

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Word from the Pastor

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

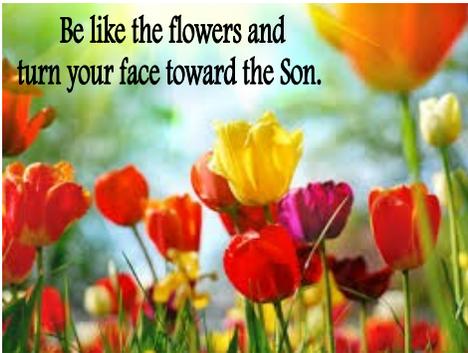
Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28 NIV

For my last Nugget article as your pastor, I wanted to take a moment to both say how much I have enjoyed shepherding the Church of the 49ers and give you a word of encouragement. I want you all to know how deeply grateful I am for the last five years of my life and my ministry. I've told many of you in person how I couldn't have asked for a better church to be my first call out of seminary. You all were very patient and understanding with me as I got my legs under me and figured out on the fly what it means to be a pastor and the work that it entails. It is because of you all that I feel equipped and prepared for the next challenge that God has in store for me in North Carolina. You will always hold a special place in my heart and I will remember our time and our ministry together with nothing by fondness.

We've accomplished a lot in the last five years. Yes, we've had our struggles and our difficult times, but we've had



Be like the flowers and
turn your face toward the Son.

many more joys and successes. To see the sanctuary practically full this past Easter Sunday was so wonderful; and to have so many kids that we are looking to expand our children's programs into more rooms is incredible. I've said it before and I'll say it again, the greatest thing a pastor can hope and pray for is that they leave a church in a better position than it was in when they arrived; and I truly believe that is the case with my time here. Not that the Church of the 49ers was in a bad place when I got here, but we have seen so much positive change and growth in our time together; and I am thrilled to see where it can, and will, go in the future.

And, that's precisely the theme of my word of encouragement to you: don't let the growth and momentum dwindle and die off; keep the fire burning, keep following God as He leads, keep striving to be a light for the Gospel in this community. A church is so much more than its pastor, it's so much more than its director of children's ministries; this is God's church and God has a plan for its future. So, trust in the fact that He is working in this transition and that He is going to bring the right person to be your next pastor to build on the foundation that we have laid together these last five years. I'm not saying that this

April 2024

transitional period won't involve some difficulty, some worry, maybe even some doubt and fear. But, my prayer for you is that, when those times come up in the days, weeks, and months ahead you will lean on God rather than on your own understanding; that you will have faith that He is working all things according to His plan for the good of the Church of the 49ers.

As for me, you all will never be far from my thoughts; you will never be far from my prayers. Even though I will be on the other side of the country, I will certainly be keeping up with how you all are doing out here in the mountains of California. I know that God has big plans in store for the future of this church, and I can't wait to hear all about the great things He is doing. So, please stay in touch. My email won't change; it's ktreid84@gmail.com. Also, our address will be 1694 Amberlight Circle, Salisbury, NC 28144, if you prefer to go old school and mail a card or letter. My family and I would love to hear from all of you and to maintain the friendships that have become so dear to us these last five years. God bless you all!

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

Pastor Keith

GOLDEN NUGGET

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

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

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

Worship Services in Sanctuary:
Sundays at 10 am

STAFF

Rev. Keith Reid, Pastor
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.



Highlights from the Deacon Meeting of March 21:

1. The Deacon Fund is available to help people in need: 1) church members, 2) non-members, 3) people in the community.
2. The Deacons reassigned the Communion duties Carol Kent had agreed to perform, so she doesn’t have to worry about them while she is recuperating.
3. Victoria Dinesh-Balaraman is coordinating the Home Communion visits. Several Deacons have now been trained while visiting three homebound parishioners.
4. Grief booklets are being sent to the families who have lost loved ones.
5. Denella Kimura provided blank cards for anyone wanting to send them to Care Lists.
6. Recent requests from Session during the Pastoral Transition will be discussed at our next meeting on Sunday, April 21.
 - Since Deacons are already in contact with those on their Care Lists, Deacons will respond to any Care Needs. Parishioner requests to the office will be forwarded to the appropriate Deacon for follow-up.
 - With the forming of the PNC, the Nominating Committee for Elders and Deacons has been placed on hold. Deacons completing their term of office in June have been asked to stay on till the end of the year or when the Nominating Committee will be re-convened. Since the Deacon Board is one Deacon short, Session voted authority for the Deacons to select a replacement.

Doreen Bass, Deacon Secretary

March 1 through March 31, 2024 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Total Income	\$29,643.00	\$29,316.00	(\$327.00)
Expense	\$25,453.18	\$27,964.94	\$2,511.76
Mortgage Balance as of March 31:			\$64,022.61
Minimum Required Mortgage Payment:			\$245.00
Additional Principal paid March 1 - 31:			\$100.00

Chancel Ringers

The 49er Chancel Ringers performed on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The English Handbell Choir serves the Lord in a music ministry to this congregation and our community in an atmosphere of joyful fellowship that encourages the growth of each ringer musically and spiritually. We will take a break for a few weeks, but we’re looking for additional ringers. Contact **Doreen Bass** (Director and Head Ding-a-ling) at 209-352-3096 for more information.



49er Family News

Pastor Keith Reid has found a new call — to become pastor of Franklin Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, North Carolina. Keith's final Sunday as our pastor is April 14. Since the Lack Family Band is putting on a concert in Faith Hall on the 14th, we will have a farewell reception in Faith Hall for Pastor Keith, Karla, Hailey, Ella and Travis on **April 7** immediately following worship.

Everyone is invited to a buffet lunch featuring sandwiches, salads and desserts.

We will be celebrating the Reid's past almost five years here at the Church of the 49ers and will have an open mic... Please plan to attend and send this special family off to North Carolina with love and prayers!



Keith and Karla Reid,
Hailey, Ella and Travis

Grieving: Family and friends of **Jean Peters**, who died April 5th at the age of 93.



Parish Nursing

Ozell Gilmore, Parish Nurse, will provide free **Blood Pressure Checks** on Sunday, **April 14**, in Faith Hall following the worship service.

The next first-Thursday monthly women's no-host luncheon is **May 2 at 11 am** at **Pizza Plus, 18251 Main Street, Jamestown**. Call Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.



April Birthdays

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

- April 2 Janet Russell
- April 4 Janet Atkinson
- April 5 Rose Shaffer
- April 7 Diane Brandt
- April 16 Marilyn Williams
- April 19 Lee Warford
- April 20 Mariza Engle-Borda
- April 20 Harriet Durnall
- April 21 Nora Neves
- April 22 Lynne Higgins

Happy Anniversary!

Jon Whited and Suzanne Williamson
11 years on April 13

Men's Breakfast

The no-host Men's Breakfast will be April 6 at 8:30 am at Papa's New Roost in East Sonora.

Line Dancing

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



Send your articles and Family News items for the May 2024 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by April 26 to Leslie at davisgold@gmail.com or call 209-559-7723.

Interfaith Community Social Services

In asking for needed items this month, I would like also to give you a little background about how and when Interfaith began. It was started in the early 1980s by St. Patrick's Catholic Church and in 1988 was located in downtown Sonora. There were several moves after that until 2000 when it was moved to its current location on Striker Court off of Tuolumne Road, next to the Standard ball field. Sixteen churches formed the Interfaith Community Social Services. Our church was one of the sixteen. The only criteria to be a client of Interfaith is that you have to be a resident of Tuolumne County and have a need for what we offer. Each month, I'll be adding more about what those are and how you can help us serve our clients. We are always needing some things each month such as household items, personal needs (toothpaste, brushes, etc.). Depending on the weather, other items are also in short supply. You can always check with me at church or by phone to ask what they are.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

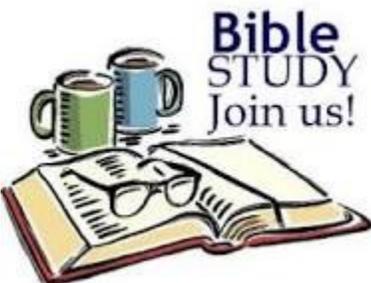
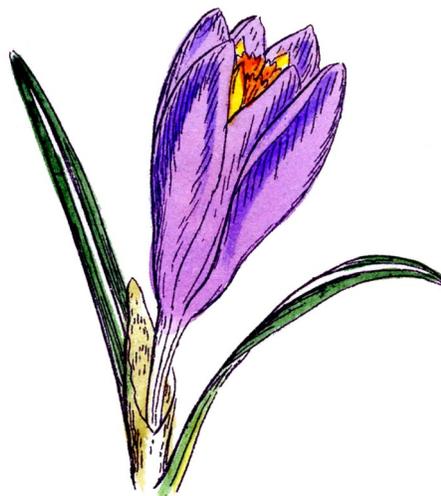
Nancy's Hope Food Pantry

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.

The pantry welcomes donations of canned goods as well as rice, beans, pasta and other dry goods. Please, don't drop them off after hours, and no expired products or damaged clothing.

We served 454 individuals and 192 families in March.

Michelle Kidwell, Food Pantry Liaison



Co-Ed Bible Study

Pastor Keith's final co-ed Bible Study in the book of *Isaiah* will be Tuesday, April 9, beginning at 6:00 pm in Faith Hall. Coffee, water and refreshments are available.

Women's Bible Study

Judy Nason teaches a Bible Study for women on Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. in Room 3 in the Christian Education building. The study is currently covering the book of *Numbers*. There will be no class on April 24 as Session meets that day.

Christian Education for the Children

The Spiritual Growth committee will meet on Sunday, April 28, in C E Room 3 at 11:30 to discuss who, where and when now that Karla Reid, our Sunday School Superintendent is not here!! If you are a current Sunday School Teacher OR are interested in working with the children one day a month, please come to this meeting.

**Suzanne Williamson,
Spiritual Growth Chair**

Pastor Hally Gates

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

On October 22, 1994, I flew to San Diego to visit my mother and interview the Rev. Halsted Gates, better known as Pastor Hally. Both lived at different locations in retirement cottages in the greater San Diego area. After making arrangements with Rev. Gates, we drove to his comfortable residence. He was still the gracious “Hally,” always pleased about the interview for the 49er Church’s oral history about “his story” of the Gates family activities during his California pastorates and retirement at his Spring Valley assisted-living facility. The interview was informative and personal as we recalled Old Tulumne during bygone years. I have included an edited version of the 70-minute recorded interview for the Golden Nugget.

In 1910 in Minnesota, the Gates family welcomed newborn Hally (Halsted), born on the 4th of July. As he grew, his early education was primarily in the public schools of St. Paul. Early he seemed to show interest in becoming a missionary. Eventually, he enrolled at the Dallas Theological Seminary in distant Texas. When he graduated in 1940, he was ordained by the Presbyterian Church. After his marriage, he and his wife, Wanda, were sent to British Hong Kong where he studied the Chinese language in preparation for a missionary calling in mainland China.

Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Gates and other Europeans living in rural Stanley, Hong Kong were confined in guarded camps. The facilities were deplorable; the Gates were not abused by their captors, but their food and necessary medicines were insufficient for the family.

And, who was Hally Gates? He replied, “I was a fundamentalist, a Biblical Presbyterian Fundamentalist.” In the Old Testament, he enjoyed quoting Psalms; in the New Testament, it was Acts, although he had a special admiration for Saint Paul. Nevertheless, he was to remain a life-long missionary at heart. In the recorded interview, Hally reflected about the heaven-bound Christian, “God asked, what did you do about the mission field?”



Pastor Hally and Wanda Gates

In 1955 after I graduated from La Verne College, I began my required service in the US Navy; I went aboard the SS Salisbury Sound (AV 13)—the flagship patrolling in the Far East. While visiting Hong Kong, I received “liberty time.” During a visit around Hong Kong, I and a young diplomat stationed in the British Crown Colony traveled to the sparsely populated part of the island where the Gates had been interned in 1941. Hally related after six months in 1942, “we were included in a ‘prisoner exchange’ by the combatants enabling us to return to the United States.” Parenthetically, during our visit around Stanley, I must have walked in the footprints of the Gates where they were

confined by the Japanese during the war. Wow!

In 1955 aboard our warship, I wrote in the ship’s newsletter. As travelers, “... we came to the colorful and modern village of Stanley. It was on this picturesque little peninsula on Christmas Day, 1941, where the last of the Colony’s defenders surrendered to the Japanese.” The POW camp remains as a grim reminder of those disorderly days. Today, a beautiful beach offers interesting views for artists and photographers.

During the post-war years, Hally accepted a position as pastor of the Modesto Presbyterian Church. After twelve eventful years in Modesto, he agreed to serve as “Stated Supply” in the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia. Soon thereafter, at a special congregational meeting (April 27, 1989), he was officially installed as pastor of the historic church. I recall that often we listened to Pastor Gates’ exciting sermon messages. Church admirers found comfort in his leadership and sermons. His commanding voice was of a harmonious quality; his dynamic Biblical readings inspired worshippers in the sanctuary.

It was especially moving to hear pastor say “Amen.” Not a soul stirred as he left the chancel, walked along the aisle and took ailing Wanda’s arm. They departed hand-in-hand from the sanctuary to the front entrance. Both greeted the departing worshippers; he with a hearty handshake and she with her “million dollar smile.”

**Continued on Page 6
See “Gates”**

Allen Graham, Missionary

Greetings from a very warm Guayaquil, Ecuador! The month of March set some new records for high temperatures.

How was your prayer time for the Muslim world in March? Remember, Ramadan doesn't end until April 8 and it's important to be in steadfast prayer during these final days.

Two colleagues came from Quito to help with the plans for remodeling our new home for the station. We were going to work with a local construction company, but the price will be prohibitive. Our team is excited for the actual remodeling to begin soon. Please pray for the needed funding for the work and for several items of equipment that need to be replaced, especially our backup generator. Please let me know if you would like to see pictures of the new building.

Last year we received special donations to replace our main broadcast console. Parts of our old one were more than 20 years old and the console itself was over 10 years old, so we were experiencing several problems. We installed our new fully digital "board" (the industry term) on March 9. We're still working out some of the details, but we're

99% done. There has been a lot to learn as the technology is different from anything we've used before.



I was scheduled to get a PET scan in January as part of the follow-up from the melanoma diagnosed and treated in July 2020 while I was still in Spain. For various reasons, the scan was delayed several times, but I was finally able to get it done in mid-March. Praise God that everything came out negative!

My coworker, Enrique, and I are preparing a 6-session online training that we'll do weekly starting in late May for colleagues from the Manantial FM network which has stations along the U.S. – Mexico border. We may also go to Tarapoto and Chazuta, Peru to do similar training later this year and are seeking the funds to do so. It's a special privilege to share our ministry with other Christian broadcasters in the region. Please be in prayer as we develop the training content.

Without exaggeration, we get hundreds of messages every day through social media from our listeners. We do our best to respond to each one of them, thanks to the help of our Donor Care team. Two weeks ago, a mother wrote and asked us to greet her 10-year-old son on the air for his birthday. She recorded a video of him listening as my coworker, Maribel, told all our audience about his birthday. What a privilege that God has given us to use special moments like these to share the love and hope that can only be found in His son, Jesus Christ.

Allen



Gates - Continued from Pg. 5

In 1968 I wrote to Pastor Gates about transferring my family's Presbyterian membership from our Pasadena church to Columbia. I had been accepted at Columbia College as their history professor. Hally's return letter was a warm "welcome aboard" note to the Dyer family in southern California.

On May 25, 1975 during pastor's retirement sermon, he said, "We have

a marvelous future... Don't be limited by the size of your sanctuary. Don't be limited by anything but the size of God's love and grace... And we have a missionary outreach in other parts of the world and a missionary's evangelistic responsibility right around our own area... And I pray we will be thoroughly prepared as we examine our hearts.... Let us pray. AMEN.

The Rev. Halsted Gates passed on following his beloved Wanda on June 24,

2001. As we reflect, it is apparent that Hally and Wanda, hand-in-hand moved onward to receive their HEAVENLY HONORS.

Dick Dyer



Rev. Halsted Gates

Columbia College Community Chorus Spring Concert April 27, 28

The Columbia College Community Chorus, with Conductor Dr. Daryl Hollinger, accompanist Mark Seiver, and chamber orchestra, presents its annual Spring Concert at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Sonora. Performances are Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28 - both begin at 3:00 pm.

This concert features Schubert's lyrical *Mass in G* for mixed chorus, chamber orchestra and soloists. After an intermission, the chorus performs a number of pieces composed by Dr. Hollinger, a singalong, and concludes with American spirituals and music for film and theater.

Tickets are \$20 presale (\$25 at the door) and free for 18 and under (must reserve seat). To purchase tickets



from the Columbia College website, click on the QR code, or type in *gocolumbia.edu* and scroll to "Events."

Or, Leslie Davis can obtain tickets for you. Contact her

at davisgold@gmail.com or 209-559-7723.

Other chorus members from our church include Gary Davis, Jennie Moiso, Pirkko Dyer, JoAn Conrad, and Carl and Kathy Rudolph.



Community Dinner

Our second community dinner of 2024 was April 3rd, and they will continue each Wednesday evening through October, except for July. Instead, on Thursday, July 4th, following Columbia's big 4th of July Parade, BBQ hot dogs, potato salad, chips and drinks will be served in Faith Hall. There will be no cost for this event...so spread the word!

Community Dinners are for members of the community **and** all in the church. Invite your friends and neighbors and spread the word. The next dinner is at 6:00 pm on *May Day* (May 1).

Suzanne Williamson



Lack Family Band Concert April 14

Outreach Event: The Lack Family Band, pictured in February 2023 in Faith Hall, will participate in our 10 a.m. worship service on April 14. Following worship a light lunch will be served in Faith Hall, and at 1 pm the Lack Family will present a concert of Christian music, featuring a blend of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs. **Invite your friends and family!** Admission is free, though a free will offering will be taken for the Lack Family.

Mission Outreach Minute

Get ready for our Focused Mission Giving opportunity. Each quarter we will focus on a Mission that our Church has been led to support. In April, May and June we are focusing on the Radio Ministries in Ecuador (Allen Graham) and Nome, Alaska (Patty Burchell). Other focused Missions are Mission Aviation Fellowship (July, August, September) and Tree of Life (October, November, December). The total offered will be matched, up to \$1,000, each quarter. In addition to these focused missions you are encouraged to continue your support of time, energy and offerings to Habitat for Humanity, Adult Teen Challenge, Save the Children, and Nancy's Hope.

The Church of the 49ers outreach has taken off. Our monthly community dinners have resumed and have been well attended. Upcoming opportunity for your involvement is the Fourth of July Community Hot Dog feed. Last year was the inauguration of this event. It

was a great success and opportunity to reach our surrounding community.

More to come as we set sail to fulfill the Great Commission:

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:18-20***

Ed Clinite, Co-Chair Missions/ Outreach

Outreach Committee meets on the third Tuesday each month at 2:00 p.m. in CE Room 3, and welcomes all who are interested in missions and outreach. The next meeting is April 16.

Co-Chair Gwen Harris

BOOK REVIEW

By Denella Kimura

WHISPER: How to Hear the Voice of God

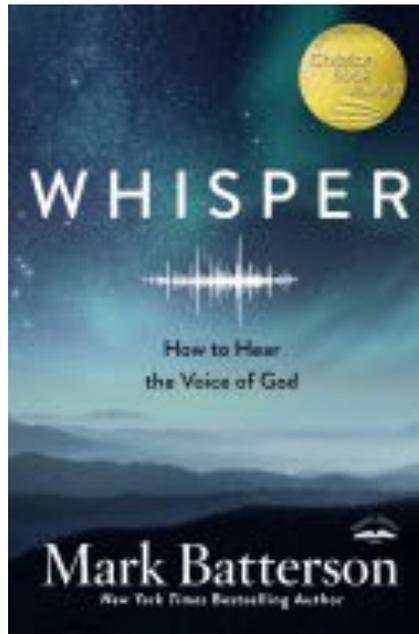
By Mark Batterson

Just after 8:00 p.m. Sunday evening I was sitting in my favorite chair reading when “Philip!” screamed through my head. Our second son, Phil, was working his last shift at Burger King before returning to Sacramento State University the next day. I didn’t know what this was about but I knew what to do. So I prayed for Philip in the most intense way I knew how. Unbeknownst to me, Phil, at that exact time was emptying out the till with a gun to his head. God knows how to communicate when he wants my attention.

Mark Batterson, in his book, “Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God,” says, “The voice of God is all-powerful, but that’s only half the story. His voice is also all-loving.” He explores seven languages of God described in Scripture: the first being scripture itself, the “Rosetta stone for all the other languages.” The other ways he speaks to us is through our desires, open and shut doors, dreams, promptings, people, and pain. “But all of them are love languages. Why? Because *God is love.*”

I like Batterson’s illustration about Zac Jury, an FBI agent who attended the National Community Church (NCC) where Mark is pastor. He describes Zac as a tough guy with a soft heart who found it difficult to accept that God could love him. He was in row J, seat 111 at the Lincoln Theater, one of the campuses of NCC.

That’s where he heard a still small voice say over and over again, I love



you, I love you. Over and over again, it must have been a hundred times until the tears flooded his face and he really heard and believed that the Lord loved him.

According to Mark Batterson, when he first began preaching, he realized that his credibility was weak. He knew the scriptures, but he had never travelled or learned through experiences. So he decided he would read as much as he could to fill in this gap. After his first church plant failure in Chicago, the Lord opened the door for him to start a church planting in Washington D. C. The membership grew into the thousands as their locations varied from a coffee house ministry to old theaters, to auditoriums available in the underground municipal railway. Oh yeah. He’d read over 3,000 books before he wrote his first book, and “Whisper” is his 15th.

This is why his points are so richly illustrated. One of my favorites is the story of Dr. J. Edwin Orr taking a group of Wheaton College students on a study abroad in England. Upon visiting the home of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, their guide

pointed out two impressions next to his bed where he knelt in prayer. On the way out, Dr. Orr noticed one of the students was missing. Orr found Billy Graham kneeling in those same two impressions praying, “O Lord, do it again!”

Batterson says that the language of open and shut doors requires the gift of discernment, which goes beyond contextual intelligence and emotional intelligence. “Discernment is the ability to appraise a situation with supernatural insight. It’s prophetic perception that sees past problems and envisions possibilities.”

Mary Ann couldn’t hear well. In fact she dreaded the “whisper” hearing test most, because she couldn’t hear the clue, “You have new shoes,” which was spoken at a distance so that even when she cupped her good ear, she couldn’t make it out. But that year, Mary Ann’s favorite teacher “leaned across her desk, got as close as she could to Mary Ann’s good ear, and whispered, “I wish you were my little girl.” It changed her life.

Batterson ends with a love hallelujah! He summarized the story line in scripture in five words: *God is love. Full stop.* God doesn’t love us because of who we are. God loves us because of who he is.

“When we succeed, God says, ‘I love you.’ When we fail, God says, ‘I love you.’ When we have faith, God says, ‘I love you.’ When we doubt, God says, ‘I love you.’”

“Love is his answer to everything,” said Batterson.

I love you, I love you!

Denella Kimura

Session Highlights

1. Doreen Bass will meet with Karla Reid to learn the Record-keeping duties including the ChurchTrak system in the transition to being the single Clerk of Session.

2. At the General Meeting of Presbytery on 3/9/24 held here on our campus, the vote to accept 5 Amendments to the ECO Constitution was unanimous. Also, Pastor Keith completed his term of office as Moderator.

3. The seven Elders decided to act as the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) with Doreen as Recording Secretary and reach out to the congregation on 4/7/24 for nominations of 3 individuals who meet the ECO criteria:

- Covenant Partner of Church of the 49ers;
- Well-versed in the mission and vision of our church (experienced, knowing our history and expectations);
- Connected (involved in ministry service in our church);
- Competent (having ability, knowledge, and/or skill);
- Spiritually mature (well-versed in Biblical understanding and prayer);
- Committed (the process of selecting a Transitional Pastor, then assessing/interviewing Candidates, and making a final choice for a permanent Pastor may take 18-24 months);
- Discreet (no discussion with others outside the PNC).

4. Session will take Pastor Keith, Karla, and Deb Johnson out for lunch April 10 as a special Thank You. They will also hear Pastor Keith's exit Interview (what he has accomplished and where he sees our church heading). Then he will Moderate his last Session meeting as the additional members are selected for the PNC. Session will have to decide who will lead Session meetings until a Transitional Pastor is selected.

5. Session will seek to fill the pulpit temporarily only for 4 Sundays until a Transitional Pastor can be selected by the PNC to work part-time while the PNC is seeking a permanent pastor.

6. The Nominating Committee for Elders and Deacons has been postponed, and those completing their term of office in June have been asked to stay on till the end of the year or when the Nominating Committee will be re-convened. The Deacon Board was given authority to fill their empty slot.

7. **Finance Report:** Jon Whited indicated that we're doing OK, since last year we had to pay off numerous Semble loans, and we are still meeting our needs.

- There have been no surprises so far in 2024, but the goal is to hold down expenses.

- With the solar work complete, power has been switched on, so we should be seeing big savings in PG&E bills from now on.

- The COVID funds of about \$29,000 are still expected.

8. **Spiritual Growth Report:** Suzanne Williamson

- Community dinners overlap with Gwen's Outreach Committee. The next community dinner is Wed. 4/3/24. Rose Shaffer is planning Artichoke Chicken!

- With Karla Reid leaving, the need for a new Christian Education Director is going to be more important. Teachers will have to do their own visual presentations, but Karla has provided the outline of the curriculum through the end of the year. We need more teachers!

- Worship needs for liturgists continue to be met by individual contacts. Judy Nason will help in recruiting song leaders.

9. **Church Life Report:** Judy Nason: Fellowship plans for April 7 and 14 are in place. Gwen will order food for the Farewell lunch April 7th after Pastor Keith's last sermon; Suzanne is supervising the lunch for the Lack Family on 4/14.

10. **Outreach Report:** Gwen Harris indicated that a bulletin board for Missions will be installed in the entryway between the Ramont Room and Faith Hall.

11. **Buildings and Grounds Report:** Betty Egan discussed cleaning and lighting solutions for the Lower Sanctuary,

- Greg and Tony are installing the stage in Faith Hall.
- Betty will audit employment files on the independent contractors she oversees to make sure that the church complies with all state/federal employment and reporting laws.

12. **History Report:** Tom Kimora noted that the Committee continues to provide historical writings in the monthly *Golden Nugget* newsletter.

12. **Personnel Report:** Sharon Poff finished all employee job performance evaluations, which are very high.

Doreen Bass, Co-Clerk of Session



April 2024 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

April 2, 10 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
April 2, 6 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall
April 3, 3 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3
April 3, 6 pm: Community Dinner in Faith Hall
April 4, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
April 4, 11:00 am: Lunch Bunch at Be Wok Sushi
April 6, 8:30 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost
April 7 following worship: Farewell Reception for the Reids
April 9, 10 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
April 9, 6 pm: Pastor Keith's final Bible Study in Faith Hall
April 10, 3 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3
April 11, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

April 14, 1:00 pm: Lack Family Band Concert in Faith Hall
April 16, 10 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
April 16, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
April 16, 2:00 pm: Outreach/Missions in CE Room 3
April 17, 3 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3
April 18, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
April 21, 11:15 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH
April 21, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3
April 21, 1 - 3:30 pm: Just Dance in Faith Hall
April 23, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
April 24, 2 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3
April 25, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
April 28, 11:30 am: Spiritual Growth in CE Room 3
April 30, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3



First Presbyterian Church
11155 Jackson Street
Columbia, CA 95310

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Address Service Requested

Cost-cutting Measure: For those of you who receive this newsletter through the US mail, please consider a donation of \$15 per year to cover printing and postage costs. Thanks!