

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Word from the Pastor

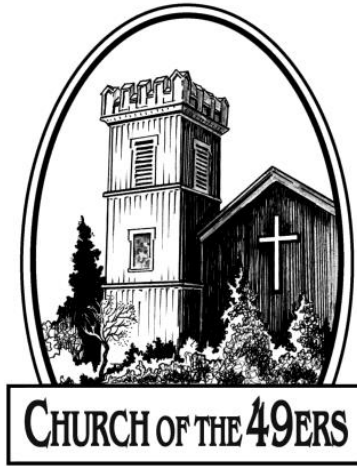
“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Exodus 20:8-11

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.” Hebrews 4:9-11

As most of you know, my family and I just returned from a two-week vacation visiting our extended family in Tennes-



see. We had a very good time on our vacation catching up with friends and just having a good time running around our old stomping grounds and hanging out. However, what was probably the most refreshing part of the trip was that it gave us an opportunity to rest. If you don’t know, my family and I are constantly busy and “on-the-go.” I have a full-time job here at the church, Karla has a near full-time job at a restaurant called Seven Sisters as well as a part-time job as our Director of Children’s Ministries, we have three kids who take up a lot of our time, we have school requirements and homework for our two girls, as well as other various and sundry obligations that come up from time-to-time. So, to have two full weeks without all of these responsibilities was quite a treat for us; it gave us an opportunity to rest.

And, I know that we are not the only ones who experience this level of extreme busy-ness; it seems that, nowadays, everyone is constantly going and doing, constantly having full schedules. I know that many of you have shared

August 2021

with me that, now that you are retired, you are busier than you were when you were working; so even retirement often doesn’t ease the strain on our daily schedules. By and large, we Americans are busy people who only stop doing one thing in order to move on to the next. We are a people that wake up, hit the ground running, and often don’t stop until we put our head on our pillow at night.

But, what the above passages from Scripture teach us is that God desires—you could maybe even say that He *requires*—rest for His children. God created us, He created our physical bodies, so He certainly knows our physical limitations; He didn’t design us to be creatures who are constantly on the move and never stopping to get rest and rejuvenation. That’s why God created the Sabbath; He created it so that we would have the time to put down our day-to-day work, to give our body the rest that it needs, and to focus on Him. The Sabbath is meant to be a respite for a weary soul to attune itself to the Holy Spirit and to get the rejuvenation that it needs through rest.

**See “From the Pastor”
Continued on Page 4**

GOLDEN NUGGET

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First Presbyterian Church
"Church of the 49ers"
Editor: Leslie Davis

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

Worship Services in Sanctuary:
Sundays at 10 am; masks and
social distancing required.

STAFF

Rev. Keith Reid, Pastor
Rev. Lee Warford, Assistant Pastor
Deb Johnson, Office Administrator
Karla Reid, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Carolyn Sylva, Accompanist
Steve Engle-Borda, Sound Technician

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 June 30, 2021 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$17,724	\$19,657	\$1,933
Expense	\$16,771	\$20,413	\$3,642

Mortgage Balance as of June 30: \$153,953.22
Minimum required Mortgage Payment: \$1,560.77
Addtl. principal paid through June 30: \$362.07

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders

Dean Cunningham (Liaison to B&G)
Roger Haughton (Missions Chair)
Tom Kimura (W&E Chair, History Chair)
Ken Minett (Worship Chair)
Judy Nason (Personnel Chair)
Jon Whited (Finance Chair, Treasurer)
Suzanne Williamson (Christian Education Chair, Liaison to Fellowship)
Co-Clerks of Session: Diane Brandt and Leslie Davis

Deacons

Dana Avila	Michelle Kidwell
Doreen Bass	Pat Lincoln
Sandy Brooks	Rosie McCarthy (Moderator)
Margie Fooshee	Vi Morgado
Deb Handy	Sheri Pendleton (Vice Moderator)
Gwen Harris	Susie Porte

Angels on Wheels

We do have some people in our congregation who would very much appreciate a ride to church. Our Deacons used to coordinate a service called "Angels on Wheels," where volunteers gave rides to worship, to doctor appointments, or whatever was needed (within reason).

Let's resurrect Angels on Wheels!

If you have a heart for others, some spare time, and a vehicle, put your name and number on my list of volunteers; OR if you would like a ride, contact me so I can match you up. It's a great way to show the love of Christ!

**Leslie Davis, 532-6604 or
davisgold@gmail.com**

Also, if one of you would like to manage matching up *Angels on Wheels* drivers with riders, contact me.



49er Family News

Taking a Summer Break

Men's Breakfast Fellowship and both the Men's and Women's Bible Studies are taking a break over the summer, and will begin again in September.



Attention Ladies!

Deb Handy is organizing a Lunch Bunch, which plans to meet every six weeks for lunch at a local restaurant.

We'll meet at Papa's New Roost in East Sonora at noon on Thursday, August 26.

Contact Deb at 768-2067 or bevomalaspino@gmail.com to RSVP.

Mother Lode Fair Results

The theme of the 2021 Mother Lode Fair over the July 4th weekend was "Sharing Hands Making Brands." As Cathy Crawford has done for about 18 years now, she had many entries at the fair, and won again!

Cathy's "Woodsy Owl" cookies earned her a first place ribbon. She also won a blue ribbon for an open floral arrangement entitled "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." And Cathy won four second place and three third place ribbons for her entries of roses gleaned from her garden.

We are grateful to Cathy whenever she brings her colorful bouquets of flowers to decorate the sanctuary and Faith Hall.



Line Dancing

Carolyn Sylva leads a free one-hour Line Dancing class every Thursday at 9:30 am in Faith Hall — a great opportunity for some exercise.

August Birthdays

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

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

Happy Anniversary!

Tom and Denella Kimura
52 years on August 4

Lee and Bonnie Jean Warford
65 years on August 10

Jim and Diane Brandt
61 years on August 12

Dean and Arlene Cunningham
12 years on August 15

Rob Clark and Janet Russell
42 years on August 25

Carl and Kathy Rudolph
32 years on August 27

From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

Jesus Himself understood the importance of rest; that is why He tells us in Matthew that, if we come to Him, we will find rest for our souls. He knows how important rest is, and He knows that in Him, we will find the truest, deepest rest possible. Jesus tells us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light; in saying this, He is telling us that if we cast our cares, our worries, our fears, our doubts, if we cast EVERYTHING upon Him and rely on His strength, we can find true rest from the troubles of this world because we have placed them in the perfect hands of our Savior and, thus, we need no longer worry about them. How many times have you been laying in bed at night and just can't go to sleep because your mind is racing about different things you have to do, or worries that you have? If we turn to Jesus and cast our cares on Him, those types of nights should fade into a memory as we are able to truly rest knowing that Jesus is in control of it all and is working all things for His glory and for our good.

The bottom line of all of this is: giving our bodies time to rest is important, it is ordained by God. Therefore, rest is not optional, it is necessary and required. God requires rest because He knows that we need it, and because He

knows that we will only be effective in serving Him and spreading His Gospel if we are well-rested and in tune with the Spirit. So, my encouragement to all of you today is to make certain that you are taking time to rest. Yes, I know that there are many tasks to be done, many errands to be run, many places to go; but, never let all that is on your schedule keep you from the divinely-appointed rest. When you are making your schedule for the week, make certain that you are penciling in some time to rest; it is a gift from God that He has given us for our benefit and for the advancement of His Kingdom in the world.

When we are tired, when we are exhausted and worn down, it gets harder and harder for us to do anything as effectively and thoroughly as we should. But, when our bodies are rested, we are capable of accomplishing much; thus, it is only when we are rested that we are ever more equipped and able to truly fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to us to "go and make disciples." So, now that you are done reading this...go get some rest!

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

Pastor Keith

Seeking Ushers

As Christians, we are all called to use our spiritual gifts and serve others; and every servant of the Lord should remember that it's more than just serving others; it's loving them: "Serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13). Serving the church can take on many forms, including being an usher for Sunday services.

John Etheridge on our Worship Committee is seeking additional friendly people to serve on two-person rotating teams as ushers. A basic job description is to greet people as they enter the sanctuary for worship and hand out bulletins, and assistive hearing devices if needed. Ushers also bring a microphone to anyone wishing to speak during the Announcements time. Contact John at 533-9417 if you can help.

Sermons and Scripture

Pastor Keith began a sermon series April 11, called "The God of Daniel: The Sovereign God of Exiles."

Listed below for each Sunday are the scripture verses the sermon is based on, and other verses.
(NT = New Testament)

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

August 1 Communion

NT: Matthew 24:15-27
Sermon: Psalm 23

August 8
Pastor Lee preaching
OT: Deuteronomy 20:1-4
Sermon: John 15:1-27

August 15
NT: Mark 13:14-26
Sermon: Daniel 9:20-27

August 22
NT: Revelation 1:9-20
Sermon: Daniel 10:1-11:1

August 29
NT: 1 John 4:1-18
Sermon: Daniel 11:2-35

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

He Gives Us Hope

He gives us hope
Even in the midst
Of despair.

He gave us
A map to follow
In a world that
Often seems
Directionless.

He carried
The burden
Of our sin
On his shoulders
Nailed to the cross
For our transgressions.

He shows us beauty
Even when others
May only see ashes.
And the promise
For better days
Ahead
As fear
Tries to steal
Our joy.

(C) Michelle R Kidwell
July.30.2021

New Church Logo Revealed

In 2020 a small “Logo Design Committee” was created to come up with a new logo for our church. After meeting with local professional artist, Dianne Stearns, to discuss design ideas, she went to work and presented us with her rendition of the church’s bell tower and sanctuary, outlined with an oval and with a box “pedestal” underneath to identify us as the Church of the 49ers. The design was presented to the History Committee which offered their thoughts and recommendations, and Kris Oswald was hired to finalize and digitize the logo so that it can be placed on the church’s stationary and website. We are grateful to Cris Marston, Rev. Arch Marston’s widow, for allowing the History Committee to use funds from the Arch Marston Memorial Fund to pay for creation of the new logo.



Monty Youngborg, History Committee

Session Highlights

At its July meeting (actually held August 1), the Elders worked out committee assignments for the next year, as follows:

Dean Cunningham: Liaison to Session from Buildings & Grounds Committee (Leslie Davis, Chair)

Roger Haughton: Chair of Missions Committee

Tom Kimura: Chair of Welcome & Evangelism and History Committees

Ken Minett: Chair of Worship Committee

Judy Nason: Chair of Personnel Committee

Jon Whited: Chair of Finance Committee

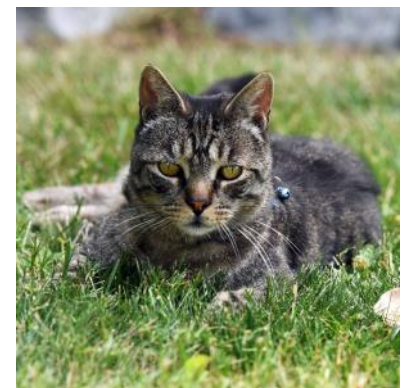
Suzanne Williamson: Chair of Christian Education Committee and Liaison to Session from Fellowship Committee (Deb Handy, Chair)

* Session voted to approve Jon Whited as our new Treasurer (giving Jim Brandt a break after years of dedicated service in this capacity).

* Voted to approve Jon Whited and Roger Haughton as Trustees of the corporation.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 26, at 2:00 pm.

Leslie Davis, Co-Clerk of Session



Mr. Grace, Watch Cat, trying to stay cool in mid-summer



From Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family. This year marks the 90th anniversary of Reach Beyond's ministry which began as Radio HCJB in Quito,

Ecuador on December 25, 1931. As part of the celebration, we have been compiling personal testimonies from our listeners that highlight HCJB's legacy over the past nine decades. Here is a story we received two weeks ago through our fundraising webpage:

Hello friends from Radio Ecuador! As a young girl, about fifty years ago in Bulgaria, my mother enjoyed listening to a Christian radio station, in Russian. The Russian language is rather similar to Bulgarian; therefore, most Bulgarians understand it without too much difficulty. The radio station my mother listened to was offering free Bibles, so she requested one for herself.

However, at that time in Bulgaria, the communist government had deemed Bibles to be illegal. Her father was upset at her request, thinking it would bring trouble to the family. Two months later, the Bible came in the mail - there was no trouble.

Later, she got married to an Evangelist preacher, and together they devoted their lives to illegally distributing Bibles and Christian literature in communist countries.

My mom had two boys, and I am the younger one. Fast forwarding, sixteen years ago I immigrated to Canada with my family and three years later I started an internet Christian radio and TV ministry called Radio Svetlina, broadcasting in Bulgarian language all over the world. With time, we started broadcasting English, Spanish, and Russian programs on TV and Radio Bible Light.

In 2019, we started continuing your idea, sending free Bibles (in Bulgarian

language) to everyone who is interested but does not have one. It is amazing how the Lord works - from a single Bible sent by a radio station in Ecuador 50 years ago, to continuing the ministry in Bulgaria via Canada and all over the World. The ways of the Lord are unknown! To Him be the Glory!!!

Bob Martin
Director of Radio & TV Bible Light
Radio & TV Svetlina on
Bulgarian Language
www.RadioSvetlina.org
Calgary, AB Canada

Praise God for Bob's story! I will have more legacy stories over the next couple of months to share with you. I hope you are as encouraged by them as we are. Please join me in thanking God for 90 years of HCJB's ministry from Ecuador to the world! Thank you for your prayers and gifts which allow me to serve with Reach Beyond/HCJB.

Allen

InterFaith News

Interfaith is now accepting clothing donations, however for now you must call first before delivering (call 532-0905 between 10 am and 1 pm). Our new pickup company for excess donations is working out well, only draw back is that their trucks are sometimes full by the time they get to Interfaith to pick up our items. So, before you bring your donations, call. The same goes for larger household items. Toiletries and food donations are welcome as well.



The second area I would like to address is that we are needing volunteers in the clothing department on Thursdays. If you can help, there is training available and you can choose the days of the month you could volunteer—from 10 am to 1:00 pm.

To those of you who are currently sharing some of your time with us, a big "Thank You," you are appreciated. Contact me with any questions.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

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

BOOK REVIEW BY DENELLA KIMURA

“Inexplicable: How Christianity Spread to the Ends of the Earth” By Jerry Pattengale

When most people think of history books, their eyes glaze and dizziness takes over. But Jerry Pattengale’s *Inexplicable: How Christianity Spread to the Ends of the Earth*, (Trinity, 2019) will take you on a journey through the ages as the Great Commission brings the Gospel to every continent. It is essentially a time line from Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension to the present day, outlining the story of the spread of Christianity.

Pattengale’s theme is based on the statement, “Christianity is the only religion in the world with a major presence on every continent,” by Max Fisher and published in the *Washington Post* on December 18, 2012, and based on “The Global Religious Landscape” from the Pew Research Center (2012).

What will keep your attention are the stories behind the missionaries, where they went, what happened to them and the subsequent growth or non-growth of the church because of their commitment to Jesus. Many were martyred, many succeeded beyond their wildest dreams because they were willing to give all they had for the Gospel.

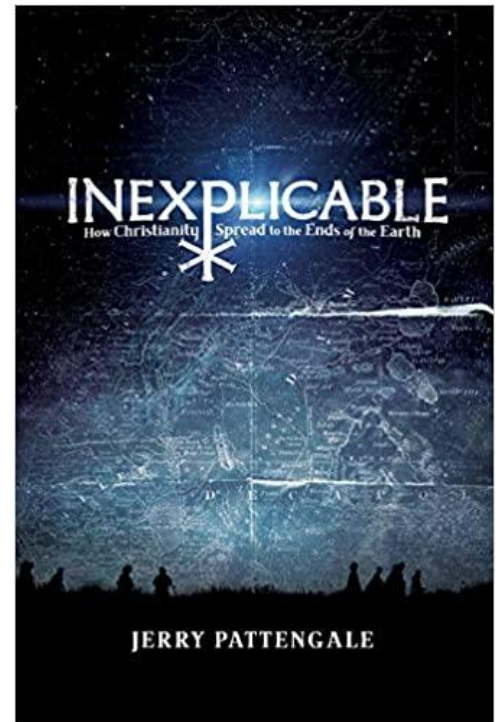
We think we know the story of the early church because of reading Luke’s account in Acts that narrates the story from Pentecost to Paul’s death around 68 AD. This includes the journeys of

Paul, and the stories of Peter and Philip. But Pattengale also follows the Ethiopian government official as he returned to his homeland; and Simon the Cyrene stayed in Jerusalem until Pentecost, then returned home to Libya spreading Christianity throughout Northern Africa.

The scope of the spread of Christianity is astounding. We all have a grid of knowledge of events that happened through movies, books and Bible history. Pattengale’s book fills in the blanks in our collective memories.

If we read *Ivanhoe*, or have seen the movie, then we would have an acquaintance with the Knights Templar, to which Pattengale explains the expansion of religious Orders. If you’ve seen *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, you would get a glimpse of what it was like to be a captive of Islam during the Crusades. The author explains the nine Crusades to recapture Jerusalem, many of which were misguided, foolish and naïve . . . and most efforts ended badly. Some of the stories in the Christianization of Central and South America turned out badly because the Conquistadors’ actions became linked with Christianity because of the dual purpose of their charters: to gain gold and to spread Christianity at the same time. Pattengale takes the more liberal view of events, and yet is surprised that Christianity did take hold on these continents..

All seven continents are included in the history of Christianity. I was astounded to hear how many Christians were part of the underground house church movement. If you’ve seen *Chariots of Fire*, you’d see the depth of faith of Eric Liddell, who died in 1945 in a POW camp under Chairman Mao. Betty Stam’s book *By Searching* got me interested in her story: She and her husband were “viciously martyred” by the Chinese communists in 1934.



To the ends of the earth! Pattengale tells the stories of Sub-Saharan Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, and Antarctica. He doesn’t gloss over the faults of some of God’s messengers, but in spite of the faults and weakness which all peoples have, the story of a God of Love trumps the stories of idolatry, tyranny, cannibalism, and the many faults of generations bound in slavery by sin.

A lot of the stories I knew, Pattengale places in context. I think he could use a little more context in some cases. But he also turned this story into a six-part feature film for TBN, which I would like to see.

Denella Kimura

Send your articles and Family News items for the September 2021 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by August 25 to Leslie Davis at davisgold@gmail.com or call her at 532-6604.

Gold Seekers Become God Seekers

A History of the Church of the 49ers

Editor's Note: The following article was excerpted from Parts VI and VII covering the 1950 fire, originally published in the June and July 2004 issues of the *Golden Nugget* newsletter by Leslie Shapiro Wright.

Residents of Columbia were awakened by the frightening wail of the fire sirens and discovered that the newly restored Church had burned to the ground. Only the lack of a strong wind prevented the entire town from being destroyed. Ironically, a new water system was being installed in the town, but firefighters had only two old cisterns from which to draw water.

The devastating fire happened on June 22, 1950. Newspaper headlines from Columbia, Sonora, Modesto, Stockton and Oakland all told the story:

FLAMES DESTROY CALIFORNIA'S OLDEST* PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The **Modesto Bee** article was as follows: *Flames destroyed this morning what time and weather had failed to touch. Columbia State Park Presbyterian Church, the oldest Presbyterian Church in California, and one parsonage were leveled between 3:30 and 5 a.m. by fire which started in the Church belfry. No loss estimate has been announced, although the Church's intrinsic value is overshadowed by its role in the State's religious history. The buildings were insured for \$10,000.*

*Restoration of the structure, which was built between 1854 and 1864,** by old Columbia miners and townfolk, was completed in 1949. A total of \$25,000 was spent, of which \$5,000 is still owing.*

Rev. and Mrs. J. N. Hillhouse were routed from their beds in the parsonage by

the pre-dawn blaze. They were able to save only a few personal possessions. Homes adjacent to the Church were threatened for a time, but Columbia Volunteer Fire Department crews confined the flames to the Church property.

Columbia residents turned out en masse to aid the firefighters and watch



the flames. Early risers from Sonora drove three miles to witness the fiery spectacle. In the Church tower, where classrooms had been built during the restoration, hung an old copper bell weighing nearly a ton. It fell into the debris when the belfry collapsed. Pioneer residents of the area believe the bell had been used since 1852, or earlier, first as a miners' dinner bell, then as a Church call. The Church steeple towered over surrounding buildings.

The **Stockton Record** added the following: *The two-and-a-half story bell tower toppled onto the parsonage roof with a crash. The big copper church bell, brought around the Horn in Gold*

*Rush days, melted*** after it embedded itself in the roof.*

Immediately after the fire, the town rallied together and, literally, within minutes, donations started to come in. While the firefighters worked, \$250 was given by a local resident and within sixteen hours after the fire, a reconstruction group was formed to continue the building campaign—even though there was still \$5,000 owing on the rebuilding of the church.

**Continued on Page 9
See "49er Fire"**

Editor's Notes: There were some errors in the newspaper articles about the fire, which I will endeavor to correct here:

* Correction: ... the oldest Presbyterian Church in the Sierra (not the oldest in California).

** Correction: The First Presbyterian Church was organized on December 19, 1854 and in 1855 the Presbyterians purchased the structure known as the Methodist Episcopal Church South located on the SE corner of Jackson and Gold Streets. In 1864 that structure was razed and a new sanctuary built on the site, where it was used for worship for 86 years before the 1950 fire.

*** The partially melted bell is occasionally displayed by the History Committee.

49er Fire

Continued from Page 8

From the ashes, children gathered square cut nails which were sent [by mail] with an appeal for aid to all parts of the State. Food sales and benefits were held, and the Girl Scouts donated the \$200 which they had saved for summer camp. The covered wagon that used to be in the front of the church went on display in Oakdale with Gold Rush relics. It seemed as if everyone had a part in meeting the challenge of our Church.

Rev. Joseph Hillhouse was able to continue services, thanks to the Odd Fellows offering the use of their hall. The Sunday after the fire was to be a communion service. It seems providential that in the ashes of the manse, the silver communion tray and 50 glasses were found, almost undamaged. Under the guidance of Rev. and Mrs. Hillhouse, the church was to be rebuilt.

After the fire, the Hillhouse family lived in a rental until a social hall could be erected in 1951. Ramont Hall served the congregation as its sanctuary, social hall, a place for meetings, as well as living quarters for the pastor and his wife. What was intended as a temporary arrangement dragged on, and the social hall became their home until Rev. Hillhouse resigned his pastorate eight years later, in 1958.

Work on the rebuilding of the sanctuary progressed as fast as resources became available, but funds were finally exhausted and work stopped for a year. In 1953 the congregation realized that the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia was to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1954.

The tiny congregation was determined to complete the church during the next year. Handmade sugar pine shakes

were fashioned for the roof, 32 pews were made in a day, the pulpit was patterned after those of the early miners—everything to make the church ready for the 100th anniversary of Columbia’s last surviving congregation.

And they did finish the work in time for the 100th anniversary.



Rebuilding in 1951

Pastor Hillhouse wrote the following that was published in the dedication flyer for the event: *“Four and a half years—It was in June 1950 that our old church, built by the ‘49ers, burned to the ground—a total loss. Plans for a replica were started while the embers were still warm. Four and a half years of effort and sacrificial giving have gone into the construction of the replica. Friends throughout California and across the nation have shared generously of time, labor and money.*

Four and a half years! Years of planning, dreaming, praying, working! Four and a half years, and now the “Church of the ‘49ers” is completed. It’s a quaint, old-fashioned building, with the castellations on the square tower, the pews built by volunteers (just as in the days of the ‘49ers), and the unusual pulpit—copied from pictures of the original.*

Four and a half years! - and now the Sanctuary is ready... with the exception of the heating plant. The cost of an adequate heating system will be close

to \$2500, and we have exhausted our funds in completing the Sanctuary...” Through much self-sacrificing of comforts, Rev. and Mrs. Hillhouse devoted their efforts to the cause with little thought of their own welfare. So that by the time they left, the Church was on a good, sound footing, with a membership of 170 as compared to when they first came (1948) when there were sometimes as few as two or three in the congregation on a Sunday morning.

Many congratulatory letters were received on the occasion of the church’s 100th anniversary and dedication of the rebuilt sanctuary—from the White House to the Governor to the Presbytery and local dignitaries.

When Rev. Hillhouse retired in February 1958, the original name, “First Presbyterian Church” had been restored by the Presbytery. Rev. J. Sherman Potter served as interim pastor after Hillhouse’s retirement and stayed six months.

On September 11, 1958, the congregation installed Rev. George W. Crichton. Under his leadership, the Church steadily grew. From a little mission church of one member in 1926 to a membership of 225 on the 105th anniversary, it was noted that the church was well on its way to becoming self-supporting.

Dorothea Jones completed her report by stating: “So today, as we celebrate the 105th anniversary of the ‘Church of the ‘49ers,’ the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, is keeping faith the spirit that inspired its founding in the year of the Gold Rush in 1854. The hope of its membership is that this church will go forward in the next 105 years with the same unflinching spirit that has sustained it in the past.”

Leslie Shapiro Wright 2004

* also known as crenellations or battlements

August Calendar

We are conducting one weekly Sunday worship service in the sanctuary, beginning at 10:00 am. Other listings on the church calendar include:

August 1, 11:30 am: Fellowship Committee in CE Room 2

August 2, 9:30 am: History Committee in CE Room 3

August 3, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

August 5, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

August 8, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 2

August 9, 10:00 am: Buildings & Grounds Committee in CE3

August 10, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

August 12, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

August 15, 11:30 am: Welcome & Evangelism Cmte in CE3

August 16, 2:00 pm: Community Dinner Cmte in Faith Hall

August 17, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

August 17, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office

August 19, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

August 22, 11:30 am: Worship Committee in CE2

August 24, 9:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

August 24, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in CE Room 2

August 26, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

August 26, 2:00 pm: Session in CE Room 3

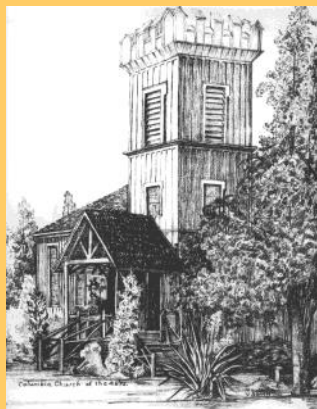
August 31, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

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!