

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Happy Independence Day!

July 2024

On Father Day's after the sermon, Interim Pastor Chuck Westgate invited all the men in the congregation who were either fathers or sons of fathers to come up to the front of the sanctuary to be honored.

He had the 49ers Men's Chorale sing a credible version of *Amazing Grace*.

Then Sandy Westgate came up with baskets of colorful socks. First the oldest father and then the gentleman with the most great-grandchildren were given socks. Finally, Sandy distributed socks to each of the men.

Pastor Chuck then challenged the men to return the next Sunday wearing their new Father's Day socks. And he invited all over to Faith Hall for cobbler and ice cream.

The following Sunday Pastor Chuck invited the men to come up and show off their wild socks, for a good laugh.



Lft to rt: Gary Davis, Larry Yacovetti, Ron Ferrell

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

_____, Pastor
Deb Johnson, Office Administrator
_____, 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.

June 1 through June 30, 2024 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Total Income	\$34,407.44	\$26,785.00	(\$7,622.44)
Expense	\$23,565.30	\$10,353.28	(\$13,212.02)

Mortgage Balance as of June 30: **\$60,894.27**
Minimum Required Mortgage Payment: **\$245.00**
Additional Principal paid in June: **\$100.00**



With Rosie McCarthy retiring from the Deacon Board, our new Moderator will be Michelle Kidwell. The Vice Moderator has not been selected but duties could be interchangeable with the Moderator, if agreed. As Clerk of Session, Doreen Bass is the Liaison with Session instead of the Vice Moderator and she agreed to stay as Secretary. Denella Kimura will continue as Treasurer, and Victoria Dinesh-Balaraman is currently the Assistant Treasurer.

Committee chairs can continue or change as desired. Sandy Brooks will remain as Communion Chair in preparation for setting the Communion table on July 7. Doreen arranges for the Communion servers, and reports any worship activities from the Session. Victoria wanted to continue with Home Communion on the following Mondays.

Rose Shaffer will remain as Memorial Chair, and Sandy keeps the Grief Booklets, which the Deacons send to the family members throughout the following year. If you would be helped by these thoughtful booklets, let your Deacon know.

Michelle Kidwell will stay as liaison with Nancy's Hope, and Vi Morgado will report on Interfaith, though we should have an alternate if Vi cannot attend. The Deacon Fund Committee consists of Denella (Treasurer), Victoria (Asst. Treasurer), Michelle (Moderator), and another Deacon -- currently Vi. They consult on every request for emergency funds, which are provided confidentially. We are also in the process of revising our procedures. Deacons continue to pray for our congregation, remembering them with cards and phone calls. We have recently revised our care lists, so if you haven't heard from your Deacon in a while, let Doreen know, and she will check for you. Rest assured that our prayer team prays for each one of you over the year.

The Deacon Board still needs two more members who have a heart for supporting our congregation. Please prayerfully consider serving the Lord with us.

Doreen Bass, Deacon Secretary (209) 352-3096



The Women's Bible Study led by Judy Nason is taking a summer break - will resume in September.

Bible Study

49er Family News

Grieving: Family and friends of **Shirley Stephens**, who died June 12 at the age of 90.



Parish Nursing

Ozell Gilmore and Valerie McCale, Parish Nurses, will provide free **Blood Pressure Checks** in Faith Hall on July 14 following the worship service.

The women's no-host luncheon now meets on the second Thursday monthly. **Thursday, July 11, at 11 am at Michoacana 2 located at 14715 Mono Way, Sonora.** Call Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.



On June 6 the Lunch Bunch enjoyed a meal outdoors at Columbia Kate's Teahouse - with 14 in attendance.

July Birthdays

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

- July 6 Ozell Gilmore
- July 6 Shelly Goularte
- July 10 Deb and Ric Johnson
- July 11 Kathy Lewis
- July 15 Jordan Warford
- July 18 Zoey Innis (Ward)
- July 18 Samuel Strombom
- July 18 Llewyn Ward
- July 19 Ron Leedy
- July 21 Sheri Pendleton
- July 21 John Aguilar
- July 21 John Etheridge
- July 23 Bonnie Joslin-Adams
- July 31 Carol Kent

No known wedding anniversaries in July



Line Dancing

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

Exception: No Line Dancing on July 4th



4th of July Outreach Event

In recent history members of the Church of the 49ers congregation marched in Columbia's Glorious Fourth of July Parade each year—2008 through 2019. After Covid we resumed participating in the parade last July. Roger Haughton brought his antique fire truck, so some were able to ride instead of walking the four-block parade route, and afterward we hosted a very successful free hot dog lunch in Faith Hall for the community.

This July 4th (Thursday) we'll again be in the noon parade, with some atop and others marching behind Roger's fire truck. The crowd will be invited to join us for a free lunch, featuring hot dogs with all the fixins, chips and drinks— inside air-conditioned Faith Hall between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. **Note the 4th of July Outreach is in place of the 1st Wednesday Community Dinner this month.**

Plan to join the parade—be at the parade start in front of the Fallon Hotel on Washington Street in Columbia before 11:45 am on the 4th, in patriotic colors. We have matching sashes for all to wear, and some "49er Church" sun visors.

Leslie Davis



July 4, 2023



After serving 200 hot dog lunches and cleaning up last July 4th

Allen Graham, Missionary

Greetings from Guayaquil, Ecuador!
Thank you for your prayers in June.

After several months of lack of movement on preparing our new home for the radio station, we finally got activities underway in June. God is using this time to remind me that everything, absolutely everything, will happen according to His time and not my time nor our time. The electrical wiring is a key area that needs



National and missionary workers repairing the entrance gate to our radio station's new home.

to be handled. We will need to replace all the cables in the areas for the on-air and production studios. Thankfully, wiring in the remaining areas is up to code, in good condition, and will not need replacement.

Two colleagues from Quito came to take measurements for changes that need to be made to install a handicapped-accessible restroom and other minimal structural work. Our team is excited to see work finally being done. As I mentioned a few months ago, please pray for the needed funding for this work and for several items of equipment that need to be replaced.

The online training that a coworker and I will be doing starts this month. You may remember that this is for colleagues from the Manantial FM network which has stations along the US– Mexico border. I have also been asked to do similar workshops for several of the English stations of the same network, but dates have not been set for these sessions. In March, I said that we have been asked to go to Tarapoto and Chazuta, Peru to do similar training. We are still seeking the funds to do so. Please be in prayer as we develop and deliver the training content.

We get many messages every day through social media from our listeners as listeners interact with our on-air team. Let me share two with you:

- Although I am not a Christian, I have been listening to the radio for seven years after having problems with my health. God intervened to heal me. Since then, I have started listening to the radio every day. I am an annual donor to the radio because I know that the message you transmit brings peace to our souls.

- My name is Deysi and I want to share one of the greatest miracles and one of the many that God has done in my life. At the beginning of my marriage, I had many obstacles that I believed were impossible to overcome, so I cried out to the Almighty God and He answered me through your radio. You are an answer from God in my times of distress. I've now been married for 16 years and have a godly, blessed marriage. Every morning that I wake up, God continues to answer many things through your station.

Praise God for the ministry that He has given us. All the glory and honor are His. Thank you for your prayers and gifts that allow me to serve with Reach Beyond and HCJB2. I pray that you will have a great month of local ministry in the Mother Lode.

Allen

Interfaith

First of all, I would like to thank each of you who responded to the requests for items needed these past months at Interfaith.

This month I am asking again for volunteers to help out. If you have computer skills, or would be willing to help clients with clothing or maybe putting together grocery bags, we can use you. How often would be whatever time you have to give us, be it once a week or maybe once or twice a month. You can talk to me at church or on the phone for more information. It is a very rewarding experience as well as the opportunity to meet some great people who already volunteer.

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, several from our church. 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.

During the month of June, 237 individuals and 60 families were served. If you would like to help stock the pantry, current needs are:

- Shelf Stable Milk
- Hydration Powder
- Peanut Butter
- Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Dried Goods
- Eggs
- Cheese

Please, don't drop off your donations after hours, and no expired products, or damaged clothing.

Carol and Michelle Kidwell, Food Pantry Volunteers

Beware of Scammers

Editor's Note: *A congregation member had a recent experience with scammers and wants to share this story.*

The feature story in the April 2024 AARP Bulletin was about prevention of scams. The title: "Older Americans Are Under Siege From Scammers. How To Keep Your Money Safe, FRAUD 2024." I just wish I had access to that information sooner.

In March of this year my husband received a very strange screen on his desktop computer at our home. It was supposedly from Microsoft and informed us that our computer had been hacked and our bank account had been debited of a specific amount of money. There was a phone number provided in the message.

Mistake #1: *We called the phone number listed in the message. We should have independently verified the phone number of Microsoft.*

When we called the number a young-sounding woman answered. Hindsight makes it obvious that she was impersonating a Microsoft employee. She "verified" the scam information con-

tained in the computer message. She referred us to a "representative" of our bank - Umpqua - who could help us retrieve the money that had been stolen.

Mistake #2: *We called the number that was provided for Umpqua instead of independently verifying the phone number of our bank.*

Also, Mistake #3: *I should have accessed my bank account online to verify that funds had in fact been debited without our authorization (they had not).*

We called the "bank" phone number and another young-sounding woman answered who, hindsight makes it obvious, was impersonating an Umpqua Bank employee. She provided instructions to help us retrieve the stolen funds. The instructions included withdrawing a large amount of cash from Umpqua and wiring it to a specific place using bitcoin.

By this time, my dear readers, you may well wonder how and why we could have fallen for such an obvious scam. All I can offer you is that scammers are very smart, manipulative and practiced, and they are experts at distraction. One of the techniques that the "bank" employee used to launch us on an emotion-

al plane instead of a rational one was to inform us that our stolen money was being used for illegal purposes. She listed some of those illegal purposes, and believe me, they were very evil.

Back to my story. My husband and I drove to our local Umpqua Bank and requested a very large sum of cash. The teller enlisted the support of the bank manager to address my request. The manager asked why I needed such a large amount of cash. I gave him the answer that the scammer had fed me - we needed the money for a "family emergency." The manager informed us that the bank did not have that much cash on hand and offered us a cashier's check instead. We insisted that we needed cash. The bank manager also mentioned that there is a lot of fraud being perpetrated currently.

Another tidbit - the scammers advised us to **NOT** tell anyone at our local bank about our suspected fraudulent theft because the local bank employees were implicated in the fraud. And if we tipped them off it would jeopardize the investigation.

**Continued on Page 6
See BEWARE OF SCAMMERS**

What Does it Mean to Be a Covenant Partner of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia?

Also known as the Church of the 49ers, we are an Evangelical Covenant Order (ECO) of Presbyterians congregation.

Covenant = formal agreement of commitment.

Following are excerpts from the ECO Constitution.

1.0101 Nature and Purpose

The congregation is composed of members of the body of Christ who have covenanted together to engage in the mission of God in their particular context, with Jesus Christ as Head. Each congregation should strive to be a tangible, if provisional, demonstration of the Kingdom of God.

...
Congregations...have these ends in common: sharing the Good News of reconciliation to God in and through Jesus Christ, gathering people for divine worship and nurturing relationships for spiritual accountability and mutual ministry, all the while making disciples to be the sent people of God in the world.

1.0103 Accountability to the Councils of ECO

A "congregation," ... refers to a formally organized community which is chartered and recognized by a presbytery... which is governed by the Constitution pursuant to a membership agreement entered into between such community and the presbytery. In becoming covenant partners of the congregation, Christ-followers put themselves under the spiritual leadership of the session and wider councils.

1.0303 Entry into Membership as Covenant Partners

After completing a meaningful preparation process as determined by the session, those who wish to embrace the

congregation's covenantal expectations may become covenant partners by action of the session after hearing testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

...
Individuals may testify to their faith in one of the following ways:

- a. Public profession of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, after the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit yields personal faith in Christ.
- b. Reaffirmation of faith, for those previously professing faith publicly and already baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

1.0304 The Benefits of Covenantal Partnership

Becoming a covenant partner is important not only to the congregation but even more importantly for the covenant partner, as they are positioned to receive encouragement, support, and correction that the Lord promises to those who share spiritual fellowship. In committing to the cause of a life lived in and through Jesus Christ, covenant partners grow in Christian community together to become more Christ-like. In Christian community, we realize the fullness of life together and life in Christ, and discover our unique place in a common mission and narrative of God's work. The covenant partner and the congregation are both blessed and become a great blessing as they covenant together, intentionally, in Christ's work.

1.0305 The Congregation's Expectations of Covenantal Partnership

Each covenant partner shall strive to be faithful to Christ by participating in the congregation's worship, fellowship, and service on an ongoing basis. Faithfulness in Christ as a covenant partner, involves a commitment to growth into spiritual maturity as a disciple of Christ and dedication of time and talents to the congregation's mission and ministry, in accordance to the gifts that God has bestowed upon him or her. Faithfulness also involves the stewardship of finances. As

each covenant partner grows in the grace of giving, financial support of the congregation's mission and ministry should grow, along with tangible support for other ministries that advance God's Kingdom.

1.0402 Covenant Partner

A covenant partner is a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into the membership of the church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this church, and participates in the church's worship and work. Covenant partners are eligible to vote in congregational meetings.

If you are ready to become a Covenant Partner at Church of the 49ers, indicate on the information slip or tell the Pastor, an Elder, or Deacon. We would be delighted to schedule an Inquirer's Class to answer any questions and hear your Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ.

Doreen Bass, Clerk of Session



BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

Continued from Page 5

Bottom line, we did not withdraw any cash and told the scammer who was impersonating a bank employee - and who was on the phone with us the entire time - that we were not comfortable to pursue this any further and we disconnected from the phone call. We took our computer to the computer expert and he deleted the virus that the first scammer had planted.

I am hoping that our story will raise awareness and encourage you to not make our mistakes. We didn't lose any money and the experience will be unforgettable and provide invaluable caution in future.

Anonymous



The Reverend Russell Chandler

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

Editor's Note: Rev. E. Russell Chandler earned his Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and was a religion writer for the Los Angeles Times from 1974-1992. He also authored a number of books. "Pastor Russ" served as a beloved Interim Pastor for the Church of the 49ers from December 15, 1995 through April 21, 1996. He died January 25, 2023 at the age of 90.

This recorded interview with the Reverend Russell Chandler begins with his focus on his preparation for the Sabbath Service. He explained, in general, he had two guidelines: First, to identify the cultural needs of the congregation; next to describe God's message about the congregation's "mutual relevance" in a slowly changing Church of the 49ers.

He prepared each sermon after extensive research from various sources to ensure his message was to ALL in the First Presbyterian Church--now, the only active church in historic Columbia.

Biblically, Pastor Russ frequently included references to the Book of Romans and the Book of Proverbs to emphasize a personal message; selected passages citing God's words were related to the congregation of the 49er Church.

His popularity as the church pastor usually included "spiritual stories" about the Old Timers; he usually searched for harmonious communication with church members and visitors. Jesus Christ became the Trail Boss, the vigilant scout who "pioneered" the hazardous passage with numerous "detours" in the congregation's search for the "Promised Land."

The "Chandler Folder" contained the detailed research for Pastor Russ' sermons, collating "all the ingredients, the special words and spiritual details, to personalize the Sabbath Service. It was my desire for one and all to understand the importance of God's message." In this "balanced message" he found comfort for his congregation. He frequently referred to the Holy Book, especially the Old Testament, New Testament, pertinent hymns, but always in his own dynamic disposition for special emphasis.

His published books reflect a life-long desire to write. As he said, "I feel by writing I am reaching an audience out there." Pastor Russ and his wife ML (Marjorie Lee), also a popular Christian writer, pursued His words throughout their books in an evangelistic message for church members and friends, and always remembering those unable to attend regular church services.

Indeed Pastor Russ' concluding message must have been inspired by the Holy Spirit. Also, do we sense Jesus Christ's testimony emanating through the Trail Boss? In any event, as the dependable scout, He knows about the many "detours" ahead before reaching the "Promised Land." We must be mindful of His message of God's plan for our Trail of Life always with Him as we seek to avoid unexpected hidden dangers. Indeed, TRUST JESUS AS OUR TRAIL BOSS.

Rocky, RIP: He was my saddle horse, my PAL.....So, friends of the 49ers Church, saddle up! Our beloved 49er Church has a long road ahead before we reach the Promised Land.

Dick Dyer



The Path Laid Before Us

We have
A path laid
Before us
A destination
Mapped out
By the very
Hands
That created us!

We have a story
Written by his
Hands
One that we
Should listen to
Closely too
Because our
Savior's hands
Wrote them
Out for
Me and you.

There's a song
He's Written for
Us
A melody
Unique to us
And all he
Asks is
For our love
Hands lifted up,
To the one
Above.

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June.05.2024

BOOK REVIEW for SUMMER READING

By Denella Kimura

God's Double Agent: The True Story of a Chinese Christian's Fight for Freedom

By Bob Fu with Nancy French

In 1958, Mao led China in a social experiment called "The Great Leap Forward" in which Bob's mother's husband and all the villagers had to give up their private property to live in a commune. Without personal property they couldn't farm their own land, nor have control of their own food supply. Their houses were stripped clean of everything valuable, and her husband told her to leave with her two children to find food. They say thirty million people died during this time. Some people resorted to cannibalism. The Chinese history books call it "Three Years of Natural Disaster."

Bob Fu's mother, half brother and sister were eventually taken in by a compassionate man who married her. Their first child was named Xiqui, meaning "Hopeful Autumn." But Chinese children are given an ugly name to trick demons and ghosts. So his nickname was "Pianye" which means "Cheap." Later he was given the English name, "Bob," which he used on his first English book, "God's Double Agent: The True Story of a Chinese Christian's Fight for Freedom."

At eight years old, he went to the Communist Party-controlled school where he learned "reading, writing and atheism." There he was bullied and mocked because of his shabby clothing and lower social status. He vowed to get an education so he could be rich enough to have good clothes and help his family.

In high school, Bob found ways to help students whose parents couldn't provide their weekly food requirement, as he was helped by his sister who

dropped out so he could continue his education. He found ways to get news of what's really happening, and started a school newspaper, something he continued in college.

It began as a student protest against low pay for teachers, and since Bob was learning to teach English, he and his friends, including his girlfriend Heidi, wanted to be part of the protest against the poor treatment of teachers. When Hu Yaohang died suddenly, Bob wrote a poem to honor him, which would have appeared on the front page. Suddenly the newspaper got cancelled, and the protest for teachers at Tiananmen Square turned into a 100,000 mass protest and memorial for the leader of the student movement in 1989.

Americans know the story of what happened at Tiananmen Square, but the Chinese have had it erased from their history books and memory. Bob only escaped the massacre because Heidi got food poisoning and Bob had to take her to the hospital when the shooting began. Thousands died.

Bob was the scapegoat for his school's participation in the protest. All but one teacher turned against him, told lies about him, and forced him to write his confession in eight long hours, and if it didn't jive with the other stories, he was told to write it again the next day. This went on for over a month. He was feeling depressed, weeping at his desk at the back of the room because of the shunning from his "friends." He was thinking of ways to kill the school president, one of his betrayers, then take his own life, when a friend handed him a book about a man whose life changed when he became a follower of Jesus. And Bob believed. So did Heidi after she also read it. His demeanor changed and everyone noticed.

Bob was not allowed to study at the university of his choice after he finally received his degree, so he went into a school that would allow him to earn two

masters degrees. Heidi was not allowed to receive her BA degree, and taught in a village school. They married when Bob finished grad school, and began an active ministry training young pastors to teach in home churches, which were growing by leaps and bounds, until they began to be noticed by the government. Bob and his staff had also been printing Bibles and Christian literature.

Bob considered himself God's double agent because of his day job teaching English to future Communist leaders, and teaching pastors of illegal country home churches at night and on weekends.

Then early one morning they were arrested for running an illegal business and propagating an illegal religion. Both were sent to prison. Bob was shunned at first when he met his twelve cell mates because they were told that his words were poison, which is when he told them that he was a Christian. As he listened to their stories, they gradually began to trust him for advice.

When the guard called Bob into the office, he claimed that Christians were true patriots. "And this prison is the holy ground of the Communist Party," the guard growled. "You cannot speak of the gospel here!"

The "activity" for all prisoners during the day was to sit with their legs straight in front, back straight and not move. If they moved, they were punished. Because Bob couldn't speak of the Lord, he decided to sing, "Give thanks with a grateful heart." He sang it through to teach it to the men who began to join in and even to harmonize. When called to account by the guard, he said, "I didn't talk to them. I sang." Not long after that he was released. As he walked down the exit hall, he saw Heidi waiting for him at the other end.

**See GOD'S DOUBLE AGENT
Page 9**

Session Highlights

From the June 226 Session Meeting

Clerk's Report mentioned the passing of member Shirley Stephens.

Deacon's Report advised Session that we are still looking for two more Deacons; and we're revising our Deacon Fund Policy.

Session Discussion of PNC Progress:

- Three applications for Pastor have been received and will be handled by PNC.
- Pastor Chuck Westgate will be our Transitional Pastor once approved by ECO. A contract was approved by Finance Committee (6-18-24) and Session (6-26-24).
- We all would like to have a Head of Staff / Senior Pastor on staff ASAP, but the use of a pulpit / transitional pastor in the interim will improve the 49er Church's finances.

- Reporting to Covenant Partners of PNC activity is ongoing. Weekly updates will continue during Announcements following worship.
- Great Solar News: Monthly PG&E administration fees = \$24.64. Average monthly billing before solar = \$1,380. That will result in a savings this year of over \$12,000!

Committee Reports

1. Finance

Checking = \$10,648.87 (below intended goal of \$10,000)

Income is up from this time last year, but so are expenses. The continued goal is to hold down expenses. Every month without a pastor is saving the church money. Pulpit supply expenses are expected to be less.

2. Buildings and Grounds

The swamp cooler in the kitchen and the 2 swamp coolers in the bell tower are undergoing repairs. Finance Committee agreed to spend up to \$2,000. Before the Fire Inspection July 1, Betty

Egan will have Cisco charge the fire extinguishers and date the tags; check the spring inside stove that turns on the sprinklers in case of fire; and drain the fire lines. All rooms need to be checked for any storage problems, capacity signs in the Sanctuary & Faith Hall, and that all Exit signs are working. Betty said it should take less than an hour to check all storage rooms, so Judy will ask Tony Pokorny and Greg Marks to do a walk-through.

3. History Report Dick Dyer and Leslie Davis continue to provide articles for the *Golden Nugget*. Doreen will submit "A Brief History of Our Campus" expanded from the original Information Packet before revisions.

4. Personnel Report Sharon Poff will work with Betty Egan to create a Job Description.

The next Session meeting is Wednesday, July 24, at 2:00 pm in CE3.

Doreen Bass, Clerk of Session

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Report

At the PNC meeting on June 19 we discussed the information provided by two Pastor Candidates. We will continue to evaluate any additional submissions.

Doreen is working with Deb Johnson in the church office to update the information on our website. The Home Page has been improved, but several pulldown menus still need some corrections.

We encourage any additional input. Keep praying for God's guidance, for the right person to be our new Pastor, and that our congregation will be ready to receive this person with joy and thanksgiving!

Doreen Bass, PNC Recording Secretary

GOD'S DOUBLE AGENT

Continued from Page 9

China's one child policy is very hard on young married couples. First the community must sign a pact to watch the couple for unexpected pregnancy, which must be reported. Women are examined frequently, and any surprise pregnancies are aborted, and the women are sometimes sterilized. The couple must apply in advance for a yellow card, which gives her permission to have medical care. It is estimated that China has had 400 million abortions since this policy went into effect.

Bob and Heidi had no yellow card when she became pregnant and fell into this trap. They decided to run. The rest of this story is about the miracle of how they got to America. It is a story worth reading. Here I wanted to give you a small sample of the stories, God interventions, and miraculous events that can happen in the Chinese house church movement.

Denella Kimura

Copyright June, 2024

July 2024 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

- July 2, 10 am: Prayer Group in Office
- July 4, 12:30 pm: Hot Dog BBQ in Faith Hall
- July 9, 10 am: Prayer Group in Office
- July 11, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- July 11, 11:00 am: Lunch Bunch at Michoacana 2
- July 14, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3
- July 16, 10 am: Prayer Group in Office
- July 16, 1 pm: Finance Committee in Office

- July 17, 2:30 pm: Outreach/Missions in CE Room 3
- July 18, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- July 18, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- July 21, 11:15 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH
- July 21, 1 - 3:30 pm: *Just Dance* in Faith Hall
- July 23: 10 am: Prayer Group in Office
- July 24, 2 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3
- July 25, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- July 30, 10 am: Prayer Group in Office

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



First Presbyterian Church
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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!