

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Word from the Pastor



For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:21

October 2022

“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”

Proverbs 6:6-8 (NIV)

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.” **Luke 14:28-32 (NIV)**

October has arrived; and with its arrival, it starts to feel like fall has also officially arrived even though it has been technically fall for a little while now. I personally love the fall...leaves changing colors, temperatures getting cooler, I get to break out my awesome sweater collection, and I get to do two of my favorite things: watch football and drink pumpkin spice lattes! October is such a fun time of the year; and that includes here at the Church of the

49ers as October marks the beginning of our annual Stewardship Campaign!

Now, I know we just had a whole sermon series on giving in August, and my August newsletter article was all about stewardship, so I don’t want to beat you over the head with that topic. Instead, I want to talk to you all about planning.

In the passage from Proverbs, Solomon points us to the lowly ant as an example. He says that the ant has no commander, overseer, or ruler who is watching over it and telling it what to do; yet, it still understands that it needs to work during the harvest, and save up during the summer, so that it will have food during the lean times when there is no food available. The point of this passage is to encourage us to plan ahead, to work diligently, and prepare ourselves for what is coming down the road. God doesn’t want us to go through life unprepared for what’s coming, but to always plan and prepare so that we will be prosperous and be able to fully enjoy, and make good use of, the blessings He bestows upon us.

In the passage from Luke, Jesus is teaching specifically about considering

the cost of discipleship before you take up your cross and follow Him. He says that a person would not begin to build a tower without first sitting down and making a budget for how much the construction would cost. Nor would a king foolishly go to war with another king without making certain he had the means and the men to achieve victory. The point Jesus is making is that, before we undertake something (specifically, before we commit to being His disciples), we need to first plan and prepare to make certain we are able to complete the task and complete it well. And, this is certainly applicable not only to being faithful disciples, but to all of life, as well; we shouldn’t do anything without first counting the cost, planning, and preparing.

And these Old, and New, Testament teachings on planning apply directly to the life of the church and to our annual Stewardship Campaign, as well. One of the major purposes of our Stewardship Campaign is that it is our way, as a church, to help our covenant partners faithfully put in place a plan for how they want to give back to God and to the church in the coming year. But, the other major purpose is so that our Finance Committee, and our Session, will have a baseline figure to use as a guide as they budget our money for 2023.

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

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/
(Under)			
Tithes/Giving			
Bequest			
Other Receipts			
Total Income			
Expense			

Numbers not available at Press Time.
Contact the office for information.

Mortgage Balance as of August 31: \$
Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment: \$
Addtl. Principal paid through August 31: \$

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 September 28th Session meeting include:

- As a result of the Inquirers' Class in September, the church has gained seven new covenant partners.
- The Deacons have scheduled a Saturday retreat on October 15 to work on strategies on how to better serve the congregation members, and to get to know one another better.
- So that Sunday School teachers and nursery workers don't miss being served Communion each month, the worship schedule for the first Sunday each month has been changed: Communion will now be served at the beginning of the service, before the children are dismissed for Sunday School. We will also return to singing the Doxology following Communion.
- The Elders voted to approve a resolution required by the bank to add new check signers.
- The Elders voted to approve the 2022 Stewardship Letter as written by Pastor Keith Reid, and also worked to finalize the Pledge Card to be included with the letter.
- The Elders voted to approve Pastor Keith Reid's request to take vacation October 23 through October 29.
- Funds left over from the Helen Johnson Community Dinner program have been transferred to the Community Engagement Fund.
- Roger and Judy Haughton, under the auspices of the Missions Committee, are organizing a project to remodel the double rooms downstairs in the Christian Education building being used by the Nancy's Hope Food Pantry. \$5,000 is being donated and the Elders voted to approve matching that amount from church funds. Remodeling will consist of upgrading the electrical capacity, painting and installing new flooring.
- Session approved the Buildings & Grounds Committee's request to hang a framed paraphrase of the 2 Corinthians 13:11 scripture inside the men's restroom in Faith Hall.

Leslie Davis, Co-Clerk of Session

49er Family News

Congratulations!



Welcome new members!
Colleen and Robert Finnegan

On September 25, the prestigious Irving J. Symons Award was presented to **Judy and Roger Haughton**, members and elders of our church, who have given both time and money to numerous projects and efforts in Tuolumne County. It was noted that in addition to supporting healthcare, arts, and cultural events, they have been very instrumental in expanding the local Habitat for Humanity program.



The Irving J. Symons Award is annually given to a person or couple who displays exemplary service to the community and makes it a better place to live.



All women are invited to meet Thursday, **October 6**, 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!

Line Dancing

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

Sing-Along

Saturday, October 29,
3:00 pm in Faith Hall.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

Canceled this month.

The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be Saturday, November 5, at 8:00 am at Papa's New Roost. Call Pastor Lee Warford at 925-470-9953.

Sonora Bach Festival Concerts this month!

Youth Concert with youth guest artist Brian Yu — Sunday, October 9, 3:00 pm in our sanctuary. Tickets available for \$10, online at sonorabach.org or at the door.

Locals' Concert — Saturday, October 15, 3:00 pm in our sanctuary. Tickets available for \$15, online at sonorabach.org or at the door.

Bach's Brunch — Sunday, October 30, 12:30 pm at Mt. Calvary Church, Sugar Pine. Catered by Chef Dave Ingram. Tickets online only \$35 pre-sale, \$45 after October 26.

October Birthdays

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

- Oct 3 Teresia Wilson
- Oct 4 Deb Handy
- Oct 7 Jim Lashbrook
- Oct 10 Nancy Whipkey
- Oct 15 Brian Annett
- Oct 16 June Perea
- Oct 17 Dana Avila
- Oct 19 Pat Lincoln
- Oct 23 Ella Reid
- Oct 26 Evie Harris-Fitzsimons
- Oct 26 Kim Mayer
- Oct 27 Valerie McCale
- Oct 27 Sandy Brooks
- Oct 31 Sonja Harris

Happy Anniversary!

Ric and Deb Johnson
26 years on October 19

John Aguilar and Sandy Brooks
22 years on October 27



From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

For us to be able to effectively undertake the missions and ministries of this church each year, we must sit down and account for how much it will all cost and how much money has been pledged to us in order to make it all happen. By accounting the cost for next year and approximately how much we can expect through tithes and offerings, we are much more equipped to strategically plan for the year to be as effective in our ministry as possible without putting the church in

a bad place financially. It is through the planning and preparation of the Stewardship Campaign that we are able to ensure that we are utilizing God’s blessings in the best, and most effective way.

So, with these thoughts in mind, I want to refresh your memory on how our annual Stewardship Campaign works: Within the next couple of weeks, each of our covenant partners will be receiving a letter directly from me regarding stewardship with a pledge card to be filled out with how much money you feel that you will be able to give to the Church of the 49ers next year. You will then be given several weeks to prayerfully consider it before you fill out and return the card by Stewardship Sunday, which will be November 13. During these weeks of the Campaign, you will be able to mail the card in, drop it off at the office, or place it in the offering box. Also during these weeks, I will be talking about the Stewardship Campaign each Sunday during the announcements, and I will be asking different elders to give short talks about how your funds are being used to support their ministry area.

As I say every year in my Stewardship *Golden Nugget* article, I know that talking about money can often be awkward and uncomfortable; and I don’t want to make anyone in our church feel that way. So, my goal during this time is to gently stress to everyone the importance of being good stewards and filling out your pledge cards without being overbearing or condemning about it. And, as always, I want this entire Campaign, this whole process, to be as painless, open, and transparent as possible; so I want you all to know that my door is always open...you can drop by and visit or give me a call if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding the Campaign. I will also be making certain that the expected operating budget for 2023 is printed in the bulletin, and readily available for all covenant partners to see, so you will know the goal that we are trying to reach through the Campaign.

I pray that each one of us takes, with the utmost seriousness, this awesome responsibility to give back to God what He has blessed us with; but also to take this responsibility with joy in our hearts as we contribute to God’s work in our church and our community. Solomon encourages us to plan and Jesus teaches us to plan; so let’s work together to plan for a successful and rewarding 2023 at the Church of the 49ers!

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

Pastor Keith

Sermons and Scripture

**New Sermon Series which began 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.

October 2 Communion

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
OT: Ezekiel 18:20-32

October 9

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
OT: Daniel 12

October 16

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
OT: Psalm 37:27-40

October 23

Sermon: 2 Thessalonians 1
OT: 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

October 30

Sermon: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
OT: Daniel 11:36-45

Send your articles and Family News items for the November 2022 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by October 25 to Leslie at 209-532-6604 or davisgold@gmail.com.



Childcare now provided during Tuesday Night Bible Study

Some of you may have noticed over the past several weeks the Children's Ministry Team has a new member, Charlee Pullen. She has been hired as a childcare assistant for Sunday mornings in the preschool room. The kids love her! We have now offered her the opportunity to help with childcare on Tuesday evenings while the co-ed adult Bible study takes place; and she accepted!



As a reminder, our Isaiah Bible study begins with dinner at 5:30 (provided by the church), study starts at 6 pm. Childcare available from 5:50 to end of study (about 7 pm).

Avalon Donation Update

First, I want to thank everyone who donated items to the Children's Ministry Avalon Donation event. On Saturday, September 10th, the donations were delivered to Avalon Care Center by Vi Morgado, Suzanne Williamson and Karla Reid. Alyssa Stead, the Director of Physical Therapy, was there to accept the donations. She thanked the church for their donations as well. It was a rewarding experience for all involved. The children made inspiring

cards for the residents to take with them for their rooms. This was especially appreciated by a few of the residents. The donated items were set up by style and size for the residents to come in and "shop." Many residents found multiple items they wanted. Some picked necessities like undergarments, socks and shoes. Others chose comforting items like blankets and fuzzy socks and pjs. Each person who came through left with something and they were all so grateful! Many of the residents said we "made their day." What an encouragement to continue to find ways to serve our community!

Karla Reid
Director of Children's Ministries



Avalon residents enjoying their donations.



Tuesday Night Bible Study

Pastor Keith's co-ed adult Bible study on Tuesday evenings features 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.

Notes: This weekly study of Isaiah began September 20, but you're welcome to jump in anytime. Childcare is available. There is no class on October 25.

Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family. It was so good to be with you a few weeks ago to celebrate my 30th anniversary on the mission field. Thanks for the hugs and greetings. Thanks also for your generous gift to the ministry.

Right after being with you on September 18, I went to Stockton to help Christian radio station KYCC with their major fundraiser, which they call the *Fall Celebration*. As I told you last month, they are partnering with several of Reach Beyond's global projects. Thank you for praying. God answered! The listener response was very good, although a bit slower than last year. It was a blessing to hear how the station has been used by God to touch so many lives in its 47-year history. According to the station manager, I now have a standing invitation to come back every year until Jesus returns!

In Ecuador, we will start planning for our annual sharathon which this year will be held in mid-November. In fact, November will be a very, very busy

month as we will also have an Open House on Saturday, November 12 to celebrate the station's 50th anniversary! When the station started on November 1, 1972, we were the second broadcaster to use the FM band. Today, there are more than 48 stations on the band in the City of Guayaquil! Listeners have a lot of choices from which to choose. Praise God for each listener who gives us the privilege to be with them day after day. Pray that the events in November will also be an opportunity for some listeners to give their lives to Christ.

As I mentioned last month, I was to meet with my oncologist on September 5 to review the results of the bloodwork. Since the MRI of the brain was clean, the PET scan also came back clean, and the bloodwork didn't show signs of anything, he doesn't believe any treatment is necessary for the moment. Thanks for your prayers and thank you, Jesus! I will meet with my doctor every two months for a visual check-up to make sure nothing is



Allen speaking from our pulpit in September

happening to my skin and will do x-rays every 6-months and a PET scan once a year to keep an eye on things. He believes that the lymph node that was positive after the lymphadenectomy has probably grown for two years when I had the first diagnosis. It wasn't spotted then and thankfully didn't metastasize.

Thank you for praying faithfully and for your financial gifts. What a privilege to serve together with you!

Allen

Missions Committee

At the September meeting, the committee reviewed our annual list of priorities. One of them being Nancy's Hope, which currently uses two of our rooms in the Christian Ed building. Currently, they are providing food for about 300 people a month. The room needs new flooring, shelves, paint, and an electrical upgrade as well as the removal of some unnecessary items. Roger and Judy have volunteered to personally take on this task. As part of our mission outreach, it was also suggested that our committee support some of the specific projects that Nancy's Hope is planning, such as layette sets for new moms or suitable clothes for those looking for employment.

Jeff and Anny Fouche sent a newsletter updating us on their plans to be in Haiti in December. They are currently finishing up their language classes and final training before embarking on the missionary work. Anyone wishing to contribute to Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) can do it directly through MAF or through our church. As an MAF Advocate, Jon Whited can provide more details if you're interested.

The committee voted to send donations to the El Dorado Community Fund and the Placer Community Fund specifically for the relief efforts due to the destruction from the Mosquito Fire. The money will be used for gift cards for grocery stores and gasoline. We

also donated to Adult and Teen Challenge, which is a faith-based group addressing addiction recovery. Because of your generosity and the grace of God, we have provided \$9,750.00 in donations to causes locally, nationally, and internationally so far this year.

At the October 23rd church service, Roger and Judy will briefly share what the Missions Committee is all about, how we choose where our support goes and what our future plans are. Our next meeting will be October 18 at 2:00 in Faith Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend.

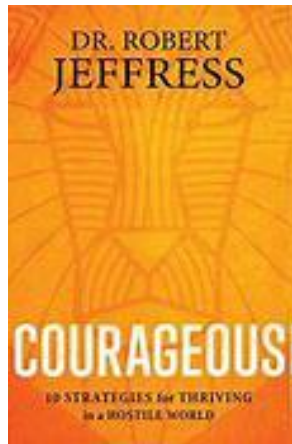
**Judy and Roger Haughton,
Co-chairs Missions Committee**

BOOK REVIEW

By Denella Kimura

“Courageous: 10 Strategies for Thriving in a Hostile World”

By Dr. Robert Jeffress



Dr. Robert Jeffress’ book, “Courageous: 10 Strategies for Thriving in a Hostile World,” (Baker Books, 2020) brings survival techniques to Christians who need courage in a world that at the time was facing the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a scriptural based manual on how to prepare for and practice facing the dangers of our troubled times, even today.

His first bit of advice, when in dire situations, is to not panic, or stay cool and keep your wits about you. Says Jeffress, “Whenever our circumstances tempt us to panic, we can draw courage from God’s promises and God’s Word. But God has one more assurance for us: His Presence.” As God promised Joshua, “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

One of his most practical suggestions is to be aware of your situation at times of distress. Jeffress quotes from I Chronicles 12:32, “Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times with knowledge of what Israel should do....”

Both geographical and spiritual awareness will give us perspective on current events and discernment as to how we could or should respond.

Situational awareness requires wisdom and a proper attitude; have a

healthy respect of God’s power and a reverence for God’s holiness; in other words, Fear the Lord. A lifetime pursuit of wisdom also requires listening to those who are wise (check out Solomon’s wisdom in the Book of Proverbs) and applying what you learn.

Dr. Jeffress gives the Apollo 13 crisis as an example of taking inventory of the useful tools God has given us. Assessing Apollo’s stuff, the support team found a way of connecting a square tube into a round hole to save the lives of the flight crew.

So, aside from our thorough knowledge of the Bible, we also need to take an account of our spiritual armor. Jeffress compares the armor to that of a Roman soldier and gives amazing new insights into how it protects us spiritually.

Scripture tells us that God won’t give us more than we can handle. That means He has already prepared us for the challenges we will face. We’re not exempt

from difficulties, even persecutions. We need to practice righteousness or “right living” and hide God’s word in our hearts.

He gives four unique ways to help hide God’s words in our hearts so that we “might not sin against Him:”

- Read the verse(s) out loud.
- Write out the verse(s) word for word and put them around where you can see them daily.
- Underline difficult or key words and phrases. If you use a black board or white board, eliminate one hard word at a time and repeat the verse again until you’re eliminating all hard words.
- Draw a picture depicting the verse(s).

Other words of advice include:

- Don’t take your victory lap at the top of the mountain. Wait until you’ve reached the bottom. Going down is the hardest part, i.e., Beware of Pride/ Seek Humility.
- Learn from the experiences of others.
- Help others: Trust God to guide you in ways you can best help, or whether the “opportunity” is right for you. You can’t do everything. Avoid over commitment.

God brought us here for a purpose, and we need to know that he put us here, as he did with Esther, “for such a time as this.”

Denella Kimura

LIBRARY NOTICE:

You may find Robert Jeffress’ book, “Courageous: 10 Strategies for Thriving in a Hostile World” in our Church of the 49ers library, along with other reviewed books by this writer.

Denella Kimura

Food Pantry Seeking Donations

Nancy’s Hope has been operating a food pantry on our church campus since May 2022 and they are now serving approximately 300 people per month. The pantry is located in the double room downstairs in the back of our Christian

Education building, accessible from the lower parking lot behind Faith Hall. The food pantry is open to all every Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 1 pm.

Deacon Michelle Kidwell, who volunteers in the food

pantry, reports they are in need of unexpired non-perishable foods. Donations of any type of canned or dry goods would be greatly appreciated! You can deliver to Faith Hall, but label your package “for food pantry.”

Rev. Crichton

By Dick Dyer

On a summer day in 1969, my family and I moved from southern California to Sonora when I joined the Columbia College faculty. As Presbyterians, we were warmly invited by Pastor “Hally” Gates to attend the Presbyterian Church of the 49ers in historic Columbia. His predecessor was The Reverend George W. Crichton. I never met Pastor Crichton; he died in 1968 at the age of 57. However, my family and I enjoyed the hospitality of Pastor George’s charming wife, Marthalena. I recall at a church family retreat Marthalena and I had an inspiring conversation while walking along a rural country trail. We reminisced about church, family and the beauty of the Sierra foothills. As a newcomer in the historic Columbia Presbyterian Church, I did not feel comfortable chatting about her recently deceased husband, Pastor George. Some of his engaging personality did become apparent after I became the Church of the 49ers’ historian.

During those early years, the Church History Committee relocated its extensive archives from the Sadie Nicholls Room to the sanctuary basement and soon thereafter to recently constructed Faith Hall. I had an opportunity to organize most of the historic memorabilia including the unique Crichton SCRAPBOOK — his personal records of church proceedings.



Rev. George Crichton

For this *Golden Nugget* article it is my objective to suggest a few of Pastor George W. Crichton’s personal and spiritual characteristics. I must admit, this has been a challenge since I did not know him. His seldom seen SCRAPBOOK has been a revelation. However, it reads like a “grocery list” about pastors, people and places — somewhat of a “hodge-podge” of reminiscences and clippings during Pastor George’s ten years at the Church of the 49ers. Considerable personal information was included in the spiral-bound notebook on worn lined pages in an almost microscopic handwriting.

Careful examination required substantial speculation as to his message for this present generation. Additionally, in the venerable SCRAPBOOK Pastor George, an acknowledged sportsman, even included personal details—his NEW RIFLE. He was an avid hunter always looking for a prize BIG BUCK during his various outings in California. His admired rifle was a Remington .308. It included a V-7 scope and a mount, each adding to his marksmanship and its value—\$209.95 (total). It served the pastor for many hunting seasons.

George W. Crichton was born in Eureka, California in 1911. After graduating from Humboldt State College, he

entered San Rafael Seminary graduating as an ordained Presbyterian pastor in 1946. Initially, young Crichton was employed in Visalia as a teacher-administrator at public schools and several churches. He was called to the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia on September 11, 1958. His salary of \$4,500 included a manse and modest car allowance. He served for almost ten years assisting in a growth of the rural church. With two Sabbath services the average attendance was more than 300 worshipers from 1958 until 1968. At the time his wife, Marthalena, was actively participating in various youth programs and worship activities. Her father, The Reverend Emile Schwab, was a retired Presbyterian missionary who had served Native American tribes for more than forty years. In Columbia he declared himself the “Admirable Crichton” handyman. (The water fountain with a plaque in front of the sanctuary honors Rev. Schwab’s service.) During those formative years, the two clergymen designed a large artistic map for landscaping the church grounds. (Their interesting sketch is now in the church archives.)

Unfortunately, church sermons were not recorded some sixty years ago; also very few pastors provided written sermons for the archives. Parishioners did report that Pastor George was enthusiastic—especially from the pulpit with his spiritual messages and interesting stories. The local newspaper reporters did describe church activities: holidays, sermons and human interest events. The Presbyterian Church has always been a community institution promoting Christian unity throughout the historic Mother Lode. The sanctuary has been a popular location for weddings as well as funerals. Interesting socials included annual banquets, Ice Cream festivals, special [church] anniversary celebrations and other exciting events for adults and children.

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

Rev. Crichton

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Pastor George was frequently invited by community leaders to provide opening and concluding remarks for various local groups. The *Crichton Charm* was welcomed in church and community. In October 1966 the local Republican Party sponsored a breakfast at the Sonora Inn featuring Nancy Reagan, wife of the recently elected California governor; Rev. Crichton provided a few words of welcome. Indeed, it was a time of Good News in the Golden State. On occasion there were opportunities for the Crichtons to visit family and friends, and also for Pastor George to resume his search for that BIG BUCK.

It is important to note The Reverend George Crichton was a "key figure" in the development of the Calvin Crest Conference Center and Campground near Yosemite National Park. Annually Columbia's church members and youngsters looked forward to outings at the Presbyterian camp: worship, adventures, happy campers.

The enterprising pastors managed volunteers as they sought to maintain the 100-year-old church—His Church for His People. The Crichton SCRAPBOOK included a floor plan rearranging pews to accommodate at least 250 parishioners in the sanctuary. To some, the most unique addition was the installation of stained glass windows presenting "The Seven Last Words of Christ"—dedicated in October 1962. After a few design modifications the windows have become a hallmark of the church, attracting tourists, photographers, researchers, as well as members who continue to enjoy the beautiful historic sanctuary. The displays are enhanced by the "Crichton Cross" window behind the pulpit especially as the Sabbath sun illuminates the cross.

Around the church campus the pastors' landscape map served in the location of plants, lawns and the original slate walk-

ways. Regular maintenance of the sanctuary required new paint, siding, carpet and a narthex—and endless concern. At Jackson Street a frequently photographed information sign was erected by church volunteers and Forest Service craftsmen. Both pastors, Crichton and Schwab, supervised the various church projects with volunteers as they maintained the campus.

Do you remember the covered wagon in front of the sanctuary? It was not the stately Conestoga Wagon but a compact Prairie Schooner. Originally it was constructed for travel about early California on roadless byways with a family and their possessions. The "box" was about four by ten feet with a waterproof canvas cover. Usually four horses or mules pulled the wagon. Eventually the church's time-worn vehicle became a hazardous challenge for exploring youngsters. One day a church elder told me, "We suddenly just disappeared it!"

I do not have a conclusion for the Crichton Story. However, we are comforted to know George and Marthalena Crichton still maintain a loving interest in the memorable church, but from the Columbia Pioneer Cemetery. They are side by side with a granite headstone: George, 1968 and Marthalena, 2001. May they continue to REST IN PEACE.

**Dick Dyer,
Church
Historian**

**Crichton Cross
Window**



Pastor George Crichton and Ruth Grant standing in front of the old covered wagon in 1966

Interfaith News

Our new liaison from the Church of the 49ers to Interfaith Community Social Services is Deacon Deb Handy. Interfaith's facility at 18500 Striker Court, off Tuolumne Road in Sonora, is open weekdays 10 am to 1 pm year-round (except on holidays). Tuolumne County residents needing assistance are invited to come in once per month for free food, clothing, toiletries, household items, even legal services.

This month, donations of warm clothes are especially welcome (but not coats). Also, blankets, sheets and towels (all sizes), and umbrellas and rain hats; and personal items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, lotions, deodorant, shampoos, soap. Note Interfaith accepts donations Tuesday through Friday 10 am to 12 pm, or bring them to church and Deb will deliver to Interfaith for you. Deb's number is (209) 768-2067.

During the fall and winter months, Interfaith clients can also pick up free firewood to heat their homes. If you need firewood, register now at Interfaith before it's too late. Or, if you have any wood to donate, contact Interfaith at (209) 532-0905.

Deb Handy, Interfaith Liaison

October 2022 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

- Oct 2, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 3
- Oct 4, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
- Oct 4, 5:30 pm: Bible Study in Faith Hall, w/ dinner
- Oct 6, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- Oct 6, 11:00 am: Women's Lunch at Be Wok Sushi
- Oct 11, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
- Oct 11, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
- Oct 11, 5:30 pm: Bible Study of Isaiah in FH, w/ dinner
- Oct 12, 10:30 am: Buildings & Grounds in CE Room 3
- Oct 13, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

- Oct 15, 10 am to 2 pm: Deacon Retreat in Faith Hall
- Oct 16, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH
- Oct 16, 1-4 pm: Just Dance! In Faith Hall
- Oct 18, 11:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
- Oct 18, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in Faith Hall
- Oct 18, 5:30 pm: Bible Study in Faith Hall, w/ dinner
- Oct 20, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- Oct 25, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
- Oct 27, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- Oct 29, 3:00 pm: Sing-Along in Faith Hall
- Date for October Session Meeting is to be determined**
- Nov 6, 11:30 am: Fellowship Committee in CE Rm 3
- Nov 6, 2:00 am: Daylight Saving Time ends. Go back 1 hour



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!