark your calendar for the next Saturday breakfast, scheduled for January 21. Our program presenter will be our faithful and talented Office Administrator and good friend, Mari Robinson, who will share her faith journey and her beautiful artwork. Mari is a bird watercolorist and she uses her art as part of her spiritual direction. The potluck breakfast begins at 9:30 am with the program starting at 10 am. Please join us as we learn more about Mari's many talents.
Happy New Year to all!

Nancy

Special Needs and Endowment Committee News

From Chair Nancy Rademacher

This is the time of year when we are especially aware of our many blessings and how much our families,

including our wonderful Redwoods Church family mean to us.

In order to ensure that Redwoods Church and its mission, vision and long history in this community continue for many years to come, please consider a gift, no matter the size, which will help to make a positive investment towards Redwoods Presbyterian Church's long term future viability.

Outright gifts are welcome, as are including Redwoods Presbyterian Church, ID No. 94-1347047 (Tax ID number must be included), as one of the beneficiaries in your estate plans.

Thanks for all you do for this church and your generosity.

Nancy

Thank You from Diane and the Forster Family

Dear Friends at Redwoods,
My family and I thank you for all the lovely cards sent to us with Jack's passing.

It was comforting to receive the caring messages and prayers during this time.

Most sincerely,

Diane and family

Thank You from Helen Morita

I recently read through all the cards that I have received during this illness.

I am touched by all the good thoughts and prayers.

I am far from ready to make any regular attendance at church, so I am using this vehicle to thank you all for your love and concern.

Helen

Mission Outreach Committee News

From Chair Debbie Lundberg

No Bushel Baskets In Sight

During a recent worship service, one of the readings came from the Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 5. Part of the reading is, *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand and it gives light to all ... In the same way, let your light shine before others. ..."*

As a young girl these words were inspiring to me and it would appear they have had the same effect on the members and friends of Redwoods. The generous support of this year's Alternative Christmas Fair provides a great light in the darkness bringing love, hope, justice, and blessings to many.

At our December meeting we learned the fair raised \$2,464, which is awesome, amazing, overwhelming and wondrous! The funds will be distributed as follows: Bread for the World \$192, Church World Service \$282, Equal Exchange \$220, Faith In Practice \$430, Habitat for Humanity \$299, Heifer Project \$622, and Marin Interfaith Chaplaincy \$285.

May the light continue to shine as brightly as you have made it shine for so many others in December!

Debbie

News from the Deacons From Deacon Elein Phipps

Over the last two months, on behalf of the Redwood Deacons, I have asked the following question in the LOG, "Have you thought about what you would do if an earthquake or other disaster happened here in Marin?"

I also let you know about "Get Ready Marin," a countywide disaster preparedness program that emphasizes the critical importance of the ability of Marin residents to survive in their homes for 72 hours following a disaster, and I noted that this first line of defense, called "Shelter in Place," is expected to save more lives than any other personal preparedness effort.

As a Deacon concerned about the welfare of our congregation, I was happy to pass along the information from "Get Ready" that says we must prepare mentally (know what to do) and prepare physically (assemble supplies) to be able to survive a serious disaster. "Get Ready" recommends that to get started you should take a class and then follow up by gathering what you will need. I passed along the recommendation to find class times and supplies at www.getreadylarkspur.org and to click on "Take a class" or "Download materials" at that site to get all the information you needed.

But wait, did you take those recommended steps? Did you take a class and gather all the supplies you needed? If you did, congratulations! If you did not, please take advantage of the opportunity the Redwoods Deacons is providing to congregation members and friends, a special class just for you immediately after the 10 am Sunday worship service on January 29.

If you would like to survive a serious disaster and have not already learned the best ways to do that, please attend our January 29 class. Also feel free to contact me at 924-2603 or demm@dpaweb.com if you have any questions or want more information. We look forward to seeing you on January 29.

Elein

Counseling Corner

From Suellen Barnett, MA, LMFT

A friend from Australia sent us the following article in his Christmas letter. In the spirit of Christmas I pass it along...

It Will Take People

Prophet people who dare to lay bare the fallacies that choke and bind us;

Parent people who look with love at the work of their creation and refuse to leave their children only a heritage of destruction;

Nurture people who grow plants and feed birds and love what is green, fresh and growing;

Healing people whose hands touch others into life and well-being;

Poet people who call us beyond where we are;

Fun people whose role through time has been to nurture, to empower others, to make grow, to make new again;

Soul people whose eyes are clear and open, inviting trust and the kind of bonding that draws us together;

Justice people who cry out against the oppressors of people and the destroyers of the earth;

Little people who don't know themselves as special but who are the salt of the earth.

It will take people; Spirit people fired with a holy madness who believe our world can be transformed into a place of joy and hope and love.

It will take all people to join the circle: Who inspires/d you?

Happy New Year!

Suellen

Support for Women

The following article comes from the Leadership Conference of the PCUSA Office of Presbyterian Women.

“The Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world.

To date, 186 out of 192 United Nations member states have ratified CEDAW. The United States is one of only seven countries – including Iran, Sudan, Somalia, and three small Pacific Island nations (Nauru, Palau and Tonga) – that have not ratified CEDAW.

Ratifying the CEDAW treaty would continue the U.S.'s proud bipartisan tradition of protecting human rights. Ratification required 67 senators to stand together for women and has no additional financial cost. Around the world, CEDAW has been used to reduce sex trafficking and domestic abuse; provide access to education and vocational training; ensure the right to vote; improve maternal health care; ensure the ability to work without discrimination; end forced marriage; and ensure inheritance rights.

Ratifying CEDAW would strengthen the United States as a global leader in standing up for women and girls.” For more info, see www.ratifiedaw.org.

The Mission Outreach Committee encourages members to sign postcards that will be made available in Fellowship Hall. They will be sent to PCUSA's Whitney Gusby who will then send them on to the Senate. Thank you for your support for this important issue.

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

January 2012

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

Redwoods Presbyterian Church
110 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

Helping Hands in December – Thank you so much!



Mill Street Shelter Meals

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Marjorie & Jim Egger, Margaret Erwin, Diane Forster, Iris Giacotto, Melissa Gill, Polly & Jim Gorder, Marian & Dick Judd, Jolyne Liberati, Debbie Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher, Barbara Slusher, Lori Wood

Liturgists

Melissa Gill & Youth, Debbie Lundberg,
Faith McClellan, Elein Phipps & Family,
Nancy Rademacher

Coffee Hour

June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Melissa Gill, Marjorie & Jim Egger,
Nancy Rademacher

Greeters & Ushers

Suellen Barnett, June Bellen, Marjorie Egger, Ben &
John Girton, Debbie Lundberg, Marian Judd, Ani Lelea,
Elein & Dan Phipps, Kitty Prosser, Nancy Rademacher,
Marilyn Sutherland, Clay Wiens