

# Hill 'n Vale

Newsletter of the Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches

Visit us at [tomalespresbyterian.org](http://tomalespresbyterian.org) and [tworockvalleypresbyterian.org](http://tworockvalleypresbyterian.org)

11 Church Street, P.O. Box 13, Tomales, CA 94971

7063 Bodega Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952

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707-762-4924 and [trtompc@aol.com](mailto:trtompc@aol.com)

## **PASTORAL PONDERINGS**

Dear Friends in Two Rock and Tomales,

To say that life is busy is to state the obvious: all of us have lots to do; our days are quite occupied. That is especially true for our younger members and for people with children. Trying to balance work, school, family life, church, sports activities, 4 H programs, and Cub Scouts has not gotten any easier in the last 20 or 30 years. If anything, our lives have become even more packed and hurried.

Given this situation, how can we as faith communities help young families stay connected to church and to worship? How can we assist busy mothers and fathers in conveying to their children some essential truths about life and faith? How can we support busy families who still seek to worship God, pay attention to the Spirit's guidance, and follow our Lord Jesus Christ?

Here is something that we want to try out, in collaboration with all parents and grandparents, all aunts and uncles and cousins who want to participate. On Sunday, March 10, the first Sunday of Lent, we will start a new, seven-week curriculum for our Sunday school students. And not only will we have the instruction sheets and coloring pages for this Lent-to-Easter curriculum in our Sunday school rooms to use at church; we

will also give a folder with one complete, seven-week lesson plan, including coloring pages and craft ideas, to each family unit that would like to have one at home.

The reason for this approach is simple: it would allow parents to do a Sunday school lesson with their children at home, even on weeks when they are not able to come to church. It would allow grandparents who provide childcare for their grandkids to share some of the foundational stories of our Christian faith. It would allow aunts and uncles to mail these pages to their nieces and nephews who live out of town. And it would allow Sunday school teachers to reach out to children and youth who rarely make it to church.

In his letter to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul calls the members of that congregation "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20). My hope is that many of us, as ambassadors for Christ, will partner with our busy young families, so that all who seek to teach their children about Christian faith, hope, and love will have the opportunity to do so.

If you would like to receive a copy of this Lenten Sunday school curriculum, please let me know; the license we purchased allows us to make up to 50 copies. There is enough for everyone. And then let's try this out together.

God bless you all,  
Pastor Cornelia



Spring Forth:

**Daylight Savings Time**

Begins on

**Sunday, March 10**

## **JOYS TO SHARE**

Congratulations to **Laura Lee Burns** who turned **80 years young** on January 9!

Did you know that Lolly was born and raised in Maine? There she also worked as a school teacher, married, and raised five children. In the late 1970s Lolly went back to school to study nursing. After she became a Registered Nurse, she moved to California: the pay was twice what she would have received in Maine, and by 1982, she was ready for a change of weather!

In 1986, after she had come to work in Petaluma, Lolly met Franklin Burns, a Petaluma rancher with strong roots in Tomales. In 1987, Lolly and Franklin were married at Tomales Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Henry Rankin.

Since Franklin's death in 2008, Lolly has moved from the ranch on Spring Hill Road to a house in Petaluma. She enjoys spending time with her five children and five grandchildren; and she likes being with good friends, reading books and watching movies, and coming to worship at Two Rock Church.

Two Rock member **Sally Davis** will turn **90 on April 10**. Sally is the mother of Sue Russell, mother-

in-law of Brent Russell, and grandmother to Parker, Daphne, and Kelsey. She moved to Petaluma about 10 years ago after having lived and worked in Fremont for many years. On most Sunday mornings, Sally can be found in the narthex, handing out church bulletins.

Congratulations, Sally, on your special birthday, happy celebrations with family and friends, and God's abundant blessings upon your new year and new decade of life!



**June Hartman** of Redding and soon of Fairfield **will turn 90 on April 28.** June is the sister of Tomales member John Mitchell and aunt of Liz and Mitch Mitchell. She grew up in Tomales and was part of Tomales Presbyterian Church before getting married in 1950 and moving away. Still, any time June visits town, she joins the Tomales congregation for worship.

June had been married to Bill Hartman for 62 years when he passed away in 2012. Now her family includes son John of Sacramento, daughter Linda of Tomales and Bend, OR, four granddaughters, and three great-grandsons. June will soon move into the grandmother-unit at her granddaughter Amanda's home in Fairfield. That is also the household where her three great-grandsons live. So while June may be retired as a nurse, she expects to stay active and involved with this lively family. A very happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, June, and may you be in your new home by April 28!

Congratulations to Two Rock Church member **Carl Graham**, who will celebrate his **90<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 29.**

Born in Bolivar, Missouri, Carl was the second child and first son in a family with three girls and three boys. Until he was twelve years old, his family lived on their 20-acre farm 10 miles outside of Bolivar, and Carl and his siblings went to a small country school. Making a living off the land and feeding a family of eight was not easy in the 1930's. Every child had chores assigned to keep the house warm and care for land and animals.

With the beginning of WWII in 1941, Carl's father found work in a factory in Kansas City, MO. The family purchased a house there, and with determination and skill made necessary repairs and made it their own. In Kansas City Carl first saw automobiles, street cars, people of color, and big schools with lots of students. He graduated from High School in June 1947.

That same October, Carl enlisted in the Marine Corps for three years. He went to Boot Camp in San Diego, to Sea School in that same location, then to Riverton, WA. He served on the USS Iowa as a combat marine, also trained as a supply man, and in 1949 was sent to a supply base in San Francisco. In 1950, Carl re-enlisted for four more years since, with the start of the Korean War, all enlistments were frozen and no one was allowed to leave the military anyway. In 1953, Carl was transferred to a supply base in Albany, Georgia. In early 1955, Carl's time with the Marines was up: he had served 7 years, 3 months, and 6 days.

In 1949, while stationed in San Francisco, Carl met Helen Boysen of Two Rock, who at that time lived and worked in San Francisco. The

couple dated for three month and got married in July 1949. They have three children: Ken and Judy were born while Carl was stationed in San Francisco, Don was born after Carl had left the Marines and the family was back in Two Rock. Between 1955 and 1961, Carl, Helen, and their children lived with Helen's family on the ranch in Two Rock; near Carl's family in Grandview, MO; then settled in Two Rock in 1961, to be near Helen's family and especially her father, who was ailing and would pass away in 1964.

While in Missouri, Carl began working as a carpenter and joined the union in Kansas City. In 1961, Carl transferred his union membership to the San Rafael Local. For over twenty years he worked for various builders of homes and schools in Marin and Sonoma County. In 1970, Carl and his sons re-roofed Two Rock Church; in 1971, as Helen started her crafts shop, Carl's carpentry skills came in handy for the renovation of the big barn; and in 1973, the company Carl worked for added the Sunday school rooms to the Two Rock Church building.

In the early 1980's, Carl retired from carpentry to work just on the ranch. A few years later, Carl and Helen wound down their ranching business and leased out their land. For the last 25 years, Carl has stayed busy around his property, involved in the Two Rock community, and active as a member of the Two Rock Church choir. He says with a smile, "The 70 years since I came to San Francisco and married Helen sure went by in a flash!"

## NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Each year we elect new church officers during our annual meeting. This election is always followed by a day of officer training and planning for the next year. After that, on February 10, our new church officers were ordained or installed during worship.

The **Two Rock congregation welcomed elders David Coe and Brent Russell** to active leadership on session; and **deacons Doreen Coe, Pat Huber, and Nan Leavall** will now serve on the Board of Deacons at Two Rock Church.

The **Tomales congregation ordained Kathy Murphy as a new elder and installed Kathryn LeMieux as a returning session member; and Liz Mitchell joined again the Board of Deacons.**

Many thanks to the nominating committee of each congregation for their diligent work this past fall; and many thanks to our new church officers for agreeing to serve our churches and communities.

## WORSHIP

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

Please join us for these special worship events in March and April:

† On **March 3** we will celebrate the **Transfiguration of the Lord**, which also marks the end of the season of Epiphany

† The season of **Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6

† Our theme for the Sundays of Lent will be **“Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem**

† April 14 is **Palm-and-Passion Sunday**, which we will observe with a happy parade of palms and songs and a solemn reading of the passion story

† **Maundy Thursday** falls on April 18; we will hold a special joint service for people from both Tomales and Two Rock Churches in Two Rock at 7:00 pm

† We will begin **April 21, Easter Sunday**, in Two Rock with a joint Sunrise Service at 6:30 am, followed by a big breakfast for everyone. We will also have regular worship in Two Rock at 9:30 am and in Tomales at 11:00 am.



### Brenda Lee Sloan

October 19, 1956 – Jan. 30, 2019

Do not fear,  
for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name,  
you are mine.  
(Isaiah 43:1)

The **Hand bell choir** is comprised of bell ringers from both Tomales and Two Rock Churches. About a dozen people take turns ringing our three octaves of hand bells and melody chimes, often accompanied by Kyle Craft on his violin. This lively group of players is practicing again under the direction of Kay Fish. They will ring their joyous music in **Tomales on March 10** and in **Two Rock on March 17** during regular morning worship. Be sure to come and listen to them!

## EDUCATION & LEARNING

☺ During this year’s **Adult Lenten Study** we will read Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. Please join us as we meet for six weeks in March and April, study the fifteen *Psalms of Ascent* (Psalms 120-134), and examine our own faith and discipleship. For more information about meeting times and to receive a copy of the book, please contact Pastor Cornelia.

☺ We extend a **special invitation to all children and youth** to come to several happy events in April. Please join us for the

\* **Palm Sunday Parade on April 14** at the beginning of our worship in Two Rock and Tomales: we will wave palm frond and sing joyous hymns while we recall Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem.

\* **Easter Egg Hunt in Tomales Town Park on Saturday, April 20, at 1:30 pm sharp**

\* On **Easter Sunday, April 21**, we celebrate the **Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ**. We will also give a plant to each child that day, as a reminder to care for God’s good and beautiful creation.

☺ From **Friday, May 3, to Saturday, May 4**, Pastor Cornelia will lead the **25<sup>th</sup> annual women’s retreat of First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo**; it will be held at the **Ralston White Retreat Center in Mill Valley**. The women of the San Anselmo Church would be delighted to have women from Tomales and Two Rock Churches join them! The cost is \$ 160 for the overnight stay, three healthy meals, and three sessions of study, conversation, and reflection. The

theme of the retreat is “*Words To Live By*”, inviting participants to explore verses from Scripture, bits of poetry, sayings handed down from families, or lyrics from favorite hymns and songs that have been significant in their lives. For more information, please speak with Pastor Cornelia.

© Can you believe it: we have already received brochures for summer camp at **Westminster Woods!** From **June 23 through August 3**, six weeks of summer camp are scheduled for children and youth of various ages, including a family camp during the last week. To find out more, take a look at the brochures in the fellowship hall, talk to a Sunday school teacher or to Pastor Cornelia, or go online to <https://www.westminsterwoods.org/summer-camp>.

## **MISSION & OUTREACH**

On Thursday, January 10, the **Tomales Food Pantry** was held at **Tomales Presbyterian Church**. Food items, including lots of fruit and vegetables, were laid out in the fellowship hall and on the patio, and our clients enjoyed filling grocery bags in a setting that felt like a farmer’s market. The **Tomales Food Pantry** is open **every Thursday at 2 pm** for anyone who needs groceries; usually it is set up in the **Town Hall**.

Beginning on January 20, the congregations of Two Rock and Tomales took a **special offering to help Coast Guard families** affected by the government shutdown. At the end of it, these families had been living without a

paycheck for five long weeks, with many of them needing to make car payments, pay for child care, and take care of other urgent bills.

The Two Rock congregation and wider community donated \$ 1285 in cash and checks, plus \$ 300 in gift cards to grocery stores and gas stations. The Tomales congregation donated \$ 240 in checks, \$ 85 in gas cards, plus some paper towels, cleaning supplies, soups, cereal, and similar items. In all, we collected **pantry items, money, and gifts cards in the amount of \$ 1970** and gave it to the Coast Guard Spouses Association.

Thank you very much to everyone who stepped forward to help our neighbors when they needed our assistance.

The **Super-Bowl Fundraiser** at Two Rock Church **raised \$ 361!** We had five delicious soups with toppings, bread, and dessert for our coffee hour. It was a great way to get energized and fortified for our annual meeting.

A huge thank-you to Kathy and Cliff Stroke for preparing the soups, and to our Sunday school students for doing set-up up, serving and helping with clean-up: Mary Briggs, Landon and Evelyn Costa, Collin and Luke McClelland, and Jamie and Bristol Parisian. We are so grateful for your ministry project! All proceeds will be donated to a local food program.



Do mark **Saturday, April 20**, on your calendars: that is the date for this year’s **annual Easter Egg Hunt**. As always, this fun event is sponsored

by Tomales Presbyterian Church, and all children and their families from Tomales, Two Rock and surrounding communities are invited. The hunt **begins at 1:30 pm sharp at Tomales Town Park**; please bring a bag or basket for gathering the eggs.

It’s not too early to plan for **Abelskiver Breakfast on Mother’s Day, May 12**. The men of our two congregations will host this community fundraiser in honor of all women. Do invite your whole family to this event and enjoy a delicious breakfast together!

## **PROPERTY & FINANCE**

This is the time of year when churches send their *per capita contributions* to the Presbytery office. This money helps support the work of our Presbytery of the Redwoods, of our Synod of the Pacific, and of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For 2019, we are asked to make the following donations to

General Assembly	\$ 8.95
Synod of the Pacific	\$ 5.22
Presbytery General	\$ 12.26
Presbytery Building	\$ 5.00

Soon our church treasurer will send to Presbytery a total of **\$31.43 for each active member**. Please consider making a donation for this amount to your church, in addition to your regular contribution. Thank you so much.

In the midst of our abundant rain, the **Tomales congregation** is giving thanks that the **storm windows are holding up well!** Those two special windows were designed and redesigned by Kip Spragens and installed last fall with

help from the Handy Guys. The great news is that, in spite of heavy winter weather, the storm windows have stayed in place! Likewise, the **belfry is holding tight**: after some initial leaks early in the season, the narthex has been dry even after heavy downpours and strong winds. It is always a challenge to ease our historic building through another rainy season. May we find ways to keep the rain out permanently!

The painting of the **Two Rock** garage and the hardscaping and landscaping in front of the church building are **on hold**: the ground is quite soaked, and some spots are outright waterlogged. When things dry up, plans will move ahead to add some hardscape plus plants and flowers to the front of the church, so that the entrance way would be more inviting for all who come.

In the meantime, the removal of the felled Eucalyptus trunks will move ahead. Many thanks to Paul Lewis for pursuing various leads about what to do with those humongous pieces of wood, and many thanks to Joe Turner for connecting us with his son Steve Turner. Steve has agreed to haul the wood away for a modest fee; and everyone is relieved and grateful.

## ***CHURCH CARE & FELLOWSHIP***

On February 5, the deacons of Tomales Church hosted a **reception after the Memorial Service for Brenda Sloan**. Many thanks to Virginia Campbell, who organized the event, set up the tables, and prepared most of the food, all with loving attention to the needs of Brenda's family.

Thank you also to everyone who donated cookies, cake, fruit, and other finger food; and many thanks to Carl Carter, Kathy Murphy, Kip Spragens, and Pastor Cornelia for helping with the clean-up.

One of the things that is much needed in our congregations and hugely appreciated by its members is getting a ride to church. Whether it is for worship, Bible study, or crafts group, people are delighted when they can come and be with their faith community. Here is a **big thank-you to all who give rides to church and church events**: David Burbank, Lolly Burns, Gail Casarotti, David and Doreen Coe, Mary Condon, Nan Leavell, Carol McClarnon, Brooke Studwell, and Lonnie Wernstrum. Your loving service is so very much appreciated and brings a lots of joy to our older members!

## ***SMALL GROUPS AT CHURCH***

The **Creative Crafts Group** meets in Two Rock every Tuesday from 10 am until noon. This group of women crochet, knit, or embroider while sharing coffee, baked goods, and lively conversations. Please join them; there is always room around the table for one more!



The **Tuesday Walking Group** gets together in Dillon Beach at 1 pm, parking their cars at the home of Suzie and Lee Harms. From there, the hikers go down to the beach,

wander through the sand and along the water, then walk back up to retrieve their cars. This is great opportunity to catch some sunshine, feel the strength of the wind, and marvel at the majesty of the ocean. Do come along!

The **Two Rock Quilting Group** is starting up again on Thursday, February 28. The groups is led by sisters Carol McClarnon and Judy Burton and meets each Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room. The women create warm and colorful quilts of various sizes that are sold at the Harvest Festival in September or get donated to local charity organizations. Please come and lend a hand with this important mission project; no prior quilting experience is necessary.

## ***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. The meeting at this location has been arranged by the Rev. Joanne Martindale, who serves as a Military Chaplain with the Airforce Reserve, and who is also a member of our Presbytery of the Redwoods. As always, all elders are welcomed to attend the meeting, though only those designated as commissioners to Presbytery may vote.

## ***COMMUNITY NEWS***

The **38<sup>th</sup> annual Butter-and-Egg Parade** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 27**, from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm, all through downtown Petaluma. Mark your calendars and join the fun!

Two Rock Valley/Tomales  
Presbyterian Churches  
7063 Bodega Avenue  
Petaluma, CA 94952  
(707) 762-4924

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“ Lift high the cross,  
The love of Christ proclaim.” (Psalm 96:1)

**March 10:** Transfiguration-of-the-Lord Sunday

**April 14:** Palm-and-Passion Sunday with Children’s Procession during worship

**April 18:** Maundy Thursday Service in Two Rock at **7pm**

**April 20:** Easter Egg Hunt in Tomales at **1:30 pm**

**April 21:** Easter Sunrise Service in Two Rock at **6:30 am**, followed by breakfast  
plus regular morning worship in Two Rock at 9:30am and Tomales at 11am.