

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS



August 2024



Our Parrotts Ferry Road greeter,  
Tony Pokorny

## Street Sign Attention Getters

We've heard that our church street sign has been receiving some attention lately. Have you seen it?

The South side of the sign reads  
"Heaven is a cool place."

And the North side reads  
"Satan called. He wants his weather back."

If you know of any catchy phrases that are appropriate for a Christian church street sign, please send along to me.

Leslie Davis

## Want to Help with Fellowship Refreshments?

Our Sunday Fellowship time has grown the past couple of years into a beautiful time to be together each week. So many of you have contributed generously to our food menu selections. THANK YOU!!

Each Sunday one of our church committees organizes the food items that volunteers from the congregation bring to share.



WHEN YOU WISH TO BRING  
FOOD, following are the people to contact:

FIRST SUNDAY---Christian Ed ----Suzanne Williamson

SECOND SUNDAY---Church Life----Judy Nason

THIRD SUNDAY ----Outreach----Gwen Harris

FOURTH SUNDAY--- Buildings & Grounds----Betty Egan

Finance-----Jon Whited

History----Tom Kimura

Personnel---Sharon Poff

FIFTH SUNDAY ---- Potluck to be organized by Judy Nason

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

## GOLDEN NUGGET

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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. Chuck Westgate, Transitional 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.



**Rosie's reaction**

Everyone seemed to like Doreen Bass's funny *Thank You* presentation to Rosie McCarthy in church - to honor Rosie for her years of service as moderator of the Deacons. Later, in Faith Hall Doreen also gave her a small plaque with a quote from Lloyd Ogilvie.

We've had a change in the Deacon Board: Mary Adams has resigned, but we welcome Patty Penwell who has become a Deacon again now that she has rejoined the church.

Deacon Officers: Moderator is Michelle Kidwell. Vice Moderator is Rose Shaffer. Doreen Bass is Secretary and Deacon Liaison with Session. Denella Kimura is Treasurer, and Victoria Dinesh-Balaraman is Asst. Treasurer. The Deacon Fund Committee consists of Denella, Victoria, Michelle, and Vi Morgado. They consult on every request for emergency funds, which are provided confidentially. The Deacons approved a revised Deacon Fund Policy that governs their actions.

Denella submitted an Annual Treasurer's Report from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024:

We continue to support Interfaith and the Fellowship hour after Worship.

We were able to assist 8 Requestors for emergency funds this year. Our end of year balance is an increase over last year.

Annual donations are higher than our expenses.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to our donors who help us to fulfill our vision of love and compassion as we exercise our faith at the First Presbyterian Church of the 49ers.

We have been blessed with great Deacon Board members who are caring for and praying for our community of believers. (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.)

As Clerk of Session, I updated the Church By-Laws and noticed that we have been operating for two years with only ten Deacons, whereas the By-Laws require a minimum of twelve. I suggested introducing an amendment to allow **up to** twelve Deacons so we can still work with the ten we have. Session will need to approve the wording before scheduling a Congregational Meeting to ratify the amendment. It would be wonderful if two people who have a heart for supporting our congregation would prayerfully consider serving the Lord with us. Our next meeting is August 11 at 11:40 am in CE 3. Come to see what we do.

**Doreen Bass, Deacon Secretary**

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

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
<b>Total Income</b>			
<b>Expense</b>			

Not available at press time

Mortgage Balance as of June 30:  
Minimum Required Mortgage Payment:  
Additional Principal paid in June:

# 49er Family News

**Sunday School Kids and Parents Swim Party** -- September 8 from 12 noon to 3:00 pm at the home of Ed and Debbie Clinite.

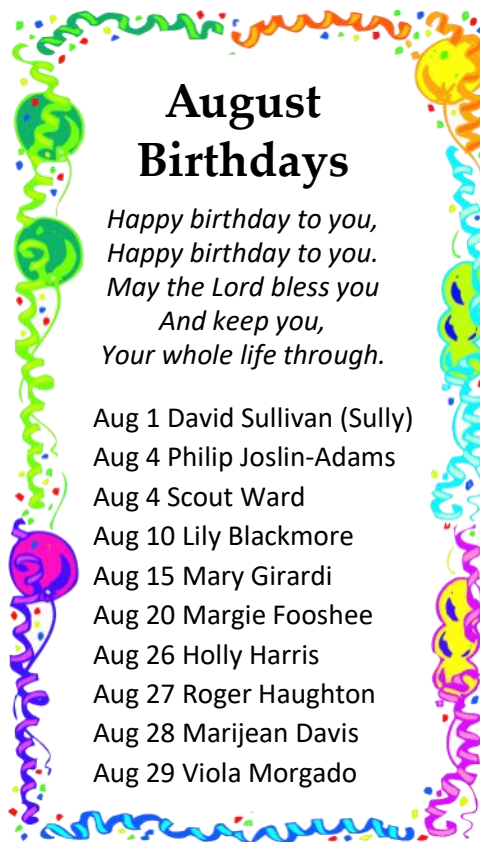
An **Alaskan Salmon Lunch** following the worship service on October 13 will be presented by Patty Burchell, General Manager of Radio Station KICY in Nome, Alaska, a ministry of the Alaska Conference, where she broadcasts the gospel to a vast region of western Alaska and the Russian Far East. Patty served as youth minister at the Church of the 49ers for a number of years until 2009.



## Parish Nursing

Ozell Gilmore and Valerie McCale, Parish Nurses, will provide free **Blood Pressure Checks** in Faith Hall on **August 11** following the worship service.

The women's no-host luncheon now meets on the second Thursday monthly.  
**Thursday, August 8, at 11 am**  
**at Papa's New Roost located at 20049 Hwy 108 in East Sonora.**  
Call Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.



## August Birthdays

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

- Aug 1 David Sullivan (Sully)
- Aug 4 Philip Joslin-Adams
- Aug 4 Scout Ward
- Aug 10 Lily Blackmore
- Aug 15 Mary Girardi
- Aug 20 Margie Fooshee
- Aug 26 Holly Harris
- Aug 27 Roger Haughton
- Aug 28 Marijean Davis
- Aug 29 Viola Morgado

## Happy Anniversary!

Daniel and Krissy Wright  
2 years on August 2nd

Tom and Denella Kimura  
55 years on August 4th

Jim and Diane Brandt  
64 years on August 12th

Michael and Carol Sturgess  
48 years on August 21st

Rich and Nancy Schwartzmann  
64 years on August 30th



**Cathy Crawford** cleaned up at the Mother Lode Fair . . . again. The theme of the 2024 fair was "85 Years of Mines, Mills & Memories." Cathy won the *Best of Fair Theme - Garden Project* with her entry entitled: "Smokey the Bear's 80th Birthday. 1944-2024."

Also, Cathy's roses won *Best of Division*, meaning she won four first place ribbons out of seven categories.

Congratulations, Cathy!

## Line Dancing

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



# Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family.

Thanks for letting me share with you a little of what happened in July and what's coming up this month.

I'm tired. July was a very hectic month with a lot of different things happening. God has been good and held me and the team up, but physically I'm tired. I'm praying for August to be a little less intense.

The first two training sessions for the team at the Manantial FM network, one in Spanish and one in English, went very well. Even though I was teaching by Zoom, there was still a lot of good interaction with the participants. These workshops looked at the difference between Christian radio and missionary radio. Our goal is to be the latter, reaching out to listeners who are not yet believers or those who have walked away from the church and the Lord.

In July, I was also able to consult with a radio ministry in Arequipa (southern), Peru. They have just gone through a change of name and are working hard to make sure their listeners make the change with them. They were also

having some technical problems with their computer automation system, so I was able to research the issue and guide them through the needed adjustments. I am thankful for the technology that allows me to continue training and mentoring stations throughout Latin America.

I was also able to help HCJB Quito and a station in the U.S. evaluate their fundraising strategies. Both radio ministries have seen a significant drop in donations this year. I was able to share some of the ways that we have used to encourage our donors to fulfill their pledges.

There have been many meetings with the engineers laying out the details to remodel our new building. I'm learning so much! We had hoped to be able to make the move to the new site by October at the latest, but I don't think that's going to happen. Once the drawings are finalized, we then must apply for a permit with the city before beginning the work. The architect has told us that the process will be at least 30 days. Please pray for patience!

I invite you to pray for Tess and Benjamin who will be helping to deliver a Training of Trainers course to 15 participants in Tanzania. This course will equip Christian media workers to effectively train and empower others using their own skills and experience. Please pray for the classes to go smoothly and for the attendees to gain the knowledge that they need to train others in the future. I had the privilege of doing this same training with Tess and Benjamin last October in the Ivory Coast. I'm excited to see my students now taking up the baton to teach others. To God be the glory!

**Allen**



**Tess and Benjamin, Reach Beyond Media Trainers, Sub-Saharan Africa Region**



## FREE BAND CONCERT

Thursday, August 8, at 6:30 pm in Faith Hall

The **Mother Lode Brass & Reed Band** has been rehearsing weekly in Faith Hall this summer, and they invite all to their concert on their final night.

The concert is free, however they will pass the hat during intermission to solicit donations to help pay for music.

# Interfaith

This month I would like to thank each of our church's Interfaith volunteers - you really are appreciated! Our newest volunteers are Rose Shaffer in the Pantry department and Doreen Bass in the Interview area, working on the computer.

Some of our needs this month are men's razors, white socks (need not be new), shampoo and conditioner (or a combination).

Something new - we need some ideas from you for fundraisers. Much of what we have is from donations, but we still need to purchase as well. Put your "thinking hats" on and help us out with some fundraising ideas. We would really appreciate it.

**Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison**

## Thank You!

This is a note of thanks for anonymous donations to the Deacon Fund.

Members of the Deacon Board want to thank our dear Anonymous Donors to the Deacon Fund — which totaled \$675.00 during the last year, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Your donations go toward feeding and clothing low income families through our donations to Interfaith and providing food and kitchen supplies for church events through our donations to the Fellowship Fund. You also contribute to helping people who are in emergency situations: church members, attenders, and in the community.

We also assist grieving families with their memorial services and provide grief booklets to assist them through the mourning process. Deacons each have a list of congregation members who they pray for regularly. So consider yourselves prayed for. Your donations are really appreciated.

**Denella Kimura, Deacon Treasurer**

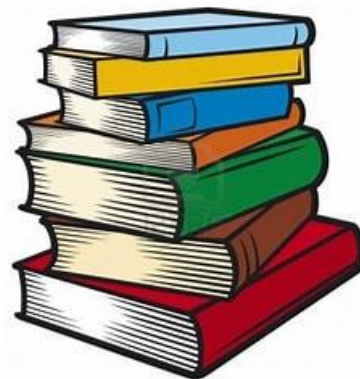
## Nancy's Hope Food Pantry

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 July, we served 258 individuals and 117 families. If you would like to help stock the pantry, current needs are: frozen meats, lunch meats, dairy, cheese, bread, Gatorades, fruit cups.

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

**Carol and Michelle Kidwell, Food Pantry Volunteers**



## LIBRARY

Following is a list of recently reviewed Christian books donated to the Church Library in the past few months.

1. "The Last Jihad," a five- book collection by Joel C. Rosenberg.
2. "Whisper" by Mark Batterson.
3. "Redemption," a five-book series by Karen Kingsbury with Gary Smalley; new.
4. "God's Double Agent: The True Story of a Chinese Christian's Fight for Freedom" by Bob Fu with Nancy French.
5. "Don't look Back" by Christine Caine.

Our Librarian, Michelle Kidwell, has been clearing out some older books to make room for the new ones coming in, so if you need help, please ask her.

The 49er Church Library is located in Room 3 of the Christian Education building. Check it out!

**Denella Kimura**

# Book Review for Summer Reading

by Denella Kimura

## The Redemption Series

by Karen Kingsbury  
with Gary Smalley

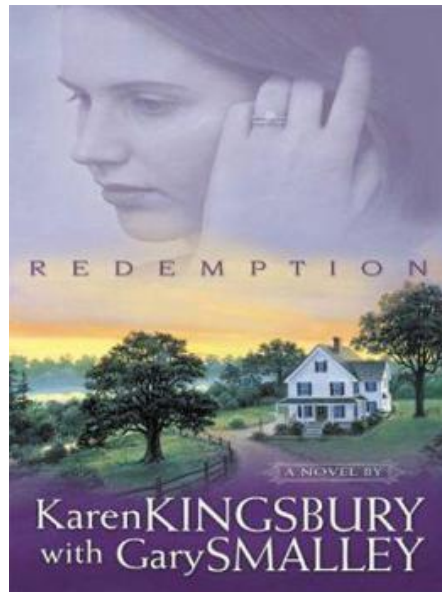
The Redemption Series is for the romance lovers among us. The series is about the Baxter family; Parents: John and Elizabeth, their daughters, Brook, Kari, Ashley and Erin, and son, Luke. Each book features one story, but all the family seem to “get in the act” when it comes to helping each other, or not helping, as the case may be.

Karen Kingsbury is America’s #1 best-selling inspirational author, having written over 50 books (I counted 71!) and sold over 25 million books. Gary Smalley said her books made him cry, and he never cries over novels.

When Gary Smalley, America’s relationship doctor, author of 65 award-winning, bestselling books, and co-founder of The Smalley Relationship Center, came to her with a dream of putting the Christian principles of relationships in a novel genre, Karen began praying about the story.

She was on an airplane when God gave her the story, the names and themes for what became a five-book series: “Redemption” (Kari’s story), “Remember,” (Brook’s and Ashley’s story), “Return” (Luke’s story), “Rejoice” (Ashley’s story), and “Reunion” (Erin’s story, and John and Elizabeth’s story.)

In “Redemption,” Kari’s marriage failed when her husband Tim went looking elsewhere for love. He is asking for a divorce. Kari decides to do the hard



thing: to fight for her marriage rather than give in to a young football player who loves her. Tim was not abusive to her, but there is someone lurking out there who is. Read to find out.

Smalley says, “Whatever your situation, there is hope. God can redeem our broken relationships and restore them to wholeness.”

In “Remember,” On September 10, 2001, Luke’s desire to watch a football game with his girlfriend Reagan broke a strict rule of not being alone during their dating time. The phone rang, and her father left a message as their relationship spun out of control. It was the last time she would hear her father’s voice, and her “guilt” feelings sent her into a tailspin of grief.

In “Return,” Luke denies everything he and his family believed, because he hadn’t made it his own. The back cover describes his state of mind, “Life is random, faith a fraud, and God a fantasy.” Read to find out what happened.

In “Rejoice,” Brook had emphasized to her husband Peter that their two daughters, Hayley and Maddie, needed to wear their safety jackets at all times, especially around the pool. But he let them remove their jackets in order to

eat cake. The baseball game on TV went into overtime and he forgot to look out for the girls until Maddie came in screaming, “I can’t find Hayley!” Read on to find out what happened.

In “Reunion,” all the stories come together. Ashley and Landon plan a wedding and John and Elizabeth plan a family reunion. But plans needed to be adjusted in time and location because Elizabeth’s cancer has returned, this time in her breasts and had spread through her lymph nodes. And Elizabeth and John have a secret they have hidden from the family for nearly thirty-five years. Guess who comes to visit? Read on to find out what happens.

“The message of Redemption,” says Kingsbury, “is that no matter who you are or where you’ve been, no matter the roads you’ve traveled, God loves you and wants to be in a deep relationship with you.”

Both Kingsbury and Smalley hope the reader “will gain a deeper understanding of how God can redeem broken relationships, how love shines its brightest in the shadow of his presence.”

I love the use of scripture in this series, as well as the way God speaks through and to this family. I love the love the family has for each other. I love Elizabeth in the way she holds her family and herself together. I love the way Karen Kingsbury holds surprises for the reader. The sweetest surprise in “Reunion” (sort of spoiler alert) is how many children show up with Erin at the reunion; and how Ashley’s story is also a surprise.

When God gives us a talented writer, an inspiring relationship expert, and a story worth buying 5 books, “ya gotta” read it!

Denella Kimura

# Dr. Ronald M. Lambert

## Columbia's Poet Laureate

Dick Dyer, Church Historian

I believe it is expedient for our church newsletter to once again feature in the *Golden Nugget* the interesting founder of the Church History Committee in 1992: Mr. Ronald M. Lambert. He was considered a spokesperson for his beloved church and community. From his home along Parrotts Ferry Road, he composed "free verse poetry" in a distinctive personal style of composition, always with due respect for the humble members of church and community. Those of us who knew him admired his aptitude to "see, feel and record" his messages in a "Little Volume," his labor of love for many years. It is now preserved in the church archives.

We read of his Christian faith and engaging poetic style. To his friends he was "Brother Ron" —to others he was the "Poet Laureate of Old Columbia," his chosen homeland.

Ron and I had occasional chats about his interests and contributions to the *Golden Nugget*. One day while strolling the church campus, we looked at the empty timeworn cottage at the corner of Jackson and Broadway Streets; both of us hoped it would be acquired by the church to become a place for the History Committee's important memorabilia -- records and artifacts. In addition, it could be a meeting retreat for the growing Youth Program and even a few special group events. As you must know, the church decided not to purchase the considerable ancient structure.

However, not to be discouraged, Ron took his spiritual message to the boardwalks of the State Park in Columbia. Here he met with visitors, most to listen to his personal narrative about

Old Columbia. He creatively spoke of the former mining camp as an exciting blend of history, folklore and pioneer ethics to receptive audiences at community and church gatherings.

Interested friends and neighbors would be up early to join Ron as he meandered in the Gold Rush village while "walking his talk" about Old Columbia. His "silent partner" was a garnished *shillelagh* (walking staff) which he used to describe various historical landmarks for his followers.



On regular occasions, Ron would suddenly appear in the 49er Church office to greet those present. He remarked, "What did you think of my recent church poem?" This led to many interesting discussions with the unassuming man with a BIG HEART—a 49er Church icon!

In conclusion for this article, I have selected a favorite poem by Ron Lambert for your pleasure.

***The Gold Country  
Where the Past and  
the Present Blend Into One.***

*A recreation of the past  
A place for the present fun,  
Treasure the past,  
Enjoy the present.*

Ron's many friends remark, "Many thanks, Friend Ron. May you continue to be at peace fully aware that your verses live on in the Church of the Forty-Niners in Columbia."

Dick Dyer

### Editor's Note:

According to his obituary, Dr. Lambert passed away on December 17, 2007 at the age of 82. He was an educator, teaching and inspiring young people for 30 years, leaving a lasting impact on his students. His spark was his ability to connect with people through poems, stories, and music.

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

## Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The twelve members of the Pastor Nominating Committee meet every other Wednesday to pray and discuss ongoing efforts to find a new Pastor. Providentially, with Pastor Chuck Westgate as our Transitional Pastor, we can take our time to seek God's counsel for our decisions. We want to update our street sign to reflect him as our interim pastor and that we are "Seeking a Full-time Senior Pastor."

Doreen is working with Office Administrator Deb Johnson to update the information on our website, including the History Page and Mission Statements, among others. Go to [www.churchofthe49ers.com](http://www.churchofthe49ers.com), and if you spot anything that needs correcting, please let Doreen know.

Our next meeting is August 14 at 4:30 pm in CE Room 3. We encourage any additional input. Keep praying for God's wisdom and unity for the Committee, and for the Lord's guidance moving forward.

**Doreen Bass, PNC Recording Secretary**

## Clerk of Session Report

Being unable to find a recent copy of the church By-Laws, I located all the copies starting from November 3, 2013 and the supporting amendments, and retyped them, noting when each section was amended. When I submitted this to Session for review, I reported that the By-Laws do not state what percent of Covenant Partners at a Congregational Meeting will decide the outcome of the vote. Thus, an amendment is being suggested for a simple majority at Congregational meeting yet to be scheduled. Details will be provided later.

For anyone volunteering to be a Greeter on Sunday mornings, there's now an updated "Greeter Training" paper available.



### Cat Therapy by Mr. Grace

Time: Sunday mornings  
unless he decides to sleep in

Place: Sanctuary  
Appointment Not Necessary

Cost: Free

Expected Benefit: A sense of calm and satisfaction

Your Job: Gentle petting

**Ozell Gilmore**

## 1st Wednesday Community Dinner is August 7

Our next dinner will be on Wednesday, August 7th. The menu is a surprise this month, but we all know it will be good! And nutritious.

Invite your friends, neighbors, anyone who might be interested.

The doors to Faith Hall open at 5:00 and dinner is served at 6:00 pm. This is a free meal, however donations are accepted.

Also updated is the "Application for Membership as a Covenant Partner," which includes an Emergency Contact, so family and friends can be advised. Pastor Chuck suggested that we develop a file for the office, so you may be asked by your Deacon if you wish to participate.

The packet used for the "Inquirer's Class" is being updated in anticipation of New Members!

**Doreen Bass, Clerk of Session**



*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*

*Ephesians 3:20–21 (New International Version)*

## You Guide the Path

Life is  
Full of  
Trials and tribulations  
But it's full of  
Something else  
Too.  
The reminder of  
A path  
Planned for us  
The hands that guide  
Us through  
The storms  
That could  
Set us  
Off course.

Life is  
Full of  
Those moments  
That knock  
Us to our  
Knees  
Searching  
For the  
Answers  
Only you can  
Give us.

And life is  
Full of those  
Moments  
That leave us  
In awe  
As we find  
Ourselves  
Surrounded  
By the evidence  
That miracles  
Are still  
Happening  
Everyday  
In so many  
Ways!

Copyright  
Michelle R Kidwell  
July.09.2024

## 4th of July Outreach Event



Columbia's Glorious Fourth of July Parade was an extremely hot one this year, so attendance was way down. Some hardy members of our congregation marched behind the church's parade banner, and Pastor Chuck and Sandy Westgate watched from the sidelines.

Following the parade, many volunteers hosted approximately 250 people to a free hot dog lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Photographs courtesy of Ed Clinite.

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

# August 2024 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

- Aug 6, 10 am: Prayer Group in Office
- Aug 7, 6 pm: Community Dinner in Faith Hall
- Aug 8, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- Aug 8, 11 am: Lunch Bunch at Papa's New Roost
- Aug 8, 6:30 pm: Mother Lode Brass & Reed Band Concert
- Aug 11, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3
- Aug 13, 10 am: Prayer Group in Office

- Aug 15, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- Aug 18, 11:15 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH
- Aug 18, 1 - 3:30 pm: *Just Dance* in Faith Hall
- Aug 20: 10 am: Prayer Group in Office
- Aug 20, 1 pm: Finance Committee in Office
- Aug 22, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
- Aug 27, 10 am: Prayer Group in Office
- Aug 28, 2 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3
- Aug 29, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

## Pictorial Directory Pictures

If you have not yet had your picture taken for the church pictorial directory, it's time to "get 'er done." See Leslie.



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!