

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A Word from the Pastor

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them"

Genesis 1:26-27

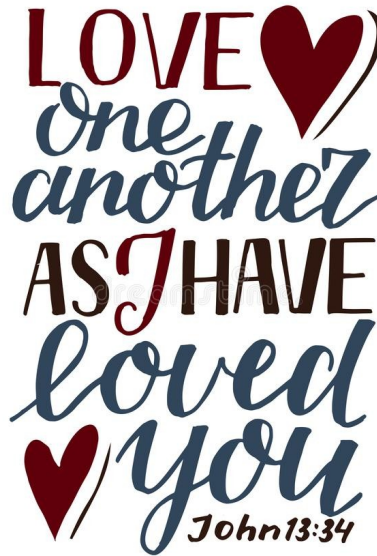
"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

Revelation 7:9-10

2020, to this point, has been quite a tumultuous year; in addition to the pandemic that we have found ourselves dealing with for months and months, there have also been all of the protesting, rioting, debates, and discussion regarding race relations in our country. George Floyd's death lit a spark to is-



suess and tensions that had been lying just under the surface of our country for a long time; issues about which seemingly every American has extremely strong opinions. So, I don't want to dive into the political issues around race relations and get bogged down in the quagmire of political debate. Rather, I want us to turn to Scripture and take a look at what God's Word has to say about all of this.

Unsurprisingly, the Bible has quite a bit of content regarding races and race relations; I believe that is because disharmony among races, ethnicities, cultures, etc., has been around for as long as people have been around. So, because there was so much Biblical content on the issue, I had many passages to choose from to include here; the reason I chose the three that I did was to illustrate that God's intention for love and unity amongst the races of this world has been around since the beginning, and will still be around at the end.

August 2020

In Genesis, when God created mankind in His image, it shows that, at the end of the day, we are all the image-bearers of Christ whether we are black, white, brown, or any other color. And, because we are all His image-bearers, we should respect and love each other as such. In John, Jesus tells His disciples to love one another just as He has loved them. Jesus' love knows no bounds, it knows no race; so, if we are to love like He does, then our love should know no bounds and no race, as well. We should love all people the same because that's how Jesus loves them. In Revelation, we see that every nation, tribe, people and language, are "standing before the throne and before the Lamb." This shows that the reward of eternal life in the presence of God, the gift of being in His Kingdom with Him, is not just a reward for one race, it is not just a reward for two races, it is a reward for people from ALL races who call on the name of the Lord in repentance and faith; therefore, there is absolutely no reason for us to think any race to be inferior to another, we are all equal in God's eyes.

And these truths from Scripture are important because, as we look around our country and see all of the division, anger, hatred, violence, and the like, it is so easy for us to become discouraged, for us to throw up our hands and say, "I give up! This world is too far gone!"

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See "Word from the Pastor"

First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † "Church of the 49ers"

GOLDEN NUGGET

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"Church of the 49ers"
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9:00 am—3:00 pm

Worship Service:
10:00 am Sundays

STAFF

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Rev. Lee Warford, Assistant Pastor
Deb Johnson, Office Administrator
Carolyn Sylva, Accompanist
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Church of the 49ers,
where God is the gold. We serve
and worship God in spirit and in the
truth of the scriptures. We live by faith
and will be known by our love
for others and our voice of hope.

On Line Giving Now Available

Many have asked me if contributions can be made through the church's web site. Until this past week I was reluctant to say "no." Now, I can say "yes!" The pandemic we are enduring has made evident the advantages of such a means to tithe for both the contributor and the church. Some understandably have chosen for good reasons to not attend worship services, making it difficult to put their tithes and offerings in the plate. Although many have availed the services of the U.S. Post Office, this new means is far more convenient.

We have contracted with "PayPal" to securely transfer funds from your account to the Church's General Fund account. PayPal has proven to be a

reliable and secure service company for handling electronic transactions over the Internet. You may use your personal PayPal account or choose your debit or credit card through this one portal on our website. There is a small fee for this service that the church absorbs. The donor is credited for the full amount of the contribution. The fee is 2.2% plus .30 cents of the amount contributed.

Check it out! Go to <http://.www.churchofthe49ers.com> and click on "giving" which will take you to the PayPal website. You will see the three methods of giving available.

Jim Brandt, Treasurer

CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY January 1 through June 30, 2020 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$124,616	\$125,199	\$583
Expense	\$111,395	\$109,859	(\$1,536)

Mortgage Balance as of June 30: **\$67,874**

Minimum required Mortgage Payment: **\$1,091.98**

Additional principal paid through June 30: **\$450**

July Session Highlights

Highlights of the July 22nd Session meeting include:

Pastor Keith Reid introduced communication from Nate Dreesman (ECO) with suggestions for adding emergency provisions to the Bylaws in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, John Terech advised regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling on discrimination against the LGBTQ community in employment. Since both of these require changes/additions to the Bylaws, a Congregational Meeting was set for September 13, 2020, at 9:30 am, between worship services. A committee of elders will submit the exact wording to be voted on.

The Nominating Committee is narrowing the choices for new officers (Elders and Deacons) for the 2023 terms.

Members of the Building & Grounds Committee are assembling a "Wish List" of capital improvements to be funded by the loan from Semble. The amount has not yet been determined.

The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Diane Brandt, Clerk of Session

First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † "Church of the 49ers"

49er Family News

Thank You

Dear friends of the Church of the 49ers,
I thank you for all the prayers for my son, Allen Graham. His melanoma was caught in time, so he won't have to undergo therapy.

Lilian Graham

Scheduled Meetings in August*

Unless we receive notice by California authorities to shut down, each Sunday we are conducting two worship services in Faith Hall, at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Also, following are scheduled meetings:

- Monday, August 3, 9:30 am: History Committee in CE2
- Monday, August 3, 1:30 pm: Nominating Committee in CE2
- Sunday, August 9, 9:30 am: Deacons in CE2 between the two services
- Monday, August 10, 10 am: Buildings & Grounds Committee in CE2
- Tuesday, August 18, 1 pm: Finance Committee in Office
- Tuesday, August 18, 2 pm: Mission Committee in CE2
- Wednesday, August 26, 2 pm: Session in Sanctuary

Line Dancing with Carolyn Sylva is every Friday at 9:30 am in CE3.

Not meeting in August

The Men's Bible Study is taking a break until September.

The Women's Bible Study is taking a break until September.

No Men's Breakfast Fellowship in August.

Fellowship Committee - no meeting scheduled.

49er Chancel Choir and 49er Chancel Ringers - not meeting for rehearsal

Also suspended for the time being: The Helen Johnson Community Dinner Program and the coed Bible Study led by Gary Davis on Mondays.

** Most of the meetings are held in Room 2 of the Christian Education building, with chairs set up around the perimeter of the room. Be certain to wear your mask and sit socially-distanced from each other.*

The church office will be closed August 10-14

Reminder from Nora Neves:

Your "well wishes" for Allen Graham must be in the office no later than Thursday, August 6th. Anything received after that date will miss the mailing. Any questions or concerns, call Nora Neves at 588-9876.

August Birthdays

*Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you.
May the Lord bless you
And keep you,
Your whole life through.*

Aug 1	David Sullivan
Aug 4	Bob Sagaser
Aug 4	Philip Joslin-Adams
Aug 8	Cris Marston
Aug 11	Bob Fooshee
Aug 15	Mary Girardi
Aug 16	Barbara Silveria
Aug 17	Karla Reid
Aug 20	Margie Fooshee
Aug 22	Joan Scroggs
Aug 26	Holly Harris
Aug 27	Roger Haughton
Aug 28	Marijean Davis
Aug 29	Vi Morgado

Happy Anniversary!

Aug 4	Tom & Denella Kimura: 51 years
Aug 10	Lee & Bonnie Jean Warford: 64 years
Aug 12	Jim & Diane Brandt: 60 years
Aug 15	Dean & Arlene Cunningham: 11 years
Aug 25	Rob Clark & Janet Russell: 41 years
Aug 27	Carl & Kathy Rudolph: 30 years



Mr. Grace is still guarding the church...
and missing you

Word from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

But, as Christians, we cannot do that; we are called to love our neighbor at all times, in all circumstances, no matter who they are, what race they are, what religion they adhere to, no matter what cultural background they come from. Our job as Christians is to build people up, to show them that they are loved, that they are worthwhile, that they are children of God created in His image; we should be a witness to who Christ is and the love He has for all people, we should be trying to spread the Good News of His Gospel, especially in times like the one in which we find ourselves. It is our job to push aside any negative emotions we may have about the state of our country, and move forward with boldness relying on God to give us the strength to do what we might be afraid of: to minister and spread His Good News into every situation and circumstance, into the lives of people from each and every race.

We live in a broken and sinful world, and the stuff we are seeing happen in America right now is a by-product of that. Our country is in quite a mess, and we need to be trusting in, and relying on, God to bring us through this to the other side. As Christians, we need to keep praying: praying for our country, praying for victims of violence, praying for our government, praying that God will work in and through everything that is going on to advance His Kingdom of love, peace, grace, mercy, and joy. Every single person in this world needs our prayer and needs our love, whether they are black, white, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, or Buddhist. As the followers of Jesus Christ, it is our job to make certain that they receive all of those prayers and all of that love; it is our job to show them that they are children of God, created in His image, and they are loved by Him and by us.

Right now, our country is a country that is divided; it is divided upon racial lines, it is divided upon political lines. Our God, the God of the universe, is not a God of division, He is a God of unity and love; and we, as His children and the followers of His Son, are the agents through which He shows the world that unity and that love. So, let's not get caught up in all of the debating and arguing, let's not get caught up in the anger, violence, and disharmony; let's be agents of love, showing people from ALL races and ALL beliefs the true and everlasting love, the eternal peace and comfort, that can be found in Jesus Christ.

May the blessings of the Father and the peace of the Son be with you all,

Pastor Keith

Send your articles and Family News items for the September 2020 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by August 25th to Leslie Davis at davisgold@gmail.com or call her at 532-6604.

Sermons and Scripture

Pastor Keith began a sermon series April 5th, called "The Gospel According to Mark: Three Years That Changed The World."

Listed below for each Sunday are the New Testament scripture verses each sermon is based on, and the Old Testament verses.

If you have email and want to listen/watch the weekly YouTube videos of our sermons, contact Pastor Keith at ktreid84@gmail.com to receive his Sunday emails with the link.

August 2

Communion

Sermon/NT Scripture: Mark 4:14-29
Old Testament Scripture: Psalm 3

August 9

Pastor Lee preaching

Sermon: Philippians 3:8-14
OT: Lamentations 3:21-24

August 16

Pastor Lee preaching

Sermon: Luke 15:11-32
OT: Psalm 81:7-17

August 23

Sermon: Mark 6:30-56
OT: Isaiah 58:7-12

August 30

Sermon: Mark 7:1-23
OT: Isaiah 29:13-21

Visit churchofthe49ers.com to listen to past sermons (before March 2020). Click on "Worship" and "Sermons" and then the small white triangle on the left underneath each sermon listed. The audio includes the Scripture verses being read and goes right into the sermon.

Interfaith News

There have been a couple of changes at Interfaith that might be of interest to everyone. We are only open for food at this time - there are not enough volunteers to work the other areas (clothing, showers and household).

We are still taking donations at the back of the building: Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 am to noon only. When dropping off clothing, try to keep it to the current season as we are limited to space.

We also are accepting toiletries and personal hygiene items as well as food.

Another change is that our clients are no longer coming into the building to get their food. Instead we are providing a drive up service in an effort to keep everyone safe from the Covid-19 virus. After filling a client's order, we are taking it to their car (less physical contact).

Another change in the food area is that clients may come in twice a month to receive groceries, rather than once as before. In addition, when necessary we are taking orders by phone for home delivery.

The Legal Department is also still open.

We continue to have a problem of vandalism and damage to our containers. Please pray that this will stop. Not only is it time consuming to clean up, but also expensive to replace or repair.

Any questions you may have concerning Interfaith, feel free to call me anytime.

Vi Morgado
Interfaith Liaison

Thank you from the Community Dinner Committee...

Several weeks ago we announced that we had an excess inventory of food items that we had purchased in advance for our dinners. That was, of course, before we had ever heard of COVID-19! We made the decision to clear these items out of the freezer and offer them to our Church family at cost or a little less.

We are happy to let you know that we sold everything in the first week ~ and we have donated the majority of the money to Nancy's Hope. We feel quite

good about this decision as we are very unclear when Monday night dinners will be able to resume.

Thank you to all who purchased the food items and gave us the opportunity to help Nancy's Hope out a little more.

Blessings to you all,

Margie and Suzanne,
Co-chairpersons



Volunteers Sought

As we have had to mostly stay home to stay safe from the Covid-19 virus for more than four months now, I imagine some of you might be itching to get out of the house and do something different for a change.

If so, I would like to suggest some simple jobs that could be done by volunteers to help beautify our church campus. It was too hot to do these outside jobs in July, but hopefully in August we'll see some slightly cooler days. The mornings up until about 11 am can be fairly pleasant, and I can tell you that our church cat, Mr. Grace, loves the company.

Some possibilities:

- Trim overgrowth along the back fence of the lower parking lot, and in the fenced area behind Faith Hall. Also remove dirt/old clippings from base of wooden fence behind sanctuary to keep fence from rotting.
- Prep (sand) and repaint two park benches in the sanctuary yard. Benches can be moved to the Faith Hall porch for better working conditions.
- Prep and repaint remaining portions of the black wrought iron railing around the Christian Education building (about half-completed so far)
- Steam clean approximately 30 upholstered pew chairs in the Lower Sanctuary and Sadie Nicholls Room (20 chairs in the CE building have already been cleaned)

We absolutely need to be socially-distanced, though, so I'm not proposing a group work party. This is only for one or two of you to come down to the church at a pre-arranged day/time to work outside in the fresh air.

If interested, contact me at davisgold@gmail.com or 559-7723 to sign up.

Leslie Davis

Rev. Hugh Furneaux

By Dick Dyer,
Church Historian

Are you aware that in late Spring 2014, Jaci Schuetze, while on a vacation trip to the Mother Lode, included a visit to the Church of the 49ers? Our hospitable pastor Rev. Janet Russell welcomed her and invited her into the sanctuary to see the stained glass windows including her great grandfather, former church pastor the Rev. Hugh Joseph Furneaux (1914-1926). Soon thereafter, Pastor Janet contacted me, the church historian, to inquire about securing additional family information for our Furneaux records. After corresponding, Jaci and a cousin attended the church's 160th anniversary service here - November 23, 2014; she read a heartfelt greeting to the congregation from the Furneaux family. During the following months, we exchanged information.

(Parenthetically did I know Rev. Furneaux? You must read the conclusion of this article to discover my response).

The Furneaux family has had their name in historic annals during important events. We know several were seafarers; one was a ship captain with world-wide British explorer James Cook during his sailing expedition into the South Pacific in 1768. Other family members were successful merchants and public servants. Today we recall with considerable admiration Hugh Joseph Furneaux: pastor, missionary, spiritual pioneer. Although several family members had been mariners sailing vessels on the high seas, Pastor Hugh considered his mission to be assisting spiritually adrift commoners on life's stormy seas.

Early in the 19th century, the Furneaux family left England to settle in eastern Canada at the seaport of St. John's, Newfoundland. Hugh was born there on April 9, 1849 – he was proud to be



Rev. Hugh Furneaux, known as "Shepherd of the Hills," with his two traveling companions, *Pipe Organ* and *Bagpipe*

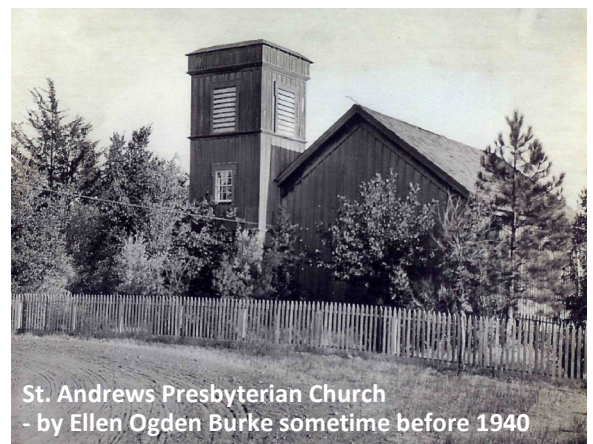
considered a 49er; thus he remained through almost 76 ministering years. In 1876 he married Katherine Cameron. This article has been composed of information from the Furneaux descendants, several newspaper editors, and church manuscripts.

After his ordination in 1888, Furneaux served as church stated supply and pastor in several western American states: New Mexico, Arizona, California (both southern and central congregations). Nearing the end of his career in 1914, he became pastor of the small struggling Presbyterian Church in Columbia. As pastor he served worshipers from "Angel's Camp to Devil's Den, and from the High Sierras to the sea." With increasing responsibilities he required "rest time." Occasionally he withdrew to the church belfry room for "refreshments, renewal and rejuvenation." His desire was to be a humble messenger serving others as a "purifying influence."

Through the years his Great Commission was to minister to the needs of the down-

trodden. His son John wrote about Pastor Furneaux's love for the people: "He married them, buried them, comforted them and prayed with them." Always his calling was that of the missionary sharing the Gospel from his heart to the heart of others. Spiritually, Pastor Furneaux admired all of the Lord's apostles but especially Andrew. He designed and installed a sign at the sanctuary announcing the church was to be known as Saint Andrew's Church, and as such it remained for many decades.

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First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † "Church of the 49ers"

Furneaux

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In an interview for the *Tuolumne Independent* (December 25, 1914), Furneaux described his extensive evangelistic ministry with his faithful pack burros (donkeys) *Pipe Organ* and *Bagpipe*. He explained, "The ten day's itinerary for each month begins when I leave the Study...and take the trail at Table Mountain...The trail leads across the lava plateau...(From the) deep rugged gorge of the Stanislaus...the eye glimpses the dim and distant summits." The snow blanketed peaks of the lofty Sierra were visible beyond the unspoiled pine forest. He joined the rugged toiling lumberjacks, miners and laborers at their seasonal shelters. The *Stockton Records* editor observed as he (Furneaux) went from camp to camp, "...he slept as they slept—in bunks or on the ground. Often the starry sky was the roof and armful of fir boughs his bed. God and Nature were near to him." Rev. Furneaux exclaimed it was "The joy of my heart to preach the word of God to this congregation." Son John believed he was among the few to present the Word to the remote roughnecks. In turn, they considered him to be the beloved Sky Pilot. When he arrived at their wilderness outposts he distributed Bibles, hymnals, magazines and always news from their families and friends.



Rev. Hugh Furneaux

During his unique ministry, he did not ask for a collection; often donations mysteriously appeared. On occasion he was presented with buckskin pokes (bags) of gold dust from appreciative miners to support his ministry. Whenever men labored the timeworn missionary sought them; he traveled through dense forests, formidable canyons and rutted mountain traces to their work sites.

(I am reminded of a related historic interview). Many years ago a young visitor in Tuolumne County remembered seeing an old character with two burros traveling from the Hetch Hetchy heights to nearby Hog Ranch (Mather). After exchanging pleasantries with his family, the stranger was invited to share a meal with them. During the ensuing conversation, the family discovered their guest was a pastor. Since they were not regularly attending church, the parents asked if he would baptize their son. Pastor Hugh Furneaux readily agreed. The memorable ceremony was conducted with a spiritual message and spring water on behalf of ten year old Joel Walker Hedgpeth. In future years, he became a distinguished California biologist. (The elderly Hedgpeth's reminiscence was published in the Tuolumne County Historical Society's *CHISPA*, July-Sept. 1989 and a Bancroft Library's oral history manuscript, Nov. 9, 2014.)

For almost forty years, Hugh Joseph Furneaux served as pastor and friend of the needy throughout California and the West. On February 8, 1926, after a severe cold his heart failed him. Entire Central California communities mourned. Flags were at half-mast in old Tuolumne; residents from near and far assembled at the Church of the 49ers for his funeral. The service was conducted by Rev. J. W. McClennan of Berkeley, a seminary classmate of the deceased. The dark clouds and drenching downpour contributed to somber expressions of the grieving audience. After his death, the Synod of California

included in its records the following: "The Shepherd of the Hilled has left many a true friend in the path of labor. His service was in every sense unique but it was strong and dignified, satisfying many a soul of like spirit with himself." Now he rests in Columbia's pioneer cemetery as does his beloved Katherine who joined him the following year. Both are forever together with many righteous 49ers who have been a part of the church's Great Spiritual Adventure.

CONCLUSION: Did I know Rev. Hugh Joseph Furneaux? Not really. Nevertheless as I somewhat unexpectedly share some interesting similarities. We recognize February 8th, his death day (1926); my birth day (1931). He was born a 49er (1849); I graduated from high school a 49er (1948). His pets were burros, my pets were horses. He resides with Columbia's believers; I am immersed with church pioneers (in the archives). Finally, both of us have been intimately associated with Gold Rush Columbia. Now friends, you have the conclusion to the Furneaux saga.

Dick Dyer, 49er Church Historian

Follow the Son

I want to grow
Strong and tall
Like the sunflower,
My leaves lift up
In praise to the sun,
My face, brown and gold,
Joyfully follows the
Son of glory,
Whose Spirit winds
Plant seeds of grace
Wherever He leads.

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First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † "Church of the 49ers"

Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family! Greetings from a very warm southern Spain. Summer is in full force along with high humidity. Some days I feel like I am walking in a sauna!

Thank you so much for praying about my health needs. Since I last wrote to you, I have completed all five tests and an exploratory surgery (July 6). I know many of you were praying for me, along with other brothers and sisters around the world. I am happy to report that we caught the melanoma early and that it did not spread elsewhere in my body. It has been quite a month. I am thankful for your support through prayer. Praise God for His answer and for His protective Hand over me.

Since the cancer had not spread, I will not need any type of treatment. However, I will need to have certain tests done every six months for the next five years to make sure it does not return.

Please pray for six Reach Beyond colleagues in Central Asia. Three are medical doctors and they are working hard to

serve the local people amid a major outbreak of the Covid-19 virus.

The country where they serve does not have adequate supplies of oxygen, ventilators nor ICU beds. Pray for God to protect them and their children as they do all they can to minister through health care. May God keep them from contracting the virus.

In mid-March, the radio studio for our Arabic media partner was destroyed by heavy rains. Thank God for protecting all the equipment, a miracle in itself! This is the studio which was built in June 2018. Although in lockdown, the station management had to find a new location, raise the needed funds, and build a new studio. God provided and broadcasts from the new facility began in mid-June.



The new radio production facility

Spotlight is a 15-minute radio program in slow-spoken English. Reach Beyond has been a part of the production of this program for many years. It airs at 1 pm on the local FM station of one of our Middle East radio partners. The station management was surprised when they received a letter from a group of prisoners who faithfully listen to the station and to the *Spotlight* program! They meet to listen and then among each other work to improve their English. The men in this group asked if the program could be aired again at 10 pm so that more of the prisoners could listen. The station manager wholeheartedly agreed to their request. Praise God for how He is using this station to meet very real needs among its audience and how He is using *Spotlight* to minister to the prisoners. May He continue to work in their lives and bring them to spiritual freedom through Jesus Christ.

Until next month, thanks again for your prayers and financial gifts. What a blessing to serve together with you to take the name of Jesus to the nations!

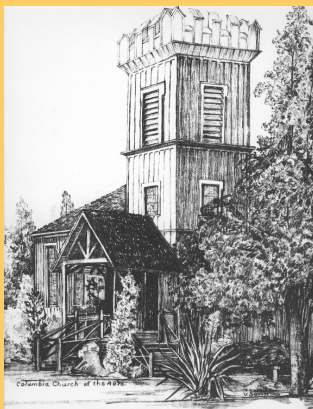
Allen

First Presbyterian Church

“Church of the 49ers”

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Address Service Requested

Cost-cutting Measure: For those of you who receive this newsletter through the US mail, please consider a donation of \$15 per year to cover printing and postage costs. Thanks!