

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## Word from the Pastor

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

*"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"*

**Revelation 21:5 (NIV)**

With March now upon us, we begin to look forward to the onset of springtime. The days are getting longer and sunnier, the flowers and other plants begin to bloom, the animals that hibernate for the winter are waking up, birds are returning from their journey south. Springtime is a time of refreshing after a long, cold winter; it is a time of new life on our old planet. As such, as I contemplated the oncoming spring season and how it signifies new life, I couldn't help but think of the two passages listed above; passages that remind us of the newness that comes through Jesus Christ.

How many of you have truly contemplated the fact that, as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, you are a new creation? How many of you know what that truly means? It means that once we have accepted the free gift of salvation from God through faith in Jesus, we are no longer the same as we were. Before we accept Christ as our Savior, we are citizens of the world. We are sinful, broken creatures who are



destined to live our lives in darkness and to ultimately experience eternity outside the presence of Christ in the eternal torment of hell.

However, the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ and accept God's free gift of salvation, that old creature destined for darkness and death is gone; and, in its place, is a new creature, a new creation that is a citizen of heaven who has been redeemed by Christ, imbued with the power of the Holy Spirit. We become creatures who get to live our lives in the light and hope of knowing that we belong to the God of the universe; He is our Father and we are His children. We will never experience even a second outside the presence of Christ, and one day we will get to live with Him forever in the place He has prepared for us: His Father's Kingdom.

So, when we read the words, "He who was seated on the throne" [God] is saying in Revelation 21, "I am making everything new!" we can understand that to have more than just a simple meaning. Sure, based upon the context of this statement, we can see that He is talking about the new heavens and the new earth that will be ushered in when

March 2022

Satan is finally defeated at the end of days. We're told in the verses preceding this verse that God, in that new creation, will dwell with His people. He will wipe every tear from our eyes, there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, that the old order of things will pass away. This is how God is going to make all things new after this world comes to an end.

However, if we consider the words that Paul writes in the verse from 2 Corinthians above, we can see the meaning of God saying, "I am making everything new!" goes much deeper than simply referring to the new heavens and the new earth. God is making things new in the here and now; He is creating new creatures each and every day as people accept Him into their lives by placing their faith in His Son. God was not content to leave His creation in the broken and sinful state in which we were left after Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; so, from the very beginning, He began enacting His plan of redemption and making us into new creations in His image. When God makes everything new in the creation of the new heavens and the new earth, that will simply be the culmination of the process of making things new that He began way back in His covenant with Abraham.

**See "From the Pastor"  
Continued on Page 4**

## GOLDEN NUGGET

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known as "Church of the 49ers"

Editor: Leslie Davis

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Columbia, CA 95310  
209-532-2441  
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### Office Hours:

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

### Worship Services in Sanctuary:

Sundays at 10 am

## 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  
Mariza Engle-Borda, Videographer

## 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 January 31, 2022  
(exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
<b>Tithes/Giving</b>	\$16,333	\$12,722	(\$3,611)
<b>Bequest</b>	—	—	—
<b>Other Receipts</b>	\$2,302	\$717	(\$1,585)
<b>Total Income</b>	\$18,635	\$13,439	(\$5,196)
<b>Expense</b>	\$20,082	\$20,030	(\$52)
<b>Net</b>	(\$1,447)	(\$6,591)	(\$5,144)

Mortgage Balance as of January 31:	\$139,949.88
Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment:	\$2,236.41
Addtl Principal paid through January 31:	—

## Church Officers

**ELDERS:** Dean Cunningham, Judy Haughton, Roger Haughton, Tom Kimura, Judy Nason, Jon Whited, Suzanne Williamson

**DEACONS:** Dana Avila, Doreen Bass, Sandy Brooks, Margie Fooshee, Deb Handy, Gwen Harris, Michelle Kidwell, Rosie McCarthy, Vi Morgado, Sheri Pendleton, Susie Porte

## Session Highlights

### Highlights of the February 23 Session meeting include:

The 2022 Nominating Committee will begin to work in March to find new Elders and Deacons.

The Elders brainstormed ways to get the congregation at large to be involved with mission/ministry of the church. Some Elders set an example by volunteering to help out in the Sunday School and nursery.

A new Community Engagement Committee (CEC) was created, with Pastor Keith as the chair. The purpose is to promote community involvement with the church, and meeting will be conducted on an as-needed basis. Volunteers from the congregation are sought for the CEC.

A Policy and Procedures for Compliance with AB506 California Sexual Abuse Prevention was completed by Trustee/Elder Jon Whited. Session voted to have Jon send this in to the Presbytery and our insurance company. Basically it says that everyone in the church who is involved with the children must receive training. Also, Elder Suzanne Williamson is working on a procedure to get background checks for all adults in the church who work with the children.

Session agreed to allow the serving of a regular luncheon (not pre-wrapped foods) to parishioners between the worship service and the Lack Family Band concert on April 10.

Session approved the hanging of "market lights" on the 4 wires strung across Faith Hall (will replace the existing white Christmas lights). These new lights are a gift from Elvy Peterson's daughter as a memorial to her mother.

The Welcome & Evangelism Committee is reinstating our outside greeters program, and will begin the process of creating a new pictorial directory soon.

Judy Nason, chair of the Worship Committee, presented proposed changes to the worship service and bulletin.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 2:00 pm in Faith Hall, and guests are welcome to attend.

**Leslie Davis, Co-Clerk of Session**

# 49er Family News

Tom and I want to thank the Church of the 49ers for their prayers and cards during my recent bout with COVID. Tom's experience was really mild, but I'm still recovering at home. I really felt your prayers and love during my hospital stay. Praise the Lord for bringing me back to fellowship with you once again.

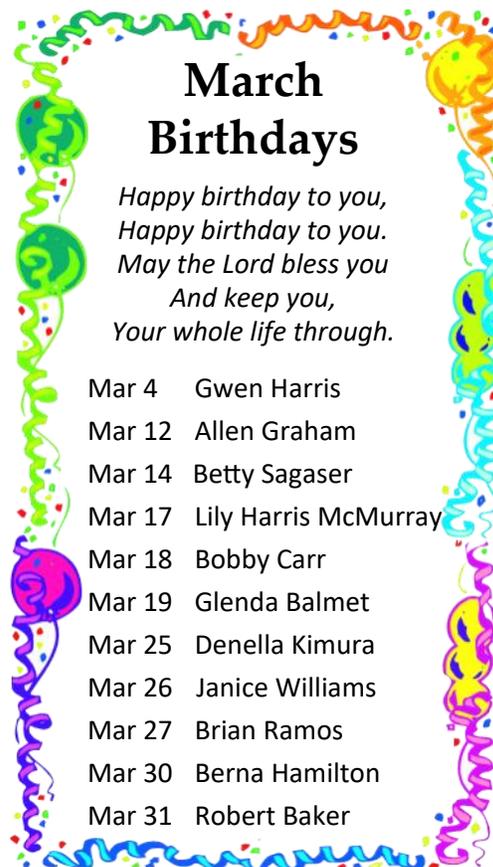
Denella Kimura

## Line Dancing

Carolyn Sylva leads a free one-hour Line Dancing class on Thursdays at 9:30 am in Faith Hall — a fun way to get your exercise.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



## March Birthdays

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

- Mar 4 Gwen Harris
- Mar 12 Allen Graham
- Mar 14 Betty Sagaser
- Mar 17 Lily Harris McMurray
- Mar 18 Bobby Carr
- Mar 19 Glenda Balmet
- Mar 25 Denella Kimura
- Mar 26 Janice Williams
- Mar 27 Brian Ramos
- Mar 30 Berna Hamilton
- Mar 31 Robert Baker

## Just Dance!

**Just Dance!**, the popular community event usually hosted monthly by Columbia dance instructors Ilene and Jim Tassano, is resuming after a long break due to Covid-19.

Favorite DJ, Les Olson, will be playing all your favorite dance tunes for ballroom, swing and country dancing. Singles welcome.

**Sunday, March 20, 1 to 4 pm in Faith Hall.** Cost is \$10 per person or \$5 for seniors, and Includes light refreshments and a great time. Donations of refreshments always loved and **appreciated.**



## Men's Breakfast Fellowship

All men are invited to meet Saturday, March 12, at 8:00 a.m. for a no-host breakfast at Papa's New Roost Restaurant in East Sonora. Contact Pastor Lee Warford at 925-470-9953 for more information.

## Tuesday Night Co-ed Bible Study

Pastor Keith is continuing his weekly "Pizza and Parousia" meetings on Tuesdays in Faith Hall. Come for pizza at 5:30 pm and participate in the Bible study on the book of Revelation beginning at 6:00 pm.

## Women's Bible Study

Judy Nason is leading a study of the book of Romans—on Thursdays at 2:00 pm in CE Room 3.

## Men's Bible Study— not currently meeting

Send your articles and Family News items for the April 2022 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by March 24 to Leslie at 209-532-6604 or [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com).

*Don't let your worries get you down.  
Remember MOSES started out as a basket case.*

Submitted by Paula Saccullo



## From the Pastor Continued from Page 1

What all of this means for us, then, is that God saw our need, He saw the desperate state that we were in due to the wedge that our sinfulness had driven between us and Him; and God, in His infinite mercy and compassion, was not content to leave us in that condition. God wanted to make a way for us to leave our old sinful self behind and become new creations as believers. So, knowing this, what did God do? He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth in order that He might become fully man yet without sin so He would be the perfect sacrifice for our sinfulness. God is a just God and He cannot go against His own character,

Therefore, His justice required that the sinfulness of mankind be punished; and Jesus bore that punishment on the cross and then won the victory over Satan in His resurrection. That's why I think it is so appropriate that we celebrate Easter in the springtime; or, more accurately, why I think it is so appropriate that God ordained for Jesus to die and rise again during the Passover in the spring. Springtime is when new life blooms, and it is through Christ's death and resurrection that we become new creations.

Springtime is the time of new life on earth as the plants blossom and the animals become more active. My prayer for all of us is that, this spring, we will all take time to remember, and thank God for, the new life we have in Jesus Christ.

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

**Pastor Keith**

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## 49er Choir Is Coming Back!

It looks like it might be safe for the choir to sing in church in April . . . like in the Easter service. It's been a long road, especially with singing, which puts that sputum out into the room. We'll probably be wearing masks . . . but other choral groups are successfully performing with masks. We can too!

We will be singing the classical anthems, probably the first and third Sundays of the month, plus Christmas and Easter, of course, as we did before. And we will rehearse weekly, focusing on those classical anthems we sang two years ago.

Most of the 2020 choir members will be returning, but we need to find a few more. If you'd like to come and see what it's like, let me know. You can come sing with us a few times before you decide to sign on. Also, if you know someone else who might be interested, check with them and let me know. You can reach me at 209-985-7730 or [bbroad226@gmail.com](mailto:bbroad226@gmail.com). Think about coming to see whether you'd like to join us!

**Barbara Broad, Choir Director**

## Sermons and Scripture

Pastor Keith began a new Sermon Series January 9 titled "The Epistle of James: The Work of Faith."

Following are scripture verses each sermon is based on, and other verses (NT = New Testament, OT = Old Testament)

To receive the link for *YouTube* videos of services, contact Pastor Keith at [ktreid84@gmail.com](mailto:ktreid84@gmail.com).

### March 6 Communion

OT: Job 22:21-30  
Sermon: James 4:7-10

### March 13

OT: Jeremiah 9:23-24  
Sermon: James 4:11-17

### March 20

OT: Ecclesiastes 5:8-20  
Sermon: James 5:1-6

### March 27

OT: Isaiah 41:8-10, Psalm 46:1-3  
Sermon: James 5:7-12



Ash Wednesday is March 2, marking the beginning of Lent. The Ash Wednesday service is at noon in the sanctuary.



February was a busy month for Children's Ministries! From brainstorming new outreach ideas to visitors and additions to the Take Home Sunday School Lesson Plans, it has been fulfilling!

This past Sunday we had a pleasant surprise: 4 visiting children! All together, we had 8 children attend church. What a blessing to be able to minister to so many! We continue to pray for God to lead us more each and every week.

## Christian Education Committee

The search is ongoing for Sunday school teachers and assistants and also Nursery (pre-school) helpers! I am sorry to say there have not been many responses to help in this area. Due to new policies and regulations and insurance mandates, we are now, more than ever, being held responsible to have two adults in each classroom.

We are fortunate to have some great teachers (Margie, Sharon, Janet, Karla), but on most Sundays we are in need of the second person. Michelle Kidwell often volunteers as the assistant, but she also likes to attend church. **Our goal is to have each teacher and assistant work one time a month...**It's a goal that shouldn't be that difficult, but it has been! Remember, it is the teacher, with the assistance of Karla, who prepares and teaches the lesson. The assistant needs to be in the classroom to be another pair of eyes and help where needed.

During the month of March you will find members of Session serving as assistants (along with their other responsibilities). Roger, Jon, Dean and Judy N. have all volunteered to help one Sunday. They have agreed to this in hopes that **YOU too might be willing to step up** in the months ahead. We need you because we have an obligation to the children and we do not want to continue to have the same people miss church week after week!

**Please consider working with us and volunteer to help...**one week a month, one week every other month...you make your schedule – we need your help! In addition to Sunday school assistants, we need one or two volunteers to work one Sunday a month in the nursery. **Please contact Karla via email or after church** in Faith Hall to let her know you are willing to be on our team!!

**Suzanne Williamson, Christian Education Chair**

Two more children have been added to the mailing list to receive Take Home Sunday School Lessons. If anyone would like more information on what this is or to add a family to the mailing list, reach out to me [Karla] or Suzanne, the Chair of Christian Education.

With so much growth, we are still seeking volunteers. Currently, we need at least 2 Nursery volunteers. Usually, you are only looking after 1-2 children at a time. We also need about 3 Sunday School volunteers, preferably one able to lead and the other 2 to assist. Usually, we have 2-4 children in Sunday School.

We try to have volunteers scheduled once per month—with additional

volunteers, this becomes easier for everyone. If you are interested, but have questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Please prayerfully consider joining our Children's Ministries Team.

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

**Karla Reid**  
**Director of Children's Ministries**  
karlaeid90@gmail.com  
209-770-7554

## Center Stage

A Shift has Taken Place  
Jesus is demanding  
His rightful place  
Center Stage.

Arms raised to him  
In praise  
Broken hearts healed  
Only God can make  
This Transformation  
Take place.

Salvation in the air  
A freedom none can compare.  
Jesus has taken  
His place center stage  
Will you welcome him there?

Copyright  
**Michelle R Kidwell**  
Feb.12.2017

## Missions Committee

The Missions Committee would like to thank the members of our church who have generously supported the outreach efforts of our committee. We also appreciate suggestions from the congregation of organizations which could benefit from our help. In March, Jeff Fouche (no, that's not a typo), Bob and Margie Fooshee's nephew, will be in town representing his mission work through Mission Aviation Fellowship. He will share regarding the three-year commitment he is making in Haiti to fly into remote areas to bring supplies and medical assistance, all in the name of Jesus. Jeff will be addressing the church on March 27.

Thanks to Denella Kimura, we learned about a wonderful Christian organization in India, which addresses the needs of orphans, widows, victims of human trafficking and the suffering as a result of Covid. Because of the generosity of the church, we are

able to donate to each of these groups. The committee will gladly provide more information to you if you feel led to contribute to them directly and we hope you do.

We're pleased that Nancy's Hope has established a food pantry at our church. The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 2:00. It would be wonderful if anyone from the church would be willing to volunteer on either of those days. We would like to be able to share information about our church and encourage their clients to attend.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, at 2:00 in Faith Hall. We have invited Cathie Peacock to talk to us about Interfaith. Anyone who is interested is more than welcome to attend.

**Judy and Roger Haughton,  
Co-Chairs Missions  
Committee**

## Recent Thank You Notes Received by the Missions Committee

**From the Caldor Fire Victims Relief Fund:** *Dear Roger, Please thank your congregation for us for your second donation to our Caldor Fire Victims Relief Fund. In January we are collecting tarps for our neighbors in Grizzly Flats and your donation will also help us buy them to give away.*

*With gratitude, Rev. Dr. Laura Bond  
El Dorado Federated Church*

**From Habitat for Humanity:** *Thank you for your contribution to Habitat Tuolumne! Your generous support makes it possible for us to better serve our community. Your contribution means that more families will have safe affordable homes and more homeowners can have the home repairs they need. Thank you!*

*Habitat for Humanity of Tuolumne  
County*

**From Columbia Elementary School:** *To everyone at First Presbyterian Church— I learned that you all made another donation of \$690.00. We are so blessed to have you as our angels looking out for our students and community. This money will be put to good use when students need clothing, food, school supplies. We appreciate all of you so very much. Hope 2022 brings continued love, laughter, and peace.*

*Forever grateful,  
Tina Cruz, Columbia Elementary School  
Counselor*



## The Lack Family Band in Concert April 10

The Lack Family Band, a family of Christian musicians who travel throughout the US and even globally, will give a free concert in Faith Hall on Sunday, April 10, in the early afternoon. They will also lead our 10 am worship service that morning (it's Palm Sunday), with a blend of traditional hymns and more contemporary worship songs.

This is a great opportunity to invite your family, friends, neighbors to a fun event at the church.

The concert will be publicized to the public. In addition, the Fellowship Committee is planning a special luncheon between worship and the concert. Reservations for the luncheon will be required — look for the sign up sheet on Sundays.

**Suzanne Williamson  
Elder Liaison to Fellowship Committee**



The Welcome & Evangelism Committee is signing up those in our congregation eager to greet people as they approach the church for worship on Sunday mornings.

Besides greeting our friends, it is especially important to offer a friendly "hello" to anyone new to the church. And, we must remember it takes more than a smile and a handshake by one person to integrate new people into a meaningful and satisfying relationship with each other and Jesus Christ — that takes group participation.

Contact Leslie Davis to get on the new Outside Greeters schedule! Written training will be provided.

## Interfaith News

Interfaith is once again open for clients to come inside for their food, clothing and toiletries. Masks are encouraged, but not mandatory at this time.

Our Legal Department continues to be busy. If you know of someone who could benefit from this free service, have them call 209-694-3481 for an appointment or questions.

We are losing Janet Russell in the pantry area, due to their moving out of the county, but happy to say that Melissa Schultz is back after her fall. We would like to add someone who would be willing to be an "on call" person to fill in as needed. Let me know if you would be interested.

When making donations after regular hours, I want to remind you that you can drop your items in our green bins by the back door anytime. Please, don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

**Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison**

## Allen Graham, Missionary

Dear Church of the 49ers family,  
March greetings from Ecuador.  
Thank you for praying for the ministry here during the month of February.

Like most of the world, the situation between Russia and Ukraine is of major concern to many Ecuadorians. Please pray as the stations in Guayaquil and Quito seek to provide accurate news as well as words of encouragement and hope. Both stations have been contacted by listeners who have children studying at universities in Ukraine who are trying desperately to leave the country.

Last month I told you about Alejandro's graduation. Please keep praying for him as he continues searching for employment. There is a possible opening with the county office in the town where he lives, which would be a great fit since he can still live at home.

The administrative transition for HCJB2's personnel has still not been completed, now due to a delay from the attorney's office. Please pray for this. The application for the renewal of the frequencies is contingent on the transition to comply with Ecuadorian broadcast law. I'm finding this a bit stressful.

When I was in Spain, I told you several times about the Trash 2 Treasure pilot recycling project. In a report from the new regional director, this project is now up and running with a great deal of support and help from the local churches in the area where I lived. Praise God that, in spite of all the delays due to the pandemic, the plastic recycling program has begun.

Finally, please keep praying for an end to the violent crimes in Ecuador. This is due to battles between different drug trafficking gangs in the country, much like we have heard about before in Colombia and Mexico. We need God to intervene in a big way to bring this situation under control.

Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts. Many blessings from South America!

**Allen**



Recycled plastics being put into the grinding hopper



Plastic clamp made from the recycled materials

# Anniversaries

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

In the beginning, we understand apostles and friends worshipped in public and private hallowed ceremonies with Jesus as their host. These ceremonies brought joy and fulfillment to the participants as they shared bread, fish, tidbits and wine. The godly devotees looked forward to these occasional banquets as they participated in singing, dancing and socializing all the while praising and offering thanksgiving to God. Isaiah 49 declares "Sing with joy, O heaven, shout, O earth. Break forth with song O mountains for the Lord has comforted his people...." The history of Columbia's exciting rise to fame reads like an astonishing storybook yarn of churches, mines, businesses and homes.

During those unforgettable days in the Mother Lode camps, the hardy young Gold Rush miners after six days at the diggings looked forward to a day of rejoicing with friends and families in the community and churches. For many worshippers it was a reminder of their Christian guidance. In the early days, Columbia's Presbyterians celebrated monthly communion ceremonies as early as December 1854 at their church; these sacrament services continue today. It is evident the rituals emanating from the exuberant congregation in the little church must have rebounded from hills and dales with echoes and many AMENS. Despite many rumors to the contrary, Presbyterians know how to honorably celebrate.

Many seem to agree that the historic Mother Lode seldom experienced festivities as spiritually rewarding as when the Presbyterian Church celebrated its 100th anniversary in monthly observances throughout 1954. As I reflect about the Centennial Anniversary, we are aware the Rev. Joseph Hillhouse,

pastor of "The Church of the 49ers" in Columbia, authorized printing a small brochure, "Centennial Memories," for delivery to members and friends in all parts of the country. Included were a history of the church and "heart-warming messages" from prominent Americans—President Dwight Eisenhower, Governor Goodwin Knight, well-known politicians and Presbyterian pastors. Also in the brochure were excerpts from a presentation by Dr. Thomas Holden, Executive Secretary of the Synod of California, about the rededication of the rebuilt church after a destructive fire in 1950. In early December 1954 during the Centennial observances, 125 pastors from the Presbytery of San Joaquin assembled at the historic church to discuss church concerns. The "filled to capacity" sanctuary was supervised from the Pioneer Pulpit which had been created by a Sawmill Flat craftsman based on an early design. (Note: This handsome pulpit was unveiled by Ruth Grant and Vada Carpenter at the meeting.)

During the Centennial ceremonies,



1954 unveiling of the Pioneer Pulpit as part of Centennial Celebration

Otheto Weston, a Columbia artist, sketched stamp-like illustrations of the church and community to assist in rais-

ing funds for the rebuilding of the little village church after the fire of 1950—as a replica of the original 1864 sanctuary.

Reader, occasionally it is desirable to relate PAST to the PRESENT. In the "Storybook Days" we have read that near the Church of the 49ers there lived a HUGE cat, Tom Quartz. After Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) visited the area, he observed and later wrote about the gigantic feline as the notorious Gold Hunter Cat. It is my speculation that this domestic creature never visited the church in Columbia. However, we know, in recent years the honored worshipping cat is Mr. Grace — a fun-loving descendant?

In May 1979 for the 125th anniversary, the congregation was encouraged to appear as Columbia's pioneer worshippers were attired during special Sabbath services. Several arrived displaying tidily trimmed beards, others attractive hair fashions. One family arrived in their buckboard carriage with *Show Gal*, their Appaloosa mare, lively leading the way along Jackson Street to the church. The party was warmly welcomed by Pastor James McCluskey exhibiting a recently grown beard, parson's black fedora covering his curly locks, long black coat and colorful neckerchief. Wow! It was friendly Pastor Jim as the church greeter.



Rickman Family—125th Anniversary

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# Anniversaries

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A memorable event of the 125th anniversary celebration was at Sonora's Elks Lodge, on November 29, 1979, featuring an appetizing catered banquet with more than 200 partaking church members. The evening festivities featured the Church of the 49ers at its best: the Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir, special county awards and an historic overview of the church\* followed by the Rev. Dr. Donald Buteyn's interesting remarks, "Today Determines Tomorrow." (\* Ruth Grant's church history was a handwritten message of 14 pages; she read EVERY WORD.) Some lingering participants declared the banquet to be the BEST EVER of old Tuolumne for the church.

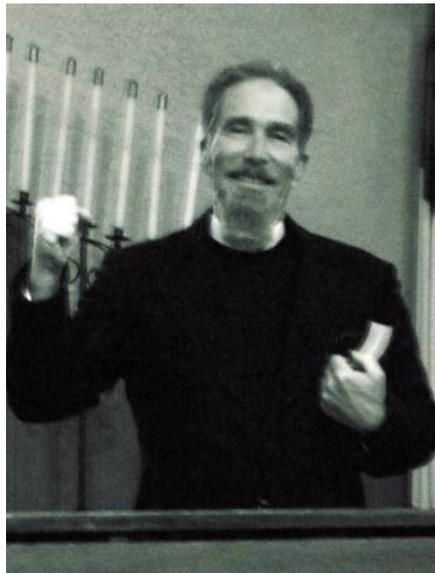
After the 1979 celebration, church organizers for the 150th Anniversary were determined to present a YEAR-LONG schedule of exciting activities. In 2004 it began with a Pulpit Talk from the History Committee and concluded in December with a Charter Day celebration. Again, WOW! It was a FULL CALENDAR of sesquicentennial pageantry organized by church committees and community friends. Fortunately, several church photographers recorded events at the sanctuary and social hall including many handsome church members.

The historic events were supervised by Pastor Bill David; celebrations were presented monthly, sometimes weekly, at various locations. It was the Church of the 49ers as a good servant of church and community at that special time. (Now, I have selected a few examples of that impressive year.)

Many talented friends of the church assisted in the 150th Anniversary in 2004. They sought to honor those attending with many interesting

Observances throughout the special year at the historic pulpit, recently dedicated Faith Hall and nearby locations.

Initially, during "President's Day," (February 15th), Rev. Jerry Vanover, with an attached beard and wearing historic attire, recreated former church pastor Rev. Henry Palmer's 1865 eulogy honoring assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. It was an exciting performance—emotional and unforgettable for the congregation as he spoke about the scandalous event.



Rev. Jerry Vanover in 2004  
150th Anniversary

Some of the elder 49er Church members still reminisce about the "Family Day" (April 24th) in front of the church. The arriving antique cars offered rides, one in the rumble seat of a 1931 Ford coupe, around historic Columbia. Additionally, another memorable tour was in Columbia's historic stagecoach from the church campus to the Wells Fargo building in the former Gold Rush camp. These tours were a thrilling adventure for young and old members. At nearby Faith Hall church connoisseurs prepared an old fashioned BBQ treat: Tuolumne Tri Tip Tidbits for the anxious onlookers while the youngsters played

supervised games on the church lawn. Yes, it was a time of spiritual blessings for mom, dad, kids and friends.

On August 7th, the church's Annual BBQ and Silent Auction took place in Faith Hall with church memorabilia and public donations available for purchase as a fund-raiser. An enticing array of items was included: household furnishings, bicycles, wall decorations, free dinner certificates, telescope, books, along with a special bake sale. After the auction the spectators enjoyed the local "Flashbacks" Big Band playing musical selections from the early years.

The next event was a "Fall Fun Festival" (September 11th). While a background band played favorite music, FREE hotdogs and ice cream were available; others enjoyed the "carnival games" nearby.

Thanksgiving (November 21st) included an afternoon of choral and orchestra music. This concert, in honor of the 150th Anniversary and Thanksgiving, was arranged and directed by Ron Rاندell and Church Music Director Adrian Wise.

The culmination of the Charter Day activities (December 19, 2004) featured Pastor Bill David in his tuxedo enhanced with a giant red bow tie at an anniversary cake in Faith Hall. Pastor Bill with knife in hand, cut the first portions for the onlookers. The spirited group were pleased to note the inscription on the cake: "TO GOD BE THE GLORY" 150 years

**Dick Dyer**

# March 2022 Calendar

We are conducting one weekly Sunday worship service in the sanctuary, beginning at 10:00 am—with masks required for those not fully vaccinated due to the risks of Covid-19.

Other listings on the church calendar include:

- March 1, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
- March 1, 5:30 pm: Pizza & Parousia Bible Study in Faith Hall
- March 2, 12:00 noon: Ash Wednesday service in Sanctuary
- March 3, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- March 3, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3
- March 6, 11:30 am: Fellowship Committee in CE Room 3
- March 8, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
- March 8, 5:30 pm: Pizza & Parousia Bible Study in Faith Hall
- March 9, 2:00 pm: Buildings & Grounds in CE Room 3
- March 10, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- March 10, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3
- March 12, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost

- March 13, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 3
- March 15, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
- March 15, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
- March 15, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in Faith Hall
- March 15, 5:30 pm: Pizza & Parousia Bible Study in Faith Hall
- March 17, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- March 17, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3
- March 22, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
- March 22, 5:30 pm: Pizza & Parousia Bible Study in Faith Hall
- March 23, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3
- March 24, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- March 24, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3
- March 27, 11:30 am: Worship Committee in CE Room 3
- March 29, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
- March 29, 5:30 pm: Pizza & Parousia Bible Study in Faith Hall
- March 31, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- March 31, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3



First Presbyterian Church  
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!