

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A Word from the Pastor

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." **Psalm 46**

In this past year, we have certainly seen our fair share of difficulties. We have been dealing with a pandemic and all the restrictions that have come with it for almost a year now. We just had an election season that was filled with more anger, hatred, arguing, and violence than I have ever witnessed. We've dealt with some of the worst wildfires in the history of our state. We have to live with the constant threat of



our power being shut off at any time to try to mitigate wildfire risk. We just had the biggest winter storm this region has seen in close to a decade; and, for those of us at higher elevations, we had to deal with our power being out for days, and being snowed into our homes for days. When you take together all we have had to endure in the past year, it can get really overwhelming, it is easy to become discouraged in the face of all of these difficulties. And that is why I wanted to share the above psalm with you; because, for me, when it seems like everything is spinning out of control and I am at the end of my rope, this psalm is a great source of comfort for me. It reminds me that our God is a good God; a God who loves us, takes care of us, and protects us.

The psalms generally begin by describing some crisis, event, or situation that has spurred the psalmist to write. This is not the case, however, for Psalm 46, which is not a response to a specific event, but rather to a general sense of instability and insecurity in life. The world was a messed-up place, full of pain and suffering during the time of the psalmists just like it is today. But we have right here in Scripture the good news of the situation, and that good news is that we can endure and

February 2021

overcome all of the pain and all of the suffering if we lean on God, trust in His provision, and have confidence in Him.

In verse 1, the psalmist says that God IS our refuge and strength, and ever-present help. This is a very telling sentence; the psalmist doesn't say that God and being strong-willed, or God and positive thinking, or God and anything is our strength, but God alone. The Hebrew noun that is translated here as "refuge" means shelter. When the storms of life are pouring down on us, God is our shelter. But, more than just shelter, He is our strength; meaning that, as it says in Psalm 21:8, "Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies; your right hand will seize your foes." God is our shelter and our strength, He is both our shield and our sword. And then the psalmist tells us that God is an ever-present help in trouble. Now, I'm not trying to give you a lesson in Biblical Hebrew and don't want to bore you by talking about nothing but grammar, but I feel like it is important to point out in this case that the Hebrew word "trouble" literally translated means, "distress, cramped quarters, a constricted feeling."

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GOLDEN NUGGET

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"Church of the 49ers"
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Office Hours:
Tuesday through Friday
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Worship Services:
**Currently not meeting
in person**

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 December 31, 2020 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$238,210	\$221,977	(\$16,233)
Expense	\$234,431	\$223,599	(\$10,832)

Mortgage Balance as of December 31: \$163,034
Minimum required Mortgage Payment: \$2,236
Addtl. principal paid through December 31: \$925

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders 2020-2021

Buildings & Grounds: Co-Chairs Leslie Davis and Sharon Poff

Christian Education: Pastor Keith Reid and Karla Reid

Fellowship: Deb Handy, with Leslie Davis as liaison to Session*

Finance & Stewardship: Jim Brandt

History: _____, with Tom Kimura as liaison to Session*

Missions: Diane Green

Personnel: Dean Cunningham

Special Projects: Larry Lincoln

Welcome & Evangelism: Tom Kimura

Worship: Ken Minett

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

Deacon Officers 2020-2021

Moderator: Rosie McCarthy

Vice Moderator: Sheri Pendleton

Treasurer: Jim Lashbrook

Asst. Treasurer: Vi Morgado

Secretary: Denella Kimura

Deacon Committees 2020-2021

Memorials: Chair Margie Fooshee, Pat Lincoln, Marijean Davis, Susie Porte

Communion: Chair Marijean Davis

Contact homebound parishioners for Communion: Doreen Bass

Deacon Fund: Chair Jim Lashbrook, Vi Morgado, Susie Porte, Gwen Harris, Margie Fooshee

Grief Booklet Coordinator: Chair Jim Lashbrook, Denella Kimura

Interfaith: Chair Vi Morgado, Rosie McCarthy

Worship Liaison: Dana Avila

Session Liaison: Sheri Pendleton

Prayer Chain (email and phone): Rosie McCarthy

49er Family News



Dick Dyer will be 90 this month.
Happy Birthday, Dick!

Happy Anniversary!

Dick and Pirkko Dyer
64 years on February 15

Ken Minett and Louise Lertora
7 years on February 16

Jim and Barbara Lashbrook
27 years on February 26

Grieving

Family and friends of **Verne Scott**,
who died December 16 at the age of 96.

Family and friends of member **Harold Wesley**,
who died January 12 at the age of 88.

February Birthdays

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

Feb 4	Lois Brown (102 yrs)
Feb 6	Hailey Reid
Feb 8	Dick Dyer
Feb 8	Rosie McCarthy
Feb 11	Elvy Peterson
Feb 11	Louise Lertora
Feb 13	Ken Minett
Feb 14	Bobbie Bryson
Feb 15	Michele Annett
Feb 24	Joseph Bickell Jr
Feb 26	Barbara Broad
Feb 26	Taylor Annett

Five Simple Ways to Show God's Love

Editor's Note:

Following are excerpts from an article of the same name found on the Internet at askaboutmyfaith.com. Though because of the pandemic it is not safe to visit with people in person at present, there are many other ways to show God's love to others—by telephone, email, text, social media.



"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**

God commands us to love one another. Love is supposed to be the defining characteristic of our lives as Christians. Some people are naturally loving, but some aren't naturally compassionate or people-focused. God has created us each uniquely, but we are all commanded to love. Here are simple ways to show God's love to others:

Show God's Love by Listening

Commit to slow down, ask questions, and really listen to people. Listen to understand, not just to prepare your response. Allow people to speak their mind without interruption or judgment.

People will feel valued (and loved!) when they are heard and understood.

Show God's Love with Generosity

When we love someone, we give to them. That loving characteristic comes from God! After all, John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he **gave**..." He loved, so He gave. Of course, people think of money when talking about generosity, and that is definitely one aspect of generosity. But, how can you also be generous with your time, talents, and your voice? Who can you invest some time into, either by helping them out with a practical need or some quality time? What special skills or talents can you provide?

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Word from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

Isn't that amazing?!? So, what the psalmist is saying here is that when the pressure mounts, when the world is closing in on us, when we feel that we have nowhere to turn, we can lean on God because He is here to help. When we are at our lowest point when all seems lost and we are at the end of our rope, He wants us to lean on Him. He wants to be our comforter, He wants to be our protector. As it says in this psalm, we don't have to fear, no matter what is going on, no matter how much our earth is shaking, no matter how much the waters of our life are roaring and foaming.

In verse 4, then, we see the psalmist gives us an image of a river. This river is seen to give constant provision to the city of Jerusalem, which is a significant image because Jerusalem was one of the few major cities of the ancient world that didn't actually have a river running through it, simply a few small streams; but the psalmist was looking forward to the day when a magnificent river flowed from the temple itself as told by the prophets. Then, in the second half of verse 4, we see that this river made the city of God glad. This "city of God" is Jerusalem, which was glad because God had provided the river to give life in the dry land of Israel, and to provide protection for the city. For us, the river is the image of God's mercy, an image of His Holy Spirit and the city of God is His church, who is made glad through the life and protection we receive from the Spirit, no matter what life throws our way. The psalmist then, in verse 5, shows us the image of God in the midst of His city, in the midst of His church. We then see, in verse 6, that even though the earth is in chaos, God is still there as our stability and our security, providing for us.

Finally, in verse 10 of the passage, we see a very well-known line of Scripture, "Be still, and know that I am God." In this verse, there is a change from the third person to the first person and God begins speaking. God is telling us to "Be still;" or to put it in more modern terms, he is telling us to "calm down and relax." He then tells us to know that He is God, He's telling us to take our hands off and have confidence in the fact that He is God and He is in control. So, by the phrase "Be still, and know that I am God," He is saying "calm down, relax, and trust me; I've got this!" God doesn't keep bad things from happening to us, he allows them to happen to us so that our faith will grow and, like it says in the second half of verse 10, He will be exalted. And this word, "exalted" means "to be lifted up, to be raised high." So often we boast about the great things going on in our life and act as though it was through our own doing, we don't give God His rightful credit for these things. But in the bad times we have nothing for which to boast but can only rely on God to bring about resolution.

When life starts to tear you down, beat you up, and you aren't sure where to go or what to do, just stop; literally stop, stop moving, stop stressing, stop thinking, stop everything and focus on Him. Take a moment, take a breath and dwell on the fact that God is here for you. Say a prayer; even something as simple as, "Dear Lord, things are going crazy in my life right now, but I know that you are still on the throne, and you are in control. I have peace in the confidence that you got this, and I am going to put my faith in you. In Jesus' precious name, I pray. Amen."



By taking that small beat and reorienting yourself to God, reorienting yourself to the cross, you can refresh your confidence that no matter what the circumstance, God's got this. God is enough, we need nothing else.

If we lean on God as our shelter and refuge, if we look to the cross and trust in God's provision, and if we have confidence in Him, then there is nothing that we cannot make it through. A pandemic, an election of anger and hatred, a wildfire, or any number of tragedies don't stand a chance against the God of the universe who loves us and wants to be our protector and our fortress. No matter what our earthly bodies may have to endure, our souls will always be OK, because we have God in the form of His Holy Spirit dwelling within us. We can endure all of the slings and arrows that life can possibly throw at us. It is well with your soul!

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

Pastor Keith

Send your articles and Family News items for the March 2021 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by February 24th to Leslie Davis at davisgold@gmail.com or call her at 532-6604.

From Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family! Thank you for praying in January.

Our team at the station in Guayaquil prepared the contingency plan for our operations should Ecuador declare another time of shelter-in-place. The plan is ready, although we obviously hope it won't need to be implemented.

The search for a new home for the radio station has begun, and we visited a couple of possibilities, but nothing promising at this point. Please keep praying for this need. We've been at our current location since the station started in 1972 and the building here has served us well. Pray for a new site that will serve us far into the future.



Participants in the December 2020 HCJB2 Sharathon

This month, please pray for the following:

- * my Ecuadorian visa. All the documents have been submitted by the lawyer. Pray for a prompt, favorable response.
- * the elections for president and other government leaders which will be held on February 7. Pray for God's guidance, especially for believers, to make a wise choice for Ecuador's new president.
- * my 6-month follow-up appointment and tests after the surgery in July of last year.

Last month, I promised to tell you more about the sharathons in Guayaquil and Quito. Because of the pandemic, we were not able to have our Open House as we normally do. However, we received call after call and message after message from our listeners thanking God for our radio ministry and talking about the impact it has had in their lives. Two areas especially caught my ear:

- * when many people were sheltering in place during the pandemic, we were their companion.
- * many families have listened to the station from generation to generation. One caller said that her mother passed away in 2020 from Covid-19. Her mother had been a faithful donor to the station, and now she wanted to honor that legacy by donating to HCJB2. Praise God for how He has used, is using, and will use our stations to impact one generation after another.

Thank you for praying faithfully and for your financial gifts. What a privilege to serve together with you!

Allen

Interfaith News

Interfaith Community Social Services continues to be open to provide free groceries Mondays through Fridays between 10 am and 1 pm. During this current season of having to be careful during the COVID-19 pandemic, though, clients must wear masks and remain inside their cars in the parking lot while masked volunteers interview them and deliver bags of groceries.



Also, on Wednesdays only, clients may pick up clothing and household items. Note during the pandemic, a client may pick up food twice during each month.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

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



The January Golden Nugget included an article about *Secret Sisters*, with the opportunity to participate in this unique ministry. Some of you responded and will be matched up with a silent prayer partner and secret encourager for the year 2021.

Basically, the idea is to keep your Secret Sister in your prayers and send cards, notes, etc. to her throughout the year, while keeping your identity secret. And whoever has drawn your name as her Secret Sister will do the same. Hopefully by December it will be safe to hold the PW Christmas Tea and we can have the big reveal as usual.

It's not too late to participate! Just fill out the personal profile below and email to Leslie Davis at davisgold@gmail.com or mail to the church. Especially in these dark days when we cannot fellowship in person, this is a way for us to stay connected!

Leslie Davis

SECRET SISTER PERSONAL PROFILE

Name _____

Address _____

Birthday _____

Anniversary _____

Ways to pray for me
(specific or in general) _____

People I'm praying for (husband, children,
unbelieving family/friends, etc.) _____

Spiritual growth goals _____

Favorite Bible verse _____

A few of my favorite things...
(hobbies, collections, foods, flowers, etc.) _____

Sermons and Scripture

Pastor Keith began a sermon series April 5th, called "The Gospel According to Mark: Three Years That Changed The World." From November 29 through December 20 he took a break from his series on Mark in order to do an Advent series leading into Christmas. And now we're back to Mark!

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.

February 7

Communion

Old Testament: Daniel 9:20-27

Sermon: Mark 13:1-23

February 14

OT: Isaiah 13:9-13

Sermon: Mark 13:24-37

February 21

OT: Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Sermon: Mark 14:1-11

February 28

OT: Exodus 12:1-14

Sermon: Mark 14:12-26

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

The 49er Pastors

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

After the establishment of twenty-one Spanish missions from San Diego to Sonoma (1769-1823), the Franciscan padres and government authorities proudly announced, "Alta California is a Christian land." Several expeditions of leather jacket soldiers were sent to explore the lower Sierra for possible frontier mission outposts to convert the inland native groups to Christians and wards of the state. On July 30, 1846 American naval chaplain Walter Colton disembarked from a warship at Monterey and headed to the distant foothills. Also in the forties, other missionaries traveled along the coast and eventually into the interior valley. Rev. Timothy Dwight Hunt arrived after missionary service in Hawaii; he probably reached San Francisco in October 1848 and soon thereafter old Tuolumne. During these years, he and other missionaries supported the gold-hungry miners who "sought the solace of the church" where "reverence, devotion and the glow of intelligence" was slowly changing the "slackening of evil" mining camps. The missionaries conveyed the "moderating effects of Christian ethics" to the miners at their Mother Lode diggings. Today it is noteworthy to realize that despite some in the community who were addicted to misconduct, most of the young pioneers actually sought to continue the cultural upbringing they had received in the East. Historians have estimated fewer than forty Americans had settled in Alta California by the mid-1840s. As a result of the Coloma gold discovery in January 1848, there was rapid population increase, perhaps over 50,000, most in the mines by the end of 1849.

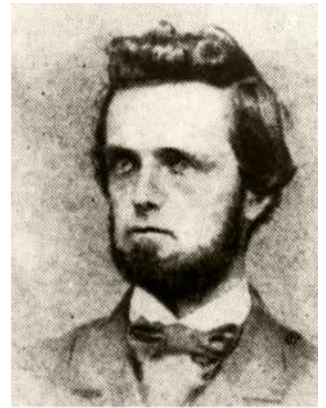
In late 1854, **Rev. John Henry Brodt** visited with Columbia's concerned Christians; he decided to accept the position as pastor of the recently organized First Presbyterian Church. A local resident wrote that after his first Sabbath Christmas sermon in 1854, the congregation felt "he is liked much" (*Brainard Diary*, 1857). Despite his fragile

health, Brodt and Ellen Sears were married by colleague Rev. Laurentine Hamilton on June 29, 1856—considered Ellen's "lucky day." It was the beginning of many weddings to take place in the Church of the 49ers. After Pastor Brodt, **Pastor Laurentine Hamilton** served the Columbia church until 1859, then he resumed his service with an Oakland congregation. While there he was considered to be the first American to ascend a mountain near San Jose—now known as Mount Hamilton.

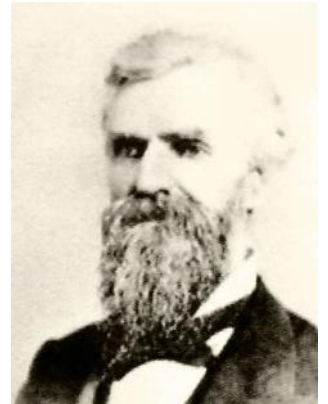
In 1864 Presbyterian pastor **Rev. William M. Martin** decided to remove the dilapidated 1852 Methodist church building—used by the Presbyterians from 1855 to 1864—and erect a more appropriate sanctuary for his congregation. The editor of the *Union Democrat* wrote, "It is without doubt the finest church to be seen anywhere in the southern mines..."

On February 2, 1865, **Rev. David Henry Palmer** was invited to the pulpit of the slowly growing church as the Civil War came to an end. Soon thereafter with the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865, Good Friday, local community officials declared April 19th a "Day of Mourning" with a public devotional ceremony in Columbia. An estimated 1,200 worshipers gathered at the Presbyterian Church—some inside, most outside after windows had been removed for all to hear the new pastor's eulogy. Rev. Palmer's emotional address honored the president at the height of his glory and called for national unity during the troubled times. He concluded his lengthy eulogy adding, "Embalmed with the nation's tears, may they abide in the nation's love until the stupendous sorrow which burdens hearts today shall have grown old with centuries."

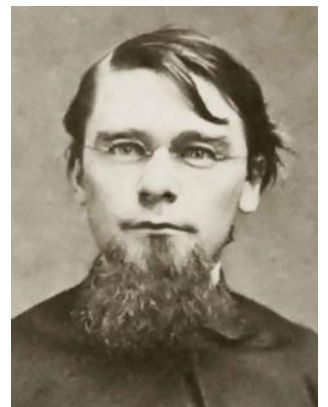
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Rev. John Henry Brodt



Rev. Laurentine Hamilton



Rev. David Henry Palmer

The 49er Pastors

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There were barren years as the century ended with a decline in membership, absence of pastors and limited evangelical activities. Fortunately by 1914, **Rev. Hugh Furneaux**, a Canadian missionary, arrived to arouse worshipers and provide vitality throughout the congregation. Always his calling featured that of the missionary sharing the Gospel from the depth of his heart to the hearts of others. The enterprising pastor and his devoted donkeys, with sacrilegious braying, traveled to distant villages and Sierra workcamps. As a result of regular missionary undertakings, he was christened by local newspapers, "The Shepherd of the Hills," with admirers from the lofty mountains to the central valley flatlands. Pastor Hugh was a disciple of St. Andrew, Jesus' apostle with the missionary's heart. He installed a sign in front of the aging church declaring it to be St. Andrew's Church.

During the Great Depression of the thirties, membership continued to decline; for years pastors were once again unavailable for regular Sabbath services at Columbia and in associated congregations. During these hardship years, students from the San Anselmo Seminary occasionally arrived to serve the struggling church; providing adult worship, various youth programs, a written church history, and even one of the students courted and married a local girl.

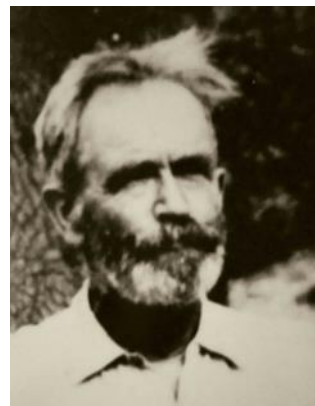
By mid-century, the aging sanctuary and bell tower demanded restoration. Through previous years some renovation had occurred. Then, one morning in June 1950, a fire erupted which completely destroyed the sanctuary and nearby manse. Original archival records collected through the years by the pastors were lost as the manse burned. However, **Pastor Joseph Hillhouse** declared, "The sanctuary has been destroyed, but the church lives on!" He organized an all-community effort to build a sanctuary resembling the historic 1864

church. In a few years, Ramont Hall was built serving as a (temporary) sanctuary, manse and community center. Later Pastor Joseph became manager of Calvin Crest, the Presbyterian retreat in the southern Sierra. In 1960 while returning from a short hike, Pastor Joseph N. Hillhouse died in the arms of his two sons.

In September 1958, **Rev. George Crichton** transferred his ministry to the church which lasted almost ten years. He was not only a dedicated preacher, but also an avid sportsman, hunting and fishing when he had time. He and his father-in-law, Rev. Emil Schwab, designed a campus master plan. Their hand-made diagram was 30" by 36." it is a valued possession in the archives—perhaps not exactly an artistic masterpiece.

After Rev. Crichton's death, he was succeeded by missionary pastor, **Rev. M. Halsted Gates** and wife, Wanda. To all, he was "Hally" with a winning smile. During World War II. Hally, Wanda and their family were resident missionaries in China. When the Japanese army acquired control of the area, they were confined in secure quarters with others on Hong Kong Island. Eventually an exchange of the combatants' citizens enabled the Gates to return to the United States. After several church assignments, Hally served in the Presbyterian Church of Modesto. Within a few years, he was invited to the Columbia church as Stated Supply, and later as Called Pastor until his retirement in 1975. This powerful pulpit preacher's retirement message featured the Book of Haggai: There is a need to build God's House for the arriving worshipers.

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Rev. Hugh J. Furneaux



Rev. Joseph N. Hillhouse



Rev. George Crichton



Rev. M. Halsted Gates

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The 49er Pastors

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Rev. James McCluskey, the next pastor, was active during America's Bicentennial observances in the seventies—the longest pastorate of the Church of the 49ers pastors (1976–1994). Pastor Jim loved football; on a Sabbath, frequently a church member would ask, "How did Stanford do in their big game, Pastor?" He became the chaplain at the Calvin Crest camp where he was known as "Deep Fat Friar" sometimes to his understanding face. He and his wife Martie retired to the family home in Laguna Beach.

Rev. Bill David and Jenny arrived from southern California during the spring of 1996 to a church in need during an exacting building expansion. He, Jenny and their two boys, settled into their comfortable home near the church and "went to work" on various projects. Old Ramont Hall was replaced to accommodate a new structure, Faith Hall. It was a stressful few years for the young pastor. At that time several senior members recalled his visits with bed-confined parishioners. In an interview with a now deceased member, she expressed admiration for Pastor Bill; he visited her terminally ill husband providing comforting prayers and helpful hands during his transition to his Heavenly Home, making it easier for him and his bedside family.

The only female pastor of the Church of the 49ers has been **Rev. Janet Russell**; she served from 2009 to 2019. She was an experienced research scientist before becoming a Presbyterian pastor. Pastor Janet arrived at the church to oversee all aspects of a growing congregation: managing church records, organizing Sabbath services, playing the piano and singing hymns, keeping the sanctuary and campus in order, visiting parishioners near and far, and still she had energy on Sabbaths to provide loving hugs for all. Usually she had assistance from church members and her husband Rob, an avid admirer and talented technician. We

are reminded of her enjoyment when she "Blessed the Pets" knowing how important pets are in the family home. Perhaps the most unusual blessing was for "Lizzy," a popular lizard. Although Pastor Janet retired with Rob in 2019, she is currently active as a respected church volunteer.

Rev. Keith T. Reid, a recent seminary graduate, and his family came to shepherd the historic church in 2019. His responsibilities began early but he was unaware of what was ahead. First, wife Karla delivered their third child, healthy son Travis, on his third Sunday. Next, the entire community was overwhelmed with COVID-19 concerns. This pandemic actually suspended regular church activities. Despite hardship months, Pastor Keith persevered, but with an unexpected agenda. All know he is assured complete support from his admiring congregation during the years ahead.

For this article, I have selected only a few pastors as examples of those who answered a call to assist the Church of the 49ers in extending Divine Words to Receptive Worshipers. However, as we reflect, there were other church Argonauts in the Mother Lode at the time who have been an important part of the visionary churches. They were restless, adventuresome and eager developers in a pioneer frontier unlike any other American frontier. Parenthetically, most would never fully receive their lofty Golden Dream. Nevertheless, the El Dorado of the American West stands as a lasting monument with its unique heritage and mingling people of diverse backgrounds.

Dick Dyer, Church Historian

Editor's Note: *The First Presbyterian Church of Columbia actually has a long list of pastors who have served the church over its 166 year history. Once we can meet again in person, be certain to check out the **Pastors Wall** located in Faith Hall for the list of pastors and photographers.*



Rev. James C. McCluskey



Rev. William G. David



Rev. Janet A. Russell



Rev. Keith T. Reid

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

"Showing God's Love"

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Show God's Love by Encouraging

Everyone we meet is carrying some kind of burden. How can we help to lift someone's burdens? It can be as simple as words of encouragement. When we encourage another, we are making their spirits strong. We are strengthening their hope, their faith, and their resolve to keep going. Don't hesitate to speak life-giving words into someone's circumstances. It can't hurt, and it most certainly can help someone gain strength in their life.

Show God's Love w/ Acts of Kindness

Showing kindness means thinking about the other person more than you think about yourself. What are their needs? What would make their lives better? It doesn't have to be huge, but it should be thoughtful. Being thoughtful and kind communicates to the other person that you value their needs above your own. Selfless love comes from God.

1 Corinthians 13:5 says that love "is not self-seeking." Practice being others-focused.

Show God's Love by Praying for Others

Yes, pray for others in your own time with God, because God hears our prayers. But, also pray for people when you're with them. One of the easiest ways to show love and concern is to pray with someone right then and there. In any conversation, if someone mentions they're sick, stressed, or excited, simply ask, "Can I pray for you?" And then pray with them. Show them love and genuinely pray for their needs or thank God for their good news. See how God works through those powerful moments of prayer.

It's Possible to Show God's Love to Everyone

God's Love is for everyone. Does that mean your combative neighbor? Yes. Your estranged sibling? Yep. Your micro-managing boss? Yes, it includes them, too. God loves each of them,

individually, so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to die for them. Everyone we encounter — EVERYONE — is someone that God loves and Jesus died for. Even difficult people. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, not a select few. He died for our sins without conditions. In fact, He suffered and died knowing the world rejected Him, and we continue to reject Him daily when we fall short. Yet He loved us enough to take our place.

This is what God's love is all about! It is love with no strings attached. His love expects nothing in return. Pure, sacrificial love. When we show this kind of love, we are showing God's love. It's His love shining through us. If it seems difficult to muster up your own love for someone, focus on the fact that you are being a conduit for God's love to flow through. It's not by your own strength, but through God's. This is how you show God's love to others even when it seems difficult.

How can you show God's love to someone today?

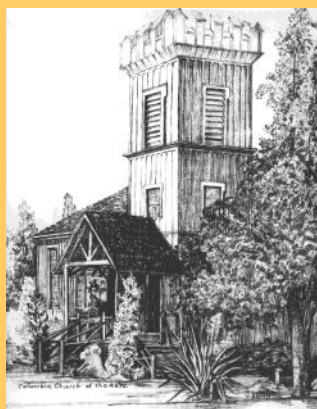


First Presbyterian Church

"Church of the 49ers"

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



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