

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

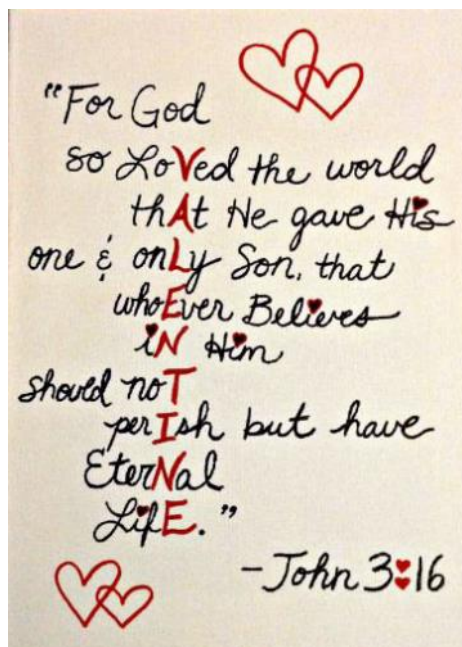
Word from the Pastor

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.' Acts 11:18

"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent." Revelation 3:19

When we think about the month of February, the first thing that generally comes to mind is Valentine's Day and our nation's corporate celebration of love. Therefore, as I began thinking about my *Nugget* article for this month, my mind inevitably turned toward the topic of God's love for us. And, thinking about God's love for us led me into thinking, as I often do about many topics, about how too many Christians today get this idea so wrong. We have too many Christians in the 21st century who believe, and who tell others, that God loves us just the way we are. So, I wanted to take a few minutes with you this month and think about this statement, "God loves you just the way you are," and whether or not it sends the wrong message.



First, I think that we can all agree that the first part of that statement is without a doubt true; if we stop at "God loves you," there is no doubt that it is an absolutely, unequivocally true statement. The proof of God's love is all over Scripture, including in the most well-known passage in the entire Bible, John 3:16. In this passage, Jesus clearly states that God loves the world, He loves what He has created, especially mankind whom He made in His image. So, when we tell someone that God loves them, we are absolutely correct; and this is important for people to hear... everyone should have the opportunity to know and to hear that the God of the universe loves them.

So, the issue with the statement "God loves you just the way you are" is not the declaration that God loves you. The issue with this statement is in the

February 2023

second half..., "just the way you are." Here, we encounter a problem because the implication in the statement that God loves you "just the way you are" is that God doesn't require a person to make any changes or do anything different to receive salvation. But the Bible, in verses such as Acts 11:18 quoted above, tells us that if we want to be saved, if we want eternal life, we must first repent; it is repentance that leads to life. The Greek word that is translated as "repentance" is "metanoia" which literally means "to change the mind." So, the Biblical idea of repentance is simply more than showing regret and contrition and saying "sorry," the Biblical idea of repentance is a person changing their mind; that is, completely rearranging your entire way of thinking, feeling, and acting to be in line with the commands and will of God. So, if it is repentance that leads to life, and repentance involves a complete rearrangement of your life, does it make sense to tell someone God loves them just the way they are? Or does it make sense to tell them God loves you, God wants you to be a part of His Kingdom, but you have to repent of your sinful ways and fully turn to Him?

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See "Pastor"**

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 Officers

ELDERS/Assignments

Gwen Harris: Welcome & Evangelism Committee
Judy Haughton: Missions Committee
Roger Haughton: Missions Committee
Judy Nason: Worship Committee
Sharon Poff: Personnel Committee, B&G Committee
Jon Whited: Finance Committee
Suzanne Williamson: Christian Ed 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 January 25th Session meeting include:

- The annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 5, 2023 immediately following worship.
- With the recent resignations of Diane Brandt and Leslie Davis, Co-Clerks of Session, a search for a new Clerk of Session is on-going. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Reid.
- Committee Mission Statements must be completed by the March Session meeting.
- All-Church Campus Clean Up, in preparation for Palm Sunday, is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 9 am to noon.
- April 23rd has been designated for a Committee/Ministry Fair, which will be set up in Faith Hall.
- Session agreed to increase fees for facility rentals to better align with actual costs.
- Finance Committee is moving forward on plans to add cost-effective solar panels to the Faith Hall roof.
- The Welcome & Evangelism Committee is looking for new members. Greeters are needed.
- The February 22nd Ash Wednesday service will be held at noon.
- The next Session meeting is scheduled for March 22 at 2 pm.

Sheri Pendleton, Clerk of Session Pro Tem



Seeking Clerk of Session

Responsibilities:

- ♦ Attend stated monthly Session meetings (4th Wednesdays at 2:00 pm) and occasional called Session meetings for the purpose of taking minutes.
- ♦ Manage the church roll (list of covenant partners).
- ♦ Submit annual report to the ECO denomination (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians).

Contact Pastor Keith if interested.

Send your articles and Family News items for the March 2023 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by February 26 to Leslie at 209-532-6604 or davisgold@gmail.com.

49er Family News

Grieving

Member Carol Rogers is grieving the death of her husband, **Bob Rogers**, who died January 9 at the age of 88.

Thank You

A thank you card came to the Deacons from Elvy Peterson's daughter, Annette, in October and Margie Fooshee was asked to share it in the *Golden Nugget*. Margie put it in a "safe" place and she recently discovered it. Here it is.

On the front of the card: *A lifetime is too short and our warmest words too few to thank those whose thoughtfulness brightens our days and touches our hearts.*

And on the inside: *Hope you know how warmly you're thought of, and how very much you're appreciated for all you do.*

Annette wrote a special message to the Deacons:

Dear Deacons, You made my Mother's memorial extra special with all your help and hard work of decorating and serving. My family and I were blessed and my Mother's memory honored. I know Elvy was smiling in heaven from the details and delights you took care of. Love, Annette

Isaiah Bible Study

Pastor Keith's co-ed adult Bible study of the Old Testament book of Isaiah continues on Tuesday evenings. 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 are welcome to jump in anytime. Childcare is available.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship will gather for a no-host breakfast on **Saturday, February 11, at 8:00 am at Papa's New Roost.**

Call Pastor Lee Warford at 925-470-9953 for more information.

Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study on Genesis will resume on Tuesday, February 7, at 2 pm in CE Room 3. All women are welcome to jump in for a short review. We are still near the beginning of the book. Contact Judy Nason for more information.



All women are invited to meet Thursday, **February 9**, at 11:00 am for a no-host lunch at **Applebee's** in Sonora. Contact Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.

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

February Birthdays

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

Feb 6 Hailey Reid
Feb 8 Dick Dyer
Feb 8 Rosie McCarthy
Feb 14 Bobbie Bryson
Feb 15 Michele Annett
Feb 17 Jenny Kerr
Feb 26 Taylor Annett

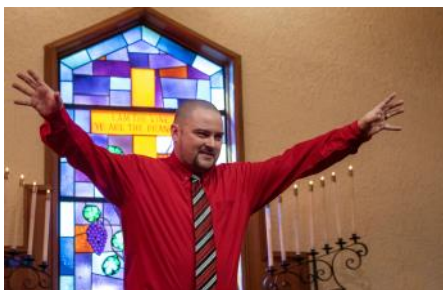
Happy Anniversary!

Dick and Pirkko Dyer
66 years on February 15

Jim and Barbara Lashbrook
29 years on January 26

Line Dancing

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



From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

The second proof of the problem with the phrase “God loves you just the way you are” is in conjunction with Revelation 3:19, which is also quoted above. This verse is part of the letter that John wrote to the church in Laodicea. Of the seven churches that John wrote to in Revelation, Laodicea was the only church for which He didn’t list any strengths. This shows us that Laodicea was a church that had completely gone off the rails; in fact, they were so far gone from what they were supposed to be that there was nothing that they could be commended for in their life or ministry. Essentially this church lost its battle against the lies of Satan; they were defeated. So Jesus, through John, explicitly stating that He loves the Laodicean church, proves the important point that God does, in fact, love everyone whether they are faithfully following Him or not. However, the caveat of that love is that it leads Him to discipline those who have gotten out of line; just as a parent disciplines their child to correct their behavior.

So, telling someone that God loves them “just the way they are,” contradicts verses such as Revelation 3:19, which tells us that God rebukes and disciplines those He loves; if God loved us “just the way we are,” there would be no need for a rebuke or discipline to correct our behaviors.

In fact, we can go so far as to say that, if God loves us “just the way we are,” there was no need for Jesus to suffer and die on our behalf. If God loved us with all of our sinful behaviors and actions, there would be no need for repentance and forgiveness, and if there was no need for repentance and forgiveness, there would have been no need for Jesus to suffer and die so we could repent and be forgiven. By telling people that God loves them “just the way they are,” we are short-changing the perfect and powerful work that Jesus accomplished on our behalf. It is precisely because God is not okay, and cannot be okay, with our sinful lifestyles, behaviors, and actions that the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus was necessary.

In closing, I want to say that I understand what people are trying to get across when they say that God loves you “just the way you are.” They are trying to tell people that, as Paul writes in Romans 5:8, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” And, this is true, God does love us while we are sinners, while we are separated from Him; that’s why He sent His Son, and that’s why He longs for everyone to come to a place of repentance and faith in His Son. So, I agree that God does, in fact, love us even when we are lost in sin because Scripture tells us that is true. But to say that God loves us “just the way we are” gives the implication that God is okay with our sin, that He doesn’t require us to make any changes because He already loves us the way that we are, sins and all. And, my friends, that is a dangerous message to send because it downplays the seriousness of sin and the importance of repentance. Instead, we should be telling people “God loves you, He wants what’s best for you, that’s why He sent Jesus to die for you; so, repent and turn

away from your sinful lifestyle and behaviors, place your faith in Jesus, and be saved.” THAT is a true message of God’s love that people need to hear during this season of love in February and, indeed, throughout the whole year.

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

Pastor Keith

Sermons and Scripture

Sermon Series: “Ecclesiastes: The Meaning of Life”

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.

February 5 Communion

NT: John 6:25-35

Sermon: Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

February 12

NT: Romans 8:18-30

Sermon: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

February 19

NT: Acts 17:22-34

Sermon: 3:16-22

February 26

NT: Luke 19:1-10

Sermon: Ecclesiastes 4:1-16



Movie "Night"

Movie "Night" was held on Saturday January 21st, *The Lion King* was shown in Faith Hall at 1 pm. We did not have as large of a turn out from the community as we hoped, (possibly due to the beautiful weather that day), but several of our own church members attended. Altogether, including volunteers, there were about 27 movie goers. When it came time to draw tickets in the raffle, the two winners were non-church members who came for the movie! This also happened with our last Movie Night event, God is working to encourage visitors to come back to the church.

I want to acknowledge the wonderful office staff at Columbia Elementary School for doing all they can to help promote these types of community events for us. When I went in to drop off flyers, they not only put them near the teachers' boxes, but also sent emails and shared it on their school website. I am very thankful for their assistance in advertising for the church.

I want to encourage church members to invite friends and family to our next event. I will have flyers available to hand out once details are arranged. Movie, time and date TBD.

Sunday School Hot Cocoa Day

Plan to bring in your children and grandchildren, neighbors, etc. on Sunday, February 19th, for hot cocoa! After our regular lesson, the children will be treated to a hot cocoa bar—a variety of toppings will be available such as marshmallows, peppermint, white chocolate chips, whipped cream, etc.

Karla Reid, Director of Children's Ministries

(209) 770-7554

karlaereid90@gmail.com



Millie, Mac and Travis

The 49ers by Dick Dyer, Church Historian

This article focuses on "Church, People and Sanctuary." We have been reminded that it is primarily a message of a Christian congregation. However, also it includes a description of our beautiful House of Worship. During Columbia's most productive gold mining years in the mid 1850s, devout miners arrived; they had been nurtured to respect The Ten Commandments—God's message to mankind. Joining the young men were missionaries who were to develop the first rustic churches in the American West, the "Promised Land." Because of frontier hardships and a competing "foreign element," the Americans composed their own popular Miners' Ten Commandments. Each began with "Thou Shalt Not" and was followed with an extensive list of things to avoid. To be more fully informed, we must examine the miners' goldrush narrative which was unlike the more refined God's Ten Commandments.

The following is my account of the miners' interesting last commandment: If thou have a family that thou love dearer than thy life, thou can say, I've had enough—God bless them—I will return. When thou returns to loved ones, together kneel before the Heavenly Faither and thank him for a safe return. (Parenthetically, I am doubtful that the Miners' Commandments were read from a pulpit.)

diggings. Among the earliest camp structures was the humble church with its clergyman, many having arrived with the original 49ers. The Methodist missionaries established the first church in Columbia at the historic community plaza. Eventually five churches were constructed as the thriving community grew. In May 1854 the camp became an incorporated city. Some of the miners became city officials. English travelers in the area believed a "new America was emerging at last, a civilization." Historian Edna Buckbee wrote, "The village of Columbia...is increasing so rapidly that it seems touched by a magic wand." She continued estimating a population of 17,000 in the mid 1850s. (Recent scholars consider her estimate an exaggeration.) However, the popular mining camp of perhaps 5,000 could boast an expanded water system for miners and residents and daily stage coach service; such progress meant modern telegraph communication and an active post office; also residents announced progress meant Columbia had the most outstanding brass band in California.



Brass band in Columbia circa 1880

After being encouraged by itinerant missionaries, churches were established in the gold-rush

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



Ash Wednesday Service—February 22—Noon

Editor's Note: *Curious about Ash Wednesday? Following is an excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 109-110)*

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ.

The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to

us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross. †

Allen Graham, Missionary

Dear Church of the 49ers family, hello once again from Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Wow! What a month it's been in January! Has it been the same for you? Please let me know how God was able to use you and your family last month. My email is agraham@reachbeyond.org

About 3.5 hours south of Guayaquil, where I live, is the town of Machala, capital of the El Oro Province. Radio HCJB2 operates a repeater station for this province, which is about 25% of our total audience. We had not visited Machala since 2019 and knew it was time to go again. On January 21, our entire on-air team did a 3-hour remote broadcast and one of the station pastors gave a conference titled, "Restoring the Family." We were excited to have over 200 listening friends come by to greet us during our visit. We thank God for the opportunity to hear firsthand how He is using the station to touch the lives of our listeners. We took lots of pictures, handed out station memorabilia, and gave and received a lot of hugs.

Provincial and municipal elections were held on February 5, 2023. A few days before, HCJB2 hosted an on-air Day of Prayer to encourage our listeners to pray for their decision for whom to vote as well as remind them of their need to pray for the elected authorities. We also asked our audience to share their prayer requests. Praise God that we heard from over 500 people during the 8-hour period. We are thankful for the confidence that our listeners give us and for the opportunity to pray for them. We invited pastors from different churches in our coverage area to participate with us. Thank God for allowing us to serve our audience this way.

You may have seen the news reports about an airplane that crashed in Pokhara, Nepal on January 15. There were three evangelical pastors among those who perished in the crash; one of whom was Anil Shahi. In October 2015, while serving in Reach Beyond's Asia Pacific Region, I had the privilege of working alongside Anil to install Pokhara's first Christian radio station, Apostle 102.6



The team at Apostle 102.6 FM on their first day on the air. Anil is on the left.

FM. Anil was a dynamic leader, committed to seeing his countrymen come to Christ. His enthusiasm was contagious. Please pray for his wife and two young sons as they heal from this loss, as well as the families of the other victims. Pray that the evangelical church in Pokhara will take up the banner left behind by Anil and be even more dedicated to seeing the Gospel spread throughout Nepal.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts to the ministry. May God use each one of us to take the Good News to those around us this month.

Allen

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

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our covenant partners, the Missions Committee was able to donate a total of \$17,215.00 to causes and needs locally, nationally and internationally. Throughout 2022, we provided funds for disaster relief, Nancy's Hope Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity Tuolumne County, Allen Graham, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Adult and Teen Challenge, Ukrainian aid, Interfaith "Grace Fund" and Save the Children. All of this in an effort to share the love of Jesus Christ and serve Him.

Nancy's Hope is in need of new or gently used coats for their clients. Michelle Kidwell will gladly collect these.

On February 4, between 10:00 am and noon, Habitat for Humanity will host an Open House at their development on Parrotts Ferry Road. You are welcome to stop by and tour the two new homes that are ready for occupancy. Rosie McCarthy has generously donated a quilt for each of the new families.

Our next meeting will be February 21 at 2:00 pm in Faith Hall. We will be reviewing our priorities for the year to determine where God is leading us this year. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you know of a group or organization that could use our help, we gladly accept suggestions.

Judy and Roger Haughton, Missions Co-Chairs

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world

Interfaith News

Interfaith Community Social Services at 18500 Striker Court, off Tuolumne Road in Sonora, is open weekdays 10 am to 1 pm year-round (except for holidays). Tuolumne County residents needing assistance are invited to come in once per month for free food, clothing, toiletries, household items, even legal services and showers.

Interfaith is especially seeking donations of sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, and toiletries including shampoo and conditioner, body wash (no bar soap), deodorant, tooth paste and tooth brushes.

Donations are accepted Tuesdays through Fridays 10 am to 12 pm, but it's best to call first at 209-532-0905. Or, you can bring them to church and Deb or Vi will deliver to Interfaith for you.

Purchase your See's Candy for Easter! As a fundraiser, Interfaith will have a See's Candy booth at the Tractor Supply Store in East Sonora beginning two weeks before Easter. They sell some sugar-free candy also.

Deb Handy, Interfaith Liaison

Lack Family in Concert Feb 26



"On Sunday, February 26, the Lack Family will once again be leading us in worship during our 10 am service and will then be performing a full concert at 1 pm in Faith Hall. A light lunch will be served in between. This was such a fun and uplifting experience last year, so please put it on your calendars to join us again this year. And invite your friends!" Pastor Keith

Nancy's Hope Food Pantry

Open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am to 1 pm. The food pantry is hosted by the Church of the 49ers and operated by Nancy's Hope with volunteers. It is located in the back corner room in the lower level of the church's Christian Education building—accessible from the lower parking lot.

Donations of new or gently used coats are sought for food pantry clients. Talk with Michelle Kidwell at church or just bring to the Food Pantry on a Tuesday or Thursday.

The 49ers

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It is not presumptuous for some to consider The Reverends Brodt and Hamilton as “founding fathers” of the Columbia Presbyterian Church. Although both served only a few years as pastors in the 1850s, the Church of God became a thriving and popular place of worship in the City of Gold. Their community leadership and spiritual messages established a standard for future generations.

Initially John Henry Brodt arrived in Columbia in 1854 after being recently ordained a Presbyterian minister in New York. In Columbia as a member of the Columbia Water Company, his comfortable salary enabled him to purchase a cozy cottage with a garden. For his wife, Ellen, it was her place of a quiet haven with beloved flowers and trees.

The community Presbyterians and Rev. Brodt raised funds to acquire the Methodist Church (South), establishing the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia on December 19, 1854. The Presbyterian Trustees installed Rev. John Brodt as the first church pastor. The church was soon to include the largest congregation in the gold-rush community. When Pastor Brodt preached some considered him “...the best Bible and Hymn reader...ever heard.” Other colleagues declared, “Mr. Brodt...had a good presence, fine looks, a bright eye and clear full voice, and so was a very pleasing preacher.”

Unfortunately, a serious case of bronchitis hindered his preaching and limited his service in California. He struggled for years with a persistent throat problem. Ellen said he succeeded in getting his colleague Rev. Hamilton—“a very fine young preacher”—to take his place in late 1855. After a few years, he and his family returned to New York hoping to continue his Presbyterian ministry. Ellen said, “His health, however, failed steadily, but he kept busy and cheerful in spite of it.” Nevertheless, “...he fell asleep—

September 8, 1875”—in Dansville, New York. He had become a very tired 48-year-old pastor.

Laurentine Hamilton became an ordained Presbyterian minister in 1853 after his seminary graduation in New York. Soon thereafter, The Rev. and Mrs. Isabella Hamilton traveled to Columbia for his first pastorate. He and his wife were a popular young couple in the historic camp. Later he reminisced that his apprenticeship was “...almost like a childhood experience, a dream with... memories of good people living at a special time in Old Tuolumne” during three and a half years.

Clementine Brainard, a Columbia resident, wrote in her diary in 1856, “Mr. Hamilton preached today...we like him very well...hope he will be a profitable preacher for this place.” In the camp, he became a friend of the young miners; he joined them at their foothill placer sites; ate their simple food; worshiped with them; and wept with them after community tragedies.

After relocating to an Oakland (California) congregation in 1864, (Hamilton) became active in organizing annual Tuolumne Reunion Association picnics in the 1860s. Thousands of friends and Old Tuolumne families were anxious to hear Rev. Hamilton, a frequent orator, reminisce about the Old Days. (There were at least ten reunions, most at Badger Park, Oakland).

In our archives, we have a copy of one of Rev. Hamilton’s popular orations. As an active hiker Rev. Hamilton was considered to be the first to ascend a nearby mountain, now named Mount Hamilton (near San Jose). At the Lick Observatory on that mountain is a handsome bust of the pioneer preacher and a memorable plaque.

In this examination of “Church,” we have included the Reverends Brodt and Hamilton and their spiritual association with their congregations. Indeed this is important; next we need to include the sanctuary which was designed and erected during the Rev. William Martin’s pastorate. (It was the predecessor of the present sanctuary.)

In mid March 1864, an excited group of church members witnessed the placement of a cornerstone for a new Presbyterian Church at Jackson and Gold Streets. The obsolete former Methodist Church had been removed from the site. The Presbyterian pastor, The Reverend William Martin, delivered a spiritual message at the ground-breaking ceremony. He described the plan for a new sanctuary. It was to be 52 feet in length and 40 feet in width. Also, it would include a large belfry with a staircase near the entrance. The sanctuary was to be of wood, boarded and battened and painted. The interior will be finished in lath and plaster to a height of 22 feet. A balcony and lower floor with moveable pews will comfortably accommodate about 400 worshippers. Pastor Martin related the estimated cost should be about \$3,000; almost all expenses have been promised by subscription and the sale of pews.



49er Church sanctuary erected 1864, lost to fire in 1950

The *Union Democrat* reported the Presbyterian “women are assisting in raising the money for the new church. They have exhibited great energy and commendable suggestions” for the essential interior facilities.

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

A Christian World View

By Denella Kimura

We used to call an optimist someone who sees the world through “rose-colored” glasses. This person has a bubbly personality, sees the good in people, the sun shining behind the clouds and the sky full of rainbows. The world view of this character is “sunny-side-up,” just like my grandmother. Very little dampened her spirits because she didn’t let the small stuff get to her. As the saying goes, because “it’s all small stuff.”

The opposite world view is also prevalent in our world. The grumps in our world see things from the bottom of the bucket. They’re morose, unhappy creatures who don’t know how to see the bottom looking up. They’re the ones that compassionate people, many who are Christians, heave a sigh as they walk by saying, “If only they knew Jesus, the giver of real joy.”

I once saw an interview of Goldie Hahn where the interviewer asked her why she was so bubbly and happy all the time. Her response was, “I choose to be joyful.”

Del Tachett, in his article, “What’s a Christian Worldview?” published on-line by *Focus on the Family* says, “Here is the

big problem. Nonbiblical world view ideas don’t just sit in a book somewhere waiting for people to examine them. They bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books and academia.”

When I began reading my poems at open poetry readings, my audience was mostly secular. We met in bookstore cafes, like Patrick’s Café in Fairfield, coffee shops like Sonora Joe’s in Sonora, bookstores like Barnes and Noble, the Panama Hotel in San Rafael, and the No Name Bar in Sausalito. So how does a Christian poet present Christianity to this kind of audience? I chose to present a Christian world view.

I wrote about an armadillo hunt that ended in an all night feast and a surprise visit to church the next morning. One poem was about three Irishmen looking for the Blarney Stone. Another about the American flags waving in the cemetery where my brother-in-law is buried. One rollicking story is of a newlywed couple who drove down Bear Tooth Mountain’s switch-back road on their honeymoon.

So, where’s the Christian world view in all this? Christians honor marriage; they go to church, even if it’s a surprise; they respect the flag and those in our family who’ve passed. And among these were three biblical poems, “The Tempest,” “The Leper,” and “The Rock.” In response to the frequency of teen suicides at the time, I wrote about Van Gogh’s

choices before he shot himself.

There were three well-researched poems on the Civil War, “The Gettysburg Trilogy” and “Manassas Friend,” where two generals and a president cried and prayed.

“Gettysburg Trilogy was written as a response to a statement by one of the audience, “All wars are civil.” Are they? There’s nothing ‘civil’ about them. Wars make generals cry and people die. Christians know what is true and are not afraid to stand up for it. The first time I read this trilogy at Patrick’s Café, there was a stunned silence, then a standing ovation. When Christians speak the truth, even those who disagree with us will honor it.

As most of you know, I present my work dramatically in order to capture the audience’s attention, whether it be in church, a book fair or other public event. If you’d like to read my first book, “Poetry Reading at the Panama Hotel,” or my latest book, “Waiting for Wings,” where I tell my personal testimony, you’ll find them in the Church of the 49ers library in Room 3 in the Christian Education building.

Ask for Michelle Kidman, our church librarian, to help you find them.

Denella Kimura

The 49ers

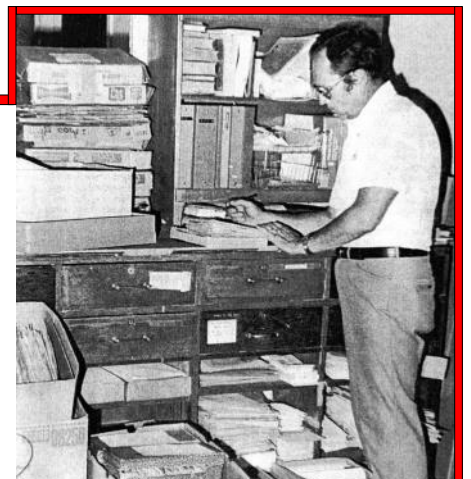
Continued from Page 8

The church organizers have planned “A Grand Soiree Musicale” for Columbians and friends. There has been considerable enthusiasm about the “new church” in the historic village. To many the boast was their little village will possess one of the finest churches in the Golden State.

The official dedication at the sanctuary was November 6, 1864.

Our Story of a gold-rush camp will live forever. As Columbia visitors walk along the historic boardwalk in a living community, church Old Timers should be anxious to invite them to experience fulfillment at the 49er Church where the *Days of Old, the Days of Gold, the Days of God* are there for one, for all.

Dick Dyer



Dick Dyer, long-time Church of the 49ers Historian, pictured in 1984. Thank you for your many many years of dedicated service!

February 2023 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

Feb 2, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
Feb 5, 11:00 am: Annual Congregational Meeting
Feb 7, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
Feb 7, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE3
Feb 7, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall
Feb 9, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
Feb 9, 11:00 am: Ladies Lunch Bunch at Applebee's
Feb 11, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost
Feb 12, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3

Feb 14 VALENTINES DAY

Feb 14, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
Feb 14, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
Feb 14, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE3
Feb 14, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall
Feb 16, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Feb 19, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH
Feb 19, 11:30 am: Welcome & Evangelism Cmte in CE3
Feb 19, 1 to 4 pm: Just Dance! in Faith Hall

Feb 20 PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY

Feb 21, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
Feb 21, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in Faith Hall
Feb 21, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE3
Feb 21, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall
Feb 22, 12 noon: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Feb 22, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3
Feb 23, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
Feb 26, 1:00 pm: Lack Family Concert in Faith Hall
Feb 28, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
Feb 28, 2:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE3
Feb 28, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall



First Presbyterian Church
11155 Jackson Street
Columbia, CA 95310

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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