

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A Word from the Pastor

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." **Philippians 4:6-9**

For those of you who have never been on Session, or attended one of the meetings, I start out every meeting by reading a passage or two of Scripture, explaining why I selected those passages to read, and giving the Session an opportunity for any thoughts/reflections they have on the passage(s). Well, this past month, I shared with the Session these two passages and, in doing so, felt like I needed to share them with the congregation as a whole and anybody else who receives one of our newsletters. I feel like in the situation in



which this world finds itself in 2020, and especially with COVID having now hit so close to home in our church, the possibility of feeling anxiety, fear, or worry is really high; thus, these verses are especially poignant.

When we look at the first passage from Proverbs, we see that God is telling us to trust in Him, to not lean on our limited human ability and understanding. What this means is that we should put our human understanding aside, we should not depend upon it, but depend totally on God and **His** perfect power and understanding. Then, God tells us to submit to Him in all ways. This means to invite Him into our daily lives, to submit to His will and His authority in every aspect of our lives, public and private; to do even the most mundane tasks or our day-to-day existence in His presence and for His glory. Then, we are told that if we do that, if we lean on God and submit to Him in all our ways, He will make our paths straight. This means that God will guide us to where He would have us go; therefore, we can move forward with our lives in confidence and in peace knowing that He is leading us forward.

September 2020

Then, in the second passage from Philip-
pians, Paul encourages us not to be anxious about anything because we have the ability to bring all our requests to God in prayer. And, if we do present our requests to God in prayer, we have been promised that, through Jesus, we will have the peace of God, a peace that is greater than anything we could possibly begin to imagine or understand. But, Paul continues and tells us that if we dwell on what is true, what is noble, what is right, what is pure, what is lovely, what is admirable, what is excellent, what is praiseworthy, if we dwell on *these* things instead of upon the evils and troubles of this world, and if we put into practice what we have been taught in God's Word, God and His peace will be with us. What that means is, if we get to where we are feeling anxious, worried, or afraid of what is going on in the world, the virus, the fires, the social unrest, or anything else, if/when those feelings begin to creep into our minds, if we shift our focus from those things and instead focus upon God and all of the wonderful things of His Kingdom, we will find a respite from the anxiety and worry; we will find peace in remembering, and dwelling upon, the things of God.

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

GOLDEN NUGGET

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8:30 & 10:30 am Sundays
in Faith Hall, socially-distanced

STAFF

Rev. Keith Reid, Pastor
Rev. Lee Warford, Assistant Pastor
Deb Johnson, Office Administrator
Carolyn Sylva, Accompanist
Steve Engle-Borda, Sound Tech

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.

CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY January 1 through July 31, 2020 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$154,536	\$142,822	(\$11,714)
Expense	\$147,580	\$126,808	(\$20,772)

Mortgage Balance as of July 31: **\$66,861.57**

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

Additional principal paid through July 31: **\$575.00**

Word from the Pastor

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These two passages serve as a great source of encouragement for me during this time of uncertainty and upheaval. They are an excellent reminder of the fact that we have not been left alone to deal with all of the craziness that this world throws at us; that the God of the universe, in His perfect power, and wisdom, and understanding is right beside us offering us a peace that surpasses all understanding even, or especially, in the face of chaos. My prayer for each one of you during this time is that you will claim the promises of Proverbs and Philippians, that we will lean on God, submit to Him in all ways, bring your requests to Him in prayer, dwell upon the things of God, put into practice what His Word teaches, and thus experience the true peace that He has promised. Don't get caught up in the chaos, uncertainty, and insanity, immerse yourself in the Word, immerse yourself in God, and be at peace!

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

Pastor Keith

August Session Highlights

Highlights of the August 26th Session meeting include:

Pastor Keith Reid presented the wording suggested by the committee for adding emergency provisions to the Bylaws in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and employment requirements agreeing to our fundamental beliefs. There will be a vote taken at the Congregational Meeting set for September 13, 2020, at 9:30 am, between worship services.

The Nominating Committee has completed its work of selecting covenant partners to serve as Elders and Deacons for the 2023 term. During the September 13th Congregational Meeting, they will be introduced and voted in, and also ordained and installed.

Building & Grounds presented their "Wish List" of capital improvements categorized as priority 1, 2, or 3 to be funded by the loan from Semble. Session approved to proceed with a new loan campaign. Category #1 amounts to \$112,000 to be funded by the new loan.

Next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, September 23, 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 From Marge Rickman

May God touch and heal in His marvelous way! Marge Rickman wishes to thank all those folks who are praying for her, and sending cards, notes, encouragement. It means so much to her, but she doesn't have the energy to acknowledge your notes. Marge has finished her latest round of radiation and now has to wait two months to evaluate the benefit. She keeps trusting God and waiting on him. *Oh, that everything that has breath would praise Him!!*

Meetings in September*

Worship services and/or meetings are subject to cancellation due to Covid-19 safety concerns. As of publication date, we **will not meet for in-person worship on September 6.** Whether or not we can gather together for worship in Faith Hall (8:30 and 10:30 am) on September 13 and future Sundays in September will be determined at a later date. Call the church office at 532-2441 for clarification. If you have Internet access, Pastor Keith's sermon and Scripture readings are available on YouTube each Sunday.

Scheduled meetings in September

- Sunday, September 13, 9:30 am: Congregational Meeting in Faith Hall
- Monday, September 14, 9:00 am: History Committee in CE2
- Monday, September 14, 10:00 am: Buildings & Grounds Cmte. in CE2
- Tuesday, September 15, 1 pm: Finance Committee in Office
- Sunday, September 20, 9:30 am: Welcome & Evangelism in CE2
- Tuesday, September 22, 2 pm: Mission Committee in CE2
- Wednesday, September 23, 2 pm: Session in Sanctuary
- Prayer Group 8:30 am Tuesdays in CE2
- Line Dancing with Carolyn Sylva 9:30 am Fridays in CE3

Not meeting in September

The following groups/activities are not meeting in September (until the danger of Covid-19 infection is past):

Women's Bible Study
Men's Bible Study
Men's Breakfast Fellowship
Presbyterian Women
Fellowship Committee
49er Chancel Choir and 49er Chancel Ringers
Helen Johnson Community Dinner Program and Monday Bible Study

*** Be certain to wear a mask and sit socially-distanced from each other.**

September Birthdays

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

Sept 4 Diane Green
Sept 5 Bob Morris
Sept 8 Jackie Donges
Sept 8 Cheryl Pittman
Sept 9 Carolyn Stearns
Sept 10 Barbara Lashbrook
Sept 13 Shirley Stephens
Sept 14 Sue Warren
Sept 17 Lilian Graham
Sept 18 Lukas Miller
Sept 22 Kathy Rudolph
Sept 23 Dean Cunningham
Sept 25 Patti Lau
Sept 27 Nevaeh O'Dea
Sept 28 Millie Fitzsimons
Sept 29 Weston Goularte

Happy Anniversary!

Sept 11 Robert and Jeannie Baker: 21 years
Sept 12 Ken and Deb Romberger: 39 years
Sept 13 Doug and Patti Lau: 51 years
Sept 15 Bob and Carol Rogers: 20 years
Sept 29 David and Gwen Harris: 41 years

**"Never be afraid to trust
an unknown future
to a known God."
Corrie Ten Boom**

Mission Committee News

Our Mission Committee last met on August 18 and we agreed to contribute to the following organizations in our community:

One donation was to the **Sierra Senior Providers**, which oversees the Meals on Wheels food deliveries to seniors who are home-bound. Meals on Wheels has had their virtual fundraiser and the money the organization raised was matched up to \$50,000 by the Sonora Area Foundation. We wanted to contribute to their efforts.

Secondly, we contributed to **Nancy's Hope Community Center**, which has provided food to the needy during the Covid-19 crisis.

Thirdly, we arranged a special \$1,000 matching grant through the Sonora Area Foundation for raising money for **Spiritual Roads**, led by Chris Lytle, which has had to postpone its Monday Night dinner association with our church, also because of Covid 19. The virus has not prevented Chris from continuing to work in our community, however. While the organization's annual fundraiser has been postponed, Chris has still been active in our community:

- Meeting with prisoners from jail to work with them addressing their life issues when they are released
- Working with the county health and wellness office to deliver medications to local people

- Providing rides to others in the community when there is a need to attend appointments, employment etc
- Provide for deliveries for the needy
- Meeting with people in the community struggling with mental illness, abuse issues and unemployment challenges

And most importantly, Chris is bringing the message and love of Jesus Christ to many in our community. We know that Chris would appreciate your financial assistance when possible. He and his wife, Pam, have worked tirelessly toward helping others and sharing the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

In concluding our Mission Committee update, I would like to thank the church for allowing me to chair the Mission Committee during my three-year term as Elder. Also, I would like to thank my wife, Judy, who has assisted me in the leadership of the committee. Her love for our Heavenly Father and her contributions to help others has served as a guiding light, for me personally.

Here's to the continued work of our Mission Committee's efforts in the future. Our church has done a wonderful job of spreading God's love to others. Thank you!

With God's blessings,

Roger Haughton

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.

September 6 Communion

Sermon/NT Scripture: Mark 7:24-37
Old Testament Scripture: Isaiah 57:14-19

September 13

Sermon: Mark 8:1-26
OT: Nehemiah 9:13-21

September 20

Sermon: Mark 8:27-33
OT: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

September 27

Sermon: Mark 8:34-9:1
OT: Amos 5:4-15

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.

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

Capital Funds Campaign

Our beloved Faith Hall has been plagued with water leaks from the roof as well as the fire sprinkler system for years. Multiple roofers have attempted repairs without success. As a result, rain water continues to invade the Ramont Room making it unusable during rainy seasons. The ceiling tiles in the great hall are stained from either a leaky roof and/or the fire sprinkler system. As Buildings and Grounds has taken action to deal with these and other issues, the committee has surveyed the entire campus to assess what needs attention now, as well as a wish list of other desirable projects. The list is broken down to Priority One (needs attention now), Priority Two (a wish list), and other items deemed appropriate for the General Fund (Priority Three).

This campaign is intended to fund only Priority 1 projects, which have an estimated total cost of \$112,000. The Faith Hall roof, ceiling and fire sprinklers are the lions' share of Priority One costs (estimated \$63,000, which includes firm bids for the exterior roof).

Other major Priority One projects are:

- Replace the roof and gutters on Christian Education Building (\$25,000).

- Re-surface Jackson St. entrance area at main church walkway (a safety issue) (\$6,000).
- Repair/paint East and West side Sanctuary exterior window frames (\$6,000).
- Replace/paint East and West Sanctuary exterior wall siding (\$12,000).

The funding of the above Priority One projects will be from a new capital campaign to extend the current Semble loan back up to the original \$175,000. This would make available \$109,000 for addressing these significant issues on our aging buildings. The reason for the \$175,000 loan ceiling is a matter of economics. To exceed that amount would require a total new agreement involving more costly proceedings.

Perhaps you are asking "What in the world is Semble?" It is a Christian organization that enables church members to lend money to the church through a legally established Limited Liability Company (LLC) that acts as a conduit for the benefit of the Church of the 49ers. Participating member lenders are secured by a first deed of trust on church-owned real estate. Loan documents are essentially similar if a bank were the lender except that the LLC is acting as the bank. A major advantage of this program is that individual names and amounts are known only to the LLC

managed by Semble; the church and its leadership know only the cumulative amount available to fund the campaign. In turn, the church makes monthly payments to Semble which distributes interest and principal back to the participating lenders.

The campaign will be conducted through a website to be initiated by Semble. New investors/lenders will be invited to participate under the same terms as the current investors/lenders. This would mean that the new investors/lenders as well as original investors with a balance due would be subject to renewal of their balance in August 2023 for up to 7 more years.

We are responsible for announcing the program to the congregation and providing contact information through this future special website set up by Semble. Interested investors would go to that website for information on the program as well as pledging an amount if interested.

Stay tuned for the official announcement of the campaign kick off. Meanwhile, if you have other questions about the program or the campaign, please contact me.

Jim Brandt, Treasurer
532-3059 (H)
559-6938 (C)

Presbyterian Women

PW Ladies....As most of you know we usually start our new Presbyterian Women term in September. This year is different. Nobody knows when we will be able to meet as a group, so ALTHOUGH I AM NOT IN CHARGE THIS COMING YEAR, I want to ask all of you to be thinking about how you think PW should be handled whenever we can meet. For example: Meetings,

Bible study, Christmas Tea (assuming we will be able to meet by December), special projects, etc.

If you have any ideas, call, email or write me a note and I'll keep a log of ideas we can discuss whenever we are able to meet. I'm at 209-588-9876 or nhneves@yahoo.com.

Please stay safe and I hope to see/talk to you soon.

Love, Nora

Presbyterian Women (PW) was originally the Dorcas Society, founded at the Church of the 49ers in 1936. The name was apparently changed to Presbyterian Women in 1954. Undated bylaws for the organization found in our church archives state: *Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.* **All women are welcome to join our fellowship.**

Interfaith News

After some months of providing only groceries to our clients (twice per month), Interfaith is opening up slightly. Clients are now able to get clothing, household and toiletry items too. Showers are still not available, however.

To keep both clients and volunteers safe, the food, household and toiletry items are now distributed as follows: Each client waits in his/her vehicle for a volunteer to come out with an order form. Once the form is completed, the volunteer goes back inside to collect the items desired and then delivers them directly to the client's vehicle.

Distribution of clothing is a little different: A client fills out the form (5-7 items only), then a volunteer escorts the client inside to the clothing department and assists the client with his selection. The client points to an item, the volunteer holds it up and the client decides if he wants it, or not.

Interfaith clients **MUST** wear face coverings, and the volunteers wear face coverings and gloves. Only 1-3 clients will be allowed inside at any time, and bringing in children is discouraged.

A church in the valley working with the "gleaners" continues to provide fresh produce, about 35 boxes every other week. And we're looking forward to a new resource:

A food truck from the valley, provided by AH-S, might park in our lot once in awhile, to provide huge food boxes filled with cheese, dairy, fresh produce, fresh meats, etc. — 100-200 boxes per month.



Interfaith volunteers need to tell Cathie or Barbara if they can come back to work in September, or not.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

Allen Graham, Missionary

Greetings Church of the 49ers family! Thank you for your prayers this past month. They are very important to me and my colleagues.

I was so blessed by the get-well cards that you sent to me. **Thank you!** What a joy it was to read them. A special thanks to Nora Neves for putting it all together and popping them in the mail to me.

Last month, I told you about the new studio for our Arabic media partner. This month I want you to rejoice with me because this ministry is celebrating two years of broadcasting! We are so thankful for how God is using the programming of the station to impact the lives of women in North Africa and the Middle East. Here is the transcript of a greeting that came from a woman in North Africa:

Happy second anniversary, I am so delighted with what you are doing. It is enough that I received a great welcome and acceptance from you, even though I am a Muslim. Seriously, this is the best radio I have ever heard.

Please take a moment to pray for the production and follow-up teams as they minister to Arabic speaking women in the region. What a privilege and blessing it has been to be a part of the launch of this radio ministry two years ago.

Thank you for praying for my colleagues at the clinics in Central Asia. The lead doctor wrote to me a couple of days ago to say the situation has improved considerably. Praise God!



Allen Graham

When I was with you on March 8 — my, that seems like ages ago with all that has happened since then! — I told you about my plans to return to Ecuador. That was supposed to happen in late June, but COVID-19 changed all of that. My last day as regional director was August 31, 2020. Later this month, I will leave Spain to go to the United States for about a month. I want to be with Mom to celebrate her 90th birthday! I will also need to complete certain paperwork to apply for my visa once I arrive in Ecuador. I hope to be in Guayaquil mid to late October, where I will once again serve as the director for our local radio station serving Ecuador's largest city. I am excited to be able to return to what I really know and to leave behind the heavy administrative load. I was asked to come to Spain for one year, and it has been over 3.5 years!

I am very thankful for the generous gift sent by your Missions Committee in August. I am blessed to walk with you by way of your prayers and financial gifts. Together we serve the King of Kings!

Allen

Those Old Familiar Hymns

In the July Nugget we suggested you keep your singing voice alive by enjoying some old familiar hymns. Did you try it? AND did you enjoy it? My main purpose was to exercise the vocal cords and keep those muscles alive, but enjoyment of the old familiar music with its associations to church and to the past are very nice outcomes.

Did you try to sing along with YouTube? Being a choral singer and leader, I think there are lots of advantages of singing with the group. And I hope you tried to

find other hymns on YouTube. Another benefit is to just read through the lyrics. “Come Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing” below is a good one for that!

I’ve picked hymns this time I hope you didn’t think of, both recorded in concerts by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra in Salt Lake City. They have had an inspiring music program for decades, and the former director, Craig Jessop, was a friend of mine when I worked at Stanford, so it’s my No. 1 choice. The sound is more like an inspiring choral group than the local con-

gregation . . . and you can pretend! Enjoy the orchestra, and wonder why that one trombone player isn’t playing the featured phrase in “Come Thou Fount.”

Second is “It Is Well with My Soul.” Enjoy your singing with that choir and orchestra! Then I hope you’ll search YouTube for a hymn that’s special for you! Just type the title in that YouTube search bar near the top.

Barbara Broad
49er Chancel Choir Director



Come Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPKpkrqBwNs

*Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, Mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by thy help I’m come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.*

*Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.*

*O to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above,
Seal it for thy courts above.*

It Is Well with My Soul

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eg5O2y1UXw4

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Refrain: It is well with my soul, It is well,
it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

*My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.*

*But, Lord, ’tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!*

*And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul*



Storefront of
49ers Thrift Shop
in downtown
Sonora



Fred White working at the front desk

Editor's Note: Fred White was a long time member of Church of the 49ers who was one of the driving forces behind the 49ers Thrift Shop, and also served as a faithful member of the History Committee. Sadly, we lost Fred in December 2019 at the age of 98. This article was written by Fred and originally published in the June 2010 issue of the Golden Nugget.

After listening to a 1996 oral history interview of Alice Schroeder, another long-standing thrift shop volunteer, and reviewing many documents of the shop's day-to-day operations saved in our archives, your editor made a few edits to Fred's story and included additional information about the thrift shop.

I'd like to publicly thank Pat and Ron Federly who spent many hours and days scanning most of the church's archival materials before moving away in September 2018 - this has made the materials (including photographs) so easy to access. Thanks, Pat and Ron!

Leslie Davis

49ers Thrift Shop 1968 - 1999

By Fred White

The idea of running a church thrift shop was hatched many years ago when a previously active flea market in the community was discontinued. The purpose of the new shop was to provide a service to the county's population and serve as a money-making project for this church. It did well on both scores over the years of its operation and served as a model for other thrift shops in this area.



Helen Wood preparing items for sale

Ellarona Miller generally gets credit for the initial suggestion which she made to the then-active Mariners Club and the Women's Association. Those two organizations agreed to co-sponsor the project. The Session gave its approval, and a board of directors was formed which held its first meeting on May 27, 1968.

The group agreed to rent a store in downtown Sonora. Owner Don Marks provided the building for a ridiculously low rent at 33 North Washington Street (\$50 per month). It was immediately furnished and stocked with donated goods—which were to be sold to the general public at economical prices.

Everyone seemed to get into the spirit of the new venture. As a result, the 49ers Thrift Shop opened for business just twelve days later—on June 8, 1968. It operated continuously each Monday and Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for 31 years. (Tuesdays were reserved for unpacking and pricing the incoming merchandise arriving daily.)

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49ers Thrift Shop

Continued from Page 8

Household goods were recycled instead of being tossed away. Clothing was a major line—contributions were washed and repaired by a special committee headed by Alice Schroeder. Her home workshop was used for many years in this capacity (according to husband Milt Schroeder, they wore out three washing machines over the years!). Small appliances were repaired and stocked. One volunteer was especially skillful in repairing donated jewelry items. Used books brought in browsers as well as profits.

To stock the shop, it was mainly “word of mouth” to get donations. Also, whenever a rummage sale was held in the county, volunteers would make contact in order to “glean” the best leftovers. Their inventory mainly included clothing, house wares, towels, sheets, books, etc. They did not accept furniture to sell in the shop, but would post pictures of furniture with contact information. One unusual item that sold in the 49ers Thrift Shop was a pony named “Laddie.” Apparently it took awhile, but finally someone purchased Laddie for \$25.

Prices had to be set so all those donated items would go out the door. Every three months the stuff had to be cleaned out. Each week volunteers boxed up clothing they couldn’t sell for distribution to the Salvation Army and other charities. Also, Jim Scott would take useful items that just did not sell to donate to rest homes and the hospital.

In the first years of the enterprise, over 100 volunteers took turns working in the shop, and many were there faithfully for 20 years and more. Alice Schroeder boasted the “backroom banquets” were especially favored by the volunteers.



Jim Scott collecting donations, circa 1972

Catastrophic fires are a sad part of the Columbia area's history. Families burned out were given needed items either free or at small price. Clyda Woodard, quoted in a December 1999 article in the *Union Democrat* about the closing of the thrift shop said, “We had customers from every walk of life, and if somebody came in that didn’t have the money, we always gave them three outfits—one to wear, one for spare and one for washing day.”

Profits from the thrift shop provided special needs of our church. Ours has never been a wealthy church, but the seemingly small amounts that came in each day allowed the shop to provide many items that had long been on a wish list, but never fit in the budget. When these hard-working people saw the net sales reaching an annual amount of seven thousand dollars, they rejoiced and praised God for this success.

One of their first projects to fund was construction of restrooms in the church basement. They moved on to furnishing the balcony. Then came church landscaping, choir robes, pew cushions, and helping to re-roof the church. These projects, plus providing much of the service equipment for the old Ramont Hall, took almost \$18,000. In 1991,

I (Fred) was a member of the thrift shop’s board when over \$21,000 was pledged to help construct the Education Building. Other projects funded by the thrift shop include new carpeting, refurbishing the stained glass windows, painting the church exterior, and \$4,000 was given as a substantial part of the cost of the organ and speakers.

After more than 31 years, lack of volunteer staffing, increased competition, and a rise in shop rent forced a difficult decision. The church closed the Thrift Shop on December 17, 1999. This left a significant sum of money which went toward financing the building of Faith Hall.

The wonderful success of this program would not have happened without the dedicated service of many willing hands. Clyda Woodard worked for years with a list of 48 people who took their turn manning the store; two per shift, once a month. The 49ers Thrift Shop is part of a proud heritage of our church. Our archive room boasts stories and pictures of this time in our history. It lives on in vivid color in the memories of those who were a part of it.

**Originally written by Fred White 2010
Edited by Leslie Davis**

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling—
even the Lord, who is my refuge—
then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord,
"I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he
acknowledges my name.

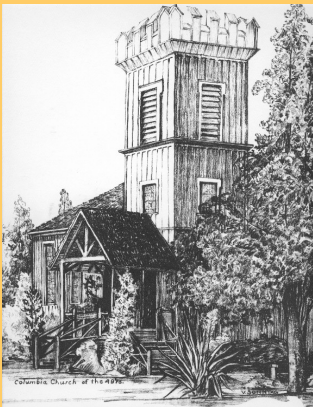
He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life will I satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

Denella Kimura submitted Psalm 91 for the *Golden Nugget*. She considers this scripture the "Christian's Insurance Policy."

First Presbyterian Church

"Church of the 49ers"

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