

Hill 'n Vale

Newsletter of the Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches
July/August 2018

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Visit us at Tomalespresbyterian.org and Tworockvalleypresbyterian.org

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Dear Friends in Two Rock and Tomales,

As I am writing this newsletter, I am already looking forward to our summer vacation: at the end of June, my husband Carl and I will fly to Pittsburgh, PA, to visit with our son, daughter-in-law, and new granddaughter Liesel. From there we will drive to Carl's childhood home in Potsdam, NY, and to the Adirondacks; eventually, we will end up in Boston and visit with Carl's three siblings. It's quite the trip that we have planned, with family visits and sight-seeing, with flights and lots of driving, but what an adventure!

It is good to take time off each year, whether during the summer or any other season. We all need to step away from our everyday tasks, so that there may be time for special events in our lives and for the pursuit of special interests. At its best, our away-time is meant to refresh our bodies and restore our souls. For that reason, we will want to include in our vacation some time to slow down and get extra rest, and we will also want to seek out some balm for our souls.

So no wonder that so many of us take trips to the mountains or the ocean or other spots where we can breathe deeply and notice again the goodness of God's creation.

No wonder that we make time to be with family and close friends, so that we may be refreshed through the love, care, and kindness we share with one another.

Of course, what really sustains us in life, whether we are on vacation or at work, is our relationship with God, our creator and redeemer, our comfort and strength. As the psalmist sang long ago:

*For God alone
my soul in silence waits;
from God comes my salvation.*

These words from Psalm 62:1 remind us that, whether we are traveling or staying home, we should certainly not take a vacation from prayers and worship; but, as other tasks diminish, we might actually spend more time in devotion to our Lord.

How about this: For those who will be traveling this summer — find a church at your vacation spot where you can attend worship; perhaps bring back the bulletin and share pictures. For those who are staying at home — find opportunities to be enriched in your faith right here in our community. Might you benefit from a prayer retreat once a week? Check out the Centering Prayer at the Episcopal Church in Petaluma. Might you want to lift your voice in praise to God? Why not join our church choirs or ring hand bells! Might you like to do some hands-on work in the name of Christ? Do remember our schools and the supplies they need for the next year.

However we spend our summer, may we spend more time with God. However much we want to **get away from** ordinary things, may we also remember to **get away for** special time with God. When we include that in our vacation or staycation, we will indeed find more rest for our bodies and more balm for our souls.

Happy summer to all of you,
Pastor Cornelia

Everyone is invited to
**Pastor Cornelia's and
Carl's Open House**

Saturday, August 4, 1:30 to 4:30
834 Stillson Drive in Petaluma

Please come for a visit
and afternoon treats

A FOND GOOD-BYE

For the past two years, **Mark Vullo** has been serving at the Two Rock Coast Guard Station; and he, his **wife Amy, and their sons Jack and Henry** have attended worship in Two Rock and Tomales. Since their young sons are early risers, the family preferred the 9:30 am service and thus were able to get to know both congregations.

This July, Mark Vullo is being transferred to Alexandria, VA. For the next four years, the family will live on a large Army base, while Mark will work at a nearby Coast Guard Station. What a great adventure it is to move clear to the other side of the country! The whole

family is excited to be so close to Washington, D.C. and to have opportunities to see the sites and learn more about our nation's history. May God bless you and guide you, Mark and Amy, Jack and Henry, in this next phase of your journey! We are so glad that you were part of our congregations, and we bid you a fond good-bye.

JOYS TO SHARE

What a joyful spring this has turned out to be, with several happy events occurring among members of our extended church families:

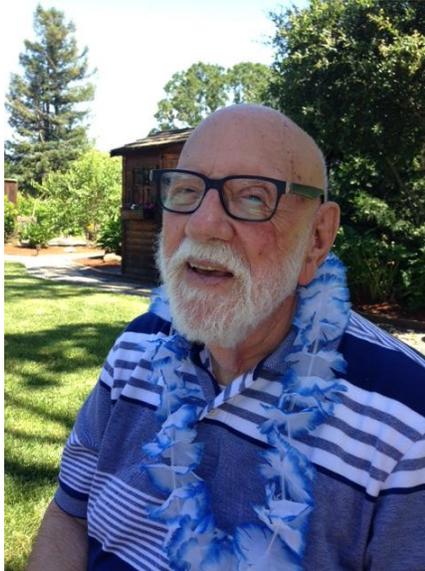
Anna Erickson and Caylen Styskal first met in preschool more than 25 years ago. Then on March 22 of this year, they celebrated the birth of their son **Frank Farley Styskal**, who is also the first grandson of Lee and Janeann Erickson of Valley Ford. On May 13, Frank joined the Erickson family for his very first Abelskiver Breakfast in Two Rock, to the great delight of everyone present.

Last fall, **Bailey Tucker and Danyelle Fredrick** of Cotati began to plan their wedding, aiming for a date this May. Then it became clear that another happy event would occur at that time: On May 17, Danyelle and Bailey welcomed **William Cassius Tucker**, their first child and the first grandson of Bill and Kim Tucker of Tomales. Little Cash is strong and healthy and a joy to everyone. His parent's wedding is now set for the end of July. What a double joy!

Eleanor Elisabeth Wittenstein was born on June 12, the first child of Nikolaus and Emily Wittenstein of Pittsburgh, PA, and the first grandchild of Pastor

Cornelia and husband Carl. The entire family is thankful for the birth of this healthy baby, and the proud grandparents can't wait to hold little Liesel.

Congratulations to all new parents and grandparents! May God bless these precious new children with health and wholeness, with strength and courage, with joy and a full and abundant life.



On June 3, **Victor Henigan had his 90th birthday!** That afternoon, his children Scott, Heidi, and Gayle hosted a beautiful birthday bash at Scott's home in Windsor. Four generations of the Henigan family were part of the celebration, plus some friends from Tomales.

Victor has a special connection to Tomales Presbyterian Church: he and his family were part of the congregation for more than 30 years, then Victor became the organist when Lois Parks retired and served in that capacity from 1999 through 2009. When Victor moved away, he donated the grand piano in memory of his beloved wife Dorothy. Victor is now retired from playing either organ or piano, but still enjoys listening to recordings of the classical and spiritual music he has loved all his life.

Happy birthday, Victor, and God's abundant blessings as you step into the tenth decade of your life!

WORSHIP

†Please join us
For Sunday Worship
In Tomales at 9:30 am
In Two Rock at 11:00 am

The **Summer Sermon Series** this year is on ***The Top Ten***: Scripture passages that members of our congregations have identified as central to their life and faith. So from June 3 through September 2, (with two interruptions because of vacation) each Sunday will focus on an important theological issue and well-loved stories from the Bible. Please join us!

While Pastor Cornelia and her husband Carl are on their summer vacation in Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts, please welcome the following guest preachers:

On June 24: **Rev. Linda Powers**

On July 1: **Rev. Kitty Lum**

On July 8: **Rev. Linda Powers**

Also, from August 16 through 20, Pastor Cornelia and Carl Carter will attend their son Sebastian's graduation in Austin, TX. Many thanks to **Rev. Judy Slater**, who will lead worship on **August 19**.

Our **Church choirs** will continue to sing during the summer, as long as enough choir members are present. On some Sundays, we may also have an additional hymn, a special music solo or an instrumental piece, depending on people's vacation schedule. **But sing we will!**

Two Rock choir director Kay Fish invites all **hand bell** enthusiasts to ring the bells this fall and winter: in

September, in November and December, and again in February. **Please contact Kay** at 707-696-6145 is you would like to ring.



The elders of Two Rock Church have decided to purchase three octaves of **Melody Chimes**. The bell choir hopes to use these chimes alongside the hand bells, to enhance the pieces they perform. And, because melody chimes are sturdy and robust and easy to handle, they can be used by children. Kay Fish would very much like to **teach the Two Rock children how to ring the chimes**; perhaps as part of Sunday school.



**Mary “Bessie”
Agnes Elizabeth
McDowell O’Brien**

Feb. 26, 1941-
May 26, 2018

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Memorial Service for Bessie O’Brien** at Two Rock Church on June 6. The ushers estimate that about 250 people came to pay their respects. Bessie’s family and friends were seated not only in the sanctuary but also in the fellowship hall and in the fireside room. Many thanks to those who set up extra chairs,

brought flowers for the service, distributed bulletins, and provided driving directions in the parking lot. How good that we now have a sound system that will transmit our worship services to every room of the church building: sanctuary and narthex, fellowship hall, fireside room, kitchen, nursery, and Sunday school room. And how good that we have a much-expanded parking area behind our building and easier access into the church. Special thanks to **Cliff Stroke and Paul Lewis** for those important improvements!

EDUCATION & LEARNING

☺ The Tomales congregation collected \$ 200 for the **Tomales High School Senior Project Scholarship Fund**, to be given as award money to graduating seniors who want to continue their education. Congratulations to the Toamles high school class of 2018, and God’s blessings upon all graduating students as they step into the next phase of their lives.

☺ During worship on **May 10**, we celebrated the **end-of-school** in both churches. Our enthusiastic children and youth received whirly gigs and bubbles, happy dinosaurs and matchbook cars, sidewalk chalk and graduation garlands. May all of them enjoy their summer vacation, have time to rest, and explore some of the beauty of God’s creation!

☺ Congratulations to the children and youth who completed another school year: **Collin McClelland, Luke McClelland, and Maya Graves** were promoted to the next grade at Tomales Elementary, while **Johnny Knudsen** will be a senior at Tomales High School!

Jack Vullo completed a grade at Two Rock School, **Harry Higgins** in Petaluma, **Bristol Parisian** in Forestville, **Nathan Young** at Liberty School, and **Xenia McLean** at Miller Creek Middle School in San Rafael.

☺ Several of our children were promoted to middle school / junior high school:

Mary Briggs completed 6th grade at Wilson Elementary School and will attend Petaluma Junior High School **Catelyn Garner** completed 6th grade at Liberty School and will attend middle school in Sebastopol **Joshua Heibel** finished 6th grade in Petaluma and will go to Middle School in American Canyon

Jamie Parisian finished 6th grade at Forestville Academy and will go to West County Charter Middle School in Forestville

Elizabeth Young completed 6th grade at Liberty School and will attend Petaluma Junior High School

☺ Three young adults associated with Two Rock Church completed their **Bachelor degrees** this spring: † **Daphne Russell** received a B.A. in Linguistics from Fresno State University on May 19. She also has minors in Anthropology and Middle East Studies, graduated *summa cum laude* (with highest praise), is a Phi Kappa Phi initiate, and was her department’s nominee for the College of Arts & Humanities Dean’s Medal.

† **Kelsey Russell** graduated from San Luis Obispo State University on June 16 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Environmental Plant Science, with a concentration in Horticulture. She served as wholesale manager for the University’s greenhouse, and is also a member of *Pi Alpha Xi* (PAX), the American Society for Horticultural Science.

† **Cogan Mahrt** graduated from the University of California at Davis on June 16, with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. Cogan plans to move back to Petaluma this summer and explore the local job market, looking either for an internship or full-time employment.

Congratulations, Daphne, Kelsey, and Cogan, on receiving your Bachelor Degrees! You have already accomplished great things; may you step into the future with confidence and hope!

Emma Briggs, who received her Baccalaureate degree in 2017, recently moved to Fort Collins, CO. This fall, she will begin her studies as a graduate student at Colorado State University, in the Animal Science department. Her field of interest is animal genetics, with an emphasis on working with cattle, specifically dairy cattle. For that she will not only take classes but also conduct her own research. **Congratulations, Emma**, on being accepted into this fabulous graduate program!

At the age of 24, Two Rock member and master violinist **Kyle Craft** is ready to step into the life of a professional musician. In July, he will travel to Germany to visit family, then to the Netherlands where he received a Musician's Permit for July 3 through 11. This will allow him to play his violin in the streets of Maastricht, the hometown of well-known Dutch violinist and conductor Andre Rieu. Kyle will also play his violin each night of the Strauss Festival in Elk Grove, CA, from July 26 to 29.

While Kyle is available for special events such as weddings, birthdays, and family reunions,

we are delighted that he still plays at Two Rock Church during Sunday morning worship. **Thank you, Kyle**, for bringing such joy to us through your music. May God keep blessing you and your violin!

MISSION & OUTREACH

The **Tomales Farm-and-Flea Market on May 6** was a great fundraising success for the Tomales congregation. The Church had food for sale for breakfast and lunch; and they also had six tables overflowing with special treasures, plus some larger pieces of furniture and art. Many thanks to the food crew, headed by **Eric Knudsen**; the sellers of treasures, led by **Kathryn LeMieux and Virginia Campbell**; the set-up team, headed by **Rob Campbell**; and everyone who helped in any way with this church fundraiser. **Well done, everyone!**

Just one week later, on **Mother's Day, May 13**, the men of Tomales and Two Rock Churches hosted the **annual Abelskiver Breakfast**. Under the leadership of Cliff Stroke, Joe Turner, and Carl Carter, the men planned, shopped, prepared and served delicious Abelskivers with syrup, ham, fruit, and coffee to a crowd of about 200 people. The money raised through this event is always set aside for emergency needs that may arise within our local communities. What a great fundraiser, community event, and way to honor the women in our midst! **Thank you all!**

July and August are the months for lots of back-to-school sales and the time for our congregations to **collect school supplies** for the **Elementary schools in Two Rock and Tomales**. Please purchase printer paper, construction paper,

binder paper, note books, and pocket folders; pencils, erasers, crayons, markers and water colors; glue, tape, and scissors; paper towels, hand wipes, Kleenex boxes, and band aids; healthy granola bars for hungry children; and other things that would be useful in a classroom.

Please bring your donations to church; we will deliver them to the school offices in Tomales and Two Rock before the end of summer vacation. Many thanks!

Please mark your calendar: The **72nd Two Rock Harvest Festival** is planned for **Saturday, September 22, from 10 am to 3 pm**. The Two Rock congregation looks forward to hosting the community: they will offer hand-made quilts and other hand-crafted items; home-baked treats and home-canned goods; some fresh local fruit, vegetables and flowers; raffle tickets for gifts baskets; unique items at the silent auction; a place to pet animals from our local 4 H group; and of course the all-popular chicken BBQ with home-made potato salad, home-grown tomatoes, beans, lemonade and dessert.

Please join us for this fun and fabulous fundraiser!

PROPERTY & FINANCE

On May 28, **Memorial Day, Joe Dutton, Mel Sanchetti, and family members Dillon and Karman** arrived at Tomales Presbyterian Cemetery. There they spent the day cutting and removing dead limbs from the tall cypress trees along the west side of the cemetery. **Eric and Johnny Knudsen** joined them and helped with chipping the wood and spreading the wood chips.

About 60% of the trees have now been thinned; the Dutton and

Sanchetti families plan on returning next year to complete the project. Their work is deeply appreciated, not just by members of the church but by everyone who visits the cemetery all year long. **Thank you so much, Joe and Mel, Dillon and Karman, Eric and Johnny,** for caring for Tomales cemetery in memory of loved ones who are laid to rest there.

Plans are underway to replace some of the **window panes** in the **Tomales sanctuary**, to get bids for a **new roof**, and to do some touch-up **painting** in narthex. Many thanks, Robert and Virginia Campbell, and Eric and Sharon Knudsen, for taking the lead with this big project.

The family who had rented the **manse in Two Rock** moved out in early June. Now the session is arranging for some maintenance work to be done inside and outside the house: bushes and shrubs around the house and trees in the backyard have been trimmed or removed; fans were installed in the bathrooms; work on the heating ducts has been completed; the inside of the house will receive a fresh coat of paint; and there will be new flooring in the bedrooms. Many thanks to elders **Cliff and Kathy Stroke** for organizing and overseeing this work, and to our rental manager **Kerry Mahoney Davison** for advising us as needed. May the manse shine and look its best as we find new renters later this summer.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

† The fifth annual **Pedal-for-Protein Ride** is scheduled for

September 16 through 21, with an additional one-day ride on September 29. This bicycle event is organized by our Presbytery of the Redwoods to raise money for local food pantries. Funds received through the \$ 349 registration paid by riders, and also through donations made by congregations, will allow food pantries to purchase more protein-rich foods for their clients. In its first four years, this annual event has raised a total of \$ 145,479 — every cent of which went directly to food pantries. Amazing!

Tomales member and church elder **Mary Spragens** will again participate in the P 4 P ride. A full-time high school teacher, she is only able to ride on a Saturday, but she is looking forward to training during the summer. Please support Mary as she raises funds to cover her registration fees, and then some! Happy trails, Mary, and may you and all Pedal-for-Protein riders be safe on the roads!



† At the joint session meeting on June 19, **Rev. Kitty Lum** was welcomed by both sessions as **parish associate** for Two Rock Valley and Tomales Presbyterian Churches.

Rev. Kitty just moved back to Santa Rosa, CA, which is where she grew up, after serving as solo pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Liberal, KS. While there, she also provided

leadership for Liberal Child Care Center, a daycare/pre-school owned by the church.

Currently Kitty is seeking a new ministry, preferably in Northern California, while also discerning about a second vocation in the nursing field. She is hoping to enroll soon in a Certified Nurse Assistant program. An essential oils/natural products advocate, she also may receive training for Myo-Manipulative Therapy, a massage therapy for canines. Kitty has two dogs, Wally, a Shih-Tzu/Maltese who is 4 and Shauny, an Australian Blue Heeler, who is 3. She loves playing with her dogs and other animals; plus doing Taekwondo, singing, ringing and conducting hand-bells, pursuing the arts, and baking.

While she is between pastorates, Kitty is worshiping at Tomales and Two Rock Churches, helping Pastor Cornelia as needed, and happy to serve as Pulpit Supply within Redwoods Presbytery. Welcome, Kitty, to the mission and ministry of our two congregations!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please support our local fire departments during their annual fundraisers:

The Two Rock Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, July 8, from 7 am to 12 noon, in the Fire Department's Social Hall at 7618 Valley Ford Road.

The Tomales Volunteer Fire Company will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast the following Sunday, July 15, from 8 am to 12 noon, at Tomales Town Hall.

We are truly grateful to our professional and volunteer firefighters for their service to our communities! **Thank you, everyone!**

Two Rock Valley/Tomales
Presbyterian Churches
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“ For God alone my soul in silence waits;
From God comes my salvation.” (Psalm 62:1)

PASTOR CORNELIA & CARL’S OPEN HOUSE

August 4th, 1:30-4:30PM – 834 Stillson Dr., Petaluma

TOMALES FOUNDER’S DAY

*September 2nd. Joint worship at Tomales – 10:00am – Jazz Band
Parade at noon – Food & Activities in the Park*

WORSHIP TIMES CHANGE SEPTEMBER 9TH:

Two Rock at 9:30, Tomales at 11:00