

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Words from the Pastor

"As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. 'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good—except God alone.'"

Mark 10:17-18

"What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.' The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.'" **Romans 3:9-18**

"This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his



righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

Romans 3:22-26

This past Sunday, June 26, those of you who were in attendance in the service, or who watched it on YouTube, heard me say something that may have sounded a bit shocking, a bit off-putting, maybe even a bit offensive; so, I thought that I would take a few minutes with you in this month's *Golden Nugget* to expand on what I said. The statement that I am referencing is when I said, "You're evil; I'm evil!" That is a pretty blunt statement that can seem as though I am being judgmental and condemning. However, as shocking as this statement may have been to hear, please allow me to share with you exactly what I mean by that and I hope you will see that there is nothing offensive about it at all.

First of all, we can see from the passage in Mark above that Jesus says that no one is good but God. Then, in Romans 3, Paul says that no one is righteous, no one does good, not even one. So, we see from both Jesus and Paul that no one is good, no one is righteous; and, if we are not good, what is the only other option? We are evil. Further, all people, including Christians, are referred to throughout Scripture as being "sinners;"

July 2022

and I would imagine that you all would agree that we are all, in fact, sinners. So, my question is: what is sin if it is not evil?" If we admit that we are sinners, we are also implicitly admitting that we are evil.

The venerable John Calvin understood this, one of his primary doctrines, still subscribed to and espoused by Reformed bodies of believers to this day, is the doctrine of total depravity. Essentially, what this doctrine teaches us is that the fallen nature of fallen man, the sin that has run rampant in this world, has so corrupted us to our very core that we are unable to do good even if we want to. He writes, "Our nature is not only destitute of all good, but is so fertile in all evils that it cannot remain inactive. Those who have called it concupiscence have used an expression not improper, if it were only added, which is far from being conceded by most persons, that everything in man, the understanding and will, the soul and body, is polluted and engrossed by this concupiscence; or, to express it more briefly, that man is of himself nothing else but concupiscence." (*Institutes*, Vol. I, Bk. II, Chap. 1, Para. 8; Allen translation). "Concupiscence," in theological terms, means a strong desire, or lust, for that which is forbidden, that which is not of God (i.e. sin). So, Calvin is saying that humanity, on its own, is nothing else but a lust for sin; it is in our very nature. And the fact that a lust for sinfulness is in our very nature means that we are, inherently, evil. **Continued on Page 4**

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

GOLDEN NUGGET

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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
Charlee Pullen, Nursery

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 May 31, 2022
(exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Tithes/Giving	\$83,333	\$78,027	(\$5,306)
Bequest	\$4,165	—	(\$4,165)
Other Receipts	\$6,320	\$3,991	(\$2,329)
Total Income	\$93,818	\$82,018	(\$11,800)
Expense	\$100,451	\$106,716	\$6,265
Net	(\$6,633)	(\$24,698)	(\$18,065)

Mortgage Balance as of May 31: **\$131,920.88**
Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment: **\$2,236.41**
Addtl. Principal paid through May 31: **\$275.00**

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 June 22nd Session meeting include:

- Session voted to approve Barbara Broad’s request to drop her membership.
- Pastor Keith created a Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet in an effort to have all in the congregation find a ministry/committee where they can serve as a volunteer. Also, Pastor Keith will do a month-long sermon series on giving (time, money, resources) in August.
- The 2022 Nominating Committee presented their slate of officers for the next term, to be voted in during the June 26 Congregational Meeting. Elders: Judy Haughton, Gwen Harris, Sharon Poff; Deacons: Sheri Pendleton, Denella Kimura, Carol Kent, Sally Tullar, Mary Adams.
- Session was asked during its June 1 meeting to host the local Cub Scout troop and provide a liaison to their organization. After some research about BSA and discussion, Session voted to not host the Cub Scouts on our campus.
- Per Treasurer Jon Whited, our cash reserve is low and giving is down. To conserve, all B&G projects expecting to use remaining Capital Improvement Funds were put on hold, except for replacing 2 old staircases as they’re safety-related. Also, \$11,245 was transferred from the Helen Johnson Community Dinner Fund to the new Community Engagement Fund.
- Session voted to approve Jon Whited’s changes made to the rules of the Legacy Endowment Fund, with 2 caveats: the initial principal remains untouchable and the monies drawn out are only to be used for local mission work.
- Per Judy Nason, on every 3rd Sunday we will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries during Fellowship Time in Faith Hall.
- Session approved a request from Buildings & Grounds to publish a “WISH LIST” of improvements, in order to notify parishioners of opportunities they have to donate funds to pay for improvements to the campus.
- The fire alarm in Faith Hall will be removed—both as a cost-saving measure and because of all the false alarms experienced.
- Consensus was to organize a Work Party the second Monday morning in July—to tackle some of the many odd jobs on campus.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 2:00 pm in Room CE3 and guests are welcome to attend.

Leslie Davis, Co-Clerk of Session

First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † “Church of the 49ers”

49er Family News

Columbia's Glorious 4th of July Celebration

is on Monday, July 4th, in Columbia State Historic Park. This is the Columbia Chamber of Commerce's largest event of the year (the church is a member of the Chamber). Bring your family and friends to downtown Columbia for the festivities, which begin with a black powder musket salute and flag raising at 11 am, and a free concert by the Lucky CuZn Brass Band (New Orleans style and patriotic tunes) on Main Street. Columbia's Glorious 4th of July Parade is at noon, and all are welcome to march in the parade. Our church has marched carrying our banner every year 2008-2019 and won numerous certificates over the years. If you'd like to do it again, let me know. Following the parade are old-fashioned contests and games - like the Greased Pole for brave kids who don't mind getting dirty, or the Egg Toss for all ages. The Columbia Chamber is also serving a pulled pork BBQ lunch following the parade (purchase tickets earlier in the day: \$14 adults, \$10 children.) Contact Leslie Davis for more information at 532-6604 or davisgold@gmail.com.



July 2008



July 2019



July Birthdays

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

July 1	Larry Lincoln
July 6	Shelly Goularte
July 9	Brynna Neves
July 11	Kathi Lewis
July 12	Keith Reid
July 15	Jordan Warford
July 21	John Aguilar
July 21	John Etheridge
July 21	Sheri Pendleton
July 21	Travis Reid
July 24	Carl Rudolph
July 27	Carolyn Rich
July 27	Judy Scott
July 30	Debbie Snodgrass
July 31	Carol Kent

Happy Anniversary!

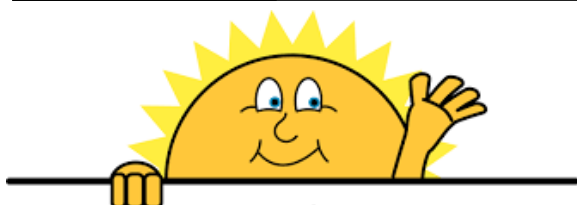
No known wedding anniversaries, but July 1st is Rev. Keith Reid's third anniversary as pastor of the Church of the 49ers.



All women are invited to meet Thursday, **July 7**, at 11:00 am for a no-host lunch at Be Wok Sushi in Sonora. Contact Deb Handy at 209-768-2067 to sign up.

PS Menfolk are welcome too, but they have to find their own table!

ODD JOB Work Party
Monday, July 11 — see page 8



Taking a Summer Break...

Tuesday Co-ed Bible Study
Women's Bible Study
Men's Bible Study
Men's Breakfast Fellowship

Vacation

Pastor Keith is on vacation **July 11-19**. Contact Pastor Lee at 925-470-9953 for pastoral care.

Line Dancing

Carolyn Sylva's free one-hour Line Dancing class is continuing through the summer on Thursdays at 9:30 am in air-conditioned Faith Hall.

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From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

This idea that sin is so pervasive and so corruptive is why I continued in my sermon, after declaring that we are all evil, by saying, "We needed help! We needed to be saved! When Adam and Eve introduced sin, it corrupted creation to the point that we're all sinners from the moment we're born. And since we're evil, and since all evil will be judged and punished by God, that means we deserve to be judged; we deserve to be punished." On our own, there is absolutely nothing we can do to rectify the situation, there is nothing we can do to "save" ourselves. Without the intervention of God, we are all destined and doomed for an eternity of separation from Him in hell.

However, the great news of the Gospel is that's not the end of the story, we are not left to our own devices. I continue in my sermon by saying, "But God, in His infinite mercy and love, didn't see fit to leave us in that state. Instead, He made a new covenant with us, sealed in the blood of His Son, that whoever places their faith in Jesus, the Son of God, will not be judged and punished but will have everlasting life. Jesus bore the punishment we deserve so that when God looks at us, He no longer sees our sin and our evil, He sees that we're covered in the blood of His Son." And, we can see that Paul agrees with this idea from the above quote from Romans 3:22-26, that Christ is the sacrifice of atonement whereby we can be declared righteous in God's eyes through the shedding of Jesus' blood; and this atonement is a gift we receive by placing our faith in Christ as our Savior.

This is the whole point of what I was saying: that we need Jesus; that, without Jesus, we are hopeless and destined for judgment and punishment. If we weren't totally corrupted, depraved, and evil because of the fact that we are fallen mankind, then Jesus suffering a brutal and bloody death wouldn't have

been necessary. If one of the pages of the book I am reading tears, am I going to break out the heavy duty duct tape to repair it? No, I'm going to get a small piece of scotch tape to fix the minor problem. If we were just a little bit broken, or a little bit out of alignment with God, such an extreme remedy as Christ's brutal torture and execution would not have been needed; the punishment that Jesus bore was extreme because the nature of our rebellion and evil is extreme.

So, when I said that you all are evil, and I am evil, it was to stress just how terrible sin is. I think too many Christians have a lackadaisical attitude about our sins; we view our sins as nothing more than "Oops, I made a mistake." So, I was trying to stress that sin, and sinfulness, is much more vile than simply making a mistake; it is evil. And since sin is evil, and we are all sinners, it stands to reason that we are all evil. But, the good news is that, by God's grace, we have been given the means to be cleansed of our evil through faith in Jesus Christ; however, evil will still be present in the world, and even in the lives of believers, until we pass from this world into our fully glorified selves in the world to come.

Taking all of this into consideration, when I said on Sunday morning that we are ALL evil, including myself, please understand that it was not to be condemning; I have no place to condemn anyone for the sins in their life because I don't want to face the condemnation for my sins (*what judge not lest ye be judged* actually means). In fact, I even stated in my sermon that, because we are covered in the blood of Christ, we will know no condemnation from God; and, if God is not going to condemn you because you are saved by His Son's blood, I am certainly not going to condemn you either. Instead, when I made that statement it was to stress just how heinous our sins are, how vile and disgusting they are to God and, therefore, how desperately we are in need of the

salvation that comes through Jesus Christ.

My prayer for each of you is that you keep your eyes focused on Jesus, that you be on-guard for sinfulness and evil in your life and repent where necessary, that you never forget to be thankful and offer praise for the work of salvation Jesus accomplished on your behalf, and that you live your life fully for God, following where He leads and doing as He commands.

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

Pastor Keith

Sermons and Scripture

Sermon Series – Esther:
"Proof That God's Always Working"

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

To receive link for *YouTube*
videos of services, send email
to kt Reid84@gmail.com.

July 3

Pastor Lee preaching

July 10

Communion

NT: 1 John 5:13-21
Sermon: Esther 8:1-17

July 17

Pastor Lee preaching

July 24

NT: 2 Peter 2:1-10
Sermon: Esther 9:1-19

July 31

NT: Colossians 2:6-17
Sermon: Esther 9:20-31

Family Movie Night

As many are aware, the church is holding a Family Movie Night on Tuesday, July 26. This is a free event we are putting on for our community. Please help us spread the word by inviting any young families you know.

The featured movie is “Babe,” a family-friendly movie about a pig that becomes a shepherd. He befriends some other animals and must prove his capabilities to the other farm animals and his new owner. This is a classic movie, made in 1995 in Wales. The main animal characters are played by both real animals and animatronic puppets.



Doors open at 5:15 pm for movie-goers to gather their concessions and find their preferred seats. Concessions will include popcorn from our brand new popcorn machine, nachos, beverages, and candy! Movie will begin at 6.

The nursery will be available for use for families, if needed. And we'll also have a raffle drawing at the end of the movie. Anyone can win!

You are most welcome to help with this event. Setup will be the evening before, that is, on Monday, July 25th, at 5 pm.

Karla Reid, Director of Children's Ministries

Sunday School Fun



Angie, Ella, Lily



Taylor, Hailey, Angie, Michelle



Taylor, Angie, Travis, Lily, Hailey, Ella



Millie, Travis

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Missions Committee

At our June 14, 2022, Missions Committee meeting we reported that \$5,750 has been contributed to organizations, which serve to support others in need. We have retained a balance of \$3,650 in anticipation of the fire season now upon us.

Judy shared that the cards of encouragement completed by members of the Missions Committee were very well received by the Sonora Senior Center. This outreach project to senior shut-ins may be something that others might consider getting involved with in the future. We all need words of encouragement from time to time. Sharing God's love for us is so important.

Jon Whited has been selected as an advocate for Mission Aviation Fellowship, which delivers much needed medical

and food supplies to very remote areas (villages) in the world. This faith-based organization also provides valuable opportunities to share the gospel with the people they serve. Jon will be addressing our next committee meeting to share more information after his training session in Nampa, Idaho.

If you are not aware, Nancy's Hope is using two of our rooms below the Christian Ed classrooms as a food pantry for those needing help in our community. This is an important extension of our church's mission efforts in the immediate area. Michelle Kidwell reports that the pantry is doing well.

A representative from Adult and Teen Challenge will be presenting to our church during the service on September 25. Our church has supported their work to help rehabilitate those addicts who want to change their lives. We hope that

you would consider personally supporting their efforts to change lives and share the gospel.

While we discussed several other contributions, again, we felt that the fire season could lead to the needed support of victims. We pray that is not the case but it's best to keep funds in reserve.

Our next meeting will be August 16 at 2:00. Pastor Keith talked about and posted sign-up sheets for your participation in church projects and needs. If Missions and our desire to share to spread God's love in the community is in your heart, please consider joining our committee. Roger and Judy will be more than willing to discuss our committee's purpose with you. God bless you all and thanks!

Roger and Judy Haughton
Co-Chairs Missions Committee

Our Village Church

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

The Presbyterian Church sanctuary in Columbia was originally authorized and built by Methodist missionaries in 1852. Unfortunately, left-over material used in its construction was inadequate. In 1854 the church was purchased by the local Presbyterians for use by worshipers, school children and occasionally community organizations. The building was rebuilt in 1864 becoming in design an improved future sanctuary for other congregations. It was located next to the civic plaza at the junction of Jackson and Gold Streets and adjacent to mineral rich Gold Hill mines. As the gold rush camp prospered it was commonly known as "The Gem of the Southern Mines." After remodeling the 1864 sanctuary, the Presbyterians became active for many years in the "storybook village." In the early years, fires threatened the new structure and the calm of the camp. At the little church after its early construction, warnings of electrical malfunctions

were reported. Suddenly in 1950, a fire erupted; the church burned to the ground. Initially, it was reported the remodeling of the sanctuary (completed six weeks before the fire) had caused the tragedy; however, a church witness revealed the original inadequate electrical infrastructure was probably the cause due to its age and installation under the sanctuary.

After the fire, Pastor Joseph N. Hillhouse challenged the members: "No calamity would 'break the spirit' of this resolute congregation." He noted, "The building is gone but the church lives on!" He enlisted young and old, members and friends, to help establish an improved replica of the 1864 Presbyterian Church.

Were you there on June 22, 1950 when our beloved church burned? We are fortunate to have several recorded interviews with Church of the 49ers' elders who witnessed the tragic event. For this *Golden Nugget* issue, it is my objective to feature the recollection of a former member who was a teenager during that

unforgettable disaster. Robert Riedel, currently a resident of Paradise, California, revisited Columbia for an "Old Timers' Reunion" on November 23, 2013. During this visit he reminded us in a recorded interview that the Columbia of 1950 remained a "one grocery store village," with a few false front businesses. The residents were "violently Americans" taking great pride during holidays with the raising of the American flag at the Liberty Pole near the historic church. It represented a symbol of their everlasting loyalty to church, community and country. We understand that Columbia's gentlefolk spoke about living in a village "where time stood still." Columbians knew their neighbors. Their children were happy and energetic; they participated in most community and church activities. The adults said they lived in "Happy Land," at times feeling "other worldly" in their celebrated village. They felt comfortable to be somewhat isolated from others with their "hardships and temptations."

Continued on Page 9: Village Church

BOOK REVIEW

by Denella Kimura

“Lord, I Feel So Small”

by Jon Drury

Have you suffered from comparisons to others, from the bondage of measuring up to the expectations of others, from the despair that nothing that you do has meaning? Then you need to read Jon Drury’s book, “Lord, I Feel so Small: Using God’s Yardstick to Conquer Self-Doubt.”

Jon Drury struggled against self-doubt all his life until “I placed my hope on God alone, with no expectation of return, hope returned to me. Where I had been plagued by unbelief, doubt, and despair, my spiritual eyes began to open to God and what He could do. My faith began to grow.” (p. 36)

Many of the devil’s traps begin with childhood comparisons. For me, it was, “[my sister] Jeanne is the pretty one, but Denella, she’s the smart one. She’ll go to college.” Beauty was reserved for someone else, so I never claimed it for myself, until Jesus showed up and His Spirit shone through me. Jeanne also went to college.

Sometimes parental language can be debasing, or saying cruel things, like “I wish we never had you!” Words like these are powerful, and can destroy self worth. But Jesus restores our value through His love and comfort through the scriptures.

Our dreams and expectations can often turn us into the downward spiral of hopelessness and despair because of feelings of rejection. Resentment rears its ugly head because we blame others for betrayal and having the things we worked hard for denied. Drury claims, “At the center of my hopelessness I discovered a focus on self. I was addicted to *my* dreams, *my* hopes, *my* plans, *my*

feelings.” God’s cure is to go to God in believing prayer. (p. 32)

Often we are confused as to whose voice is speaking to us. Jon uses the example of Elijah to illustrate Satan’s attack through adversity, our unworthiness, our call and honor, and our failure.

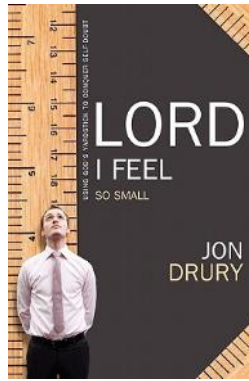
But God’s voice brings peace, encouragement, hope and trust in God who is glorified, and an affirmation of love, forgiveness, restoration and confidence. James 4: 7-8 encourages us to “resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

God gives us our gifts and talents, but often we forget that these are meant to please the Lord. Jon considered himself “a failure because my gifts did not measure up to the other prominent pastors I knew.” He concluded that he “had fallen prey to the idolatry of success.” (p. 156)

I’ve known Jon over 20 years while we were students at Mount Hermon Christian Writer’s Conference and at the Redwood Chapel Christian Writers Seminars where Jon was pastor and I taught poetry classes. He is a gifted, compassionate pastor, talented writer, and organizer of the writers’ seminars. He also published many books.

There were two prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah, who were called to preach to people who would not listen, and Jeremiah would be rejected and persecuted because of the words God gave him to deliver. Some fail spiritually, others fail in the endeavors of life. (p. 157) Some never know how well they succeeded until after they’re gone.

It all depends on the yardstick you’re using to determine success. Jon Drury



defines true success as “knowing God and pleasing Him,” and having “Christlike love for others.” He quotes John 13:34-35, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Dear Reader: “Lord, I Feel so Small!” by Jon Drury has many chapters that describe areas of weakness in our lives which God turns into Joyful living. It’s a great read, and would be a good resource for a Bible study. I certainly found chapters that spoke especially to me. I’m also sure you’ll find your own favorite chapters that will restore to you how valuable and worthy you are in the sight of God and deserving of the most profound love possible.

Denella Kimura

Interfaith News

I have a different request this month: We are in need of someone to volunteer to pick up some of our food items and deliver to Interfaith. This could be once or twice a month, schedules vary at times. If you have a pickup that could be used for this purpose, please contact me or one of our administrators for further information. The phone number at Interfaith is 209-532-0905, ask for Cathy or Barbara. My number is 209-532-4358.

The other information I want to pass along is that my term as a deacon, representing our church at Interfaith board meetings has ended. I will still attend the meetings, as I plan on remaining a member of the board, but will be turning over the reporting part to Deb Handy, as she volunteered to take my place at our monthly Deacon meetings. You can contact either one of us with your questions concerning donations or needs.

As usual, I want to say "thanks" to our current church members who volunteer each month, you are soooo appreciated!

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

Allen Graham, Missionary

Greetings, Church of the 49ers family! It was good to be with you a few weeks ago to share a personal update on the ministry. Thank you for your kind gift.

A significant number of believers in Ecuador have become accustomed to “attending church” virtually and are no longer going to Sunday worship services. When I was with you on June 12, Pastor Keith referred to the biblical command to meet together. Our on-air team is trying to subtly encourage our audience to return to in-person services by talking about what they learned or did at their own churches. Please pray that their words would be used by the Holy Spirit to challenge and convict.

The last two weeks of June saw Ecuador drawn to a standstill because of a national strike to protest rising prices, especially for gasoline, and to pressure the government to make good on several campaign promises. The city of Quito, where I lived for 24 years, was hit hardest by the strike, with public transportation being closed and most major roads into and out of the city being blocked. Praise God that a few hours before writing these lines, an agreement between the national government and key leaders of the protest was signed and

the strike has been called off. Pray now that the specifics of this agreement will be fulfilled, with commitments having been made on both sides, and that future protests can be avoided.

In early May I started my control exams after my bout with cancer in mid-2020. Praise God that, so far, all the tests have come back negative. I am waiting for the results of a procedure done on June 21 in order to get the *all clear for now* sign. I’m thankful that God is in control no matter what and will wait patiently in Him.

When I served in our North Africa/Middle East office, I often mentioned the Ephraim Project. One aspect of this work is run by a ministry partner couple we call Sam and Dana. They are the refugee couple who I met in Latin America. They had planted five house churches before they left their restricted access country in the Middle East and have been reaching back into that country to minister to these new churches and to the lost. Sam and Dana are now in Europe seeking refugee status. In June, they went live on a social media platform to “do church” for their 1,340 followers who have no place to worship. Please pray that it will be used power-



A child's letter to Ecuador's president and his main opponent. It reads: Mr. President and Mr. Leonidas Iza, my name is Romina. I don't want our country to be sad anymore.

fully by God for those following them, as they clearly speak God's truth, that technology works smoothly, that the isolated Christians be built up in their faith, and that unbelievers be drawn to the truth of Scripture and ultimately be saved.

And let's pray the same for those in the Mother Lode who don't yet know Jesus as their personal savior. Praise God for how He is using those of you at the Church of the 49ers to be His hands, feet and voice to your friends and neighbors. Blessings on you as you serve locally and thank you for praying for those of us serving overseas. To God be all praise, glory, and honor!

Allen

It's an ODD JOB Work Party!

If you can make it to the church campus on Monday morning, June 11, plan to arrive between 8 and 9 am and choose an odd job to do. We have lots of easy jobs on the list (indoors and outdoors), such as:

- Clean up to 15 round plastic tables in Faith Hall
- Clean up to 16 rectangular plastic tables in Faith Hall and CE building
- Check out and tighten loose screws on 120 green padded chairs
- Add “chair leg tips” to pew chairs in CE building
- Steam clean up to 30 upholstered pew chairs
- Using electric sander, prep concrete block wall for paint
- Clean and paint interior surface of large sanctuary doors
- Shore up leaning fence around the propane tank
- Wash windows...and more!

Contact Leslie at 532-6604 or davisgold@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

B&G WISH LIST

The B&G Committee was given approval to publish a WISH LIST of things desired/needed for the church. If after your regular giving/tithe to the church you would like to donate money toward the purchase of anything on our Wish List, you are free to do so (can be anonymous).

- Three pastor chairs professionally reupholstered with burgundy pew cushion material
- New privacy curtains for choir lofts
- Install 7 windows in Office building

Village Church

Continued from Page 6

Now, I shall return to the memorable 1950s. After Bobby Riedel was awakened by the Columbia fire alarm, he ran from his nearby home to the church. The early morning flaming sanctuary cast a bright glow above Columbia. The firemen and volunteers kept the blaze from spreading to the houses and buildings surrounding the church. Unfortunately, the entire sanctuary and adjacent manse were completely engulfed within minutes. An on-looker observed, "It was HOT!" In fact, so hot the small group at the church retreated from Jackson Street to the plaza. Sadly, in merely a few stressful moments, the structures became flaming infernos, a significant loss for church and community.



Pastor Hillhouse inspecting melted bell

Some smoldering continued into the next day. Pastor Hillhouse and helpers carefully sifted through the debris hoping to salvage a few precious artifacts. They were able to retrieve the partially melted 1852 church bell which had arrived around the Horn, a discolored communion service, many square-cut nails and several smoke-stained sanctuary pews.

However, at the manse, only a few of the Hillhouse's possessions survived; his collection of historic records, valuable church photographs and most of their personal belongings were ashes. Very few surviving records were collected for archival storage.

After the ashes cooled, Pastor Hillhouse assembled a few volunteers and youths to assist in clearing away the ruins and prepare a plan to rebuild the historic sanctuary. Within the week, the disastrous fire was reported by the media.

Concerned church members began fundraising for a resurrected new Church of the 49ers. Letters were mailed to Presbyterians, sympathetic public officials, and friends of Columbia. Many letters included an old worn square-cut nail from the original church as a token for their help in the rebuilding process of the pioneer church. Bobby and his friends "volunteered for everything," including cleaning up the grimy litter.

He reported the teenagers' surviving Clubhouse built by Pastor Nickerson in 1937-38 became a temporary worship site (it was located near the Christian Education building today). The concerned Clubhouse youth sent a collection to Pastor Hillhouse; for many it represented money raised for their summer youth camp.

The Mother Lode communities were distressed about the loss of the popular Church of the 49ers. Donations arrived from near and far, from churches and civic organizations, to help construct a new Presbyterian Church sanctuary for the rural village folk. Locally, friends and neighbors responded immediately: they donated building material, replaced sanctuary artifacts and offered free local newspaper appeals, clerical help and even money from several mortgaged houses. It was Presbyterians and residents at their best. Church members and friends expressed support for the church and His Good News messages throughout the foothill communities. During the early years, Governor Earl Warren, a long-time friend of the church and Columbia, visited the area with his family. After the fire he sent a letter praising the restoration committees and Pastor Hillhouse's leadership.

Bobby and several church teenagers visited the governor in Sacramento where they were photographed with the governor and a scale model of the new church during its construction.



Alice Miller Wynne, Gov. Earl Warren, Bonnie Carpenter, Virginia Hughes, Leola Pitts—1951

Otheto Weston, Columbia's respected artist, made available her interesting collection of commemorative "stamps" picturing the historic community. (It was a successful fund-raiser.) A large poster, "You Can Help," was displayed in several local stores. Modesto carpenters volunteered to assemble replacement pews and assisted in various sanctuary reconstruction projects.

The church Deacons provided refreshments for the construction crews and assisted with the church correspondence. Certainly a most unusual contribution was sent from a Sonora businessman: he donated a valuable gold nugget which became another popular fund-raiser.

As we know, it was not the best of times for the church and gold rush Columbia. However, after many months of work by volunteers, there gradually appeared from the debris a replica of the original church (building). In early December 1954, the congregation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church's founding and dedication of the new Church of the 49ers sanctuary. Bobby concluded the recorded interview by agreeing that "The whole community was out to help." AMEN!

Dick Dyer

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

July 2022 Calendar

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

July 4: Independence Day—Office is closed

July 5, 10:00 am: History Committee in CE Room 3, **Office closed**
July 5, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
July 5, 2:30 pm: Movie Night Committee in Faith Hall
July 7, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
July 7, 11:00 am: Women's Lunch at Be Wok Sushi
July 10, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 3
July 11, 8 am - noon: Work Party on church campus
July 12, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2, **Office closed**
July 13, 10:30 am: Buildings & Grounds in CE Room 3
July 14, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

July 17, 1 - 4 pm: "Just Dance" in Faith Hall
July 19, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
July 19, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
July 21, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
July 24, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH
July 25, 5:00 pm: Rehearsal of Movie Night in Faith Hall
July 26, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
July 26, 5:30 pm: Family Movie Night event in Faith Hall
July 27, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in Faith Hall
July 28, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall



First Presbyterian Church
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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