

Hill 'n Vale

Newsletter of the Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches
Visit us at tomalespresbyterian.org and tworockvalleypresbyterian.org

11 Church Street, P.O. Box 13, Tomales, CA 94971
May / June 2019

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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Dear Friends in Two Rock and Tomales,

A couple of days after Easter, we had a joint session meeting in Two Rock. That means that the elders of Tomales Church and Two Rock Church meet together to discuss items pertaining to both congregations, plus look at issues that concern each congregation separately. I am the moderator of all our session meetings.

When I speak with people outside of the church about our session, I often refer to it as the church's governing board; and that's really what session is and does. We discuss worship, communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals; upcoming services, music, and special holidays; Christian education and learning for young and old; mission and outreach to our communities and beyond; buildings, grounds, finances and fundraising; small groups within our churches; Presbytery-wide events; community events; and anything else that needs attention.

When I left our session meeting on April 23, I likely had a big smile on my face. I sure had a happy heart, because our joint session had decided to do something fun! Not wild fun, like deciding that our two congregations would go ziplining or skydiving, but decent, orderly, and proper Presbyterian-type fun.

Simply put, our two sessions voted that, on June 30, the Sunday before July 4th, we will have one joint worship in Tomales at 11:00 am, followed by an all-church summer BBQ and potluck .

Perhaps I am just getting less adventuresome and more mellow with age, but the idea of hot dogs and ice cream with the two congregations that I love, with their families, and with friends from the community makes my heart glad.

I hope that everyone from our two congregations will join us on June 30. We will give thanks to God for our fabulous families of faith, celebrate the community that loves and sustains us, welcome the summer season, sing some grand old hymns, and enjoy a big feast! Do join us.

God bless you all,
Pastor Cornelia

THANK YOU'S

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the **Tomales Easter Egg Hunt** such a happy community event!

Virginia Campbell and Pastor Cornelia brought big bags of candy to church; members of the Tomales congregation stuffed that into about 1000 plastic egg; the Graves family filled dozens more eggs at home. Then just after noon on April 20, the day before Easter, Amanda Graves, Liz Mitchell, Sharon and Johnnie Knudsen, Kip

Spragens, Kathryn LeMieux, and Carl Carter met at Tomales town park to hide all those eggs. About 40 children and their families were waiting eagerly for the start of the hunt, and at 1:30 pm sharp, everyone was off and running. Great fun was had by all! We will definitely do it again next year!

JOYS TO SHARE

Belated congratulations to **Paul and Marlene Lewis on their 60th wedding anniversary**, which was on November 15, 2018. That day, the couple enjoyed a special family dinner at a local restaurant. Paul and Marlene both grew up in Liberty school district, just west of Petaluma. They went to the same grammar, junior high and high schools, though Paul was always four years ahead of Marlene. And neither of them paid much attention to the other during their school years.

After Marlene graduated from Petaluma High School, she trained as a medical secretary and worked in a doctor's office in San Francisco. Late in 1956, the brother of one of her roommates came to visit from Petaluma, bringing treats, cookies, and other goodies. And he brought along his good friend Paul Lewis, who by then had returned from serving in the Korean War.

Marlene and Paul's early dates involved Paul piloting a small airplane with just Marlene on board, plus boating and

waterskiing on Clear Lake. This adventuresome couple still has boat on Clear Lake for family visits.

Paul and Marlene were married in 1958. For years, they had a home on Western Ave where they raised their children, Tammy and Tracy. They lived in Lake County for a while after the children were grown, but eventually they moved back to Petaluma, to the ranch that keeps them both busy, where two of their grandchildren and three of their great-grandchildren also make their home.

Paul has a background in both the mechanical and scientific aspects of farming: he began as a planning engineer at Golden Eagle Milling and went on to own and re-design a mill in Colusa, run his feed company Bar Ale, and be involved in many aspects of the ranching industry. Marlene was a stay-at-home mother, who did the accounting for the company and was involved with lots of behind-the-scenes administration.

A recent highlight for Marlene and Paul was the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in Petaluma on November 11, 2015; something that Paul had promoted and worked on for years.

What makes for a long marriage? Marlene thinks that what matters most is not so much the sharing of interests, temperaments, or ways of doing things; rather, their shared moral values and life goals have kept Paul's and Marlene's relationship strong.

Congratulations to **Becky Smith** of the Two Rock congregation, who **turned 85** on January 28!

Becky grew up in Oklahoma as part of the Stearns family, with four brothers and sisters. In 1941, the

family moved to Pomona in Southern California. That's where Becky continued her schooling and then married her high school sweetheart, Richard Smith, in 1952. After he completed his service with the Marine Corps, the couple settled down in Pomona. Their daughters Gail and Brenda were born first; sons Rodney and Richard came along a little later. Richard Sr. was a truck driver and worked for construction companies for 32 years. Becky was a home maker while the children were small, then a teacher's aide for 15 years. She has an amazing talent for all kinds of crafts: sewing, quilting, and embroidery; leather tooling; creating pottery, including a lovely Nativity scene; decorating with sea shells; and fashioning exquisite Faberge-type eggs.



Becky and Richard moved to Dillon Beach in 1988, to be closer to Becky's older sister Icy Mae, who was married to Merle Lawson of Lawson's Landing. Later, daughter Gail moved to Lawson's Landing, followed by daughter Brenda and her husband Russell, and eventually by son Rodney. Richard and Becky loved Dillon Beach, its beautiful setting and its people; they were active in the wider community, and Richard joined the Bloomfield Lodge. When he passed away in 2002, the couple had been married for 50 years.

In 2016, Becky and daughter Gail moved to Rohnert Park and settled

in happily. Becky is proud of her family and all that they have accomplished. In addition to her children and children-in-law, she has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. On her birthday, the family took Becky to Armstrong Redwoods for a special hike and fun picnic.

Congratulations to **Olwen Peterson who was 100 years old** on April 19! Here, in Olwen's own words, are some highlights of her long life:

I was born in Liverpool, England, on April 19, 1919, to Welsh parents. My mother, brother, and I lived with my grandparents in Cumberland, England, where I learned 'kitchen table Welsh'. We lived there until 1927, when we came to San Francisco. My father was the pastor of the Welsh Presbyterian Church in the city, and preached in Welsh and English.

I attended school in San Francisco, starting with the 4th grade at McKinley, then Everett Jr High, graduating from Lowell High School. After that, I went to City College and SF State University. Upon graduating in 1941, my first teaching experience was at Petaluma Junior HS — the old one on Fair Street — until 1946, when I married Paul Peterson and we settled in the Bay Area. We had two daughters, Nancy who now lives in Oakmont, and Joan in Clovis, CA. In 1961, we moved to Rohnert Park and bought our own home, as Paul needed a warmer climate than that in San Francisco. At that time, I returned to teaching, first at Kenilworth Junior HS, then at Rohnert Park Junior HS.

Paul died in 1975. I retired from teaching in 1978 and have been a

volunteer at the Rohnert Park Public Library since 1980.

Olwen has been a member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Rohnert Park since 1961, plus a deacon, elder, Sunday school teacher and active in Presbyterian Women. During the last few years Olwen has also attended Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church on alternate Sunday, always brought by her a good friend, Mary Condon.

In addition to her two daughters, Olwen has nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The family celebrated Olwen's 100th birthday in the building that used to be Welch Presbyterian Church and that is now *The Assembly*, serving women in San Francisco in need of a welcoming place to be. It was a wonderful family gathering in a much-loved setting, with time to remember and give thanks.

On April 20, Two Rock member **Joe Turner, turned 95**. About 40 family members celebrated with Joe at the rehabilitation center where he is currently staying.

Joe has been a life-long resident of the area along Roblar Road, Petaluma, and Penngrove. After he graduate from Petaluma High School in 1943, he served with the Army in the Philippines and Japan. After he returned home in 1946, he married his beloved Margaret. The couple settled in Penngrove, when Joe built a home next to the house he had grown up in! That's where Margaret and Joe raised their seven children and where Joe lives to this day. Joe worked as a carpenter for many years, then as a building inspector at the Presidio in San Francisco, until he retired in his late 50s. Margaret was a home maker and cared for their large family, particularly their daughter Judy.

Because their youngest son worked for United Airlines, Margaret and Joe were able to travel widely. In addition to annual family gatherings at Hendy Woods State Park, they took trips to New Zealand, Australia and Europe, and really enjoyed visiting Scotland. They also went on several cruises, including through the Panama Canal. After Margaret passed away in 2007, Joe traveled less. Yet in 2017, his son Richard took him to Washington DC, and this January, his daughter Karin took him to the Rose Parade in Pasadena.

Joe loves helping family members work on their homes; he improved a lot of garden setting; and he made small picnic tables for each of his eleven grandchildren. Since all of Joe's children live within easy driving distance of Penngrove, they take turns having him over for dinner most days of the week. On November 11, 2017, Joe was Grand Marshall of the Veteran's Parade in Petaluma, together with his two brothers; a wonderful event and honor for all of them!



And here is musical joy! Two Rock member and **violinist Kyle Craft** will offer a free concert at **Tomales Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 19, at 3 pm**. Everyone is invited to come and listen to *The Sounds of Vienna*, a program that features 19th century waltzes, polkas, and arias, plus some of Rodgers' & Hammerstein's great classics. Do join us for this musical treat!

WORSHIP

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

† The **Easter Season** begins on Easter Sunday and continues for fifty days, or seven weeks, until the feast of Pentecost on June 9. Our worship theme for during this time is *Celebrating the Surprising Acts of God*.

† Please note these special worship emphases in the next two months:

May 12: Mother's Day and honoring the women of the church, with Abelskiver Breakfast and joint worship in Two Rock at 11:00 am. There will be no worship in Tomales that day.

May 26: Memorial Day weekend, when we will ask our children and youth to visit our cemeteries during Sunday school and place flags on the graves of those who served.

June 2: We will celebrate the end of the school year with all our students

June 9: Pentecost Sunday, when we give thanks for the gift of God's Spirit to the Church

June 16: Trinity Sunday; plus Father's Day, when we will honor the men of our congregations.

† On June 23, **the Rev. Linda Powers** will lead worship and preach, while Pastor Cornelia and Carl Carter attend a week-long seminar at Lake Tahoe entitled, *We Are All Stewards of the Earth: Interfaith Approaches to Earth Consciousness*.

† Beginning on June 30 and lasting through September, we will focus our Sunday worship on the **Book of**

the Twelve. This refers to the scroll which, in the Hebrew tradition, contained the writings of the twelve minor prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obediah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zepheniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Their writings are much shorter than those of the major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. Yet these minor prophets had a major impact by naming suffering and injustice, and invoking God's righteousness and deliverance for the people.



**John Herrick
Mitchell**

June 22, 1932 - March
22, 2019

*The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.
Psalm 23:1*

We continue to have a variety of music in our worship, all blending together to the glory of God. **Many thanks to all our marvelous musicians in Two Rock and Tomales!**

† On March 24, Bob Heyman played **handpans** during worship in Two Rock. Handpans are finely crafted and well-tuned steel drums that evoke melodic, rhythmic and meditative music. Bob was accompanied on the guitar by David Coe; he will play for us again in the future.

† On Easter Sunday, **hand bells** rang out happily in Two Rock. Many thanks to Sue and Brent Russell, Lonnie Wernstrum, Pat Huber, and Mary Lynn Visser for sharing this musical Easter joy.

† **Two Rock Church** has a chancel choir of about a dozen people under the direction of **Kay Fish,**

plus various instrumental and choral groups that take turns providing the introit for the day.

† The **Tomales Choir** continues to thrive under the direction of **Gary Foster;** it is a joy to welcome back choir members Liz Mitchell, Debbie and Fred Lawson, and Julie Hochstrasser.

EDUCATION & LEARNING

☺ On Sunday, March 10, our two churches introduced a **new Sunday school curriculum.** It will be used at church each week, and it is also being sent home with our students. That way, families can use the material even if they are not able to attend worship on some Sundays. A new section of this curriculum by *Illustrated Children's Ministry* will be available in early May.

☺ Many thanks to the Sunday school teachers in Two Rock who have previewed several **Bibles for children, youth, and adults!** Kathy Stroke and Jessica Briggs are now asking families to indicate which Bible they would like to have for their child(ren) or for their own use. Please speak with them if you would like to have another look at the various Bibles. And a huge thank-you to the **Briggs family** for donating all Bibles for the children and youth of our congregation.

☺ There is still time to sign up for **Summer Camp at Westminster Woods!** For five weeks, from June 23 through July 27, there are camps for various age groups, from 2nd graders to high school seniors. New this year is the Friends-and-Family camps from July 28 through August 3: it's for the

whole family, including adults of all ages. For more information, check out www.westminsterwoods.org.

MISSION & OUTREACH

In late March, the **Two Rock quilters donated eleven quilts for babies and young children** to the Shriner's Hospital in Sacramento. This is part of the mission of the quilting group: many of the quilts they create are sold to raise funds for our church, though quite a few of them are donated to various charitable organizations in our area. Together, those eleven quilts are worth about \$ 550, yet the warmth and comfort to children who are hospitalized are of far greater value. Thank you very much, quilters, for this loving gift.

The Two Rock congregation is once again hosting the **Coast Guard Spouses Association** in its annual **Open Trunk Rummage Sale** on **Saturday, May 11,** from 9 am to 1 pm. About 20 Coast Guard families and a couple of church members will bring their cars and trucks full of treasures and display them in the Two Rock parking lot. Come on by and find kitchen items, furniture, clothing, toys, books, and other unique stuff.

Mother's Day is coming up on **Sunday, May 12th,** and with it our annual **Abelskiver Breakfast,** put on by the men of both of our churches. This much-loved event has a dual purpose: 1. to honor the women in our midst by cooking a delicious breakfast for them and their families; 2. to raise funds to assist people in the community when emergency needs arise.

Contact Cliff Stroke and Carl Carter to help with food preparation on May 11 and /or cooking and serving Abelskiver Breakfast on May 12. We will have delicious Abelskivers hot off the pan, sliced ham, fresh fruit, syrup and jam, milk and coffee from **7:30 am until 10:30 am**. Do invite your whole family to this event and share a delightful breakfast!

PROPERTY & FINANCE

When it finally stopped raining in on April 10, things got busy at Two Rock Church!

A huge thank-you to **Paul Lewis**, who pulled strings and moved mountains **to get all kinds of projects done before Easter**: the repair of the eaves of the garage; the installation of wooden siding and a cross on the north side of the garage; painting of the garage; painting of the church sign at the entrance into the parking lot; and painting of the golden cross along Bodega Ave and of the handrail by the church bell, both of which Chris Wilhelmsen had crafted for Two Rock Church.

Many thanks also to Fred Dolcini for his wood working and repairs; to Bob Spurgens and his painters; and to Ben Visser and Peter Karoitamana for performing many tasks, big and small, to improve our building & grounds.

Thank you also, Ben Visser, for mowing in the cemetery and below the church garage, weeding around the manse, and tidying up as needed. Many thanks also to Two Rock's **hardscaping and landscaping crew**. Following a design proposal by Two Rock elder and architect Brent Russell, Sue Russell has taken the lead with

creating a set of raised flower beds that wrap around the sanctuary of our church. At last count, eighteen individuals have been involved in this project; great work, everyone!

During the stormy night of February 27, one of the big **Cypress trees in the Tomales cemetery** fell down. It landed on top of the fence that separates the church's property from its neighbor on the north side. Thankfully, no other damage was done.

Now that the ground has dried up, a tree service will cut up and remove the downed tree. There are a couple of other trees that are leaning precariously over to that same neighbor's property. Our elders and our cemetery curator decided to have those trees taken down, too, before they fall and destroy the neighbor's water tank. This tree work will happen in May.

CHURCH CARE & FELLOWSHIP

The **deacons of Tomales Presbyterian Church** held a special reception on April 13, following the **Memorial Service for John Mitchell**. Many thanks to Kathy Foster, Kip Spragens, Carl Carter, and particularly to Virginia and Rob Campbell. The tables in the fellowship hall were set up beautifully, the refreshments were prepared with love, and many people brought desserts in memory of John, who loved pies, cookies and sweet treats. Thank you, everyone.

The **Easter Breakfast** hosted by the Two Rock congregation was fabulous! A big thank-you to our Two Rock deacons, Doreen Coe, Pat Huber, Nan Leavell, Marlene

Lewis and Brooke Studwell. Many thanks also to Mary Lynn Visser and Margaret Todt for making four delicious egg casseroles! We are also grateful to all the other people who brought breakfast dishes to share. What a great way to celebrate resurrection and Easter, family and community!

And here is the fun event to which the elders of both our churches invite everyone:

On **Sunday, June 30, at 11:00 am** we will have **one joint worship service at Tomales Presbyterian Church**. That will be followed by an **all-church BBQ & potluck on the church patio**. This is the weekend before 4th of July, so our food might include hot dogs, potato salad, water melons, ice cream, and other summer fare. Do join us and bring all your family and friends!

PRESBYTERY NEWS

† The next **Presbytery Meeting** will be held at **Travis Airforce Base** on Friday, May 17, 2019, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

14th annual Salute to American Graffiti will happen in Petaluma on **Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18**. This is a time for lovers of antique cars to get together, show off their own classic models, and admire the fancy cars brought by people from all across the nation. This event is organized by two Rock members Joetta and John Furrer and raises funds to put AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in each fire engine, police car, school, and public building in Petaluma.

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“ Arise... for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone,
the flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come.”
Song of Songs, 2:11-12

May 11: Open Trunk Flea Market at Two Rock Church, 9am to 1pm.

May 12: Mother’s Day Abelskiver Breakfast at Two Rock Church from 7:30 to 10:30, followed by Joint
Worship at 11am. **There will be no service in Tomales.**

May 19: Violin Concert by Kyle Craft at Tomales Church at 3pm.

May 26: Memorial Day Weekend and decorating of the graves by Sunday School children.

June 2: Honoring our children.

June 16: Honoring the men in our community.

June 30: All Church joint worship in Tomales at 11am, followed by BBQ potluck.