

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## Word from the Pastor

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

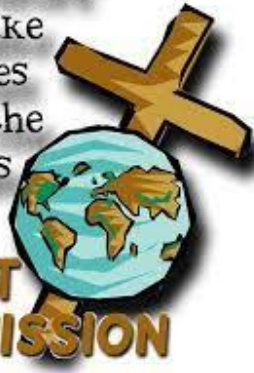
**Matthew 28:18-20 NIV**

For those of you who listen to my sermons every Sunday, or who watch the videos on *YouTube* from home, you know that one thing I always try to do is make the passage I am preaching applicable to your day-to-day lives and your walk with Christ. I try to never let a sermon pass without telling you what you are supposed to DO with information you are receiving. And the reason that I do this is because I can tell you all you could possibly want to know about a passage of the Bible, but if I don't tell you what it means to you, how it applies to you, I've completely missed the point; the purpose of any sermon should be to tell people how they should be living out their faith daily.

And, there is no greater passage in all of the Bible to tell us what we are supposed to do with our faith than these words from Jesus in Matthew 28. This passage is what's known as the *Great Commission*, it represents the last instructions that Jesus gave to His disciples before He ascended to the right hand of the Father. I know that you all

Go therefore  
and make  
disciples  
of all the  
nations

**THE  
GREAT  
COMMISSION**



have heard me talk about the Great Commission many times before; and, recently, you have heard one of our elders, Jon Whited, talking a lot about the Great Commission as he has been sharing information with us about Mission Aviation Fellowship. So, I wanted to revisit this passage with you this month and think about exactly what it is Jesus is commanding here.

First, Jesus tells the disciples that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. This is a clear statement from Jesus about who He is: He has absolute power and sovereignty over all creation, all mankind; nothing in the universe is outside of His control. Jesus is stressing to His disciples, and to all of us, that He is God and, therefore, what He is about to say comes with the full authority of God. Thus, we can see that the following words truly are the Great Commission, not the Great Suggestion. As believers, we cannot choose whether or not we want to follow Jesus' command in this passage; He, as the sovereign God of the universe, has commanded it, so we must obey.

After declaring His authority, Jesus issues His command, "Go and make

September 2022

disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." There are four specific imperatives, or commands in this instruction: go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. First, we are to go. We are not to just sit comfortably in our churches, putting in our hour every Sunday and being consumer Christians; we are to get out into the world, serving others and sharing the Gospel. Second, we are to make disciples. This goes further than mere conversion; it is more than simply getting someone to make a profession of faith in Christ. Conversion is only step one; making disciples means, after someone makes a profession in faith, we begin to shepherd them and teach them what it means to follow Christ and live for Him. Third, we are to baptize. Christ's church has been called to baptize as a means to show that we have been united to Christ; that we have been buried and raised again with Jesus, cleansed from sin, and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Just as circumcision was the sign of belonging under the Old Covenant, baptism is the sign of belonging in the new covenant. Finally, we are to teach. It is our job as Christians to make the whole counsel of God known, to share the Gospel and explain to others what it means.

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

## GOLDEN NUGGET

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

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/
(Under)			
Tithes/Giving Bequest			
Other Receipts			
<b>Total Income</b>			
Expense			
Mortgage Balance as of July 31: \$			
Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment: \$			
Addtl. Principal paid through July 31: \$			

Information not available  
at press time.

## Church Officers

### ELDERS/Assignments

Gwen Harris: Welcome & Evangelism Committee  
Judy Haughton, Roger Haughton: Missions Committee  
Judy Nason: Worship Committee  
Sharon Poff: Personnel Cmte., Liaison to Buildings & Grounds Cmte.  
Jon Whited: Finance Committee  
Suzanne Williamson: Christian Education Cmte., Fellowship Cmte.

**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 August 24th Session meeting include:

Session is continuing its efforts to encourage all in the congregation to volunteer their time and talent—as they are able— toward the work of the church: perhaps as liturgist, lead singer, greeter, member of a church committee, etc.

After discussion, Session voted to approve having Mark Hanney live on the church campus and perform the duties of Sexton, that is, take care of the church property.

Seven inquirers are expected to attend the August 28th Inquirers’ Class.

Jon Whited, Treasurer, reported that overall giving is good, except for a summer slump. He will give a summary of the church’s financial position to the congregation during worship August 28th.

Suzanne Williamson, Christian Education chair, reported the Nursery (Room CE1) is now more like a Preschool.

Session voted to approve Judy Haughton as a new trustee.

The next Session meeting is Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 2:00 pm in Room CE3 and guests are welcome to attend.

### Leslie Davis, Co-Clerk of Session



All women are invited to meet first Thursdays for no-host lunches at various local restaurants. September’s lunch was held September 1 in Sonora. Contact Deb Handy at 209-768-2067 to sign up if you’d like to join the gang on October 6.

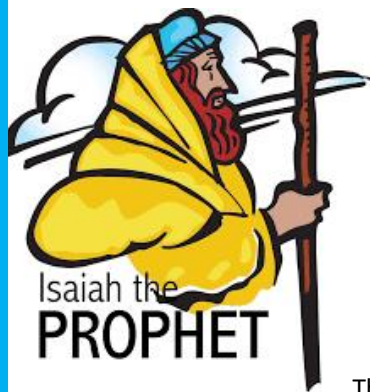
Menfolk are welcome too, but they have to find their own table!

# 49er Family News

**Celebrating:** Daniel Wright and Krissi Carmichael were married August 2nd in Reno, Nevada and are now at home in Sonora.

**Memorial Service:** The family of Elvy Peterson, who died last December 5 at the age of 92, invites all to a memorial service for Elvy on Saturday, September 17. The service is in the sanctuary at 1:30 pm and will be followed by a reception in Faith Hall.

## Tuesday Night Bible Study



Pastor Keith's co-ed Bible study will resume on Tuesday, September 20, with a study of the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Dinner is at 5:30 pm in Faith Hall and the study begins at 6:00.

Dinner is generally pizza from the St. Charles Saloon in Columbia and is provided by the church, though donations are accepted and appreciated.

The study itself is interactive and gives everyone the opportunity to discuss the passage being studied. Study guides will be provided by Pastor Keith on a weekly basis.

## Men's Breakfast Fellowship

All men are invited to meet Saturday, September 10, 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.

## Line Dancing

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

**ODD JOB Work Party**  
**Monday, Sept 12— see page 5**

## September Birthdays

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

Sept 5 Bob Morris  
Sept 8 Cheryl Pittman  
Sept 8 Jacqueline Donges  
Sept 9 Carolyn Stearns  
Sept 10 Barbara Lashbrook  
Sept 13 Shirley Stephens  
Sept 17 Lilian Graham  
Sept 18 Vincent Annett  
Sept 22 Kathy Rudolph  
Sept 23 Dean Cunningham  
Sept 25 Patti Lau  
Sept 27 Nevaeh O'Dea  
Sept 28 Millie Fitzsimons  
Sept 29 Weston Goularte

## Happy Anniversary!

Robert and Jeannie Baker  
23 years on September 11

Doreen and Glenn Bass  
52 years on September 12

Ken and Deb Romberger  
41 years on September 12

Doug and Patti Lau  
53 years on September 13

Carol and Bob Rogers  
21 years on September 15

Gwen and David Harris  
42 years on September 29

Send your articles and Family News items for the October 2022 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by September 25 to Leslie at 209-532-6604 or [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com).



## From the Pastor Continued from Page 1

Taking all of this together, we can see that Jesus is commanding us to go, to get out of our comfortable spaces and into the world, and make disciples by baptizing them and teaching them. However, I'm not saying that this will be an easy task; getting about the work of discipleship is a lot of hard work and can be very challenging, discouraging, and frustrating, especially in the 21st century. But Jesus didn't leave us with simply a command in the 28th chapter of Matthew, He also left us with a promise to encourage us. In verse 20, Christ says that He will always be with us, even to the end of the age. If Christ is with us, no amount of frustration or discouragement can stand in our way! If we have the Messiah, the Savior of the world, with us and

on our side, there is no reason that we cannot boldly go out into our communities and tell them the wonderful news of our salvation; because we do not have to go out in our own strength or with our own boldness, but with the strength and boldness of the One who died so that we may live.

My prayer for each and everyone of us is that we will take these words from Jesus to heart; that we will be Christians who are not content to just show up and put in our hour every Sunday morning, but who live out our faith on a day-to-day basis and show our communities who Jesus is through how we act and interact with them. I pray that we will all be witnesses to the saving work of Jesus Christ, and that we make disciples of our friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. I pray that we, the Church of the 49ers, get about the business of the Great Commission and truly begin to make an even greater impact for the Kingdom right here in our community. The Great Commission is the last command that Jesus issued during His time on earth; that shows us how important it truly is. So, let's put aside all of our fear, our doubt, our worry, and let's get to work!

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

**Pastor Keith**

## Sermons and Scripture

**New Sermon Series beginning  
September 4:  
"Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians:  
Stand Firm in the Lord"**

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](mailto:ktreid84@gmail.com).

### September 4 Communion

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 1  
OT: 1 Chronicles 16:8-36

### September 11

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16  
OT: Proverbs 1:1-9

### September 18

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13  
OT: Joshua 1:1-9

### September 25

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12  
OT: Deuteronomy 30:11-20

## Welcome New Members!

Pastor Keith conducted an Inquirers' Class following worship on August 24th. Introductions were made, what it means to be a Christian and the ECO denomination (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) were explained, and a salad lunch was enjoyed. At the conclusion of the class, five people chose to join and were welcomed as covenant partners of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia.



**New covenant partners, left to right: Victoria Balaraman, Mark Hanney, Betty Egan, Nancy Schwarzmann, Rich Schwarzmann**



### Avalon Extension

When I spoke to the physical therapy director at Avalon about a good time to bring in your donations, she informed me that she had something special in mind. Instead of us just bringing them in, she wanted to set up a room with all of the donations laid out for the residents to come in and “shop.” I love the thought of this! She and I are working together to set this up, so we have a little more time until we bring the items to Avalon. So, this is to inform everyone that I am still accepting donations. We are in need of new or like-new items such as men’s and women’s tennis shoes with good rubber soles (any size,

velcro or slip-on if available), active-wear pants and t-shirts (smaller sizes). Tentatively, the date of the donation drop-off/resident “shopping” is set for September 10th at 9 am. If anyone would like to come with me and participate that day, please let me know.

### Teachers Meeting

For all current Sunday School volunteers including Pre-K, there will be a meeting held after church on Sunday, September 25th, at 11:30 am in Room CE2. This is just a meeting for us to get together and discuss what we are all doing in Sunday School to keep in touch with one another. If you are unable to attend, please let me know.

### Calling for Volunteers

The Children’s Ministry has seen growth recently! This past Sunday, we

had three toddlers in the Pre-K room and four older kids in CE2! Now, we don’t have that many every week, but it is becoming a more regular scenario. However, last week was a bit tricky because we only had one teacher in each room, with me as a floating helper between them. Ideally, we would have two teachers in each room. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering to lead/teach or assist once a month. Currently, our needs are mostly in the Pre-K room (CE1), but also the 4th Sunday of every month in the older kids’ Sunday School room (CE2). If you would like to sit in on a class before committing, we can arrange that too. Reach out to me or Suzanne with any questions.

**Karla Reid**  
**Director of Children’s Ministries**

## Friends in the Making!!



The kids are here—additional volunteers needed on Sundays!

**Suzanne Williamson**  
**Chair, Christian Education**

## ODD JOB Work Party!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee has scheduled another ODD JOB Work Party and seeking volunteers. Date and time is Monday morning, September 12, between 9 am and noon. Women and men are welcome to take on easy odd jobs on the church campus, both indoors and outdoors. Some ideas are:

- Organize and store Christmas decorations
- Clean round and rectangular plastic tables
- Check out/tighten loose screws on FH chairs
- Steam clean upholstered pew chairs
- Prep concrete block wall and curbs for paint
- Prep interior of large sanctuary doors for paint
- Scrub walls of Office restrooms
- Wash windows...and more!

Contact Leslie at [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com) or 559-7723 if you plan to attend—especially if you want to arrive earlier (8 am?) to beat the heat.

# Allen Graham, Missionary

Thank you for being a part of my ministry with Reach Beyond. On August 22, I celebrated 30 years as a missionary! Praise God for His provision and protection in the different places he has led me to serve. It's a special blessing and privilege to walk together in this ministry with the Church of the 49ers family.



**My team posted this on social media to celebrate 30 years on the mission field.**

Thanks also for praying for the fundraisers we had at the stations in

Guayaquil and Quito. As I told you last month, donations to both ministries have been running below budget. Praise God for His provision through our incredible listeners! In Guayaquil we not only met but surpassed our goal by 26%. In Quito however, they raised 75% of their target amount. We continue to trust God for how He will use listener donations to sustain the stations in 2022 and beyond!

Thank you for your continued prayers regarding the follow-up on my exams for the melanoma. Last month I told you that I was waiting for a detailed analysis of tissue samples sent to the USA. The result came back as "failed," no further explanation given. So I had bloodwork done which has just come back. I meet with my oncologist on September 5 so that he can interpret the results and determine what future steps need to be taken. Please be praying for that.

I will be in California again mid-month to help KYCC, the Christian radio station in Stockton, with their annual fundraiser. They are partnering with Reach Beyond again this year. Please pray for this event: that God will be glorified with everything that is shared on-air, that the station can raise the funds needed for their ministry, and, most of all, that some listeners might come to know Jesus Christ as their savior or reconcile their relationship with God. I look forward to being in the worship service with you on September 18, before leaving for Stockton.

Last month we were praying for open doors in Ecuador and in the Mother Lode to share Jesus with the people around us. How did it go? Please let me know. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

**Allen**

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## Missions Committee

As you probably know, Nancy's Hope has set up a food pantry in the lower CE building. Judy and I had an opportunity to visit the site and talk with two of their volunteers. They asked that we convey to the congregation the wonderful blessing this has been to our community. In August, 300 people in need were served through their efforts. They also wanted to **thank all of you** for your kindness and generosity in making this possible. We thought it was important in this edition of the *Nugget* to provide a summary of most of the groups we have contributed to in our community, in our efforts to spread the love of the gospel and our church's missionary efforts. Your awareness of the groups we've helped in the local community is important.

Besides Nancy's Hope, our church has also provided assistance to Motherlode

Young Life, Discover Life Clinic, Columbia Elementary, Grandma's House, Vets Helping Vets, Adult and Teen Challenge, Give Someone a Chance, Special Olympics Tuolumne County, Monday Night Dinners, Meals on Wheels, Spiritual Roads, Community Recovery Fund, and Chapter 391 Vietnam Vets Emergency Fund. In addition to the many contributions the Deacons make, the Missions Committee has also provided support for the Foothill Pregnancy Center and the Grace Fund for Interfaith. While not right in Tuolumne County, we have also supported relief efforts following seven catastrophic fires in California.

On September 25, a representative from Adult and Teen Challenge will be addressing our congregation to talk more about their activity to address those who struggle with drug and

alcohol addiction. We encourage you to learn more about their efforts. They will join us after the service in Faith Hall and can answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your prayers, your financial gifts, and the work you do to further the gospel!

In next month's *Nugget*, we'll share more information on our giving as it pertains to the rest of the United States, globally, and the donations we've given to local families for their international missionary work.

Our next meeting will be September 20 at 2:00 pm in Faith Hall.

With gratitude and blessings,

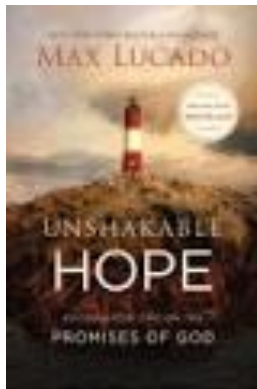
**Roger and Judy Houghton**  
Co-Chairs Missions Committee

## BOOK REVIEW

by Denella Kimura

### “Unshakable Hope: Building our Lives on the Promises of God”

by Max Lucado



In this book, Max Lucado has chosen 14 of his favorite promises, out of the 7,487 promises in the Bible, that are the foundation of our Christian faith and hope.

“God’s promises,” says Lucado, “are pine trees in the Rocky Mountains of Scripture: abundant, unbending, and perennial. . . . But all are binding, for not only is God a promise maker; God is a promise keeper.”

Max calls us the “People of the Promises,” who “ponder, proclaim and pray” through God’s promises in times of fear, when things go out of control, and when we see “dark clouds on the horizon.”

He quotes 2 Peter 1:4: “[God] has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.”

Max says that they are direction signs to guide us away from the “toxic swampland and into the clean air of heaven . . . like golden stones in the pathway to God’s world. . . strong boulders that form the bridge over

which we walk from our sin to salvation. . . the stitching in the spine of the Bible.”

The above quote is a great example of Lucado’s descriptive imagery, so vivid that we can understand the importance of the promises of God in our lives. Another wonderful way he brings home his message is through his breath-taking examples.

He visits the US National Debt Clock in New York City to illustrate how God sees the debt of sin we owe and can never repay; and to illustrate how Jesus took that debt on himself on the cross, and now “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,” a promise from Romans 8:1 NIV.

Max Lucado, on a recent trip to Office-Max with his wife Denalyn, embarrassed her when he teased a checkout clerk that his name was Max, so he must own the store, and therefore he could give her the day off. The clerk’s answer was priceless! The point being, “If you have taken on the name of Christ, you have clout with the most powerful being in the universe. When you speak, God listens . . . [and] heaven takes note.” Then he quotes Matthew 18:19 from The Message: “Where two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action.”

Lucado uses the examples of Bernie Madoff who “made off” with billions of

dollars of other people’s money and was reduced to living in a prison cell for the rest of his life; and Nebuchadnezzar who boasted in his rooftop garden [one of the Seven Wonders of the World] how great he was, until God gave him seven years of bestial insanity. These examples and a wonderful story about an arrogant man, illustrate the promise from I Peter 5:5 (NKJV): “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Lucado says, “God resists the proud because the proud resist God.” And another quote in the book: “God gives grace to the humble because the humble are hungry for grace.”

Finally, Max quotes Hebrews 12:28, “Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, we can have hope that won’t be shaken. God will reclaim creation. He is a God of renewal, redemption, regeneration, resurrection. God loves to redo and restore.” The promise? “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” I Corinthians 15:54 (NIV).

Unshakable Hope needs to be read and mulled over like a series of devotionals, especially if you study the questions at the end of the book. It’s a fun read with laugh out loud stories. In the end, Max encourages readers to keep reading the scriptures until you find your own life promises that you can pray through every day and keep on, as the song says, “Standing on the Promises.”

Denella Kimura

### SILENT SPLENDOR

In the midnight hour  
When the old day Fades.  
And a new one dawns  
I see the silent splendor  
In God’s majestic hands.

Copyright Michelle R Kidwell  
November.06.2004

Rock in Road presents the 38<sup>th</sup> annual **Fiddle & Bango Contest** (yes, Bango) on Saturday, September 24, at the gazebo in Columbia State Historic Park. Competition begins at 10:30 am and goes all day, except for a lunch break. Bring lawn chairs and hats/sunscreen and enjoy the music. FREE.

Musicians of all ages are encouraged to compete for prizes: a golden nugget and cash prizes. Contestant signups begin 9:00 am (\$15 for adults/free for age 18 and under). Categories are Fiddle, Banjo, Mandolin, Guitar, Vocal, Miscellaneous.

Questions: Contact Leslie at [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com) or 559-7723.

# Church Oral Interviews

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

This is the 2nd of a 2-part article.

It is my presumption we realize the importance of oral history interviews as a feature of the Church of the 49ers' public service: our mission is to extend to others the rich heritage of our church since its pioneer days. The early days were an exciting time for the Presbyterians—their lore, legends and localism. In this conclusion of an earlier Oral History article in the Golden Nugget, I have selected excerpts from a few carefully edited interviews of church pastors and elders as they comment about the Church of the 49ers in California's historic Mother Lode.

## JANET RUSSELL

Janet's early years were in Richland, Washington near the Columbia River. She graduated from Reed College in Oregon expecting to become a research chemist.

However, (after 8 years as a chemist), her stirring soul sounds



led her to a distant Protestant Seminary in Virginia. In 1991, she was ordained a Presbyterian pastor; she served in Virginia and later California. Rev. Russell was pastor of the Church of the 49ers from 2009 until 2019. She and husband Rob Clark are retired at their home in San Jose near family members.

**INTERVIEW January 22, 2020:** "You guys are doing great! Keep at it. You have to do everything differently and

you have to work specifically at reaching out to younger people because younger people are not raised in church. They don't have an interest in the church...not many churches are willing to just scrap everything they have done [in the past] and go with... completely contemporary everything...well, our church is growing. Our church actually is doing quite a good job just like it is.... Nearly every year of my ten years, we did grow. Again, for a rural church that is unusual."

## DEAN CUNNINGHAM

Dean was raised in Nebraska, near Omaha. After graduate school, he be-



came a high school and college mathematics instructor in Fortuna, California. Later he was president of Columbia College from

1979 until 1998. At the college, Dr. Cunningham considered his most successful public services were the establishment of the Sonora Area Foundation and Hospice of Tuolumne County. Dean just completed a three-year stint as Elder of the Church of the 49ers.

**INTERVIEW October 9, 2019:** Dean was asked, "What does a president of a small college do?" "Well, you have to be kind of a master of a lot of things....I think more than that, you have to be involved in the community." (He was a member of seven influential community boards in Sonora and a frequent club speaker about the college.) "When I came to Columbia...the local paper... [wrote] that I was a member of the Hospice of Humboldt [County]. I had more calls about Hospice than I did about the college....about four or five [individuals] started the Hospice program and I was president of the board.

(Dr. Cunningham was the first president of the multi-million dollar Sonora Area Foundation.) He reflected, "I probably have improved the life of this community more with Hospice and the Foundation than I did at the college."

## ROYCE RICKMAN

Royce, wife Marge and family lived at their horse ranch near the Columbia Airport. Royce was a commercial pilot and also flew missionaries to their assignments in Mexico. Marge was the church's organist. The entire family participated with various youth groups and church committees.

**INTERVIEW December 8, 2017:** On the 125th anniversary of the church during early 1979, Jackson Street was "closed" for a special church celebration. Along the street came the Rickman Family in an historic buckboard light carriage following exciting visits with tourists in historic Columbia. Royce held the reins of *Show Gal* while a smiling Marge displayed her affection for HORSE and HUSBAND. In a recorded interview, Royce said, "That horse never had anything on her except a saddle until two weeks ahead of [the church's anniversary celebration].... She was a very gentle mare—Marge's riding Appaloosa." (After the celebration, *Show Gal* was stabled at the church. I noticed someone thoughtfully provided her with some special oat fodder as a treat after her buckboard carriage adventure in Columbia.)



**Continued on Page 9  
See "Oral Interviews"**



# Oral Interviews

Continued from Page 8

## BILL MEISSNER

Bill and Pat Meissner moved from southern California to northern California in the late 1970s where Bill attended graduate school. In 1990 they purchased and managed the 49er Recreational Vehicles Ranch in Columbia. In the Sierra foothills, they felt they were a "little closer to heaven." The Meissners were friends of Vern and Elsie Butterfield. Among Vern's various church activities was the construction of the "Jesus Box." This transcribed interview features that popular display.

**INTERVIEW May 31, 2016:** Vern Butterfield was a gifted graphic artist working with various commercial enterprises. He designed, built and sold two houses in Tuolumne County. He was a "man of many, many talents....he didn't know what he couldn't do....he was an artist, he was a stone mason, he was a writer, he was a storyteller and [he was a] poet." Vern designed and built a statue of Jesus in front of the sanctuary. The kids and public described it as "the church in Columbia where Jesus is in a box"....



Vern Butterfield  
1987

replaced rotten wood, repainted — and it continues to attract tourists visiting Columbia.)

Vern didn't like that. He explained, "The box was to keep the display protected during inclement weather."

(Recently, the Jesus display was improved by Tony Pokorny who cleaned,

## M. HALSTED GATES

"Hally," Wanda and their family were missionaries in China during the 1940s. After returning to California, he became pastor of the Church of the 49ers in 1968, serving until 1975. This recorded interview was at his assisted living residence near San Diego.



**INTERVIEW October 24, 1994:** At the conclusion, Hally was asked if he had a message for his life-long friends in Columbia. After an enthusiastic "YES," he said, "I can think of dear, dear friends of mine. And I shall never cease to wonder....love the children...and watch them grow. Love one another. It is so important....And love your pastor. He is human and he needs affection and outreach and support, prayerful loving support, or every member in the congregation....Don't be the judge of your pastor, you are his flock. He is the shepherd, he is trying his best to follow the Good Shepherd....The relationship between a minister and his flock, his congregation, is the most wonderful gift God ever gave to Christians." (Hally's inspirational words continue to linger in my mind after almost thirty years.)

49er Friends, parenthetically when I preview a recorded interview for public use, I am encouraged to note that almost all of our church recordings are evidence of a successful oral history program.

As I conclude this article, I am reminded of the last sentences in Will and Areal Durants' classic, THE LESSONS OF HISTORY: "If a man is fortunate he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he

can of his civilized heritage and transmit it to his children. And to his final breath he will be grateful for this inexhaustible legacy, knowing that it is our NOURISHING MOTHER and our lasting life." (Thank you, Creator!)

Dick Dyer, Church Historian

## Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

A big thank you to all those who attended the showing of *Ends of the Earth* provided by Mission Aviation Fellowship this last Tuesday evening. Your support goes a long way to helping MAF reach out to the indigenous peoples of many nations who seek the Gospel in their lives. And a big thank you to the Mission Committee for their support.

If you are interested in supporting MAF through a direct deposit to MAF through our Missions Committee, it will be available very soon. Donations can be made monthly or one-time, and checks work too. You will see all your MAF gifts on the tax statements sent out by the church. The ongoing monthly direct deposits help greatly in MAF's outreach to all nations through the ends of the earth. Gifts in support of individual missionary families are also greatly appreciated.

And if you know of someone or you yourself are interested in being a volunteer for MAF, please contact me. We especially need teachers, technical disciplines such as IT, mechanics, and business administrators. If you want more information on MAF, visit our website at [www.MAF.org](http://www.MAF.org)



Jon Whited  
Mission Aviation Fellowship Advocate

# September 2022 Calendar

## Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

Sept 1, 11:00 am: Women's Lunch at Cocina Michoacana  
Sept 5: Labor Day. Office is closed.  
Sept 6, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3  
Sept 8, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall  
Sept 10, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost  
Sept 11, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 3  
Sept 12, 9 to noon: Odd Job Work Party  
Sept 13, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3  
Sept 14, 10:30 am: Buildings & Grounds in CE Room 3  
Sept 15, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall  
Sept 17, 1:30 pm: Elvy Peterson Memorial

Sept 18, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH  
Sept 18, 1 to 4 pm: "Just Dance!" In Faith Hall  
Sept 20, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3  
Sept 20, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office  
Sept 20, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in Faith Hall  
Sept 20, 5:30 pm: Bible Study of Isaiah in FH, w/ dinner  
Sept 22, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall  
Sept 25, 11:30 am: Christian Ed meeting in CE 2  
Sept 27, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3  
Sept 27, 5:30 pm: Bible Study of Isaiah in FH, w/ dinner  
Sept 28, 2:00 pm: Session in CE Room 3  
Sept 29, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall



First Presbyterian Church  
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## TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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**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!