

Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches

Words of Welcome



Rev. Brook Scott

IT IS AN EXCITING TIME to be your Temporary Pastor! The buzz of activity is constant and frenetic. Congregants are engaged in the work of the church, alongside laughter, homemade cookies, and caring smiles. It is a joyous place where folks go about the serious work of caring for others, planning for the future, and growing in faith. Even as my time as your Temporary Pastor is coming to an end in June, I feel so blessed to be witnessing the flourishing of your yoked congregations. As I shared at the beginning of my journey with you, your long-history in this bucolic oasis in west Marin is one that is of deep faith and imbued with the God's creative Spirit that makes all things new. That same Spirit is at work in this moment in ways that are unfolding – sometimes mysteriously – but

always with a sense of underlying trust that reminds us that God is always with us in ways that are too wonderful for words.

To know these churches is to experience the presence of Christ who is so vividly revealed in Sunday worship: in the voices of the men's trio, in the strains of the old hymns, in the uplifting tenor of our pianist, or in the rhythms of the changing seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent leading into the glory of the Easter Season. Scripture tells us that we are meant to live in healthy relationship with ourselves, with one another and with God. Church is the place to live into that vision.

Since I have come aboard this journey of faith with you, we have come together to help people who are struggling in the community through our Community Emergency Fund, begun a new partnership with the Mary Isaak Center and COTS in their battle against homelessness, and welcomed a host of talented musicians to perform for the community at joint fundraising concerts. We have capped all those efforts off with glorious bells ringing on Christmas morning and plans for a wonderful Easter celebration ahead. Praise be to God!

We welcome you to come and join us on our journey as we follow in the path of Jesus and walk by faith through the peaks and valleys of daily life. The future is bright, our hearts are full, and we trust that the same God who led the people of Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land is with us still, fulfilling God's covenant with this community of faith for time everlasting.

Pastor Transition

THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC) began its work to find the next installed pastor back in late August with four members from Tomales Church (Amanda Graves; Eric Knudsen; Liz Mitchell; & Kathryn LeMieux) and four members from Two Rock Valley Church (Lonnie Wernstrum; Jessica Briggs; Kathy Stroke; & Don White). Amanda Graves has subsequently resigned due to family obligations, however her contributions to the PNC were very valuable and will be missed. The first order of work was to complete the Ministry Information Form (MIF), and submit it to both sessions for approval and then onto Commission on Ministry (COM) for their approval. The MIF was approved by both sessions in mid-October and then approved by COM in early November. With this approval we were now set to review submitted Pastor Information Forms (PIF's) through the CLC system of the PCUSA. The PNC has been diligently meeting once a week during this entire process except for December due to Christmas. We have so far reviewed over 100 PIF's with some possible candidates coming through. We also have added the job posting to both church's websites as well as Presbytery's website. With God's guidance, we will continue our work until we find the right pastor for our two churches.

The PNC has requested that the Sessions reinstate the Temporary Pastor Nominating Committee (TPNC) to look for another temporary Pastor to continue after Pastor Brook leaves us at the end of June. The TPNC is made up of four members; Kathy Stroke and Brent Russell from Two Rock and Mary Spragens and Sharon Knudsen from Tomales. We will begin meeting soon and will be requesting applicants from the Presbytery of the Redwoods. Hopefully we will have several resumes to review and can choose a person who can continue all the good work that Pastor Brook has done.

By Don White and Sharon Knudsen



I Worried

by Mary Oliver

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall
I correct it?
Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?
Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well,
hopeless.
Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism,
lockjaw, dementia?
Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.

Brook's Presbyterian Trivia Quiz

(Answers on back page. No peeking!)

1. Presbyterians, as part of the Reformed tradition, are people who:
 - a) Take the Bible literally, regardless of the context in which it was written.
 - b) Hold all the same beliefs as the Catholic Church.
 - c) Have written down what they believe to be most important in documents called "Confessions" of faith.
 - d) all of the above.
2. What are the main features of the Presbyterian form of church government?
 - a) Ultimate authority rests in one head of the church called a pope.
 - b) Authority is held in a hierarchy marked by power lodged in the office of bishop.
 - c) Each church acts autonomously and independently, and ultimate decision-making rests in the local congregation.
 - d) Authority is representational through a group of elders elected by the local congregation for oversight.
3. Duties of Ruling Elders:
 - a) Are to focus exclusively on running the operations of the church.
 - b) Are the same as those of Teaching Elders.
 - c) Are to strengthen and nurture Christian faith in congregations and to exercise spiritual oversight over the life and work of the church.
 - d) All of the above.
4. The primary duties of Deacons are:
 - a) Only to change out the paraments in worship.
 - b) Are the same as the pastor.
 - c) Concern for the poor and those who suffer.
 - d) All of the above.
5. Reformed theology recognizes that:
 - a) There is no reason to study Scripture because it was written so long ago.
 - b) God is always leading us and giving us new insights from Scripture.
 - c) Christian faith needs to be constantly articulated and confessed.
 - d) b and c.
 - e) All of the above.
6. The Bible is considered the "Word of God" because:
 - a) God is the one who wrote it.
 - b) It is the source of our knowledge of Jesus Christ and our knowledge of God's actions in the history of Israel.
 - c) a and b.
7. How are officers of the church to lead?
 - a) With a strict sense of right and wrong.
 - b) Based on what others tell them to do.
 - c) Always sacrificing and submitting to whatever members want.
 - d) With energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.



Community Outreach

Souper Bowl

The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina:

*Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game,
help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of
soup to eat.*

The Sunday School children, teachers and congregation of the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church have been participating the Souper Bowl of Caring for 14 years!

This year Evelyn, Dexter, Landon, Mary and Jack served homemade soups to our congregation, with the generosity of our congregation, \$464.00 was raised and will be donated to the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Thank you to all who participated by providing delicious soups, bread, cookies, and opening their hearts to make this another successful year for our children!

COTS (Committee on the Shelterless)

Our coats and sweater drive for COTS has been a huge success! We have dozens of coats and sweaters to help those in our community stay warm.

Groceries To Go

Volunteers from Two Rock are assisting **Redwood Empire Food Bank** at the Two Rock Elementary School drive through food pantry. 36 families were served on February 24th.

Pantry is open the **second and fourth Friday of the month 9:am-10:am** (except March 31st)

Redwood Empire Food Bank Food Barrels

We often give something up for Lent to bring us closer to God; to put God in the center of our minds, hearts, and lives. Why not also give to those in need as well! Food barrels will be available at Two Rock through Lent.

Brook's Book Pick

Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age By Mary Pipher

Review by Rev. Brook Scott

Life can pose so many challenges, particularly as we age. Going from middle to old age can present health challenges and unexpected loss. How do we navigate such changes? Mary Pipher's book does a good job at laying out the skills that can help. Filled with stories from her many decades as a psychologist, she imbues her book with wisdom and grace that has been honed through decades of walking alongside others on their journey from loss to resilience. The author of best-seller *Reviving Ophelia* in the mid-1990s, Pipher focuses on the very real experiences that older women face. Pipher reflects on how past despair can be a valuable springboard in a deepening cycle toward gratitude, illumination, awe, and wonder, even in the silver years of life.



WITH THE HEAVY RAINS that we experienced in January it was discovered that the rain gutter and downspout on the south side of the sanctuary was clogged with roofing material, paint chips and debris. Community member Bill Bonini brought his sky lift up to the church and he and Eric Knudsen cleaned the gutter and unclogged the downspout. All done in time for this latest session of rain. We give much appreciation to Bill for volunteering his time and machinery.

Make Music with our Joint Handbell Choir

REHEARSALS RESUME in mid-April, Wednesdays at 6pm at Two Rock. If you are interested in playing with us, you are welcome.

Please contact Suzanne Lang, trtomp@aol.com.



L-R: Sue Russell, Brent Russell, Suzanne Lang, Liz Mitchell, Mary Spragens, Kip Spragens, Kathy Murphy, Mary Lynn Visser



Two Rock and Tomales Churches 2022 10 30
23 views • 4 months ago

 Tomales and Two Rock Churches

Full service at Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church on October 30, 2022. Pastor Brook's sermon is at 26:10. Check out our ...

**Can't come to Sunday service?
Remember, you can find our services on YouTube.**

First quarter of 2023

Submitted by Gillian Mahrt
on behalf of your ruling Elders
Gail Turcotte, Brent Russell, Bruce
Carrington, Kathy Stroke

During the month of January 2023,
Session approved re-keying of the manse
and church buildings after a break-in
occurred. The Buildings and Ground

Committee is considering other preventative measures such as lighting. Bruce Carrington cleaned and fixed all internal window locks. A Personnel Committee comprised of Gillian Mahrt, Kathy Stroke, Sharon Knudsen, with Pastor Brook in an advisory role, is now working to update personnel policy.

The annual meeting of the congregation took place Feb 5th 2023 with a report from the nominating committee and election of the following officers:

Gail Turcotte and Bruce Carrington as Ruling Elders for 2023-2025.

Cliff Stroke and Margeret Todt as Deacons for 2023-2025 and Nan Leavell for 2023.

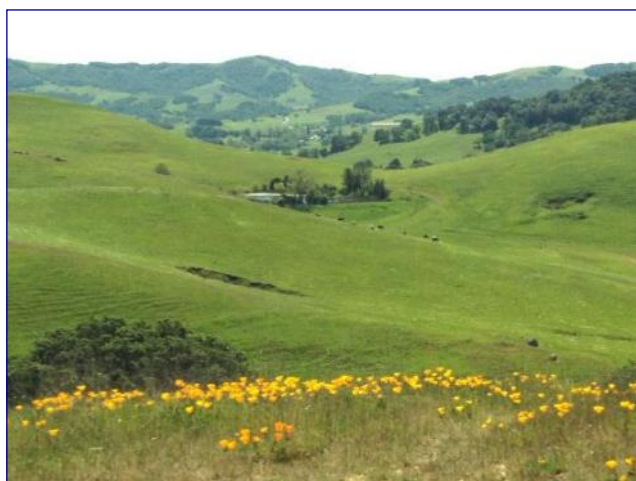
Lonnie Wernstrum as financial secretary

MaryLynn Visser & Ingrid Mahrt will be members at large on the 2023 nominating committee.

During Session Meeting February 28th 2023 we formed a Temporary Pastor Nominating committee at the recommendation of the Presbytery and appointed Brent Russell, Kathy Stroke, Sharon Knudsen, Mary Spragens. Pastor Brook is leaving us in June 2023, so it will be necessary to have someone to support us and the PNC as we continue our transition.

On March 5th, 2023 a meeting was held after church service for all those wishing to participate in a resumption of the choir. With 12 willing singers, Diane Strohmeyer has very kindly volunteered to direct the choir for an Easter Program.

Officer Training took place via zoom on March 7th, 2023. Session continues to work at updating policies (personnel & financial) as we look forward to welcoming a new permanent pastor.



Going.

I am going.

I am following the wind,

I am following the fire.

Listening

to a still, small, voice.

It gives me strength for when I tire.

— Patty Shelly



First quarter of 2023

Submitted by Sharon Knudsen,
Clerk of Session

Average Sunday attendance:

Nov. – 17.5, Dec. – 21.75, Jan. – 16,
Feb. – 15.75

The “Fall into Music” Concert on
November 5 was another smashing
success. The funds from this event will

go towards necessary repairs and improvements for our historic Tomales Church. We are looking forward to another “Kick off to Summer” concert tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 17. Stay tuned.

We have been collecting new or gently used coats and sweaters for COTS to provide to the unhoused.

In September we said farewell to Rob and Virginia Campbell who have bought a house in Dallas, Oregon. We will miss them but wish them well.

The Joint Church Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been hard at work. Their first job was to fill in the Ministry Information Form (MIF) which is basically the resume of the church. Then they requested candidates’ Personal Information Forms (PIF). The committee has been diligently reading PIFs and watching sermons. No one has risen to the top as of yet, but they continue to search. Thank you to Amanda Graves, Eric Knudsen, Kathryn LeMieux and Liz Mitchell for serving on the Tomales PNC.

The Advent Season included the beautiful and inspirational joint candle light service held in the Two Rock Church. Participants from both churches read scripture and performed including the joint bell choir directed by Suzanne Lang. Two Rock provided refreshments after. Since Christmas Sunday fell on Christmas Day we held a joint worship in Tomales with the bell choir performing. The beautiful decorations done by our Deacons and the great acoustics in our sanctuary made for a moving and memorable service.

Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on January 29 following worship and a brunch provided by the Deacons. We reviewed reports from the different committees and elected officers for the coming year. Kip Spragens was elected to complete the remaining two years of Rob Campbell’s term. Sharon Knudsen was elected to a second 3 year term. Amanda Graves and Kathy Murphy continue to serve their terms. Mary Spragens was elected to the Deacons and Kathy Foster will serve another 3 year term. Liz Mitchell continues to serve her term. We could use another Deacon if anyone is interested. Dennis Hansen was elected as Financial Secretary and Mel Todt as the church treasurer. The 2023 budget and the terms of call for our temporary pastor, the Rev. Brook Scott, were reviewed and approved.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of member Georgia Burbank Marino on February 10, 2023. Georgia will be greatly missed by her church and her community. Our prayers go out to her family.

Focus on David Burbank of Tomales with Kathy Murphy

DAVID BURBANK IS A LONGTIME AND FAITHFUL MEMBER OF TOMALES CHURCH, having been born on the Burbank Ranch just outside Tomales town. Kathy had a delicious lunch with him and found out a little bit about his family history and his connection to the church.

David: In 1854 my grandfather and his brother George decided to come out and ranch here. They came from Massachusetts, so they had to travel around the Cape Horn (which took about six months) but I'm sure that they went first class. They came into San Francisco and then they came up to Marin County. They came with money to buy property, buy livestock, and hire people. Each brother got a ranch, and the ranches touch the backside, but you go in differently. You go into my grandfather, David's place off Fallon Road, and the other one, belonging to George, you come onto from Tomales Road. Stemple Creek ran through both ranches. Now our ranch is known as Stemple Creek Ranch.

My grandfather and his wife, along with George and his wife, needed a church, so they instigated the church building, and got people together to build it. It wasn't Presbyterian then.

Kathy: Oh, so it was more of a community church.

David: Well, there wasn't anything out there, except for the Catholic church.

People wanted a community place and their wives from the East Coast were used to more organization. They wanted a place to get married in and have the kids baptized in, so they got the building going with a lot of volunteers and a lot of PR. The community got behind them and I think they arranged for itinerant pastors. Two Rock Church was there already but, back in those buggy days, Two Rock was a long way away. They were very supportive though.

The church burned down just after it was built. They were piling up the trash from all the building in readiness for the church's dedication, and it caught alight and burned the church down, so they had to build another one. They went around with their hands out and everybody had to chip in. In those days the community valued a church more than they do today. Today it's the memory of the church that's valued.

Kathy: Tell me a little about your great uncle, Luther Burbank.

David: Back east, grandfather's father wanted their younger brother, Luther, to be a medical doctor and sent him off medical school but Luther liked plants. And so, when his father died, he quit school and came out to California. By then there was a train, and it only took nine days to get out here. He was closest to my grandfather, David, and he lived with them there on the ranch for two years, until his mother arrived and they bought property in Santa Rosa.

He was quite a bit younger than David and George, and he was famous for his "Burbank Potato". Luther was out in the garden, hoeing the potatoes, when he noticed a funny little seed nodule. He'd never seen a seed that grew out of a potato plant before. So, he watched it mature and he got two seeds out of it that were viable. He planted them and they became the Burbank Potato, a big russet potato. It was just chance, nothing that he did. He did lots of other things on purpose, (like the Shasta Daisy and the Lily of the Valley). He worked with grains, with wheat. And then, of course, he had the place in Sebastopol where he grew the big things, Oak trees and things like that. He got a lot of recognition for his work.

My grandfather was almost 70 when my father was born in 1899. He had remarried and my grandmother was a Coastal Miwok. Dad was born at the ranch, just like I was. A few years later my



grandfather bought a place in Petaluma, and they moved in there because my 5-year-old dad was ready for kindergarten, and the local schools didn't have kindergarten. His father drove him to school in the morning and home again for lunch. Of course, he used a horse and buggy in those days. And then finally, when my dad was about 13, he convinced his father that it was time to get a car because he was commuting out to Tomales in a horse and buggy, which was kind of a long commute. You know, at that time, getting a car was like getting a helicopter today. My grandfather had never driven anything else but a horse and buggy before, and they didn't have license training then. Well, they drove out to the house, and the new car was going towards the ditch and my grandfather just said, "Woah!" like he was still driving the horses. After that my father became the family chauffeur at age 13. He drove that Model T Ford all over the place.

My parents were very active in the church, held every position. My dad was inspiring. He wasn't just a farmer. He was on the board of directors of several different companies, and then he and two of his friends started the Bank of Marin. I'm the only one, generationally, who hasn't started a bank!

Kathy: Did you meet your wife, Marianne, through the church?

David: After my military service, I moved back onto the ranch. I was single in those days and if you're down working on the tractor, it's hard to meet people. A bunch of us decided we needed to have a group called Young Single Adults (YSA). The young pastor from the UCC church in Petaluma and his wife agreed to be the sponsors of it. We went out to different places and did different things. It was cool. Most of the people we met were teachers. That's where I met Marianne. That's where John (Mitchell) met Joanne.

Now, financially, just farming was not a good thing. The costs were so high and, depending on prices, the income could be very low. Even now, you could have a \$200 000 business and you get \$4 000 net income. I had a friend who worked for a friend - you know how that goes - and this friend was starting an Instructional Materials for Schools business and, and they wanted somebody to do the business side. He asked me if I was available and I told him, yes, I was, well, I was just out of graduate school. He had his headquarters in Santa Cruz and this friend of mine was in the East Bay, so we covered the whole area, and we did very well.

I bought into the business, so when I retired from that, we sold the business. Well, I was only 54 and so I thought, I'll just golf every day for the rest of my life! But my wife, Marianne, she was in education. She loved teaching. She was a school principal, and that kind of rubbed off on me. I thought, she's having such a good time. Why can't I join in?

So, at 55, I started teaching. I had to take a few more classes and then I taught special education. And I just loved the kids, loved the parents and it was very different. I started at the high school, and I worked my way up to get to the elementary school level. You get a lot more hugs at elementary school. I kept doing that until I was 72 and it was just fun. I liked doing it and I had free summers every year. We went on great vacations - tours and things like that, Australia and New Zealand, Europe several times. That was a good time because the kids were away in college, we had nothing to keep us at home, and we could afford it.

We have two children, Margaret, and Stuart. (David and Marianne first had a son who died young and is buried in Tomales Cemetery). After Margaret was born, we adopted Stuart who has adopted two children of his own. Margaret has three girls. The grandkids live all over the place now but when they're in town they all come to church with me.

Kathy: Did you always go to church?

David: Oh yes. I was born into that church in 1933. I've had a long time with it. I have a headstone in the cemetery, but so far it just has my birthdate on it! My grandfather and his brother lived into their 90s, I turn 90 in April, so I'm thinking I might be reaching the end here. But if I died tomorrow, I'd be ready. I've had a great life, a wonderful family, a lot of love.

Calendar and Activities

April 2 Palm Sunday, 9:30 Tomales and 11:00 Two Rock

April 6 Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm at Two Rock Fellowship Hall

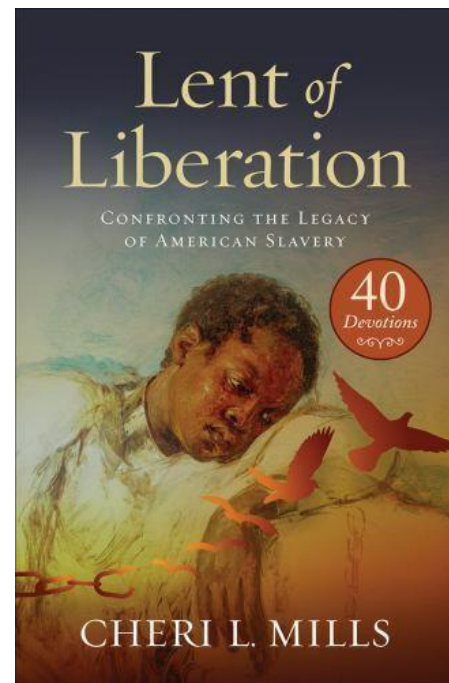
April 9 Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 am
at Two Rock followed by breakfast.

Worship, 9:30 am at Tomales with Choir
and 11:00 at Two Rock with Choir

Lent Book Study: *Lent of Liberation: Confronting
the Legacy of American Slavery* by Cheri Mills

Tuesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 pm at Two Rock
through April 6

This Lenten devotional invites readers to learn more about the brutal institution of slavery and its impact on Black people in America and discover how its evolution and legacy continue to harm their descendants in the United States today. Each of the forty devotions includes the testimony of a person who escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad, a Scripture passage, and a reflection connecting biblical and historical themes to challenge modern readers to work for liberation. Reflecting on Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance, readers, both Black and white, will be empowered for the work of racial justice.



← **Is this your jacket?**

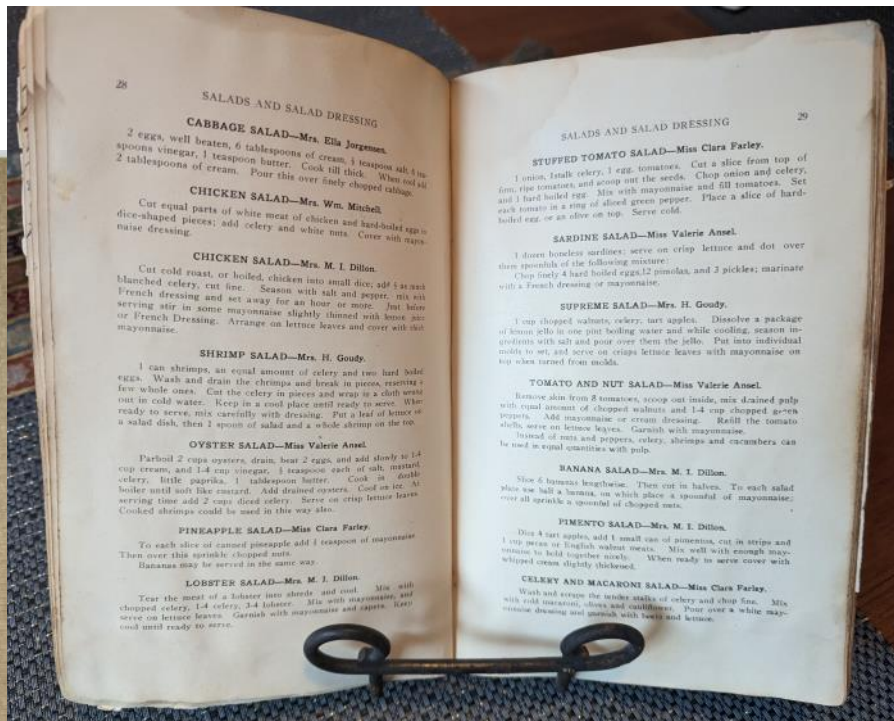
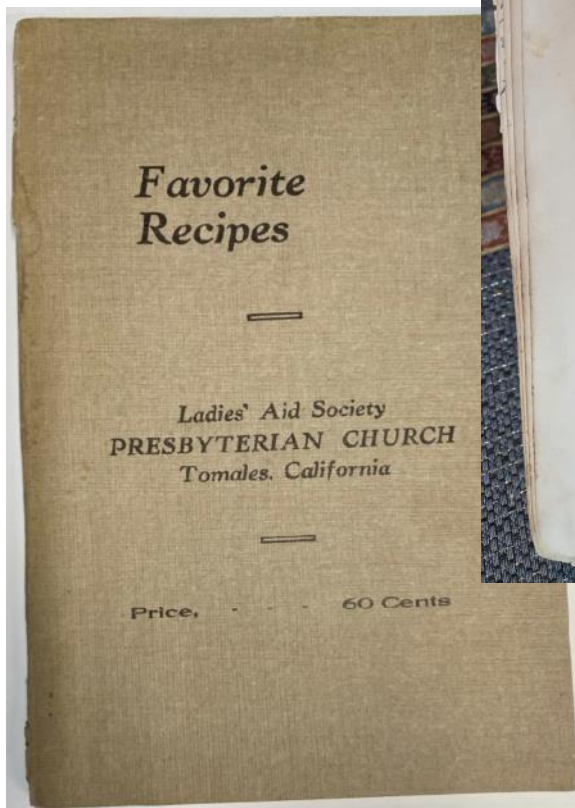
This jacket was left at the Tomales Church a couple of months ago, possibly after the joint congregation worship service on Christmas.

Call the church office, email us at trtompc@aol.com or just come by for it.



We've Always Known How to Feed Each Other

Church Elder and Tomales Regional History Center (TRHC) Board Member Kathryn LeMieux and TRHC Archivist Lynn Downey dove deep into the History Center's yet-to-be catalogued archives and discovered, among other amazing artifacts, cook books from the Tomales Presbyterian Church's Ladies' Aid Society. Though undated, they are from the early twentieth century.



It is interesting to see how many of the recipes are written with minimal instructions. The assumption was that you just knew how to put this stuff together. We all still love our after service fellowship and especially communal meals and pot lucks that we share with each other. Presbyterians

know how to make a very good salad, hands down.

The TRHC is open weekends, 1-4pm. Find them online at www.tomaleshistory.com.

Save the Date!
Kick-off to Summer Concert
Saturday, June 17 at 2:00 pm at Tomales Presbyterian Church
A joint fundraiser with proceeds to support the Community Emergency Fund for community members in need.

Two Rock Valley and Tomales
Presbyterian Churches
7063 Bodega Ave,
Petaluma, CA 94952

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Pastor's Office Hours

Two Rock—Tuesday and Thursday
10:00am—2:00pm

Tomales—Thursday
2:30pm-4:30pm

Sunday Worship

Tomales—9:30 am
11 Church Street (PO Box 13), Tomales 94971

Two Rock—11:00 am
7093 Bodega Ave, Petaluma 94952



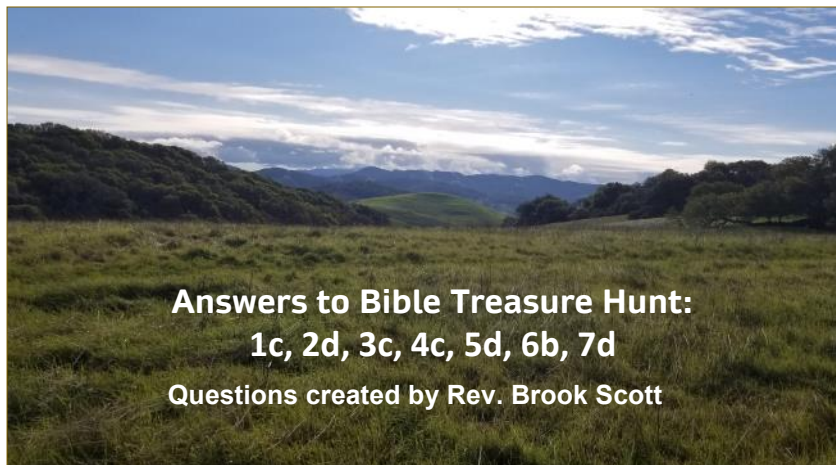
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Call us: 707-762-4924

Visit online at

<https://tomalespresbyterianchurch.org>

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**Answers to Bible Treasure Hunt:
1c, 2d, 3c, 4c, 5d, 6b, 7d**

Questions created by Rev. Brook Scott