

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Word from the Pastor

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

This month, we will be diving into a month-long series on giving, a Christian discipline, a Christian responsibility, otherwise known as stewardship. As such, I thought it would be a great way for us to kick off this new series by taking time to remember exactly what "stewardship" is. If you are like most people, you probably associate "stewardship" with "tithing," so you think about money and finances; and, certainly, finances do play an important part of stewardship. However, when you take a holistic view of stewardship, it becomes readily apparent that it entails so much more than just giving money. The Greek word used in the New Testament that has been transliterated as "steward" is "oikonomos." This word means "the manager of a house or household affairs." Basically an "oikonomos" did not own the house which they were charged to oversee. Rather, they were tasked with managing someone else's house,



from cleaning, to managing finances, to overseeing servants.

The question then becomes: why does the New Testament compare Christians with these 1st Century stewards? It makes this comparison because we are not our own—everything we have, our church, our home, our money, even our life itself, is on loan from God who has entrusted us to manage these assets for His glory. So, when we talk about "stewardship" from a Biblical perspective, we are not simply talking about finances; nor are we making a direct connection with giving an offering on Sunday morning, though the offering is an important part of stewardship. Rather, what we are talking about is utilizing *all* that God has blessed you with for His glory and for the good of others; this includes your money, your talents, your wisdom, your experience, your life. Stewardship means, rather than being stingy or hoarding God's gifts, we utilize all of them properly for the advancement of His kingdom.

And this is why it is so important that we take time to talk about stewardship and giving. This church, the wonderful, historic, Church of the 49ers is not our

August 2022

church, it is God's church. God has given us this church as a place where we can worship Him and become equipped to minister to those in this community who are lost. Since this is God's church, and since God has created and called His church to be a witness and minister to Him, it is our job, as stewards of His church, to make certain that we are managing it in such a way that it accomplishes the mission its rightful Owner and Master has given it. And how do we do that? We do it by giving of all that God has blessed us with. Our church cannot effectively minister to either our covenant partners or to the community around us without the support of people like each one of you.

And that support does include financial support; our church cannot be effective in our ministry to the community without the generous offerings of our covenant partners. In fact, without money in our account, our church would cease to exist entirely. Everything requires money, and that is no less true for the church no matter how unimportant it is in the realm of eternity. And God understands this; in fact, He's so aware of the importance of money in this world that He spends quite a lot of time in His Word instructing us about it. And one of the most important things that He instructs us to do is to give some of our money, some of the money that HE has blessed us with, back to Him and to His church.

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

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

GOLDEN NUGGET

Published monthly by First Presbyterian Church
known as “Church of the 49ers”
Editor/Photographer: Leslie Davis

11155 Jackson Street
Columbia, CA 95310
209-532-2441
churchofthe49ers.com

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 June 30, 2022 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Tithes/Giving	\$99,999	\$96,112	(\$3,887)
Bequest	\$4,998	—	(\$4,998)
Other Receipts	\$8,052	\$5,068	(\$2,984)
Total Income	\$113,049	\$101,180	(\$11,869)
Expense	\$120,688	\$126,288	\$5,600
Net	(\$7,639)	\$25,108	(\$17,469)

Mortgage Balance as of June 30: **\$129,844.88**
Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment: **\$2,236.41**
Addtl. Principal paid through June 30: **\$975.00**

Church Officers

ELDERS: Gwen Harris, Judy Haughton, Roger Haughton, Judy Nason, Sharon Poff, Jon Whited, Suzanne Williamson

DEACONS: Mary Adams, Doreen Bass, Sandy Brooks, Margie Fooshee, Deb Handy, Carol Kent, Michelle Kidwell, Denella Kimura, Rosie McCarthy, Sheri Pendleton, Susie Porte, Sally Tullar

Session Highlights

Highlights of the July 27th Session meeting include:

With the beginning of the new Elder terms, Elder assignments were made as follows:

- Worship: Judy Nason
- Fellowship: Suzanne Williamson
- Missions: Roger and Judy Haughton
- Welcome & Evangelism: Gwen Harris
- Buildings & Grounds: Sharon Poff, Liaison to Session (Leslie Davis will remain Chair of B&G.)
- Finance: Jon Whited
- Personnel: Sharon Poff
- Christian Education: Suzanne Williamson
- History: No Elder chair needed

The August 14 Deacon Meeting will feature training on the serving of Communion in the sanctuary.

Pastor Keith’s volunteer sign-up sheets have gathered very few names of parishioners interested in helping—sheets will go out again to identify additional volunteers for committees and to be liturgists, lead singers, greeters, etc.

Finance Committee reported giving is down. The new Stewardship Legacy Fund was created, so that the monies earned from the Bissardi Bequest over the past five years can be used for community mission projects.

Odd Job Work Party in July was a success—additional work parties will be scheduled by the B&G Committee.

An Inquirers’ Class was scheduled for August 28 at 11:30 am, with lunch included.

The next Session meeting is Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 2:00 pm in Room CE3 and guests are welcome to attend.

Leslie Davis, Co-Clerk of Session

49er Family News

Grieving

Family and friends of **Debbie Snodgrass** who died on June 25 at the age of 83.

First Place! Congratulations to **Cathy Crawford** who won three first place ribbons, one second place, and five honorable mentions for her roses in the Mother Lode Fair in July.



All women are invited to meet Thursday, **August 4**, at 11:00 am for a no-host lunch at Papa's New Roost in East Sonora. Contact Deb Handy at 209-768-2067 to sign up.

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

A Citizens Educational Forum Regarding Fire Response in Columbia

Representatives from Columbia Fire Protection District, Columbia College Fire, CAL FIRE, Tuolumne County Fire, Sonora Fire Department, and the District 5 County Supervisor Jaron Brandon will be available to answer questions and provide an overview of how the system works.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 6 PM
COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

For more information, call Kim Baker at 209-743-9845.



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
53 years on August 4

Lee and Bonnie Jean Warford
66 years on August 10

Jim and Diane Brandt
62 years on August 12

Dean and Arlene Cunningham
13 years on August 15

Rob Clark and Janet Russell
43 years on August 25

Carl and Kathy Rudolph
33 years on August 27



Taking a Summer Break...

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

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.

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



From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

But, as I stated above, stewardship is not all about money, money, money. We also cannot be effective in fulfilling the tasks that God has given us, effective in ministering to our community, without your volunteering of your time and talents, without your sharing of your wisdom, experience, and knowledge, and without your prayers, encouragement, and participation.

But, none of this giving should be done begrudgingly or only out of a sense of obligation; it should be done joyfully and with thanksgiving in our hearts knowing that God has promised if we sow generously, we will reap generously. Since God has promised us that, if we generously give of our resources, we will reap the rewards of that generosity. Shouldn't that make us all the more eager and excited to give to Him a portion of anything and everything that we have? I submit to you that it

should. The rewards for giving generously of your gifts and talents are both rewards in the here and now and rewards in eternity with Him.

My hope for the Church of the 49ers, as we look to the future and what God has in store for us, is that we will become an ever-increasing presence in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, that our witness and ministry will reach more and more lives so desperately in need of Jesus Christ. That we can, with confidence, say that we are doing everything in our power to minister to the lost, make disciples, shepherd believers, and be a force for good and a witness to Jesus Christ in all that we do. I truly believe with all of my heart that we have the right people to accomplish this; we have caring, loving people who truly desire to see the lost of our community come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior; and it is my job, and the job of our Session, to ensure that all of us are fully utilizing the gifts that God has given us to accomplish it. That, in a nutshell, is why it is so important that we take this upcoming sermon series on giving with the utmost seriousness; it is so that we can make certain that God's church in Columbia, CA, the church that He has entrusted to us to be good stewards of, is accomplishing His mission in this community and in the world.

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

Pastor Keith

New Church Officers

On July 3rd Pastor Keith ordained and installed Mary Adams, Denella Kimura, Sally Tullar and Carol Kent to the office of Deacon, and Sharon Poff as an Elder. Also, Gwen Harris was installed as an Elder on July 24th.



Left to right: Mary Adams, Denella Kimura, Sally Tullar, Sharon Poff, Carol Kent. Pastor Keith Reid. Gwen Harris is not pictured.

Sermons and Scripture

New Sermon Series: "Excel in Giving"

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 ktreid84@gmail.com.

August 7 Communion

OT: Malachi 3:6-12
Sermon: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

August 14

OT: Deuteronomy 16:13-17
Sermon: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

August 21

OT: 1 Chronicles 29:10-16
Sermon: Luke 12:22-34

August 28

OT: Deuteronomy 8:6-20
Sermon: Matthew 25:31-46



Avalon Outreach

Recently, I saw a post on social media from Avalon asking the community for clothing donations. I reached out to them to ask if that need was met and if they have any other needs. She informed me the physical therapy department is always seeking certain items, specifically:

- ♦ Sweatpants (men/women, all sizes)
- ♦ Tennis shoes with good rubber soles (men/women, all sizes)
- ♦ Comfortable pajama gowns for women (all sizes)

These items can be purchased new, or used in very good, clean condi-

tion. Monetary donations toward the purchase of these items will also be accepted.

Our children's ministry is spearheading this project. The children will assist in the donation drop-off once all items have been collected. They are also creating cards with words of inspiration, love, and praise to give to the residents at the Avalon nursing facility in Sonora.

We will be collecting donations from now until August 21st. Delivery date of donations to Avalon is to be determined.

Reach out to me with any questions or donation drop-offs. Donations can also be dropped off in the church office during office hours.

Karla Reid
Director of Children's Ministries



Faith Hall doors open 5:30. Movie at 6:00.



Free movie and popcorn! Come and bring a friend for a fun evening in cool Faith Hall.

1st Family Movie Night

Thank you to all our volunteers during the planning and execution of our first Family Movie Night! Everyone was a part of its success!

Movie-goers enjoyed freshly popped popcorn, candy assortment, nachos, tea, lemonade, and lemon water. The ambiance was set with the string lights on in Faith Hall, fun flashing lights on the walls and balcony, movie-themed decorations and table centerpieces.

Our movie feature was *Babe*, the movie about a pig that becomes a sheep farmer against all odds. We enjoyed many laughs and even learned a few life lessons from this family-friendly movie. It was a wonderful event!

There were about 50 in attendance (including all our volunteers), about 15 of whom were children. The audience included several groups of families, some with and some without children. Parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, and great-grandparents and great-grandchildren were all part of our audience! We had a wide range of ages, with two toddlers in the nursery for the majority of the movie.

At the end of the movie, we held a short raffle. The prizes were 3 different gift cards: 2 fast food restaurants and 1 for the movie theater. I am pleased to say that God's hand was in the distribution and choosing of the winning raffles because they all went to non-church members! Praise to God that He is working through the Church of the 49ers to reach our local community!



Hailey Reid and Margie Fooshee welcoming guests to Movie Night. Photo by Michelle Kidwell.

I am extremely encouraged to continue this community outreach. What a fun way to gather together and spread joy and kindness to our community.

Karla Reid
Director of Children's Ministries

Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family! Thanks for your prayers this past month.

I especially thank you for praying for the control exams for the melanoma. As I mentioned last month, I was waiting on the results of a lymphadenectomy done on June 21. One of the lymph nodes came back positive and was sent to the U.S. for a more detailed analysis. That result should come back by August 8. During July, I have had an MRI of the brain and a PET scan to see if cancer has spread elsewhere in the body. Praise God both procedures came back clean. I will start immunotherapy in the next couple of weeks, which my doctors are saying should be all I need right now. There was consideration given to having radiation therapy also, but after the clean results of the MRI and PET scan, they don't think that will be necessary for now. As I said last month, I'm thankful that God is in control no matter what and I will continue to wait patiently on Him.

Donations to both stations, Guayaquil and Quito, are running significantly below budget. We believe this is mostly due to the uncertainty in the country after the 10-day national shutdown in June. Ecuador's economy has taken a hit, and folks are leery. Our station here in Guayaquil is doing a special sharathon at the beginning of August to remind our listeners of their monthly pledges and we are praying to pick up some new donors also. Will you please pray for God's provision through the audiences at both stations?

On the same note, please continue to pray that the specifics of the agreement, which was made to bring an end to the strike, will be fulfilled. Both sides have been meeting these past weeks to hammer out the details so that future protests can be avoided.



Mid-July I was able to take my two oldest *grandsons* to Ecuador's Amazon region. This was their first time to the jungle. We had so much fun!

In August, let's pray for open doors in Ecuador and in the Mother Lode to share Jesus with the people around us. Let's make His name known!

Allen

Inquirers' Class

Perhaps you've been attending the Church of the 49ers awhile, and you'd like to know more about it. Maybe you'd like to know more about what our variety of Presbyterians teach, and what ministries we do at this church. Maybe you wonder why there's usually a prayer of confession in worship. Or maybe you have other church-related questions. If that's you, then the Inquirers' Class is the place for you! It will be held on Sunday, August 28, from 11:30 to about 1:30. Lunch is included, so please RSVP with Pastor Keith so we'll have enough for everyone.

At the conclusion of the Inquirers' Class you will have the opportunity to become a covenant partner (member) of the Church of the 49ers, but there is no obligation.

Hope to see you there!

Pastor Keith

Interfaith News

At Interfaith, we are beginning to see some new faces - people who have stepped up to volunteer in a couple of departments. However, we still would like to add a few more to cover as substitutes when the regularly scheduled volunteers are unable to come in. I know some may feel they are not qualified, but you receive good training. By the time you're done, you'll see how rewarding it is. Talk to your friends, maybe you could do it together. Another "perk" is that have the opportunity to meet some really friendly people from the area! Feel free to call me anytime if you have questions or concerns. My number is in the church directory.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

49er Committees/Ministries

Pastor Keith and the Elders are encouraging everyone to use their talents for the good of the church. Perhaps you love to work with and teach children, or you love to cook/bake and could bring Fellowship refreshments occasionally, or you have a flair for numbers and budgeting, or you have a good speaking voice to read the liturgy and Scripture during worship, or you're a musician (vocal or instrumental), or you have a heart for helping our fellow humans (missions), or you have a friendly smile and could greet people as they walk in to worship, or you're a handyperson and can assist with keeping the campus in good working order.

Christian Education Committee

This committee oversees both adult and children's programs that include adult Bible studies and children's Sunday School. Currently the need is working with the children! Both the Preschool class and the Elementary school class are taught by a core group of volunteers who teach ideally one Sunday a month. It is necessary that we have two adults in each class, therefore we need more volunteers who are willing to teach, assist or be willing to substitute. All lessons and materials are provided. Meetings are held about every 2-3 months.

Chair Suzanne Williamson

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship committee organizes and helps provide both food and assistance in the kitchen and Faith Hall on Sunday mornings before and after church. The committee meets every two months on the 1st Sunday of the month to plan for the next 8-9 weeks. The committee works as a team and is a good way to meet and work with others. We also welcome assistance from those who would like to bring Fellowship refreshments on an occasional, on-call basis.

Co-Chairs Suzanne Williamson and Deb Handy

Finance Committee

Finance volunteers work on planning budgets and making financial comparisons between budgets and current status of our checking accounts (including General Fund, Designated Funds,

Deacons, Capital Expenditures, Stewardship Legacy). When there are new projects planned, the committee members work with the other committees to balance the needs against what we feel the financial giving will be. The Finance Committee typically meets third Tuesdays monthly at 1:00 pm for an overall review of budget and expenditures for the previous month. Additional committee members are sought—especially someone experienced with using QuickBooks.

Treasurer & Chair Jon Whited

Worship Committee

Members of the Worship Committee assist the Pastor in planning worship services by providing and training Communion servers, ushers, liturgists and Scripture readers, singers and other musicians; and helping with plans for special worship services. Meetings are typically held on the 4th Sunday monthly following worship. **Chair Judy Nason**

Missions Committee

The purpose of the Missions Committee is to serve Jesus and spread His word through assisting others locally, nationally, and worldwide. We have provided funds for missionaries abroad, many with ties to Tuolumne County. We place a high emphasis on disaster relief such as fires, floods, and tornadoes. Locally we have helped Interfaith, Vets Helping Vets, Nancy's Hope, and Columbia Elementary, just to name a few. We encourage members of the congregation to

There are SO many opportunities at the Church of the 49ers to show our love for all of God's people and our gratitude to God for the many blessings He bestows on us.

Following are short descriptions of each of our current committees/ministries—to help you find your preferred volunteer opportunity. Pastor Keith has sign-up sheets located in the Narthex and Faith Hall for the purpose of gathering your name and volunteer choice(s). Find the area of ministry where you may best use the gifts and talents the Lord has given you and joyfully serve with us.



share organizations they know which could benefit from our help. Our meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm.

Co-Chairs Judy & Roger Houghton

Welcome & Evangelism Committee

Volunteers on the W&E Committee are responsible for marketing and publicity for worship services and events, using the church's website and social media, monthly Golden Nugget newsletter, and church brochure. Activities include maintaining the church directory and name badges, scheduling and training outside greeters, and assisting Pastor Keith with the Inquirers' Class which includes lunch. Committee members strive to personally greet each newcomer to worship and make him/her feel welcome and loved. The W&E Committee typically meets on the third Sunday monthly.

Chair Gwen Harris

Buildings & Grounds Committee

With four older buildings to maintain, the B&G Committee members are kept busy repairing, maintaining, updating the church campus. If you like to work with your hands, either indoors or in the garden, there is a spot for you! The B&G Committee typically meets the second Wednesday each month at 10:30 am, and occasionally hosts Work Parties.

Chair Leslie Davis

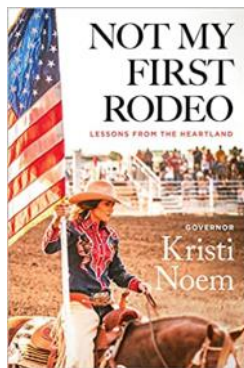
See Pg 9 for History Committee

BOOK REVIEW

by Denella Kimura

Not My First Rodeo: Lessons from the Heartland

by Kristi Noem



soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa, and sometimes flax and barley. She loved cats (there were about 30) and her dog Hazel, and she also raised an assortment of animals including buffalo, 4-H sheep, and some goats and horses. Says Kristi,

“Farming, hunting, and riding horses was pretty much in our blood,” like a lot of Midwestern families. (p. 18)

At the age of 23, Kristi was two months from having her first child, and taking classes at South Dakota State University, when her father died in a tragic farming accident. Her sense of loss was acute, especially when she realized she didn’t know how to manage over 1,000 acres of ranching and farmland. All her prayers focused on, Lord if I could only hear his voice, if he could tell me the answers to my many questions, if he could only tell me what to do next. Then she found the microcassette tapes that her father had been recording the day-to-day decisions he made while running the farm. That answer to prayer changed her life.

Her father taught her to work hard, walk fast---run!---, do a job quickly and well, anticipate needs, and be a problem solver. An example of this happened when her dad, in order to stop ‘burning daylight,’ had extra grain carts during harvest so that they didn’t have to stop to collect the overflow.

At thirteen years old, she found herself “driving a four-wheel-drive tractor and grain cart in a field with five combines going at full speed. . . I would pull up within inches of them without stopping and let them empty into my cart before heading full speed to the next combine that was waiting.” (pp. 31-32) Two years later she was driving an 18-wheeler. (p. 61) She knew after that she could drive anything.

As to governing values, Noem believes in respecting people, the animals and the process. “Respecting them meant caring about them in a way that acknowledged their dignity and unique characteristics as well . . . ” (p. 35) Her principles for a pandemic, “Stay transparent. Know government’s true limits. Trust the people.”

Kristi’s last learning tip, “[Y]ou can either burn energy being angry at it, or you can focus on accomplishing what you set out to achieve for the people counting on you. Learn the business. Build the relationships. Outwork everybody else around you. And give the rest to God.” (p. 230)

A fascinating read!

Denella Kimura

Missions News

Even though the Missions Committee did not have a meeting in July, we have continued to receive suggestions for opportunities to serve those in our community and elsewhere. Adult and Teen Challenge has requested volunteers for a workday they are planning on their property August 17 and August 20 from 7:00 am to noon. They plan to focus on two projects: building a horse-shoe pit and raised garden beds. If you’re not able to work, they would gladly accept donations. If you’re interested, Roger and Pastor Lee can put you in touch with them directly.

One of the priorities set by the committee is to be able to provide assistance to those affected by the wildfires. We will continue to monitor the needs of those impacted.

Our next meeting will be August 16 at 2:00 pm in Faith Hall.

Judy and Roger Haughton
Co-Chairs Missions Committee

The two most significant things in Kristi Noem’s life that prepared her for serving as governor of South Dakota, as listed in her memoir, “Not My First Rodeo: Lessons from the Heartland,” is 1) growing up on a working farm, and 2) spending a year as South Dakota’s Snow Queen.

The Snow Queen competition was a scholarship program for high school girls based on character, hard work, personal responsibility and how well she represented South Dakota values. She won---spent a year promoting South Dakota and its people, industry, history, and values, and spoke and gave interviews at different events across the state. (p. 225) All skills she uses as governor.

As Governor looking back, she realized that young girls “must decide you’re going to be a teachable person. This means you must be comfortable being uncomfortable, willing to try something new.” (p. 226)

Kristi encourages young women to compete in sports as she did growing up, because it teaches confidence, skill building, self discipline and team spirit. Noem championed girls riding events, which the U. S. Department of Agriculture tried to eliminate in 2018, in 4-H rodeos in South Dakota. Rodeos were a big part of South Dakota’s culture.

Born in Watertown, her social life evolved around community events, school, and church at the Family Worship Center. Besides cattle, the family ranching business also included raising corn,

History of Oral Interviews

BY Dick Dyer, Church Historian

1st of a 2-part article

Friends:

In this *Golden Nugget* article, I have included information from several Oral History scholars and some personal experiences as an interviewer. At long last, we now realize that oral communication has become an indispensable historical message which has been neglected in presentations in the Church of the 49ers' historiography. Certainly valuable information from those who have been aware of historic events must be included in church publications. Historians are convinced that LOCAL HISTORY is an important feature of our country's annals. For various reasons many influential residents were unable to provide vital information for the public records. However, we usually reminisce about common citizens in uncommon enterprises at a remarkable time in California when gold assumed precedence in the El Dorado stories. I believe our church members now realize the GOLD WE MINE has come from "Old Timers" in recorded interviews—exciting stories about "how it used to be in the 'days of old, days of gold, days of forty-nine.'"

Writers have been aware that FEELINGS are essential even if they are not fully apparent when integrated with FACTS in manuscripts. The recording of residents is a revelation about a community—its law and order and gospel and harmony attitudes during the frontier days. Historians, as they conduct their research, do unveil the background events disclosing the personal aspirations and livelihood of the Mother Lode pioneers. It is evident that only after extensive research can scholars hope to understand ancestors far removed from the present generation. Nevertheless, "No person can be isolated from the PAST"We are not "self-contained individuals." A folklorist

remarked that our heritage is "an encouraging remembrance of generative souls"...of saints and sinners who lived to teach and preach about Old Tuolumne with messages providing a little more illumination of our heritage. The chroniclers of the Westward Movement observed, "When an old person dies, a library burns to the ground" (African proverb and our church legacy).

Researchers have discovered long before written records that our ancestors sought to preserve the culture of those who lived during bygone times: with storytellers, prophets, apostles and also poets and balladeers.

Some in our church are unaware that in Faith Hall, members have preserved more than fifty local history records: sermons, elder interviews, community lectures, 35mm slide programs and a few videos. Evidence of these resources clearly indicate His Church, the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, has been spiritually active and respected as a result of the farsightedness of church pastors and members.



However, skeptics, *Doubting Thomases*, persist: "Why Oral History?" I have reflected about such an inquiry for about sixty

years. As I recall, during my early college education in the 1950s, in a family interview we used a cumbersome reel-to-reel recorder with an unwieldy recording tape stretched between spindles. By 2020 in an interview with Rev. Janet Russell, we had a "shoebox size" recorder using a compact high clarity cassette recording tape. However, the initial question requires an answer. At my retirement desk after speculating, my original thoughts became an ever-increasing treatise of reasons to pursue

the church's oral history interviews. After considerable revisions, an abbreviated response emerged: "It is not for the dubious to question the importance of a primary source tape-recorded interview." The professionals declare, THERE ARE IN-NUMERABLE REASONS FOR ORAL HISTORY. Nevertheless, it requires concerned researchers to secure from the individual their valuable subjective messages, their feelings and their recorded verbal heritage. Additionally, experienced interviewers remind us that what may seem to be trivia to some might be vital for a research historian. Parenthetically, when I listen to recorded interviews, I usually am pleased to note how many exceed my uppermost expectations.

This article will be concluded in a succeeding *Golden Nugget* issue. That last issue will feature edited interview transcriptions of church pastors and elders about the Church of the 49ers' activities in the historic Mother Lode — its lore, legends and localism.

Dick Dyer, Church Historian

Continued from Page 7

History Committee

The purpose of the History Committee is to preserve and maintain for future generations the archives of the church and to develop projects that will convey to the community our rich church heritage dating from 1854 in Columbia. Occasionally a "Pulpit Talk" is given to the congregation, and the committee's major task in the last two years has been to create a History website (linked to the church website) for the purpose of making our church history available to the world. Meetings are typically first Mondays monthly at 10 am. **Chair Tom Kimura**

He Wrote Hope on My Heart

He wrote hope	He wrote hope	He wrote hope
On my heart	On My heart	On my heart
In indelible ink	Even as the world	And told me
I've watched as the	Despairs	To keep it safe
World has tried	A dream	In a world
To chip it away	A prayer	So often
And it's felt as	He gives me	Full of despair.
If sometime it fades	These	
But faith has a power	And a Hope	
So much stronger	Written in	
Than despair	Indelible ink	
And God's Holy	So it can't be	
Word reminds	Stripped away.	
Me he's there.		

(C) Michelle R Kidwell
December.02.2021

August 2022 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

Aug 2, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
 Aug 4, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
 Aug 4, 11:00 am: Women's Lunch at Papa's New Roost
 Aug 9, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
 Aug 10, 10:30 am: Buildings & Grounds in CE Room 3
 Aug 11, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
 Aug 14, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 3
 Aug 16, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
 Aug 16, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
 Aug 16, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in Faith Hall
 Aug 16, 6:00 pm: Family Movie Night in Faith Hall
 Aug 18, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
 Aug 21, 11:30 am: Birthday/Annivers. Celebration in FH
 Aug 21, 1 - 4 pm: "Just Dance" in Faith Hall
 Aug 23, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
 Aug 24, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3
 Aug 25, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
 Aug 28, 11:30 am—1:30 pm: Inquirers' Class in CE Rm 3
 Aug 30, 10:00 am: Prayer Group 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!