

Hill ‘n Vale

Newsletter of the Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches
September / October 2017

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Visit us at Tomalespresbyterian.org and TwoRockValleyPresbyterian.org

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Dear Friends in Two Rock and Tomales,

October 31st will mark the 500th anniversary of The Protestant Reformation! As churches that are part of the Protestant branch of the Christian faith community, we will observe this rather monumental event during worship on October 29.

Admittedly, even history buffs might be hard pressed to get excited about an event that took place in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517—so why are we celebrating it still, 500 years later? And what does “reformation” mean for us today?

It is clear that all major leaders of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther (1484-1546), Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531), John Calvin (1509-1564), and Menno Simons (1496-1561) wanted to re-form the Roman-Catholic Church of their day, wanted to re-shape it and fashion it more fully into the body of Christ. They envisioned a community that would emphasize the grace of God (*grace alone*), help believers grow in faith (*faith alone*), and center all preaching on *Scripture alone*. That way, it was hoped, people of faith could learn about God’s righteousness and grace, understand that our Savior reigns both in justice and

kindness, and approach their Lord through Scripture readings and devotions without a priest’s permission or interference.

As the Reformation unfolded, different groups of Protestant Christians emerged. John Calvin led what would become known as the Reformed Churches within the Protestant movement, churches that can be found today in Switzerland, Germany, Scotland, Hungary, France, USA (including our own denomination, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.), Korea, and other parts of the world. Their motto was, and is, “*Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*” — “The church reformed, always to be reformed”.

Presbyterian minister and Church historian Edward Dowey wrote some years ago that reform is the institutional counterpart to repentance. What an interesting observation, to suggest that the personal act of repentance can be compared to the church-wide action of reform! For repentance means that individual Christians heed the call to turn, again and again, to the creator of all that is, to the center of life, to God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Reformation at the institutional level means that the church as a whole allows itself to be re-shaped in order to conform more fully to the kind of community that our Lord desires for his disciples, one that includes people from all backgrounds and strives for justice and peace everywhere. And when we add to the phrase “*The Church*

Reformed” the slogan “*Always To Be Reformed*”, it implies that such re-forming and re-shaping is to happen not only once in the past, but that it is ongoing, that it is meant to happen now and again in the future.

As Presbyterians, we are used to re-shaping and re-forming our church. During the past five centuries, we have written different confessions to express our faith, we have discerned unique ways to govern ourselves, we have established new guidelines for living with one another in welcome, acceptance, and mutual respect. As a denomination and in our local churches, we have understood that “*the church reformed, always to be reformed*” is an ongoing task that our Lord has set before us, a calling that each generation is invited to embrace anew. That we have persisted in doing this for 500 years is indeed cause for celebration.

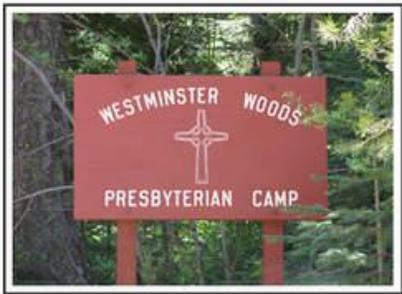
May the ongoing reformation of our church bring transformation for the entire faith community, to the glory of God and abundant life for all creation! Please join us for worship on Reformation Sunday.

Pastor Cornelia



THANK YOU'S

Many thanks to **Sue and Brent Russell**, who began in May to give our **hand bells** some much-needed care: not only did they polish all the bells to a beautiful shine, but they also determined that the spring in each bell needed to be replaced. Working on the springs is a slow process, with lots of attention to detail, much patience, and fiddly finger work needed. Sue completed the overhaul on August 9, just as the bells were ready to be shipped to a hand bell center in Texas for further service. What a labor of love and what a gift of time and talent, Sue and Brent. Thank you immensely!



Our church outing to **Westminster Woods on August 13** was fun and fabulous! About fifty people from both congregations gathered at the Woods' Redwoods Grove for worship at 11:00 am. This year we had some special music throughout the day : Gary Foster played the keyboard during our service and was accompanied on the violin by Kyle Craft. After lunch, David Coe brought out his guitar and led more than a dozen people in singing songs of joy and praise, accompanied again by Kyle. After worship, we shared a generous potluck lunch which included hotdogs barbequed to perfection by Eric Knudsen. Later in the afternoon, many adults and all the children went to the pool

for two hours of swimming. Everyone had a great day under the redwood trees, surrounded by the serenity and majesty of God's beautiful creation. It was truly an awe-some day.

At the beginning of September, **escrow is set to close** for a transaction that is important for the entire community of Two Rock. By then, legal documents will have been signed by Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church and Two Rock Volunteer Fire Department, documents that attest to the **sale of the church's portion of 7599 Valley Ford Road to the fire department**. With this action, a lengthy process will come to an end: It took more than five years to determine how the fire department and the church of Two Rock Valley would best handle a bequest that Alvin Hansen had made jointly to the two organizations.

Many thanks to the many individuals who were involved in numerous meetings, conversations, and negotiations! We are particularly grateful to Paul Martin and Bob Camozzi of the Two Rock Fire Department and to Katherine Higgins and Gillian Mahrt of Two Rock Church for bringing this process to its positive conclusion. Most especially, thank you, Alvin Hansen, for this generous gift to the Two Rock community.

WORSHIP

It's time, it's time, it's time
For the **time change!**
Beginning on Sunday,
September 10,
We will worship
In Tomales at 9:30 am
In Two Rock at 11:00 am
Until September 2018

Many thanks to **Rev. Linda Powers** for leading worship on August 20 and 27, while Pastor Cornelia and Carl were away on vacation to visit family in Germany and Greece.

Here are some worship highlights in September and October:

September 3: Founders' Day, with one joint service in Tomales Presbyterian Church at 10:00 am. Gary Foster will be joined by several other instrumentalists who will lead our two congregations in some favorite jazz-style hymns. We will also share communion with one another. There will be no worship in Two Rock that day.

September 10: the first Sunday of our time change, with **back-to-school** prayers for our children and their teachers

October 1: World Communion Sunday, when we celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christians all around the world

October 8: The Rev. Linda Powers will lead worship in both churches, while Pastor Cornelia and Carl travel to Bath, England, for the marriage of Cornelia's daughter Franziska to Jake Davies-Robinson.

October 15 and 22 will be our **Stewardship Sundays**, as we consider how we want to support the mission and ministry of our congregations in 2018.

October 29: Reformation Sunday when we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

November 5: All Saints Sunday with worship and communion in the sanctuary, followed by prayers, singing, and laying of flowers in the cemetery.

What a delight that there are now nine people who want to be part of the **Two Rock Choir!** Kay Fish will direct this enthusiastic group, with Margaret Todt accompanying the

singers on the organ or piano. The choir will sing an anthem every Sunday, right after the first reading of Scripture. To help the singers keep organized as they practice several pieces of music in advance, new choral folders were purchased for each choir member, and many thanks to Barbara Russell-Cambra and Nan Leavell for copying all the choir music. Choir rehearsal will be on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. For more information, please speak to Kay Fish.

In addition to the choir singing every Sunday, **joyful music** will also be shared with the **Two Rock congregation** through:

The **Men's Choir**: Mel Todt, Carl Graham, and Brent Russel,

Kyle Craft playing solos on his violin, and

the **Worship Ensemble** that David Coe would like to start, with guitar, bass, and voice.

These three groups will take turns offering the prelude or introit each week, except on Communion Sundays.

Our churches' three-octave **hand bell set** was originally purchased in 1993. Since then, members of both the Tomales and Two Rock congregations have joined together to play hand bell music, making this truly a joint music endeavor. And everyone in both churches loves to hear the bells being rung! Now our hand bells are getting the once-over: after Sue and Brent Russell polished them and replaced the springs, they were sent to Texas on August 15, where a trained technician from the Schulmerich Hand Bell Company will do some additional refurbishing. It will take four to six weeks until we receive our hand bells back. After that, they

can be rung again in their full sound and glory!



Gloria Pereira Williams

June 11, 1927 -
August 11, 2017

I am the resurrection and the life.
John 11:25

David Coe, who is well-versed in both music and technology, would like to **record our scripture readings and sermons** on Sunday mornings. He will do this via the recording capability of the sound system in Two Rock, though the recordings will be available to members and friends of both congregations. David plans to post the sermons on the websites of our churches, and will also make them available on CDs, as requested. Thank you very much, David!

For more than fifteen years, the Cathedral Choir of **First Presbyterian Church of Concord** held its annual choir retreat in Bodega Bay at the end of October. Following their retreat weekend, the singers would join our congregations in worship, always attending the church with the 11:00 o'clock service and sharing their amazing voices with us. The last two years have been a time of transition for the Concord congregation and their singers, and it is not yet clear if the choir will go on a retreat. Please watch for further notices in the church bulletin and online.

EDUCATION & LEARNING

© All children, youth, and teachers are invited to our **Back-to-School**

Sunday on September 10, the day on which we switch worship times. We want to pray for our children and honor our teachers who faithfully, year after year, instruct the next generation on how to learn and how to live. Please join us!

© Our **Adult Education** this fall will begin on Wednesday, October 18 and go for five weeks, through November 15. We will read Marcus Borg's recent book *Speaking Christian. Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—And How They Can Be Restored* (Harper Collins, 2011). We plan to meet in Two Rock at 6:00 pm, begin with a soup supper, then have devotional time, discuss our readings, and share our own thoughts and insights. Everyone is invited to participate; please contact Pastor Cornelia with any questions.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Many thanks to the many people who purchased **school supplies** for Two Rock Union School and Tomales Elementary School. By the end of summer vacation, the narthex of Two Rock Church and the Fellowship Hall in Tomales held lots of bags full of paper, notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, pencils, Kleenex, crayons, markers, and similar items. They were taken to the school offices in mid-August, just before the start of the school year. Staff and teachers were delighted and very grateful!



The 71st Two Rock Harvest Festival is coming up on Saturday, **September 16, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm!** This all-church fundraiser is a happy, special event for the congregation and the surrounding community, and everyone is invited to participate.

Some of our members work most of the year to offer items for sale at Harvest Festival: the crafts group gets together weekly to embroider and crochet dish towels, scarves, and blankets; the quilters meet seven months of the year to complete their quilts, table runners, potholders and such. Other people have planned for this event since the beginning of summer: the BBQ lunch, food purchases, and workers in the kitchen are lined up; advertisements in various media are planned; items for the Raffle and donations for the Silent Auction are being solicited now. And for those who have just a bit of time to spare, there is the set-up on Sunday, September 10, following worship and coffee hour; there is lending a hand during the event on September 16; then there is the clean-up afterwards.

Please join us for Harvest Festival and invite all your family and friends!

Part of the mission of both our congregations is to make our buildings and grounds available to other not-for-profit groups. That includes allowing our parking lots to be used as **rest stops for bicycle fund-raising events**. In September, there will be two such events in **Two Rock**: * Friday / Saturday, September 8th and 9th Breathe California — *The Clean Air and Healthy Lungs People*.

* Saturday, September 23, Waves-to-Wine / Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride.

There will be no **Farm-and-Flea Market in Tomales** this October. Instead, the organizers are planning to move this event to the Spring: the 12th Annual Tomales Farm & Flea Market will be held on **Sunday, May 6, 2018**. See you then!

Trunk-or-Treat, a favorite event in late fall, will happen on Monday, **October 30 at 6:30 pm** in the Two Rock Church parking lot. Adults are urged to decorate their car trunks and fill them with treats for the children of our churches and communities. Families are invited to bring their children and youth for a happy time of rushing from trunk to trunk in search of sweet Halloween treats. Come spend a fun evening with friends and neighbors from our area, including members of the Two Rock Fire Department.



PROPERTY & FINANCE

During the last weekend in July, **Cliff Stroke** and Kathy Stroke's son **Jon Parisian** installed two **speakers in the ceiling of the Two Rock Fellowship Hall**. This was the last stage in the long process of putting speakers in various rooms of the Two Rock church building, so that people can follow the worship service even when they are in the narthex, nursery, Sunday school room, fireside room, kitchen — and now the Fellowship Hall.

For those occasions when overflow crowds are seated in the fellowship hall, as has been the case recently during some Memorial Services, it will be most helpful to have good and strong loudspeaker. Thank you very much, Jon and Cliff, for your willingness to climb into the attic one more time, for your expertise in installing the right equipment, and for just doing it even on a warm summer morning! We are grateful!

That same July weekend, Cliff Stroke **removed the display case in the narthex in Two Rock**, to create more room as people enter and exit the church building. On Sunday mornings the area already feels more spacious, and the flow of foot traffic is greatly improved. Having more room in the narthex will be particularly helpful during major events, including Harvest Festival, when we welcome many people from the community. Thank you very much, Cliff!

Many thanks to Lonnie Wernstrum and Gillian Mahrt for overseeing a thorough **clean-up of the church property in Two Rock**. This will involve not only the final high-grass mowing for the year, but also the removal of debris behind the Manse, in the back of the parking area by the kitchen, and along the fence we share with the Two Rock Coast Guard Station. We will also have some **tree work** done: some branches that have grown into power lines will be pruned back, and a couple of smaller trees that are diseased will be removed. This work will improve the safety around the church property and its overall appearance. Thank you, Gillian and Lonnie, for getting us quotes and organizing this work. **Stewardship Season** is the time when members and friends of our congregations are invited to

consider how they want to support the ministry of their church. Do you have a special talent that would serve the needs of your congregation; do you have time to lend a helping hand to the various programs and projects at church; and would you please pledge to support the church's mission financially in 2018?

Please join us for our Stewardship Sundays on **October 15 and 22**, as we recommit ourselves to do the work, and to support the work, of being the body of Christ to one another and in our community.



CHURCH CARE & FELLOWSHIP

Coffee fellowship time in Two Rock is expanding, and we would love to expand the congregation's participation in hosting this much-loved event. We hope for a team of three or four people each Sunday: a host to make coffee, set out cups, plates, forks, spoons, creamer, sugar, and hot water for tea; two or three people to bring finger food, such as fruit, vegetables and dip, cheese and crackers, or baked goods; and everyone from the team to clean up afterwards.

So please join with your friends, or gather the people from your pew, or find everyone else who wears curls or polka dots or a beard — and make that your **coffee hour team**, for a joyful fellowship time for everyone!

SMALL GROUPS AT CHURCH

The **Two Rock Crafts Group** and the **Two Rock Quilters** are busy at work to get ready for Harvest Festival. On September 16, you will find their creations in the sanctuary, in the Fireside Room, and among Raffle and Silent Auction items. How wonderful that our women get together on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and how amazing to see what beautiful and useful things they make. Thank you, ladies!

The **Presbyterian Women of Two Rock Church** get together on the second Tuesday of the month. They have devotions; talk about people in need, events at church, and mission projects; and they always share a marvelous potluck lunch.

On **Saturday, October 28**, from 10:00 to 2:00, our PW will host a **Presbytery-wide gathering of Presbyterian Women**. They will begin their meeting with worship and communion; have a program with a special speaker for study and reflection; then there will be luncheon; followed by final discussions and devotions. All women of our churches in Two Rock and Tomales are invited to attend this event and to help host it. For more information, please contact Lea Ray Schultz.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

†The next **Presbytery Meeting** will be held at **St. Luke Presbyterian Church in San Rafael on Saturday, September 16**, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm

The fourth annual **Pedal for Protein** fundraiser is happening **September 17 through 23**. This bicycle ride through Northern California's vineyards and

redwoods, along the mighty ocean and quiet creeks, through hills and vales — this ride has raised over \$100,000 these last three years. All this money has been donated to the various food pantries that are active in our Presbytery, so that protein-rich foods could be purchased for the pantries' clients.

What's so exciting this year is that our very own **Mary Spragens**, an elder of Tomales Church, will join the ride on its last day. You may support Mary and the entire P4P crew by making a donation to Presbytery of the Redwoods, designated to P4P/ Mary Spragens. Then come and cheer on all the riders on September 23 as they bicycle through Santa Rosa.

COMMUNITY NEWS

On **Sunday, October 15**, from **4:30 to 8:00 pm**, a new event will be held at Tomales Town Hall. **La Mesa de las Abuelas, which means The Table of Our Grandmothers**, is envisioned as a gathering to build community across lines of race, language, background, and life experience. The emphasis will be on foods that our grandmothers made, that we remember fondly, and that we can share with one another around the table.

The event will be open to everyone in the community. Please bring a dish that reminds you of your grandmother and that is made using ingredients from the tradition of your family and culture. And do bring the recipe to share!

The annual **Free Flu Shot Clinic** will be held at **Tomales Town Hall on Tuesday, October 17**, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. People of all ages are welcome to get their flu shots. This is a good way to keep everyone in our communities healthy this winter.

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“For freedom Christ has set us free!
Stand firm therefore and do not submit
again to a yoke of slavery” Galatians 5:1

Joint Worship in Tomales: Sunday, September 3rd

Worship at 10:00 – Jazz band – Lunch in the park

Worship times change Sept. 11th: Tomales at 9:30 – Two Rock at 11:00

Two Rock 71st Annual Harvest Festival Saturday, Sept. 16th

*10:00am – 3:00pm – Crafts, cakes, quilts, produce, treasures & raffle
Chicken BBQ served from 11:30 – 2:30pm*

Reformation Sunday, October 29th

to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

Two Rock Trunk-or-Treat, Monday October 30th at 6:30pm

Post this on your refrigerator

