

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## Words from the Pastor

Dear Church of the 49ers  
Friends and Family,

This month, I want to do something a little different with my article for the Nugget and take this opportunity to tell you about the new ministry structure that Session approved at our last meeting. Previously, both Session and I felt like we had too many committees that were stretched too thin. So, we wanted to come up with a way to streamline our operations a bit and make things a little more sustainable. The decision that was made, then, was to reorganize our committees in order to reduce the total number of committees and, in doing so, to become more effective in our mission and ministry. So, I want to use this space to introduce you to our committees.

In the past, our ministry areas (or committees) were as follows: Welcome & Evangelism, Worship, Fellowship, Christian Education, Missions, Buildings & Grounds, Special Projects, Finance, Personnel, and History. That's ten different ministry areas needing Elder oversight and volunteer participation; that's quite a lot! So, what we did was reorganize responsibilities so that the number of ministry areas has been reduced to seven while still meeting all of our ministry needs and obligations. Without further ado, let me introduce you to our new committees:

First, our Missions Committee has been combined with Evangelism to form the



newly-minted **Outreach Committee**. This committee will be led by our elder, **Gwen Harris**, in the coming year. The purpose of this committee is to focus on reaching outside the walls of our church to help those in need and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, they will be focused on helping locally, nationally, and internationally as well as connecting with our community in real and meaningful ways. If you have a heart for sharing the love of Jesus Christ with people who need Him, this committee is for you.

Second, our Fellowship Committee has been combined with Welcome to form the newly-minted **Church Life Committee**. This committee will be led by our elder, **Judy Nason**, in the coming year. The purpose of this committee is to foster a spirit of fellowship and friendship among everyone who attends our church. If the outreach committee is for outside our walls, the Church Life Committee is for inside our walls. This committee will organize the weekly fellowship time after worship, our bi-annual Inquirers' Class, and any other fun events/activities they can think up to strengthen our bond as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have a heart for helping strengthen relationships within the church, this committee is for you.

September 2023

Third, our Worship Committee has been combined with Christian Education to form the newly-minted **Spiritual Growth Committee**. This committee will be led by our elder, **Suzanne Williamson**, in the coming year. The purpose of this committee is to make certain that we are achieving our goal of fostering spiritual growth in our congregation through Sunday worship, Children's Church, and Bible studies. This committee will work very closely with our Director of Children's Ministries, Karla Reid, in making certain that program is running smoothly and successfully. They also will work closely with me in organizing Sunday morning worship. If you have a heart for fostering the spiritual growth of other believers, this committee is for you.

Fourth, Special Projects has been subsumed by our Buildings & Grounds Committee. The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will be led by our elder, **Betty Egan**, in the coming year. The purpose of this committee is to make certain our wonderful campus and facilities stay in tip-top condition through regular maintenance as well as repairing anything that may come up. With an older facility like ours, there is always plenty to do to make certain things continue to run smoothly. If you have a heart for this campus and either some technical knowledge or the willingness to learn, this committee is for you.

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

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

## GOLDEN NUGGET

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**Office Hours:**  
Tuesday through Friday  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

**Worship Services in Sanctuary:**  
Sundays at 10 am

## STAFF

Rev. Keith Reid, Pastor  
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.

## Session Highlights

Highlights of the August 23rd Session Meeting were not available at press time—will be included in the October Golden Nugget. The next meeting of the Session will be September 27 at 2pm in CE Room 3.

**Karla Reid and Doreen Bass, Co-Clerks of Session**

## Community Dinner Sept 4

Another month has passed and it's the first Monday of September already! The date is September 4th. Dinner is served at 6:00. The menu this month is lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert!

We would love to see more attendees from our church!! One of our goals is to meet and spend time visiting with guests . . . Making connections is a really important part of church outreach . . . And we need YOU to make this happen. Hope to see you on Monday night. The meal is free, though donations are accepted.

**Suzanne Williamson**

## 49er Chancel Handbell Choir

Handbell choir rehearsals will resume on Sunday, September 24, in the Lower Sanctuary 11:45 to 1:15. It is time to prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas!



If you want to be a ringer and can commit to regular practice on Sundays after church, please contact Doreen Bass, Head Ding-A-Ling.

Send your articles and Family News items for the October 2023 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by September 26 to Leslie at [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com) or call 209-559-7723.

### CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

August 1 through August 31, 2023  
(exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,530.08</b>	<b>\$29,865.00</b>	<b>\$7,811.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$20,014.32</b>	<b>\$20,012.45</b>	<b>(\$1.87)</b>

Mortgage Balance as of August 31: \$97,162.95  
Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment: \$1,560.77  
Addtl Principal paid through August 31: \$100.00

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

# 49er Family News

## Grieving

- ♦ Ed Sudduth and family and friends of **Kathy Sudduth**, who died August 8, 2023 at the age of 91. You are invited to a memorial service for Kathy in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 16, followed by a reception in Faith Hall.
- ♦ Family and friends of **Carolyn Rich**, who died August 13, 2023 at the age of 89.

**Pirkko and Dick Dyer** are proud to announce the birth of their fourth great-grandchild—Mark Richard Lertora was born August 23, 2023. Parents are Bob and Jenni Lertora, and big brother Anthony is 2-1/2. Grandparents are Kim and Tony Lertora.

The Dyers' grandson, Richie Lertora, completed a 100-mile endurance run in Bend, OR on August 27—on a grueling cross-county course in the Cascades. He was seventh in his age bracket with the time of 27 hours, 7 minutes! We are so proud!

**Cathy Crawford** already reported the five first place ribbons she won in July's Mother Lode Fair, and she recently discovered she also won the sweepstakes prize for her diorama with the fair's theme, "Coming On Hot, Show Us What You've Got!"



Cathy Crawford



## Parish Nursing

Valerie McCale and Ozell Gilmore, Parish Nurses, will provide free Blood Pressure Checks on Sunday, September 10, in Faith Hall following the worship service.

## Line Dancing

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

The first-Thursday monthly women's no-host luncheon will be at **Barrows** in Sonora on **Thursday, September 7, at 11:00 am**. Call Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.

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



## September Birthdays

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

Sept 4	Zollie Ward
Sept 5	Bob Morris
Sept 8	Cheryl Pittman
Sept 8	Jacqueline Donges
Sept 9	Carolyn Stearns
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!

9/11	Robert and Jeannie Baker
9/12/1970:	Doreen and Glenn Bass
9/12/1981:	Ken and Deb Romberger
9/13/1970:	Doug and Patti Lau
9/29/1980:	Gwen and David Harris



Our new **Just Older Youth** Club is for any "youngish" adults in their 20s-40s. The plan is to get together once a month, on the 3rd Monday, and enjoy a no-host dinner and fellowship together in order to foster our relationships with one another. Our first dinner will be Monday, September 18, at 6:30 pm at the El Arroyo Cantina in downtown Sonora. We hope to see you there.

**Pastor Keith**





## From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

Finally, Personnel, Finance, and History are all going to stay unchanged as they are very specialized committees. **Personnel** is led by our elder, **Sharon Poff**, and deals with all things related to our employees such as contracts, evaluations, and any other issues that may come up. Due to the sensitive nature of this committee, it is not an open committee and is intentionally kept small. However, if you are interested in being part of this committee, you can talk to Sharon and see if it would be a good fit. **History**, after a hiatus, has been re-established as an active committee and is led by our elder, **Tom Kimura**. The purpose of this committee is to retain, preserve, organize, and share anything and everything that is pertinent to the rich history of the Church of the 49ers. If you are passionate about history, especially local history, this committee is for you. **Finance** is led by our elder, and Treasurer, **Jon Whited**. The purpose of this committee is to oversee the financial health of the church through things such as regularly monitoring and managing our accounts, approving/denying contracts, and any other financial issues that may arise.



If you are good with accounting/numbers, or if you just have a heart for making certain we are being good stewards of our finances, talk to Jon about joining this committee.

As you can see, we have many areas we are focused on and we really feel that this restructuring will help us be successful in our mission and ministry. However, there is still one more ingredient that we need to truly be successful...YOU! If we are truly going to live out the Great Commission and be as effective as possible, we need all hands on deck. The work of the church is extensive and expansive. In fact, there's so much work to be done that it absolutely cannot be accomplished by only a few people; our Staff, Elders, and Deacons really need everyone's help. So, my encouragement to each one of you is to find just one of the above committees that really interests you and go and talk with the elder in charge of that committee about how you can join in and participate. By the grace of God, our little church in Columbia, California is growing and the only way that we can sustain that growth is if we continue to seek God's will and if everyone is willing to pitch in and help with the work that He has for us to do!

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

**Pastor Keith**

## Tuesday Night Bible Study

Our Tuesday Night Bible Study will resume its study of Isaiah on September 5 at 6:00 pm in Faith Hall. We will be picking up where we left off with Isaiah 28.

Dinner will not be provided this year, but we will have coffee, water and refreshments available.

Please join us for this exciting deep dive into the world of Isaiah!

**Pastor Keith**

## Sermons and Scripture

**Sermon Series:**  
**"Why We Believe What We Believe"**

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 3 Communion

NT: John 1:1-14  
Sermon: Genesis 1

**September 10**  
OT: Genesis 2:18-24; Exodus 20:12  
Sermon: Ephesians 5:21-6:4

**September 17**  
NT: Luke 1:13-15, 41; Galatians 1:14-16  
Sermon: Psalm 139:13-16

**September 24**  
OT: Leviticus 18:22-28; 20:13  
Sermon: Romans 1:24-28

# BOOK REVIEW

By Denella Kimura

## Don't Look Back

By Christine Caine

What was your disaster? Was it some past trauma? Physical or verbal abuse? Divorce? Loss of a loved one? COVID? Wars? Christine Caine's book, "Don't Look Back," brings some perspective about living in the wilderness of nightmares, and forgetting to move into God's purpose for the next era of our lives.

Jesus said in Luke 17:32, "Remember Lot's wife." Why? The context is a prophetic message about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple around 70 AD. He warned his listeners that when you flee for your life, don't go back to get anything from your house. Just run for it. Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.

Christine Caine's examples came from the A21 refugee women and children, fleeing Ukraine before the border with Poland closed. Her A21 organization has 19 outposts in 16 countries, who rescue people who are trafficked around the world. One was in Kiev.

Why did Lot's wife look back? She had prestige in the city of Sodom. She had a fabulous home. Her husband was a rich, political person who sat at the gate of the city. God had granted that Lot and his family could live in the little village of Zoar. But as Lot's family fled from Sodom, his wife saw where she would live in poverty and have to start over again from scratch. She longed for the fancy clothes, her mansion, prestige and friends, and she looked back.

"Don't Look Back" is all about getting stuck in the past: Reliving WW II like my

dad; Retelling the story of abuse as a child like Joyce Meyer; Hanging on to the stuff from my grandmother, my sister, my brother, and my mother-in-law after they passed. Their clutter still fills my closets and garage.

Caine mentions emotions where we might get stuck: "disappointment, unforgiveness, bitterness, offense, fear, guilt, anxiety, insecurity, indifference, apathy, comfort or complacency." Sometimes we keep going back over past issues and, like poking a snake, we keep getting "bitten," upset, worked up, depressed and lonely — no one wants to hear it after a while. We want to be light and salt to the world, not salt shakers frozen in time.

Christine refocuses us back to how Jesus handled the most painful part of his mission: "Jesus kept his focus on the joy that lay before him." Look ahead to find God's next joyous step in His plan for us.

Mourning is a season. Recovery takes time. But Caine says, "Mourning is not just reserved for when a person dies; it's for when



anything dies — a dream, a hope, a plan, a goal, a relationship, an expectation. It's for when anything changes that we weren't ready for."

She reassures us that "just because something has died, God's promises, plans, and purposes for my life have not . . . if we can separate the circumstances we're facing from God's overall purpose for our lives, then we can have the hope we need to keep moving forward." She says it depends on the circumstances of how long grief holds us.

A year after losing my dad, I went to our favorite restaurant, Sabella's in Marin County. I cried over the sesame seed French bread and filet of sole, and said, "Good bye." My grandmother had "memory keepers." These were objects around her living room that she'd touch, naming the person, and telling a story about them. Caine found that walking and appreciating God's creation restored her.

"Don't Look Back" by Christine Caine is a great encouraging book and a wonderful read. Great for a Bible study. She makes you want to tell your stories, emphasizing how your healing process may help someone else heal.

Denella Kimura



Mr. Grace, church cat, in April 2018 when he encountered a large "bird" on "his" front lawn. I'm pleased to report no one was hurt in this incident. This photo appeared in the *Union Democrat*.

## Allen Graham, Missionary

Dear Church of the 49ers family, thanks for the opportunity to share another update.

Thank you for praying for the special elections for president and assembly members on August 20. The election day itself and the time since then has been peaceful, praise God. However, there was increased violence prior to the elections. One tragic incident was the assassination of the candidate leading in the polls. Please continue to pray for stability in the country and for a marked improvement in the employment situation. The runoff election between the top two candidates will be held on October 15.

The paperwork is being processed for the purchase of our new ministry home. We are hoping it will be finished in the next few days and that by mid-September we can start planning the renovations that we will need to make for the broadcast and production studios. Thanks again for praying for this.

On August 21, I was part of a virtual training (via Zoom) for Radio Amistad

(Friendship) located in the Peruvian jungle town of Tarapoto. I participated with another colleague from Ecuador and a communications professor from Perú. There were over ten staff and volunteers from the station in the online class. One of the volunteers is from Guayaquil and her family listens to our station, so she was very excited to see someone from her hometown on the screen. We had a good discussion about the difference between radio programming for those who are already Christians versus content for seekers. Since the training, I've been listening to their programs to provide additional consulting and evaluation. The photo shows the Radio Amistad team watching us on the screen.



More training and consulting is on the calendar. I will be in Stockton, CA mid-September to help with KYCC's fall on-air fundraiser, and in October I will go to Abidjan, Ivory Coast to teach 5-days of training-for-trainers, then 2-days of teaching at the Africa by Radio Conference. I invite your prayers for my time of preparation, travel and teaching.

I know that I may sound like a broken record (for those who remember what those are!), but will you please keep praying for the funds still needed to buy the new console for our station. When I wrote last month, we had commitments for 92% of the total cost, but have not had any new donations since then. Thanks for praying for this.

What a privilege to walk and serve with you in the journey to take the name of Jesus Christ to the nations! Please have an incredible September!

**Allen**

## Interfaith News

Toothpaste, toothbrushes, large shampoos, bars of soap and mouthwash. Also needed are Full sheets, King, Queen and Full blankets. Shower needs are for white wash cloths. If you want to bring them to church, I will deliver any donations. The later requests do not have to be new, just clean with no tears. Also, if you have one or two days a month, we could use some volunteers to help. The work is not hard and you will get the needed training. Please let me know if you can help out in any way with these requests. My number is 209-532-4358. Leave a message if I don't happen to be home. Thanks ahead of time.

**Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison**

## Nancy's Hope Food Pantry



The food pantry is hosted by the Church of the 49ers and operated by Nancy's Hope with volunteers. It is located in the lower level of the Christian Education building and open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am to 2 pm, excluding holidays.

Michelle Kidwell reported that during the month of August, 227 individuals and 109 families were served. Donations of food and seasonal clothing are accepted, as well as toiletries—however they need to be brought on Sunday or on Thursdays between 10 am and 2 pm. Do not drop off any donations after hours, and please, no expired products or damaged clothing.

**Michelle Kidwell, Food Pantry Liaison**



## Finance News

The Semble 5-year loan review is upon us. It is the planned five-year review for our 10-year loan. This planned review period is to see how the church is doing and assure the individuals who provided funds that their money is safe.

One of the unique features of the Semble loan is that the families lending the money to the church are not known to the Finance Committee. All participation is confidential to Semble only. So, we would like to again thank all those families who have generously participated in the growing financial health of our church by their generous participation. It is hard to say thank you enough!

And there *are* several families that have generously lent funds to the church to help our church grow and be well maintained.

Previously I have written about all that was accomplished by the \$175,000 loan. We now have approximately \$90,000 remaining to be paid off on the loan. It is now estimated by our Finance Committee that the Semble loan will be paid off in the next three years. That will be an anticipated two-year early payoff.

To summarize, we have been stable, even in the difficult Covid time.

Our lease purchase for the new solar system is funded already with \$61,000 of the \$91,000 cost. The remainder of \$30,000 can be covered by an anticipated

\$27,000 funding by Covid Federal Grant funds. In short it is anticipated that all but \$3,000 of the solar cost will be covered at the present time. The solar savings should pay for its cost in less than three years, instead of paying our PG&E bills. The solar system will freeze our electricity rates at 2023 rates for the next 15 years. That savings projected will be over \$200,000 at a minimum. Multiple bids projected far more savings than the \$200,000.

We finally fixed the Faith Hall roof, by removing the leaking sky lights and the cost was covered by church members in full.

And we have about another \$25,000 held in reserve as community engagement funds directed to church growth. Those funds are being held as already designated funds.

Many families, friends of the church, and individuals have worked hard, donated, and gifted to make all our financial well-being happen.

The church *is* doing well financially, but the remaining Semble loan is still needed until all this very busy financial time is over.

If you have any questions, give me a call.

**Jon Whited, Finance Chair**

## It Begins the Moment We Trust

It begins the moment  
You open your heart  
And start trusting,  
Something obtainable  
And very real  
When you reach out  
And know the Savior is there.  
It begins  
With a simple prayer  
Accepting and trusting.

It begins the moment  
You open your heart  
And start trusting,  
Something obtainable  
And very real  
When you reach out  
And know the Savior is there.

It begins with a simple prayer  
Accepting and trusting  
This journey we call eternal life.

It begins not  
At the point of death,  
But at the point of our rebirth  
When his love  
Fills our heart  
To overflowing.

Copyright Michelle R Kidwell  
11/18/2012



Our Christian Education room, CE1, is used as our Sunday School room for newborns through 5 years old. The room has had more infant use lately, so we have added a safe, gated space for the smaller children to play during the older kids' lessons. What a blessing it is to have the need to expand our rooms!

The school-aged Sunday School kids, in CE2, are memorizing the books of the Bible through playing Bible Hopscotch. They have milestones they can work on at their own pace, and once everyone has memorized through Revelation, we

will have a Hot Cocoa Party! So, be sure your child doesn't miss a Sunday! Family Movie Night is planned for Saturday September 23rd, doors open at 5:30 p.m. Our featured movie is *The Prince of Egypt*. As always, the movie, concessions, and raffle are free!

**Karla Reid,**  
**Director of**  
**Children's**  
**Ministries**



The Sunday School children enjoyed a pool party after church on August 20 at the home of Ed and Debbie Clinite.

## From the Archives...

*While browsing the archival materials of our church that were so kindly scanned by Pat and Ron Federly in about 2016-2018, I found an interesting report on this congregation in the mid-20th century. Following are excerpted paragraphs taken from the lengthy report prepared by the Christian Education Committee and presented to a meeting of the Stockton Presbytery on September 12, 1970. These excerpts talk mostly about the young people of the church—in the period between 1950 and 1970.*

**Leslie Davis, History Committee**

Along with the willing and eager ministers, were a devoted congregation. A congregation that in 1950 was called to the test, and answered courageously. The original building—having just been completely restored after three long years of work—was destroyed by fire! A time of disillusionment? For some maybe! But with ideas from the now growing youth element of the church, the disastrous fire brought the congregation

closer together, and a new spirit of enthusiasm plunged them into the immense project of planning and rebuilding an entire new church.

Of all the many donations and fund-raising socials, the most unique idea for raising the needed money to rebuild came from the young people. As soon as the burning embers had cooled, the teenagers salvaged over 200 square-cut nails. These nails, having been driven into the building some 50 to 85 years before, were mailed along with an appeal for money, to people throughout the country. Each nail was attached to a special letter which contained a picture of the historic church both before and after the fire. The response was immediate and overwhelming. Financial benefits from this endeavor were a great help in getting the new church on its way!

Within four years of the fire, the new church—a replica of the original—was ready for dedication. A special ceremony took place in December of 1954, just 100 years from the date of organization.



After the 1950 fire, youngsters presented their savings to the church.

Some of what the old church had was lost in the fire: the old bell that had been brought round the Horn in 1854; a Bible which had been used for over 50 years; and too, the manse which had served as a residence for many ministers and their families. But one thing was not lost! In fact, it was even strengthened—that being the pioneering spirit of Christian love! That spirit just seems to be in the atmosphere. It's infectious, and whoever joins in the work of this congregation is susceptible to catching it.

**Continued on Page 9. See "1970"**



# 1970 Church Report

Continued from Page 8

Many years have gone by since that tragic fire. With the love and inspiration of Rev. Joseph Hillhouse; followed by the ten years of enthusiastically devoted service of Rev. George Crichton; and now through the guidance of our own Rev. Halsted Gates—the church has grown and changed, and is serving as a center of Christian witness to the community as well as to the many friends and visitors who seek solace in this quiet place of beauty.

Especially notable, with regard to church growth, is the fact that since Mr. Gates became pastor two years ago—the Session has added 99 new members to our rolls. Many of these members are active in various capacities, such as Sunday School teachers, choir members, Thrift Shop workers, and elders and deacons as well.

Each day brings new challenges to all of the church family: Perhaps it's the birth of a baby. Everyone will soon know by the red rose which is placed significantly on one corner of the pulpit. The rose is our way of welcoming a new baby. Along with the announcement rose, a small handmade doll is taken to the home as a gift from the church.

The services of our Cradle Roll Department started last November (1969). Each new child is followed through his first three years by means of home calls, and intermittent installments of a special packet on child spiritual guidance. At three years of age, the youngster is old enough to attend our youngest Sunday School class.

Up-to-date photographs of those children in the Cradle Roll are kept in a picture frame at the back of the sanctuary. In this way all church members can enjoy seeing the growth changes that each baby goes through.

There is always some activity being planned, or in progress, with the Sunday School. Just about everybody becomes involved in the annual Easter Egg Hunt for preschoolers, and the primary and intermediate grades. The fun of hunting colored eggs throughout the church grounds is combined with the "Chalk Talk" presentation of artist Mr. Homer Fey. Mr. Fey visualizes for the youngsters the true message Easter has to tell: When the day's events are over, the children are taking home new thoughts of a Christ that died for them—in addition to their usual thoughts of bunnies and baskets.

In the Spring, there is a Sunday School picnic for the entire family. A Rally Day Contest is held in the Fall, with prizes being given to those teams with the best attendance and most new guests; and then, of course, there is always a Christmas program too!

Summer isn't complete unless the church is ringing with the voices of approximately 100 children attending the daily Vacation Bible School. For one week, some thirty adult volunteers keep a very active group of boys and girls on-the-go with stories, songs, crafts, and Bible lessons. Started back in 1959 with 47 children, the number has now more than doubled.

In order to get this many children enthused and inspired to participate in the program, we sponsor a special Vacation Bible School Registration Parade. With improvised instruments of their own, the children meet at the church on the Saturday before the Bible School is to begin. Then all gaily march through the Main Street of old Columbia! We are highly successful in arousing everyone's attention, and in encouraging little folks all along the way to join in the fun.

The keynote of Jr. and Sr. High activities is fellowship! What greater horizons to explore than the mystery of themselves: the importance of their family and friends, and most especially of the

church in their lives. Special Fellowship Groups, one for each of the high school age levels, meet each Sunday evening throughout the school year for discussion, worship and companionship. The Jr. High Gang has been engrossed in studying a Christian Character course, plus games, handicrafts, and swimming; while the Sr. High Group has been studying the New Testament and topics which involve confrontation with today's life, plus projects involving the community.

Climaxing this year of study is the annual outing at Calvin Crest. A week in this beautiful mountain surrounding provides youngsters with spiritual renewal and fulfillment. Many years ago, with Mr. Crichton as leader, our church was instrumental in devising and advancing the Calvin Crest project. The importance of this camping experience is yet highlighted by the fact that the church pays one-half of the expenses for each young person attending. The always available, and ever helpful Women's Association and Mariners group assist substantially with this financing—a worthy endeavor for all the church to take part in!

There are a number of active study groups taught by various elders: including a Bible class for adults, a discussion group for young married couples and students from the new Columbia Junior College; and short, eight-week courses in Bible and Theology taught by the pastor, as well as church membership classes.

In closing, I wish to show you this white rose. It has a meaning as special as the red rose which announces a birth. For when one of our own has been called from our midst to the promises of a life beyond, time is taken to express one last honor, one special gesture of appreciation. A white rose is placed on the Sunday morning pulpit. It signifies a life well-lived, devoted in service to the Church of the 49ers, and now joined in rest with those ancestors who have gone before!

# September 2023 Calendar

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

Sept 2, 8:30 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost

Sept 4: LABOR DAY

Sept 4, 6:00 pm: Community Dinner in Faith Hall

Sept 5, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Sept 5, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Sept 7, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Sept 7, 11:00 am: Ladies Lunch Bunch at Barrow's

Sept 10, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3

Sept 12, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Sept 12, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Sept 14, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Sept 16, 11:00 am, Kathy Sudduth Memorial

Sept 17, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH

Sept 17, 1 to 4 pm: Just Dance! in Faith Hall

Sept 18, 6:30 pm: JOY Club - Dinner at El Arroyo Cantina

Sept 19, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Sept 19, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office

Sept 19, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Sept 21, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Sept 24, 11:30 am: History Committee in CE Room 3

Sept 24, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Sept 26, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Sept 26, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Sept 27, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3

Sept 28, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall



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!