



# Hill 'n Vale



Newsletter of the Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches

September / October 2018  
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## **PASTORAL PONDERINGS**

Dear Friends in Tomales and Two Rock,

As I read through this newsletter, I'm struck by the great generosity of people in our two churches. There have been many events in our congregations these last months, many stories that witness to the good deeds and selfless gifts that you share so freely.

Your generosity and kindness are heartwarming, especially when elsewhere in our society there seems to be much rudeness, lack of respect, anger and hostility, mistrust, fear mongering, and even deadly violence. Instead of succumbing to that, you gather to worship God, you pray for one another, you maintain the church grounds, you practice ringing the hand bells, you repair dry rot, you teach Sunday school, you send quilts to a family whose bedding was lost in a storm, you bring hope to many people.

As Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas approach, may God's loving kindness continue to touch our hearts with compassion and care. May we keep spreading the good news, in word and deed, that all people are children of God and that our Lord desires that everyone be valued and cherished, this Season of Giving and always.

God bless all of you  
Pastor Cornelia



Remember to  
**Fall Back**  
one hour on  
**On Sunday,**  
**November 4**

## **THANK YOU'S**

Two Rock Church's 72<sup>nd</sup> **annual Harvest Festival** on September 22 was a joyful and successful event. Thank you to those who chaired or staffed a section of our fabulous fundraiser: quilts, crafts-and-cookie room, kitchen with BBQ and serving in the dining area, Silent Auction, Farm Stand, Raffle, violin music, and Two Rock 4 H group on the Patio.

Thank you to those who helped with set-up before the event and with clean-up afterwards. Thank you everyone for the gift of your time; for the special skills and talents you shared; for your donations of produce and plants, baked goods and gift baskets; and for all the purchases you made. And thanks be to God for blessing our efforts!

## **JOYS TO SHARE**

It is a joy to wish Mary Zimmerman a happy 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, and to wish Mary and Mervyn Zimmerman a happy 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! Mary was born on October 20, 1930 in the Two Rock Valley, the oldest of the McCullough family's six children, four girls and two boys.

Mary's father had immigrated from Ireland, and both of her mother's parents were also from Ireland.

Early in her life, Mary's parents moved around the area and worked on different dairy farms. In 1934, they purchased their own dairy and chicken ranch in the Two Rock area, off Fallon Road. From there, Mary went to Clarke School and to Ocean View School. During the lean years of the 1930's, the entire family worked on the ranch, and even the youngest children had their chores to do. In the 1940's, Mary's parents were able to purchase a ranch in Bloomfield, which would remain in the family for 40 years. This move meant that Mary and her siblings transferred to Bloomfield school and then went to Tomales High School.

In high school, Mary met Mervyn Zimmerman, who was a couple of years ahead of her in school. Mervyn was the youngest of four boys, and when he finished school, he went into business with his father on the family dairy ranch, which the Zimmerman family had purchased in 1941.

Mary and Mervyn were married in September 1948, just before Mary turned 18. They moved into the old one-room school house on the Zimmerman ranch which they remodeled a couple of times, to make it big enough to raise their three children, Bill, Terry, and Linda. All children were born in Petaluma in the old hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Mary and Mervyn also have

seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren: seven boys and seven girls.

As a young woman, Mary was involved in all aspects of ranching: working on the dairy, feeding calves, driving the cattle truck; plus she was a mother raising three children. She was active in the PTA during their grammar school and high school years, including serving as PTA president. She also taught sewing in 4 H. She joined Tomales Church in 1954, brought her children to worship and served several terms as a deacon.

In 1976, after a severe drought, Mary applied to the State Water Resource Board for a permit to build a dam on the Zimmerman ranch. She was persistent in her efforts, wrote letters, and went to a hearing in Sacramento, until eventually, the dam was permitted and built. This dam exists to this day, benefits the ranch, and is a watering place for birds and other wildlife.

Mary was also active on behalf of the wider community. She lobbied the Postal Service to get rural mail delivery for Marshall; and again she was successful. She was very involved in the Tomales Regional History Center, as treasurer and as president after Lois Parks stepped down; she worked on the remodel of the building, chaired the History Center Tea fundraiser, and loved to work in the Center's garden. And for about a dozen years, she served on the board of Marconi Conference Center in Marshall.

Mary has always been an energetic woman, persistent, determined to tackle things even if they were difficult, has lobbied for needed changes, and worked

hard to bring improvements to her family and community.

For their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September, Mary and Mervyn had a lovely family gathering with lots of flowers and cards and a delicious meal hosted by their children and children-in-law. For Mary's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 20<sup>th</sup>, her family arranged a special outing and family get-together.

God bless you, Mary, with stable health; may the chemotherapy keep you going and keep you well enough. And may our Lord bless both of you, Mary and Mervyn, with more happy times together on your beautiful family ranch in Marshall.

## ***NOMINATING COMMITTEE***

This is the time of year when the **nominating committees** of our churches meet to identify leaders for our two congregations: elders who will become members of the session, each church's governing board; deacons who serve people through ministries of compassion and caring; and financial secretaries who keep track of donations.

**Tomales Church** needs two new session members. Its Nominating Committee is chaired by elder Mary Spragens, who is working with deacon Carl Carter and at-large members Gary Foster and Kathryn Le Mieux.

**Two Rock Church** is looking for three deacons and at least two elders. Its Nominating Committee is chaired by elders Lonnie Wernstrum and Gail Turcotte and includes deacon Marlene Lewis and at-large members Doreen Coe, Carl Graham, and Nan Leavell.

Many thanks to these two committees for meeting and discerning whom they might invite

to lead our congregations into the future. And please, if you are asked to become a church officer, prayerfully consider saying "yes!"

## ***WORSHIP***

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

The **joint Hand Bell Choir** rang in Tomales on September 9 and in Two Rock on September 16. Practice resumes in November for performances during worship at Tomales Church on December 9 and at Two Rock Church on December 16. The hand bell choir has also been invited to play at Sonoma State University for their Holiday Special Dinner in the Kitchens Dining Hall on Thursday, December 6, between 5 pm and 8 pm. Thank you, hand bell players, for the joy you bring to everyone by your ringing hand bells and melody chimes!

Many thanks to Patricia Huber of Two Rock and Suzie Harms of Tomales for decorating our communion tables and chancels for **World Communion Sunday** on October 7. It was a joy to have visual reminders of people celebrating the Lord's Supper all around the world, and have that presented in creative new ways.

On Sunday, October 21, the **Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Concord** worshipped with the congregation in Tomales. They sang a rousing introit and a lovely anthem. After the service, we shared a generous luncheon that the deacons had prepared for everyone. Many thanks to the fourteen singers

from Concord under the direction of Andrew Cardiomenos for sharing their musical gifts with us!

**Here are some worship highlights for November and December:**

† November 4: **All Saints Sunday**, when we will worship in our sanctuaries and cemeteries and remember all the saints in our lives;

† November 18: **Thanksgiving Sunday**, when we give thanks for all God's blessings as the church year comes to a close;

† December 2: **First Sunday of Advent**, with Rev. Linda Powers as our guest preacher while Pastor Cornelia is at a Credo Conference for clergy in Live Oak, Florida. Rev. Linda has promised to bring along her service dog Beta;

† December 9: the **hand bell choir** will ring at **Tomales Church** during morning worship;

† December 9 at 3:00 pm: **Community Christmas Sing in Tomales**, with a **pageant for children and youth from both of our congregations**;

† December 16: the **hand bell choir** will ring at **Two Rock Church** during morning worship;

† December 16 at 3:00 pm: the **choir** will present a **Christmas Concert at Two Rock Church**;

† December 23: **Christmas Sunday**, with the Christmas story read during morning worship and joyful singing of beloved carols;

† December 23 at 7:00 pm: our festive **Candle Light Service** at Two Rock Church, followed by refreshments and time to connect with friends and neighbors.

The following piece was written by **Two Rock elder Gail Turcotte**, in gratitude for church music and church musicians:

*Psalm 100 says, "make a joyful noise to the Lord." To all those who play an instrument, "thank you!" To all those who lift their voices, "thank you!"*

*The instruments sing, and the voices sing praises to the Lord. We can hear the Holy Spirit alive and well in all the music played and sung. But have you thought of the vibrations that we feel?*

*Watch Kyle Craft play his solo. As he picks up his violin and walks up the two steps to the chancel, he tucks his instrument under his chin and becomes one with it. He closes his eyes and starts to play. We can see his passion on his face and body language.*

*I have observed his violin. There is a piece that sits on his chest and fits under his chin. So as he plays he feels the vibrations of the music in his body and soul. His music means everything to him.*

*This is also true of all those who play the guitar, the bells, chimes, organ, and piano. They feel the music, not just play it. The choir also feels the music as they sing.*

*So do all of us who listen, or sing along, or tap our toes to the music. We all hear the music and feel the vibration of the Holy Spirit within us!*

*Praise the Lord!*

## **EDUCATION & LEARNING**

© This fall's **Adult Study Group** is reading Adam J. Copeland, ed., *"Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship."*

The book is comprised of ten articles about stewardship of time, of life at its end, of money and finances, of technology, privilege, spirit, body, community, work, and mind. A dozen people from both

congregations meet on five Thursday evenings in Two Rock; we have good conversations and are expanding our understanding of stewardship.

☺ All children, youth and their families from Tomales and Two Rock are invited to come to the **Community Christmas Sing at Tomales Church on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 pm.** That's when we will sing well-loved Christmas carols, hear the Christmas story, and hold our annual **Christmas pageant.** We have costumes for Mary and Joseph, angels and kings, sheep and shepherd; so please join us as we enact and experience the joy of Christmas! There will be refreshments for everyone following this afternoon service.

## **MISSION & OUTREACH**

Two Rock member Jessica Briggs has kept us connected with **Spencer Brown, his wife Cassie, and their two young children.** Spencer, who is also part of the Two Rock congregation, has been stationed at Tyndall AFB in Florida for three years. The family was evacuated from their home ahead of hurricane Michael. Their apartment on the base was damaged, and all items left behind got wet and are no longer usable.

How terrific that the Two Rock quilters stepped forward and donated quilts for the children and a big quilt for the parents! How helpful that the joint session sent a financial donation to Spencer and Cassie. Thank you, everyone, for working together to help a family in in the aftermath of a natural disaster.



**Halloween** is a fun time for children and those young at heart!

Please join us in the parking lot at **Two Rock Church** on October 30 at 6:30 pm for our much-loved **Trunk-or-Treat!**

The next day, October 31, at 1 pm, there will be a music performance by K through 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Tomales Town Hall, followed by the **students' 56<sup>th</sup> annual costume parade at 2 pm.**

**Please support the ministries of our churches at Thanksgiving and Christmas:**

**Tomales Presbyterian Church**

\* will have barrels placed in the fellowship hall to collect canned and boxed food items as part of the **Scouts' National Food Drive in November.** Do support our local Cub Scout Troop 123 through your donations.

\* is again **donating \$ 250 to West Marin Community Services for their Holiday Food and Gifts Program** that benefits families in our area.

\* is collecting new or gently used gift items that will be donated to the **PTA's Holiday Bazaar at Tomales Elementary School.** Please bring your gifts to church by early December; the Holiday Bazaar will be held on Friday, December 14.

**Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church**

\* will donate **bags of traditional Thanksgiving foods** to families from Two Rock School. Please sign up to contribute a turkey, potatoes, cranberries, pie, etc.

\* will have an **Angel Tree / Giving Tree** in the fellowship hall during Advent. Please take a tag with a child's age and gender or with a teacher's request for school supplies; then bring the

wrapped and tagged gift back to church; we'll get it to the school.

\* will support Pat Huber, Nan Leavell and others as they fill 60 stockings to bring **Christmas Cheer** to older adults in Petaluma. The stockings will contain fruit, sweets, socks, and greeting cards; please consider donating some stamps that can be included with each stocking.

**May all these gifts bring extra Christmas joy to children and their families and to older adults in our communities!**

***PROPERTY & FINANCE***

The work to **paint Two Rock Church** began the week after Harvest Festival. The entire church building was power-washed; several shrubs were removed from the front to facilitate better access for the workers; plastic sheets covered all windows and door knobs; a power lift reached up to the bell tower — and then layers of primer and paint were applied. Amazingly, on October 17, just three weeks later, **the painting of the outside of the entire church building was completed!** That included painting the window frames by hand, doing touch-ups around doors and gutters, removing all plastic covers, reinstalling window screens, and tidying up everything. And yes, the garage will be painted, too; just as soon as the painting crew has another time slot open for us.



How good it is that this work was done; especially that the wood

siding in back of the building is now painted and protected; that our church has a clean and fresh look all around. Many thanks to session members Lonnie Wernstrum, Paul Lewis, Kathy Stroke, and Gail Turcotte, for taking on this big project; many thanks to our painters for their skill and careful work; many thanks to everyone in the congregation for support, prayers, and patience during this process.

At a first meeting of the **Two Rock Landscape Committee** it became clear that, before we discuss details about new vegetation and plants, we will need an overall design for the **hardscape** around the church. Hardscape refers to semi-permanent landscape features, such as paths, walls, benches, trellises, patios or planters. Brent Russell has agreed to work with the committee and provide some drawings, to help people envision what the front of the church might look like.

In the meantime, Paul Lewis, Ben Visser, and Peter Karoitamana cleaned up the area around the **church manse and put in a low-maintenance yard.** Thank you very much! The men also removed shrubs from the **play area outside of the nursery**, at the request of our Sunday school teachers. While the play yard looks a bit barren at the moment, it is also a lot less weedy and overgrown.

Thank you, Mary Lynn and Ben Visser, for **installing new window shades** in the church office and the pastor's office. How nice that we can now adjust the shades again!

Many thanks to the **Handy Guys of Tomales Church**, Carl Carter, Lee Harms, Fred Lawson, Kip Spragens and Bruce Turner. Working in conjunction with session member Rob Campbell, the Handy Guys



meet at church and are compiling a list of things that need some attention. Specifically, they plan to repair the enclosed porch behind the church kitchen by replacing the rotten beams, the corrugated roof, and a door to the outside. This is an involved project, and it may take a few gatherings and workdays to get it done. Then there are three short staircases behind the bathrooms that should be rebuilt. There is never a lack of tasks to be done in a historic building, and everyone is most grateful to the Handy Guys. And if others want to join in, please know that everyone is welcome!

The Tomales congregation has been waiting for **colored glass** to be shipped, so that a broken window pane can be replaced, and perhaps three other panes as well. When the glass arrives, it will need to be installed by a glazier. May all that happen soon. We'll keep you posted.

Each October we set aside time for our **stewardship program**. Many thanks to everyone who placed their **pledge notice for 2019** in the offering plate on October 28. You may still bring your pledge slip with you to church or mail it to the church office. Your contributions support the ministries of Tomales and Two Rock Churches and keep our congregations vital and strong!

## **CHURCH CARE & FELLOWSHIP**

An **AED (automated external defibrillator)** arrived at **Two Rock Church** on September 12. That was also the day when ten people from the congregation met in the fellowship hall for an hour

of instruction and training, as provided by a technicians from the Petaluma Health Care District. How good that we have this device ready and useable in our church! Many thanks to John Furrer for advice about this purchase, and to Mel Todt for procuring our new AED and arranging for the training.

## **SMALL GROUPS AT CHURCH**



Each year, the **Mother-Daughter-Friends Luncheon** at the beginning of Advent brings together women from Two Rock, Tomales, and beyond. Once again, this event is scheduled for the first Saturday of December at noon. This year's theme is "Following the Star." Please join mother-daughter team Lea Ray Schultz and Joetta Furrer on **December 1<sup>st</sup> for a festive potluck lunch in Two Rock.**

## **PRESBYTERY NEWS**

† The fifth annual Northern California **Pedal for Protein Ride, organized by our Presbytery of the Redwoods**, spanned six days from September 16 to 21. It also included a one-day ride on Saturday, September 29, in Santa Rosa. That is when Tomales elder Mary Spragens was able to participate, and that is what her article below describes for us:

***Pedal for Protein raises money for food banks in Northern California***

*September 29th was the one day ride for local cyclists of all ages. A group of fifteen headed out from Knox Presbyterian Church about 9:00 AM. We cycled to Sebastopol and then on to Graton. The return*

*trip was by a different route taking us on Santa Rosa bike trails and country roads. Our total mileage was 25.6 miles. We returned to the church just before the rain began to enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by our Knox hosts. Door prizes and a fun raffle ended the event.*

*As of Sunday, October 28, Tomales and Two Rock have given over \$1500 to help food banks provide protein. I sincerely thank all our members and friends for your encouragement and support of this fundraiser.*

As this newsletter goes to print, this year's Pedal for Protein event has brought in \$ 48,539 in donations, with close to \$ 190,000 raised for food pantries in our Presbytery over the past five years. Thank you all for your support, and thank you, Mary, for pedaling for protein!

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Because Tomales Town Hall is in use that day, the **Food Pantry will be held at Tomales Presbyterian Church on Thursday, November 8, at 2 pm.** Extra help is needed that day for set-up and break-down; please join us and lend a hand as we serve our community.

A course on **First Aid for Disaster Response**, sponsored by DBERT (Dillon Beach Emergency Readiness Team) and TERN (Tomales Emergency Readiness Network), will be offered at **Tomales Presbyterian Church on Saturday November 17, from 9 am to 1 pm.** The course will be taught by the Marin Medical Reserve Corps. Pre-registration is required by November 9, and the cost is just \$ 5 per person. To register, contact Donna Clavaud at [Tomalesemergencyresponse@gmail.com](mailto:Tomalesemergencyresponse@gmail.com) or at 707-364-6397.

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“ Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace among people of good will.” (Luke 2:14)

**All Saints Sunday, November 4**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18**  
**Mother-daughter-friend potluck luncheon Two Rock, December 1, noon**  
**Community Christmas Sing and Children’s pageant, Tomales, December 9, 3pm**  
**Choir Concert, Two Rock, December 16, 3pm**  
**Christmas Sunday, December 23**  
**Candle Light Service, Two Rock, December 23, 7pm**