

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A Word from the Pastor

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

As the calendar turns from September to October, we have come upon a familiar time of year: stewardship season, and our annual Stewardship Campaign. I know that 2020 has certainly been a crazy and unusual year filled with all sorts of ups and downs, chaos, and uncertainty. We had church services shut down for the better part of 3 months, we still aren't able to do many of the activities that have become such an important part of the life of our church such as Monday Night Dinners, singing during worship, shaking hands and giving hugs, listening to the choir perform, etc. And that's just in the life of our church; it's not even considering how our day-to-day lives and activities have been changed!



However, it's precisely because the life of our church has been so drastically altered that the Stewardship Campaign becomes all the more important because the Stewardship Campaign is focused on our giving for 2021 and we are hoping and praying, if God is willing, that 2021 will allow us to fully open back up; and, if that is the case, if we are able to fully open back up next year, we need to be ready to jump back into our missions, ministries, and outreach with both feet. We need to be prepared mentally, spiritually, and financially to hit the ground running in 2021 to be Christ's hands and feet in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties; and the only way we can be fully prepared is by having the resources to do so, and by being able to budget our funds and how we disburse them to achieve the mission of the church.

That's where the Stewardship Campaign comes into play; it allows us to get an idea of how much money we can be expecting to receive in tithes and offerings in 2021 so that we can make a fiscally responsible budget that allows us to accomplish all of the goals that God

October 2020

has for us without stretching ourselves too thin and getting the church into a bad situation financially. By having an accurate budget that has been put together based upon actual pledges rather than flying by the seat of our pants based upon how much money is in the offering plate each week, we will be much more equipped and prepared to follow the Great Commission given by Christ Himself to "go and make disciples."

Now, I want to make clear that neither I nor anyone on our Session is trying to force you to make a pledge because, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, God doesn't want us to give reluctantly or under compulsion, but cheerfully; so, we would never force or compel anyone to do something they don't want to do or are uncomfortable with, especially not with their money.

However, we are fervently asking that you determine how much you are willing to give cheerfully.

And, the good news of the matter is, if we do cheerfully give God what is rightfully His, we have the promise, as we see in the passage from Malachi, that He will bless us beyond measure; He will bless us beyond anything we could imagine.

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GOLDEN NUGGET

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Office Hours:
Tuesday through Friday
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Worship Services:
8:30 & 10:30 am Sundays
in Faith Hall, wearing masks
and 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 August 31, 2020 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$164,404	\$157,540	(\$6,864)
Expense	\$148,011	\$145,580	(\$2,431)

Mortgage Balance as of August 31: **\$65,946.51**

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

Addtl. principal paid through August 31: **\$600.00**

September Session Highlights

Highlights of the September 23rd Session meeting include:

Pastor Keith Reid welcomed our three new Elders: Diane Green, Larry Lincoln and Jim Spicer. They introduced themselves, as did the returning Elders. They all paired up to pray for each other.

Elder assignments to head the various committees were determined. See list on Page 4.

Buildings & Grounds presented their chosen bid for repairing the Faith Hall roof, by Fassett Construction, and Session voted to give approval to proceed.

The next Session meeting is Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Diane Brandt, Clerk of Session

Fall Back November 1

We return to Pacific Standard Time at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 1. Remember to set your clocks back one hour and change out your smoke alarm batteries too.



Are you signed up for Tuolumne County's alert system? It is especially important this year to be registered so you can receive an alert on your landline phone, cell phone, email, about any public emergencies, such as wildfire.

Everbridge Emergency Notification Registration

The Everbridge Emergency Notification Registration allows residents to receive alerts issued by the Tuolumne County Sheriff Office of imminent threats and emergency warnings. Follow this link to register:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832200#/login>

49er Family News

Grieving

Marilyn Rickman and other family and friends of **Marge Rickman**, who was called Home to be with her Lord on September 13 at the age of 91. A socially-distanced memorial service for Marge will be held at the church in November.

Family and friends of **Harry Critchfield**, who died at age 72 on September 22.

Meetings in October*

Worship services and/or meetings are subject to cancellation due to Covid-19 safety concerns. Socially-distanced worship services with masks are held in Faith Hall at 8:30 and 10:30 am on Sundays.

If you have Internet access, Pastor Keith's sermon and Scripture readings are available on YouTube each Sunday.

Scheduled meetings in October

- Monday, October 5, 9:30 am: History Committee in CE2
- Saturday, October 10, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast Fellowship at Papa's New Roost in East Sonora
- Sunday, October 11, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE2
- Monday, October 12, 10:00 am: Buildings & Grounds Cmte. in CE2
- Sunday, October 18, 9:30 am: Welcome & Evangelism in CE2
- Tuesday, October 20, 1 pm: Finance Committee in Office
- Tuesday, October 20, 2 pm: Mission Committee in CE3
- Wednesday, October 28, 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 October

The following groups/activities are not currently meeting:

Women's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study

Presbyterian Women

Fellowship Committee

49er Chancel Choir and 49er Chancel Ringers

Helen Johnson Community Dinner Program and Monday coed Bible Study

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

October Birthdays

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

Oct 3	Teresia Wilson
Oct 4	Deborah Handy
Oct 7	Jim Lashbrook
Oct 15	Brian Annett
Oct 16	June Perea
Oct 17	Dana Avila-Youngborg
Oct 17	Marian Cramer
Oct 20	Stacy Lien
Oct 23	Ella Reid
Oct 24	Mary Wollitz
Oct 25	Beverly Everhart
Oct 26	Evie Harris-Fitzsimons
Oct 26	Kim Mayer
Oct 27	Sandy Brooks-Aguilar
Oct 27	Valerie McCale
Oct 31	Sonja Harris



Happy Anniversary!

Oct 9	Jeff and Sue Warren: 16 years
Oct 27	Sandy Brooks-Aguilar and John Aguilar: 20 years

Word from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

So, with those two thoughts in mind, I wanted to remind you how our annual Stewardship Campaign works: Within the next couple of weeks, each one of our covenant partners and regular attenders will be receiving a letter directly from me regarding stewardship, with a pledge card included. You will then be given several weeks to prayerfully consider how much money you feel that you will cheerfully be able to give to the Church of the 49ers next year. Then fill out and return the card; which you will be able to mail in, drop off at the office, or place in the offering plate. During these weeks, I will be talking about the Stewardship Campaign each Sunday during the announcements, and I will be asking different elders to give short talks about how your funds are being used to support their ministry area.

As I stated in my article on the Stewardship Campaign last year, I know that talking about money can often be awkward and uncomfortable; and I don't want to make anyone in our church feel that way. So, my goal during this time is to gently stress to everyone the importance of being good stewards and filling out your pledge cards without being overbearing or condemning about it. We had a successful Stewardship Campaign last year without me spending 4-6 weeks preaching sermons specifically about stewardship and tithing, so my hope is that we will be able to replicate that this year. And, just like last year, I want this entire Campaign, this whole process, to be as painless, open, and transparent as possible; so I

want you all to know that my door is always open. You can drop by and visit or give me a call if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding the Campaign. I will also be making certain that the expected operating budget for 2021 is printed in the bulletin, and readily available for all of you to see, so you will know the goal that we are trying to reach through the campaign.

I know deep down in my *knower*, as my dad used to say, that God has amazing things in store for the Church of the 49ers in 2021; and so my prayer is that each one of our covenant partners will understand why the stewardship campaign is so important. We don't do this because we are greedy and are trying to pressure you into giving us your money; we do it to help our covenant partners and regular attenders fulfill God's command to return a portion of what He has given us, and we do it so that we can faithfully plan the missions and ministries of our church for the next year. So, I pray that each and every one of us will make the effort and take the time to pray, determine how much we can give to the church in 2021, and fill out our pledge card. God loves, and blesses, a cheerful giver; so let's all cheerfully give!

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

Pastor Keith

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.

October 4 Communion

Sermon/NT Scripture: Mark 9:2-13
Old Testament Scripture: Malachi 4:1-6

October 11

Sermon: Mark 9:14-29
OT: Psalm 78:10-32

October 18

Sermon: Mark 9:30-41
OT: Ruth 2:1-17

October 25

Sermon: Mark 9:42-50
OT: Isaiah 66:12-24

Visit churchofthe49ers.com to listen to past sermons. The audio includes the Scripture verses being read and goes right into the sermon.

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

Semble Loan Campaign

The campaign to raise funds for improvements and major repairs to church property is under way. The major issues are: the roof of Faith Hall, the east and west siding and window frames of the Sanctuary, the roof of the Christian Education building (38 years old), the fire suppressant sprinkler heads and ceiling tiles in Faith Hall, and the pavement replacement at the main street entrance leading to the Sanctuary.

The Faith Hall roof is likely the most costly with bids in hand ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The Building and Grounds Committee has diligently considered them all. Along with concurrence of the Finance Committee, Session has approved the recommendation of these two committees of a \$39,450 bid to discover and repair damaged underlayment, and overlay the roof with a 50 year warranted product. The bid includes a new gutter on one side plus adding two

additional down spouts on each side for a total of three down spouts on each side of the building.

The Christian Education Building roof is simply needing replacement due to normal wear and tear before more serious problems occur.

The east and west siding of the Sanctuary has served us since the rebuilding in 1954 and is showing signs of failure.

The final (major) item is the street pavement leading up to the main entrance to the Sanctuary. This is a safety issue. The pavement is loose and uneven which gives easy opportunity for slipping and falling, which in fact has occurred.

The appeal of the "Semble" arrangement or system, is it affords us, the members and friends, the opportunity to loan money to the church and earn

interest at the same time. The investor can choose an interest rate of up to 4%. It also gives anonymity to the participants. This is due to the formation of a third party Limited Liability Company (LLC) managed by Semble for the benefit of Church of the 49ers. The Church is the sole "member" of the LLC and has no knowledge of who is participating—only the total of funds invested are known and received through the LLC. Likewise, when the church makes payments on the loan, the funds are funneled through the LLC back to the investors.

Please visit the official web site at <http://loan.semble.com/listing/church49ers> to better understand the program and how you can participate. You can also call me at 532-3059 (H) or 559-6938 (C).

Jim Brandt, Treasurer

Elder Assignments for 2020-2021

After dutifully serving their terms, Roger Haughton, Carl Rudolph and Jon Whited retired from Session; and following the September 13 congregational vote, three new Elders replaced them: Diane Green, Larry Lincoln and Jim Spicer.

Most of the committees of the church are headed up by Elders. Following are their assignments for the remainder of 2020 and through June 2021:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • Buildings & Grounds | Sharon Poff and Leslie Davis, co-chairs |
| • Christian Education | Pastor Keith Reid and Karla Reid |
| • Fellowship | Deb Handy, with Leslie Davis as liaison to Session * |
| • Finance & Stewardship | Jim Brandt, with Jim Spicer in training |
| • History | Nora Neves, with Tom Kimura as liaison to Session * |
| • Missions | Diane Green |
| • Personnel | Dean Cunningham |
| • Special Projects | Larry Lincoln |
| • Welcome & Evangelism | Tom Kimura |
| • Worship | Ken Minett |

* Note: When a committee is not chaired by an Elder, an Elder is assigned to act as liaison for that committee to Session.

Grandma's House* Garage & Attic Sale Fundraiser

**October 10 and 11, Sat/Sun
8 am - 2 pm**

22828 Gold Street, Columbia
(just across the church parking lot,
behind the white picket fence)

Features:

Lots of good stuff for sale, plus
a lemonade and hot dog stand,
baked goods, raffles.

Masks required

*Grandma's House provides tutoring
for Columbia children

Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family! Greetings this month from Sonora! That's something new, isn't it?

Let me begin by saying **THANK YOU** to all who were able to participate in my mother's 90th birthday celebration on Saturday, September 26. It was a fabulous day and she enjoyed seeing many of you. Thanks also to my *accomplices* who helped me pull off the surprise.

Please be praying for my transition back to Ecuador. I have several documents that I need to take with me to apply for my Ecuadorian missionary visa. I hope to have these done and be able to leave for Guayaquil, Ecuador the end of October, first part of November. In the meantime, I will be doing some mission representation in northern California.

I've mentioned before about *Reach Beyond's* work at the Moria Refugee Camp in Lesbos, Greece. I have not participated on a team, but many from our mission have served there over the past year. This camp was designed to hold 3,000 people but has had up to 23,000 people in recent months, with more than two-thirds of them being women, children, and unaccompanied minors.

On September 3, the site was locked down after over 30 cases of Covid-19 were found. On September 8, the camp caught fire and burned to the ground. Refugees slept on the sides of the roads, in olive groves and even a graveyard. Some had only a blanket or sheet and others had nothing for protection. In the streets there was no organized way to provide water or food.

Please pray for the men, women and children caught in this awful situation; pray for government authorities to find a solution; and for workers from *Reach Beyond* and other organizations to bring desperately needed food, water, blankets, and medical help.

Please pray for Turkey. Of the 85 million people in the country, it is estimated that there are only 8,000 believers. In a crackdown on Christianity in the last couple of years, the government has deported many missionaries and Christian workers. In 2019, thirty-five Christian workers received deportation orders and sixteen have been expelled this year. These actions appear to be a part of an official campaign and in recent weeks two additional deportation orders were issued.



Allen and Lilian Graham

Please pray for our media partner in Turkey. Because of the pandemic, they have seen a large increase in the number of people contacting the team. While it seems that the Turkish authorities plan to stamp out Christianity in their country, we can see that it is God's plan to reach the Turkish people with the truth of His love and forgiveness. Please pray for our partner, for their team as they continue to broadcast the gospel and follow up with listeners, and for the teams in various cities that have been formed as they interact with the people that are reaching out.

Thank you for sharing in my ministry and walking this incredible journey with me!

Allen

New Officers Ordained and Installed

During the congregational meeting conducted between worship services on September 13, new officers in the Class of 2023 were voted in, ordained and installed.

New Elders are Jim Spicer, Larry Lincoln and Diane Green; and Deacons are Pat Lincoln and Doreen Bass. Also, Margie Fooshee, who has served as a Deacon before, was elected to serve another term on the Deacon Board.



Lft to rt: Jim Spicer, Pat Lincoln, Larry Lincoln, Diane Green, Doreen Bass

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



Per the CDC, getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu, and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against flu, make plans to get vaccinated early in fall, before flu season begins. CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October.

Unfortunately, the popular Tuolumne County Health Fair had to be canceled this year due to the pandemic. If that's where you usually get your flu shot, the Tuolumne County Public Health Department wants you to know they are offering a drive-through opportunity to receive a no-cost flu vaccine this month, while supplies last.

The dates and locations for the 2020 Flu Vaccine Drive-Through are:

Wednesday, October 7, noon to 4:00 pm at the Groveland Library/Youth Center, 18990 Main Street, Groveland

Wednesday, October 13, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Sonora Library/Senior Center, 480 Greenley Road, Sonora

Or, flu shots are also available Tuesdays, 8:30 to 11:00 am, at the Tuolumne County Public Health Department, 20111 Cedar Road, Sonora.

Visit <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1307/Flu-Vaccination-Clinics> to download and print the required Client Registration/Consent Form. We will also have some forms available in Faith Hall on Sundays for you to pick up.

Requirements for the Flu Vaccine Drive-Through:

- Wear a proper face covering.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing, such as a short-sleeve shirt.
- Sit by the window of the vehicle if you are getting a vaccination.
- Parent or legal guardian must accompany children.
- Have your registration form completely filled out before you arrive.
- Please stay home if symptomatic.

For more information, call the Tuolumne County Public Health Department at 533-7401.

Interfaith News

Interfaith continues to be open during the virus pandemic. The numbers are down as to the families being helped, but those who are able to come have been very grateful for everything we are able to help them with. We are here to help anyone in our county who needs it, and everyone who works at Interfaith is very much appreciated.

Some service days have been changed, as follows: Food is available Monday through Friday, and household items Tuesday through Friday. Note clothing is available again, but only on Wednesdays. Hours for all these are 10 am to 1 pm as usual.

We are thankful to all who have been able to come and help out in these departments. If you previously volunteered at Interfaith and are not able to return at this time, please call either Cathie or Barbara at 532-0905 so they know. Also call

Interfaith in the event you are ready to return, so you can be scheduled.

For those who may be new to our church and would like to know more about Interfaith Community Social

Services, please give me a call 532-4358. I'm always glad to talk about this great service to our community, where some of our congregation members work with volunteers from other churches to combat hunger in Tuolumne County.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison



Young 49ers

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

I am pleased to introduce Rev. Francis Edward Clark (1851-1927) to you: he did not know Gold Rush Columbia and was not even a Presbyterian. As one reflects about the memorable 1850s, we know a group of largely Maine Men (Clark's homeland) discovered gold in Columbia in a small gulch at the foot of Kennebec Hill (named after a river in Maine). Shortly thereafter, devout residents organized the First Presbyterian Church in mid December, 1854.

However, that is not where this article should begin. For that we must consider events in the Pine Tree state. During Columbia's early Gold Rush years, Francis Edward Clark was born. He appeared to be alert, healthy, energetic and always curious about his environs. He graduated from Dartmouth College (1875) and became a Congregational Church pastor with concerns about the neglect of training for young Christians in Maine and elsewhere. (We are aware that regular Christian education classes for youngsters was not common in Mother Lode churches in the early days.)

As early as 1881, Pastor Clark proposed a Christian Endeavor organization to reemphasize Jesus' love for children. In 1895, his beliefs became interdenominational, eventually appearing in 29 countries with participants numbering several million— "For Christ and The Church." Clark's initial mission was to assist young people: "help them grow in the faith and be trained for Christ's service." By the late 1800s, the movement had expanded to include adults; at the same time it became widespread in protestant churches throughout the United States.

After a World Christian Endeavor Convention in San Francisco in 1931, Rev. Clark's pastoral epistle was introduced to the youth of Tuolumne County by local

seminary student pastors. Stanley George (1931) established a spiritual foundation for the Christian Endeavor students after organizing a Boy Scout troop at the Church of the 49ers in Columbia. Local boys appreciated youth-centered worship, Sierra hikes and campfires surrounded by church companions and stars overhead. In the early 1930s, a group of youngsters attending the small Standard Presbyterian Church decided to participate with Mr. George and his Christian Endeavor boys. Later student pastor Paul Steps (1934) arrived to provide worship services at the two Presbyterian churches. The student pastors served both struggling congregations and also the youngsters, however their monthly meetings lasted only a few years.

When the Standard Lumber Mill closed, the local congregation merged with the nearby Methodist Church in 1936.

During the depression years the Church of the 49ers sanctuary needed to be rehabilitated; church membership had slowly grown only to 53 in 1931; a campus manse was needed to accommodate the inadequately paid pastors. Rev. Roscoe Nickerson agreed to become pastor of the Church of the 49ers (1935 - 1938) while awaiting his retirement. He was not deterred by the difficulties confronting the small church. During his pastorate, a modest manse was erected.

In addition, Pastor Nickerson was always concerned about his young worshipers. He inspired the church to "start the young people in the right direction." This objective led the congregation to assemble a rough lumber clubhouse for the youngsters, especially the Christian Endeavor worshipers. It was apparent the youngsters felt comfortable in the Sabbath services and social activities at their own "clubhouse sanctuary" on nearby Gold



The young people earned this pin for their participation in Sunday School.

Street. By the late thirties, their membership had reached 25 participants with twelve to fifteen boys and girls regularly attending meetings at the church and their cozy clubhouse.

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See "Young 49ers"



Rev. Joseph Hillhouse with the melted church bell after fire destroyed the sanctuary June 22, 1950

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

Young 49ers

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The Church of the 49ers is fortunate to have a few recorded oral history interviews with several who were teenagers during those memorable years. To them it was a Golden Age for young Christians. One recalled that it was a time of spiritual and personal togetherness. The church had become the social, recreational and worshiping center for rural Columbia. A senior recalled, "We volunteered for everything in those days," serving with Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, campus clean-up crews, holiday worship pageants and even became Sunday School helpers. We are reminded after the Great Fire of 1950, young volunteers collected hundreds of square nails from the ashes to be enclosed in **national** letters to solicit assistance in rebuilding the historic sanctuary. It was a successful all-community effort leading to a new **sanctuary for the Church of the 49ers** in 1954—the 100th anniversary of the church.

In 1951 an exciting trip to Sacramento was arranged to meet with politicians and Gov. Earl Warren; the governor had been an admirer of the historic mining camp. In a letter he sent "wishes for a successful restoration" of the church. (Recall, Earl Warren signed the bill creating Columbia Historic State Park on July 15, 1945.)

The old clubhouse remains an important memory for a few seniors as they recall the Great Depression years. The rough board siding left many entries for rain and wind as it became inclement outside and inside. In the small room, an ancient "box stove" struggled to keep the shelter comfortable. Despite its limitations, it did manage tasty snacks. Young volunteers supplied cookies and prepared hot drinks of evaporated milk, sugar and cocoa.

On holidays attending adults provided special sweets. The youngsters had the



Lft to rt: Alice Miller Wynne, Gov. Earl Warren, Bonnie Carpenter, Virginia Hughes, Leola Pitts. This 1951 picture in our archives is captioned: "Sunday School Girls meet Governor Earl Warren - for promotion and publicity for rebuilding the historic church"

habit during their worship of joining to "have a sing" using their "wonderful song books" of spiritual favorites. A recorded informant remembered it as a time of "friendly, devoted and helpful" people, young and mature, serving in their Mother Lode community church during difficult times.

Sunday School classrooms were originally located in the sanctuary. The back of the room had been partitioned into small rooms for worshipers. Also, other groups assembled in the balcony and even a tiny belfry room. Indeed, there was a place for all: infants, elementary and high school students and visiting friends. During Pastor Hillhouse's leadership (1948-1958), over 100 youngsters were actively involved in the church during week-long activities and holidays. Occasionally, awards of attractive pins were presented to the young worshipers by the pastors for outstanding attendance and service. On special occasions, exciting outings were arranged—Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, valley churches and also picnics.

The fire of 1950 which destroyed the church sanctuary did not even scorch the

Clubhouse. During the ensuing years, the timeworn structure was remodeled and enlarged. It served as the entrance to what was called Ramont Hall—the temporary sanctuary and activities center during the construction of the new Presbyterian church sanctuary. A VIRTUAL TOUR of the structure takes us from the Clubhouse's Gold Street entrance into the hall. On the right, we notice a small rest-room. Across the hall is the bedroom for Pastor Joe and Mrs. Virginia Hillhouse. Their "manse" was less than palatial; it was in frequent use by various church committees. No complaints were ever expressed by the couple. Pastor Hillhouse

reminded all that the sanctuary was gone but the CHURCH LIVES ON—and their faith never wavered! The kitchen adjoined their living quarters. Beyond was a large room with a chancel at one end. The sanctuary featured Hollywood movies, potlucks, visiting snow groups, committee meetings and, of course, Sabbath services. Ramont Hall served as Columbia's social center for many years. It was the church's only sanctuary, manse and recreation center from 1951 until 1954 during the construction of the new First Presbyterian Church of Columbia. (Today demolished Ramont Hall is the site of the Christian Education building and portions of Faith Hall.)

Readers, the church youngsters of this CLUBHOUSE CHRONICLE are an important page in the history of the Church of the 49ers. We are reminded of the tireless pastors, youth ministers and volunteers who actively prepared sons, daughters and grandchildren of the church families for the 21st century. Now, neighbors, you are invited to be with us as we continue worshiping—expressing CHRIST AND CHURCH!

Dick Dyer

He Writes Hope

Hebrews 10:23

*Let us hold unswervingly to
the hope we profess, for he
who promised is faithful.*

He writes hope
On the days
When the sun shines bright
And days when
It's all we can do to
See the light.

He writes hope
When the way
Is smooth
And we just sail
On by
And on the days
When the obstacles
Block the path
Making us hard
To see what's right.

He writes hope
In the bird songs
And the Eagles in flight.

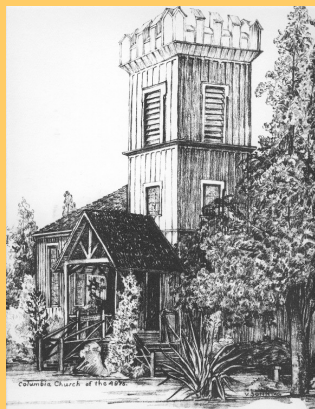
He writes hope
In every word
Spoken in prayer,
In every knee bowed
Down before him.
He writes hope
In laughter and in Lullabies.

(C) Michelle R Kidwell
September.23.2020

First Presbyterian Church

"Church of the 49ers"

11155 Jackson Street
Columbia, CA 95310



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!