

STONYFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH HISTORY

A history of the Stonyford
Community Church
In Words and Pictures

By
Roy Stewart

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A Narrated History
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Cover Photograph
by Edwin Pendell

Community Church History

About the Author

Roy Stewart is a retired technical writer who moved to the Stonyford area full time in 1996. He and his wife Pai had purchased their property in nearby Century Ranch in 1979. They improved the property in 1989 for use as a weekend getaway from their home in Morgan Hill. Roy took up photography, still and video, in 2004, and began videoing the rodeo in 2005. That same year, he became active in the Stonyford Community Church and created their web page: www.stonyfordca.org.

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www.stonyfordca.org

Introduction

The church history is organized into seven chapters:

- The first is old history that was recorded in documents from church records and published when the website was created in 2006.
- The second is a record of the 100th Anniversary Celebration, that was provided by former Pastor Greg Petrie.
- Third are descriptions of Events that were held in the church, or elsewhere in town.
- Fourth are descriptions, some with photographs, of church building and maintenance projects, from 1977 until the present.
- Fifth are activities for children: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Sports Camps.
- Sixth are people in the church who have made a difference.
- Seventh are memories of former pastors and long-time members.
- An appendix lists Village Missions pastors.

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Chapter One—Old History

On March 3, 1894, the ladies of Stonyford met to organize a Ladies Union Aid Society. In November of that year these ladies started a fund to build a church. John McDaniel donated the lots, and a building was started in September 1897—it was finished sometime in 1898. The church was originally known as Stonyford Dunkard Church. In 1917, it became the Stonyford Federated Church, and in 1931, it became the Union Community Church. [The Dunkard community centered in Stonyford later moved to Elk Creek and established a church that was the beginnings of the present Elk Creek Community Church.] In 1947, the church got electricity. The wiring was done by the New Tribes Missionaries, from their Fouts Springs camp. (The dates given here are from church records.)

In the 1960s, Harold Pearson was the pastor for approximately eight years. Between 1963 and 1965, Henry Mayberry was pastor. In 1960, the church became known as Stonyford Community Church, based on financial records.

The church celebrated its 90th anniversary in October 1987, with fifty-seven people attending. Larry Shisler officiated at the ceremonies.

For many years a small Sunday school group kept the church going, with different pastors over the years. At times there was only a children's program led by several faithful believers.

In 1971 the old Stonyford Ranger District office was moved from the Ranger Station to the back of the Community Church, for use as a Sunday school.

In November 1973, Sharon Moore sent a letter to Village Missions asking to provide pastoral leadership. Village Missions, as an organization, has a goal to provide pastoral leadership for small rural churches all over America and Canada. They pay the pastor's salary until the local church is able to do so.

In about 1971, Carl and Dolly Swisher moved into Stonyford and began attending the church. Although in his late seventies at that time, Carl worked many hours repairing the church—as did many others in the community. Carl had a dream that someday the church would have a steeple; however, there was so much more that had to be done before that could be accomplished.

First, the church had to have a foundation. In the 1970s, the church was lifted and moved nine feet back and placed on a solid foundation. A vestibule (foyer) and pastor's study were added to the front. The Sunday school and sanctuary all received a fresh coat of paint.

A local couple donated the money and had a lovely nursery attached to the Sunday school building.

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Joan Moon made a beautiful stained-glass window by hand that was placed over the sanctuary's side door. In making the glass, Joan said that after selecting a pattern, she doubled the size. The glass came pre-stained. The pink glass had genuine gold in it. Joan cut the 300 pieces and wrapped the edges with foil. She finished the window by soldering over the foil. This special window has added light and beauty to our church and lives. Thank you Joan! Pictures of Joan and the window are shown below.



But, still there was no steeple! Soon, however, the steeple fund had grown such that a steeple became financially feasible. The problems now were, What size? Metal or wood? How would it be installed? Those questions were soon answered by Mr. Jim Alloway.

Jim was a metal worker in Oakland who had recently moved to the town. He volunteered his time and considerable talents to building the steeple. Even though Jim could only work weekends, the steeple was soon finished. It was painted and installed atop the church using volunteer labor. The dream of Carl Swisher, now 92, had been realized in his lifetime. Sundays in Stonyford now resounded with a gong that could be heard throughout the land. [Ed. Note; Some of the source material for this article is from *Back in Time, Stonyford Community History*, compiled and written by Joyce Bond, Beulah Van Landingham, and Lawrence "Sharky" Moore, May 1993.] .

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Installing the steeple, November 1983.



Carl Swisher and the steeple



Church getting set on new foundation



**Vestibule (foyer) added in 1981.
Also note the bell atop the church.
It was later enclosed within the steeple.**

save the lost.



"Happy Birthday Beulah 95 years young"

Beulah Moore Vanlandingham was a much beloved member of the Stonyford community. She was the town's elementary school teacher, longtime secretary of the Stony Creek Horsemen's Association, and a dedicated member of the Stonyford Community Church. The concrete block office at the rodeo grounds is dedicated to her.

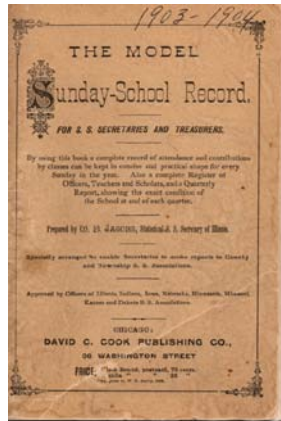
Old Church Records

In June 2023, while cleaning out the church storage room, a steel fire proof safe was discovered that contained some old church records. This box was likely previously stored in the old church office that was remodeled into an audio/visual (A/V) room in 2016. These church records are described below. All are available from the church secretary and can be perused within the church's confines.

Community Church History

Sunday School Record Book, 1903-1904

This book records details of the Sunday school meetings in 1903 and 1904. The church was known as a Sunday school in these years and did not have an assigned pastor. The congregants, mostly women, rotated the teaching amongst themselves. A page showing this book's cover and another listing the women of the Sunday school are shown below.



Register of Scholars <i>Stonyford</i> Sunday School				Register of Scholars Sunday School.			
No.	NAME.	When Enrolled.	REMARKS.	No.	NAME.	When Enrolled.	REMARKS.
1	Ans Robertson			27	Gerron Stiles		
2	Elta Leckham			28	Laurence ..		
3	Emma Stiles			29	Alice Adams		
4	Anna Phelps			30	Kayel ..		
5	Elda Walker			31	Katie Mulhops		
6	Ella Anderson			32	Arthur ..		
7	Myrta Morris			33	Brover Bond		
8	Ray McFarhan			34	Cora Bickford		
9	Ruter ..			35	Alice McDaniel		
10	Mary ..			36	Shady Edwards		
11	Willie Anderson			37	Leah ..		
12	Willie Durham			38	Mr Stiles		
13	Agan Walker			39	Mr Edwards		
14	Anna Bickford			40	Katie Stiles		
15	Phat Morris			41	Elna McFarhan		
16	Della Goulding			42	Clarence Morris		
17	Mabel Stiles			43	Eliza Walker		
18	Homer Durham			44	Miss Dapoley		
19	Morris McFarhan			45	Mrs Adams		
20	Murray ..			46	Ralph Dickson		
21	Leland ..			47	Mulford Harper		
22	Norman ..			48			
23	Grace ..						
24	Willie ..						
25	Jack ..						
26	Ruby Stiles						

Form 1

Community Church History

Record Book for 1931 and 1932

The book has pages torn or cut out and the first entry is on page 53 for Dec. 20, 1931. The writing is faded-with-age and very hard to read. This entry is signed by Wilma Sutliff, Secretary.

This book is a gold mine for researchers interested in the details of church meetings. Typical pages (see below) include hymns sung, meeting subject, and number of persons present. The below tabulation shows some of the meeting details as to leader (no pastor) and number of people present.



55

Jan. 3, 1932
meeting opened by singing
hymns no. 24, 47, 38, followed
by prayer. The meeting was
turned over to the leader, Marie
Pice whose subject was light.
References were now read. Special
reading by Mrs. Fellows and by
Mr. Clegg, and song by young
people and by Mrs. Clegg, Mrs.
Mc. Hagan and Mrs. Clutterbuck. There
were 24 present. Mrs. Clutterbuck
was appointed leader for the
two weeks meeting. Meeting
was closed by singing hymns nos.
97 and prayer.
Wilma Sutliff
Secretary

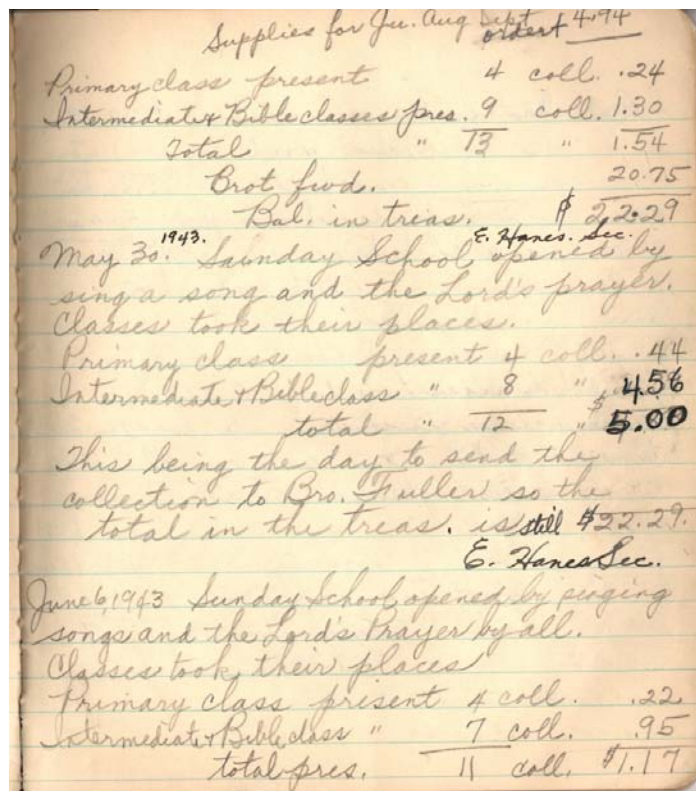
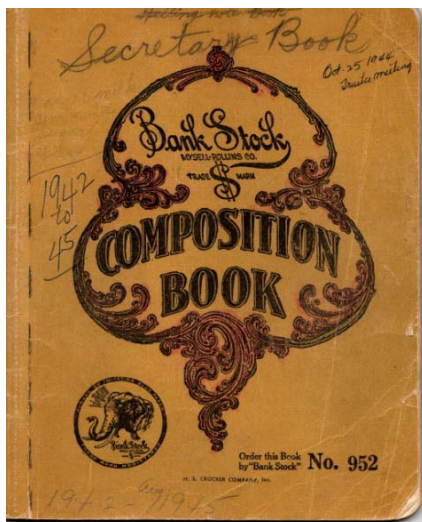
Community Church History

Secretary's Book Dated 1942 to 1945

This is mostly a record of weekly meetings and money collections; however, there are several notes of substance:

1. Easter Sunday, Apr 25, 1942. After the service, all present took their lunches to the Diversion Dam campgrounds "where everyone enjoyed a social time."
2. Oct. 25, 1944, business meeting. "Trustees took charge, with Charles Butler presiding." Nominations for Trustees were "Will Lyons, E. Haynes, and Mr. Johnson." Mr Lyons was elected.
3. Mr. Butler contacted PG&E about getting electricity to the church. Mr. Johnson said that his people would do the wiring and lights.
4. Other elections were also held: Superintendent, Edna Soeth; Secretary/Treasurer, Edith Haynes; Bible class teacher, Bro. Johnson; Intermediate teacher, Mr. Vodder; Primary teacher, Mrs. Vodder.

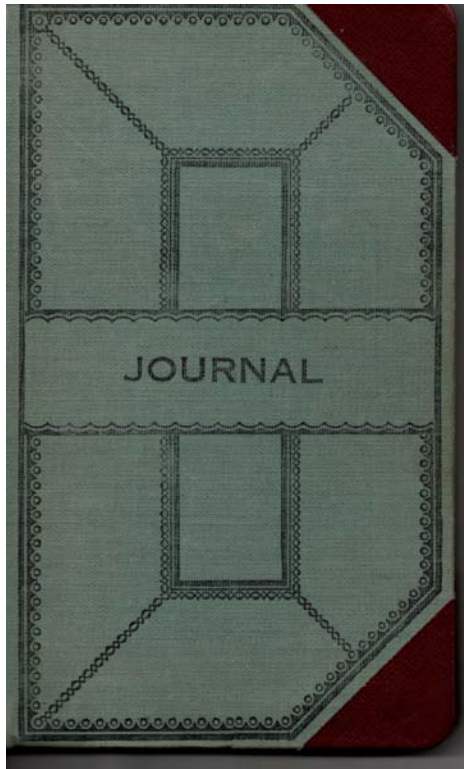
The church did not have a pastor (apparently) and the meetings were called Sunday School meetings. A typical page is shown below.



Community Church History

Financial Records

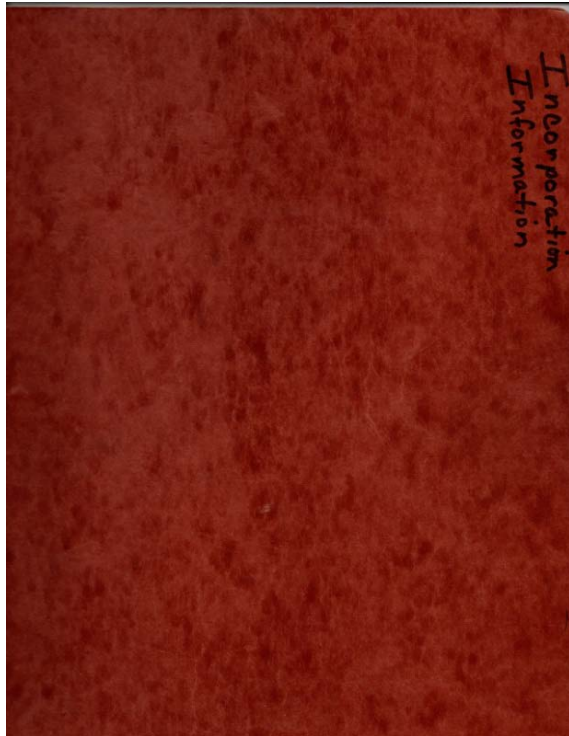
The Journal (see below) contains financial incomes and expenditures from 05-31-1942 thru 03-08-1977, which included some receipts. There were two newspaper clipping taped to the inside of the front cover. They're shown below.



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Church Incorporation 1980

The brown folder shown below contains the Articles of Incorporation paper dated 1980. Other records are stored in a yellow folder labeled "Old Papers."



P.O. Box 2935 Sacramento, CA 95812 Phone: (916) 443-2000		March Fong Eu Secretary of State		DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE	
STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
STATEMENT BY DOMESTIC NON-PROFIT CORPORATION					
THIS STATEMENT MUST BE FILED WITH CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE (SECTIONS 6210, 6210.1, 6210.10, 6210.15, 6210.16, 6210.17, 6210.18, 6210.19, 6210.20, 6210.21, 6210.22, 6210.23, 6210.24, 6210.25, 6210.26, 6210.27, 6210.28, 6210.29, 6210.30, 6210.31, 6210.32, 6210.33, 6210.34, 6210.35, 6210.36, 6210.37, 6210.38, 6210.39, 6210.40, 6210.41, 6210.42, 6210.43, 6210.44, 6210.45, 6210.46, 6210.47, 6210.48, 6210.49, 6210.50, 6210.51, 6210.52, 6210.53, 6210.54, 6210.55, 6210.56, 6210.57, 6210.58, 6210.59, 6210.60, 6210.61, 6210.62, 6210.63, 6210.64, 6210.65, 6210.66, 6210.67, 6210.68, 6210.69, 6210.70, 6210.71, 6210.72, 6210.73, 6210.74, 6210.75, 6210.76, 6210.77, 6210.78, 6210.79, 6210.80, 6210.81, 6210.82, 6210.83, 6210.84, 6210.85, 6210.86, 6210.87, 6210.88, 6210.89, 6210.90, 6210.91, 6210.92, 6210.93, 6210.94, 6210.95, 6210.96, 6210.97, 6210.98, 6210.99, 6210.100)					
PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK OF FORM. PLEASE TYPE OR USE BLACK INK WHICH WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR MICROFILMING. FEE FOR FILING THIS STATEMENT — \$2.50					
10126182 DUE DATE 12/31/81 6452N STONYFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH GEN. DEL. SUTTER ST. STONYFORD, CA. 95979					
DO NOT ALTER PREPRINTED NAME. IF ITEM 1 IS BLANK, PLEASE ENTER CORPORATE NAME					
NOTICE OF NEW LAW: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1980 ALL NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS MUST FILE WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER FILING ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AN ANNUAL STATEMENT. THEREAFTER, CORPORATIONS MUST FILE ANNUALLY BY THE END OF THE CALENDAR MONTH OF THE ANNIVERSARY DATE OF ITS INCORPORATION. A TWO DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENT (\$2.50) FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS STATEMENT. THE LAW ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE FAILURE TO FILE THIS STATEMENT WILL RESULT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF A FIFTY DOLLAR (\$50) PENALTY.					
THE CORPORATION NAMED HEREIN, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, MAKES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:					
1. STREET ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL COMPLETE FIRM		ROUTE OR ROOM		CITY AND STATE	
Sutter St.		--		Stonyford, California	
2. MAILING ADDRESS (OPTIONAL) DO NOT USE P.O. BOX NOS.		ROUTE OR ROOM		CITY AND STATE	
General Delivery Stonyford, Ca. 95979		--		Stonyford, California	
3. NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS ARE:					
4. PASTOR		5. CHURCH SECRETARY		6. CHURCH TREASURER	
Pastor James Dresser		Mrs. James Moon		Mrs. David Isle	
7. BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE ADDRESS (DO NOT USE P.O. BOX)		8. BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE ADDRESS (DO NOT USE P.O. BOX)		9. BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE ADDRESS (DO NOT USE P.O. BOX)	
Second & Market St.		Market St.		Stonyford-Lddoga Rd.	
Stonyford, Ca.		Stonyford, Ca.		Stonyford, Ca.	
10. AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS		Pastor James Dresser			
11. I DECLARE THAT I HAVE EXAMINED THIS STATEMENT AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF IT IS TRUE, CORRECT AND COMPLETE.					
DATE 10/18/81 FILE Pastor SIGNATURE OF CORPORATE OFFICER OR AGENT James M. Dresser					



DREAM REALIZED - Carl Swisher, 92, has worked on the Stonyford Church for many years and was very happy to see the new steeple installed.

A dream comes true

by Arva Jean Waldron

Monday afternoon Carl Swisher stood around with a movie camera, taking pictures as one of his dreams came true. The steeple for the Stonyford Church was going to be put on the church roof gable.

Before the steeple could be put up, they needed a crane to lift it to the gable. Rackley Construction employees brought a crane from Orland. Bryan Taylor donated his time and operated the crane and the company gave the church a special rate. Taylor eased the steeple down on the gable. One of the holes which the steeple's legs had to fit was too small. George Pendell chisled the opening larger and then the steeple was eased down. Robert Gonzales and Pastor Jim Dresser were on the roof with George to help make sure the steeple was in the right place.

Carl Swisher said, "When we came down here the church was not very good. I worked at it when I could. We got an old

burned out building from the compound for the classrooms. I scraped and finally got it ready. The foundation was bad, and we got that fixed. Then about two or three years ago, I brought up the steeple and other church members were in agreement and today it goes up." He watched as it was being adjusted.

Later, Mr. Swisher was told to go ring the bell. He stood thoughtfully waiting with the rope in his hand, for the signal to pull. This reporter wondered what was going through his mind. This man had put in many hours of his later life in working on the building in which he worshipped. The signal came and the 92 year old man tugged the rope, and for the first time the bell's peal rang forth and were heard throughout the town.

Many other church members came to watch and to take pictures of the event. Carl still had some film left, he was going to take movies of the church building with the new steeple.

Chapter Two—100th Anniversary

The text in this chapter is from a file sent by former Pastor Greg Petrie.

Stonyford Community Church's 100 Year Celebration

On August 22, 1999, 120 people gathered together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Stonyford Community Church. Actually, it's 101, but who's counting? Stonyford is located in northern California amidst the eastern foothills of the Coast Range.

Stonyford is about 100 miles southwest of Redding and 100 miles northwest of Sacramento. Oak trees dot the rolling hills which provide pasture for cattle. Many residents work for the U.S. Forest Service in the nearby Mendocino National Forest or at the Fouts Springs Youth Correctional Facility about nine miles up into the hills. Stonyford is also a popular destination for retirees moving from the hectic pace and stress of city life in the San Francisco Bay area. You won't find a traffic light within 40 miles of Stonyford -- or a McDonald's either! The Stonyford Community Church has been a part of this community for the past 100 years.

The theme of the days' gathering was "Celebrating 100 years of God's faithfulness." The morning started with a light brunch provided by the ladies of the church. This gave the early arrivers an opportunity to greet one another and get a head start on the day of fellowship. This was followed by a special worship service. With an average Sunday worship service attendance of just over thirty, it was quite a thrill to fill the 96 seat sanctuary with 120 worshippers. No one minded setting up extra chairs for the additional worshippers!

The service was begun by church board chairman Frank Pendell. He led the congregation in a responsive reading from Psalm 136, with the congregation thundering in reply "His love endures forever!" The congregation sang out "How Great Thou Art" and "Amazing Grace." As one young lady shared after the service, "It sure was loud when everyone was singing!" Gwen Morris shared about some of the ladies who had been special members of the church over the years and made a special introduction of Mr. Harold Walkup, who had attended Sunday school there around 1910. The service also included special music, slides, and sharing by previous pastors David Houchin and Larry Shisler. Letters were read from other past Village Missionaries David Tosi, Jim Dresser, and Mike Finley. Current Village Missionary Greg Petrie closed the service of celebration. The people were also able to enjoy colorful displays of photographs which had been arranged by Sheri Pendell. Of course, no major church celebration would be complete without a delicious potluck meal, which followed the service. It was good to fellowship together and be reminded of how faithful God has been. Each out-of-town guest and the many members of the community who joined the church body for this time of celebration were appreciated.

Much of the church's history has not been preserved. In 1894, the ladies of Stonyford joined together to form the Ladies Union Aid Society. On November 6, 1894, they held a dinner to begin raising money to build a church. They began building in 1897, and the church was completed sometime in 1898. However, the names of only two of the pastors from the first

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75 years are known. Very few records have been kept, but God has been faithful to maintain this outpost for His kingdom these past 100 years. There is no mistaking whose church this is. No one can say, "There is Chuck's church." Or "This is the church that Jack built. The Stonyford Community Church has remained because of the faithfulness of God. God has used various pastors, leaders, and organizational structures. People have come and gone. People have moved and died yet God remains the same. By the grace of God there has always been a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Stonyford.

In one of the paradoxes of the kingdom of God when though it is God's work, God chooses to do His work through people. Christ builds His church through His church. We may not remember who has been here, but God does. God knows each and every faithful servant. God knows who taught Sunday school at the turn of the century. God knows who attended prayer meetings in the 30's. God knows who swept the floor in the 50's. God knows who hammered every nail brought every flower, gave every penny, and prayed every prayer.

Village Missions has been supplying Stonyford Community Church with pastoral leadership since 1973. Each missionary who has served in Stonyford has been uniquely used by God to assist the local body in reaching their community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through each obedient servant God has been faithful to continue the work of building His kingdom as the apostle Paul wrote, "And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me." (Col. 1:29 NASB).

God is faithful. God is good. God has chosen to reach into this corner of the world and take a ragamuffin group of farmers and foresters, nurses and teachers, cowboys and carpenters, accountants and beekeepers, men and women, preschoolers and golden-agers, and build them into a testimony to the inconceivable wonder of His grace and the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The people of Stonyford Community Church gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness; not to a building not to an organization but to people. It is God's desire that people be a part of His family.

That's what God has been working on the past 100 years; and should He choose to prolong this age, will continue to do so for the next 100--building His adopted family.

Stonyford Community Church History

- March 3, 1894 -- The Ladies of Stonyford met to organize a Ladies Union Aid Society
- Nov. 6, 1894 -- The Ladies Union Aid Society gave a dinner to start a fund for building a church. John McDaniel gave the property on which the church was built.
- Sept. 1897 -- Decided to start building
- 1898 -- The church was finished.
- 1903-04 Sunday school attendance records. (47, collection of \$0.25-\$1.14.)
- 1917 -- Stonyford Federated Church
- ?? - Stonyford Dunkard Church

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- 1931-32 - S.S. minutes of the Young People's Society of the Union Community Church

Treasurer Records:

- May 1942 -- S.S. treasury bal. = \$19.38
- May 1947 -- special collection for paint; \$2.32
- 1947 -- Wiring done by New Tribe missionaries from Fouts Springs Camp
- Jan. 1949 -- balance .56 - oil fund offering = \$9.80
- Mar. 1949 -- overdrawn 2.94
- 1953 - Rented parsonage for \$20.00/month
 - Apr. '53-Dec. '54 -- Mr. - Al Olds
 - Mar. '55-Mar. '56 -- John Hampton
 - June '56 -- T. Coffman (raised to \$30.00)
- 1950's -- Harold Pearson preached for 8 years.
- 1960 -- Account called Stonyford Community Church
- 1963-65 -- Henry Mayberry preached
- Nov. 1970 -- purchase a lot where the lawn and pavilion are today.
- May 1971 -- \$800.00 Glenn house movers: for moving old Forest Service office to church property.
- Jan. 1972 -- \$100.00 to building fund: Stony Creek Horseman's Ass.
- Oct. 1972 -- cake walk by Grange Home Ec. Club as benefit for new S.S. room -- \$170.65
- Nov. 1973 -- purchased a second lot adjacent to 1970 purchase for \$570.00.
- Nov. 1973 -- Village Missions began serving
- Nov. 25, 1973 -- offering for pastor David Houchin; \$10.25
 - Helen Nichols; 12.35
- Jan. 1, 1974 -- Howard Langston, cash offering for 4 Sun. in Dec.; \$52.60
- Jan. 6, 1974 -- no church because of snow
- July 1979 -- new pews
- Nov. 1983 -- steeple set

B-2 — Journal-Register, Friday,

Memorabilia



RODEO PARADE WINNER - The Stonyford Community Church won first place with their float

in the Stonyford Rodeo Parade. (Photo by Michel Knight).

Chapter Three—Events

Since the 1980s, the church has sponsored or produced plays, pageants, or variety shows in the church, town hall, or fire station. All of the events documented in this chapter were captured on video and saved to DVD. The events were organized by the Women's Ministry.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry (WM) has been active in the growth of this church for many years. The church, itself, was started by women (Ladies Union Aid Society) in 1894, and the women have played a major role since then.

In the 1990s, the WM organized weekly Ladies Bible Studies, Fall Luncheons, Ice Cream Socials, Yard Sales, Women's Retreats, they sold Christmas Baskets at the town bazaar, and they produced Valentine's Day and Christmas programs.

A major element of the WM was the Secret Sisters, in which Gwen Morris, until her passing, was the "Mom." The Sisters were primarily a prayer group. Individual women were secretly paired with one another and only "Mom" knew the secret pairings. The paired women would pray for each other just as they would pray for a family member, and they gave their Sister a gift at holidays or her birthday, if she so chose.

The Christmas programs were held in the church. Some years they were elaborate plays and other years simply readings and special music. For many years plays were directed by Lois Knight, who involved children and adults; a favorite of Lois' was her "Shadow Play."

The Valentine's Day dinners were initially held in the Grange Hall, but that location was soon changed to the larger Community Hall. The largest dinner crowd was about 160 people. The program has featured a musical show along with the dinner.

New Year's Eve parties hosted in people's homes have been a big hit, where everyone brings finger foods and board games. At the turn of the millennium, in 1999, Sheri and Frank Pendell hosted a party at the Grange Hall and invited the whole town. Ed Lazarus brought a large-screen TV and connected it up for satellite reception. This was a big deal for Stonyford; it allowed the party goers to watch the century turn from Twenty to Twenty One throughout the world.

Mary Quiberg had the idea of Yard Sales and she organized the collection of donations from around the community. Mary also setup a hot dog stand, which became very popular. It allowed people to have lunch and sit around visiting with others.

Group activities—spending time with others and getting to know them better—prevailed as a goal for the WM. This happened at the planned dinners and in the time spent in setting up for

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the yard sales, and at the New Year's Eve parties. Individuals in the church and WM celebrate a friend or child's birthday, and baptisms and potluck dinners, where all ages come together.

Christmas Programs

Church members produced a Christmas Program in most years. Roy Stewart began making video recordings in 2006 and creating a DVD each year. DVD recordings are available for the years 2006 through 2017, and are in the church library. Here are a few scenes:



The Christmas Choir in 2006.



The Title frame of the 2007 Christmas Play—the various scenes from the play surround the title block.

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Ralph Minto and his son Drex in 2013. They appeared in most, if not all, of the Christmas plays. The church had the pleasure of witnessing Drex grow up and get bigger every Christmas.



In 2006 a “youthful” 76 year-old Jessie Westcamp plays her keyboard at the Christmas play and the late Dave Brusseau accompanies her on bass. In 2023, she celebrated her 93rd year, and she still plays the piano and keyboard at church and other musical events around Stonyford.

Valentine’s Day Programs

The Women’s Ministries served dinner then presented a program first at the Stonyford Grange Hall, then later—when that venue became too small—it moved to the larger Community Hall. These were fun shows and often provided skits of popular entertainers, e.g. The Everly Brothers, The Hollywood Argyles, and Elvis. The most ambitious program was a takeoff on the Lawrence Welk Show that was produced in 2009. Valentine’s Day Programs are available in the church library for the years 2006-2013 and 2016.

Here are some takes from 2006 featuring The Everly Brothers, The Hollywood Argyles, and Elvis, and from 2009 with the “Lemon” Sisters.

Community Church History



The “Everly Brothers” (aka Don Jones and Ralph Minto) perform at the 2006 Valentine’s Day show in the Community Hall



The “Hollywood Argyles” (aka L-R: Jo Westoff, Gwen Morris, Dorothy Lingerfelt, and Nancy Morey) sing Alley Oop at the 2006 Valentine’s Day show.



“Elvis” (aka Zoe Brandenberger) performs at the 2006 Valentine’s Day show. “Elvis” showed up several times over the many years.



The "Lemon" (spoof of the Lennon sisters) performs at the 2009 Valentine's Day shown in a skit imitating the Lawrence Welk shows.

Greg Petrie Farewell

Greg preached in Stonyford for 14 years. Greg was much liked and respected in the town. He was a first responder and was frequently called up with the fire department on 911 calls. The whole town was sad to see him go and honored him with a farewell dinner in the Community Hall. The church put on a program and dinner when he departed in January 2011. Both the community hall dinner and the church farewell were recorded to separate DVDs. Also, because of his participation in entertainment events, a third DVD highlighting his performing activities is also in the church library.



Valentine's Day Program, 2016

The 2016 event had a photo booth that was very popular. Here are some photos. There was also professional entertainment. A Gospel Group, the Crandall Brothers, sang several songs. They had appeared at the church earlier in the day and elected to stay and join in the festivities.



Pastor Kevin Weston and his family sit for a photograph.

Community Church History



Roy and Pai Stewart. Pai made the quilt used for the background.



Frank and Shari Pendell



The Crandall Brothers sang for us.

Community Church History



Photographs are from a page in an album created by Darleen Weston

Clifton Jansky Concerts

For four consecutive years, 2006-2009, the church sponsored Clifton Jansky, a Christian Country Music Association singer from San Antonio, Texas, to come to Stonyford during rodeo weekend. He put on concerts in the old town hall, which is now the Stonyford Museum, or in the fire hall. Clifton preached at the rodeo grounds on Rodeo Sunday morning each of these years. However, he wasn't the first. The church sponsored other gospel singers in previous years: Heaven Bound performed in 1997; Mission Mountain Band, in 1998; Corkey Harkins, in 1999; and the Stevens Family, in 2000. Jansky's 2007 concert in the fire hall was recorded on video; a DVD is in the church library. Here is a photo:



Harvest Festival

Starting in October 2020 the church put on a festival to celebrate the annual harvest season. This event includes game booths for the kids, a petting zoo, horseback or pony rides and a hay-wagon ride pulled by Dan Gillmore's tractor. The event was recorded to video and a DVD is in the church library. Photographs are shown here.

Community Church History



Placing hay bales to form an enclosure.



Joy Pendell is asking "Lemonade Anyone."



If not lemonade, "How about a Cotton Candy."



Folks heading out for a hayride.



Kids and adults surrounded by hay bales. enclosure.



Kids blowing up balloons by small-pigs.

Community Church History



Frank & Judy Elliott at 2022 Harvest Festival.



Serving food at 2022 Harvest Festival.



Penne Arbanasin watches as Deb Fookes helps kids make caramel apples.



Ethan Pendell plays tic-tac-toe game.



After seeing all of that food. It's time to eat!

Memorabelia

STONYFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

1984 CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

* * * * *

December 19, - Wednesday - 6:30 pm - meet at church

CHRISTMAS CAROLING (nursery provided)

* * * * *

December 23, - Sunday - 10:15 am

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & PLAY

Theme: "No room in the inn. . .
Is there room in your heart?"

refreshments served afterwards

no evening service

* * * * *

December 31 - New Year's Eve - at the Town Hall

games & movie & refreshments

7:30 pm - midnight movie shown at 8 pm
(bring table games)

* * * * *

963-3072



Chapter Four—Building and Maintenance Projects

This chapter provides a brief history, with photographs, of the thirteen major building or maintenance projects that the church has undertaken from 1977 to the present day.

Old Parsonage Remodeling, 1977

The shell of the old parsonage, which was about half the size of the present structure (approximately 1000 sq. ft.), was acquired from the IOOF (Odd Fellows) Lodge 456, in Stonyford, when they moved to the present Grange Hall structure. A local history book records that this happened in 1927. The Grange Hall structure began its life as the Stonyford (or Snow Mountain) Creamery in 1913. IOOF records show that Lodge 456 purchased a property in 1933, which was likely the creamery. It is also likely that the church acquired this Parsonage property by donation from the IOOF in 1933, since the IOOF has no records of the lodge selling any property. This IOOF information was acquired from Nancy Johnson, Grand Master of the IOOF, in 2016, by Roy Stewart, for an article he was then writing on the Creamery.

The remodeling in 1977 consisted of building a new foundation for the old parsonage and then lifting the structure and moving it onto this new foundation. They then added a foundation and new structure of like proportions and finished it off with needed interior furnishings. When the Petries lived here, the church remodeled the kitchen again in 2010.

David Isle says that people like Ed and Marge Pendell, Carl and Dolly Swisher, Brooks McDonald, Dick Moore, Wilbur Resser, Ted Mason (who never attended our church, but who helped on about every building project around town), Frank Pendell, George Pendell, and David Isle worked on the old parsonage located at the corner of Market and Second streets.

Community Church History



Ed and Marge Pendell.



Richard (Dick) Moore.



Dave Tosi with Dolly and Carl Swisher in 1977, at his 85th birthday party.

David Isle wrote that “Carl Swisher was amazing. He had two strokes, but he recovered each time. Dolly would drop him off at the parsonage and then pick him up after he had worked all day.”



Brooks (Mac) and Laura McDonald. Mac was a retired contractor who helped on building projects as needed.

Limb Falling On Old Parsonage, Winter 1993

(This memory is from David Isle, a retired botanist with the U.S. Forest Service, who was also a member of the Stonyford Community Church.)

David Isle reported that Pastor Jason Ham called him one winter day in 1993 to let him know that “a little limb” had fallen on the roof of the parsonage.

“How little?” David asked. “Jason fudged a bit,” he said. An inspection by David showed that two limbs from that elm had fallen, but somehow had not broken any rafters upon impact.



David wrote that he called his friend, Dick Thompson, and asked him to meet him at the parsonage with his tow truck; his truck had a powerful winch. “I put my Toyota on the lot to the south of the parsonage,” he wrote, “and had Dick Thompson put his tow truck on the street to the north (2nd Avenue.)”

Community Church History

David continues, “I rigged ropes from the branches on the roof to a higher point on the elm and then (I think) both N [north] and S [south] to attach to Dick’s wench (and possibly the Toyota for two different directional pulls.”)



“After making some cuts on the branches to loosen them, I coordinated Dick’s winching to swing them off the roof.”

“I think one or both still were attached to the bole of the elm by their splintery breakage point,” David writes, “so that provided a pivot point for the branches to swing on as they were lifted up off the roof. Somehow, between the two directional pulling ropes; the branches were lifted off the roof and swung free of the house.

“It was quite a relief to find that neither the branch fall nor my involvement had punctured or broken anything. The snow on the roof must have helped pad the blow, but God also was merciful.”

This incident wasn’t over quite yet. Six years later, in February 1999, the elm tree was again posing a problem for the parsonage: this time, to the tool shed. Frank Pendell and David Isle decided it needed to be pruned. At a time when Pastor Greg was out of town, we went over and spent two days pruning. Frank worked from a ground position and watched out for David working in the tree.



David Isle dressed for tree climbing. (Photo was taken by Jason Ham, after David arrived at the Parsonage.)



Elm tree before its limbs broke off and fell on the parsonage.

Church Septic Repair, April 2009

The church experienced a septic problem and had to locate the septic tank. This was a problem that required much digging. See the photos on the following pages:

Community Church History



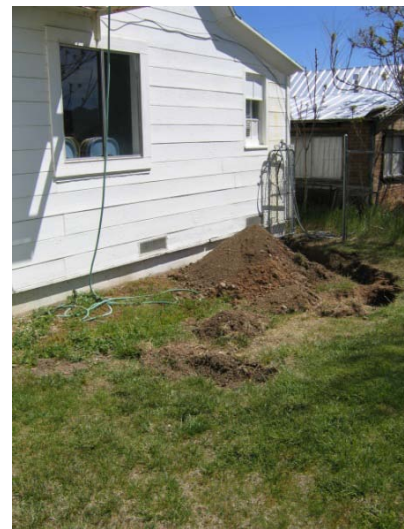
Church septic inlet leak excavation.



David Isle dug to reveal septic inlet leak.



Church Septic Tank Connection.



Septic Line to Tank.



Church Septic Tank on west side of Sunday school.



Church Septic Tank on April 11, 2009.

Handicap Access Ramp Construction, 2012

In April 2012, the church built a ramp, porch, and overhang to assist handicapped congregants gain entry to the church sanctuary. The project proceeded in two steps: deck and overhang, then the ramp. The photographs below show how this effort unfolded.



Sorting out the building materials. Paul Crabtree drives the rented forklift.

Community Church History



Paul moves the material in place using the forklift.



David Isle works from on high to secure the beams in place.

Community Church History



With a lot of moving and bolting into place, the job nears completion



Paul nails the cover sheeting into place.

Community Church History



The deck, bridge to the Sunday school, and cover are all in place. Next comes the ramp.



Concrete covered ramp goes into place. The concrete was poured in sections over many days with many volunteers helping out.

Community Church History



John Bodeker mixes the concrete.



Church ramp and overhang as it looks today, June 25, 2023.

Community Church History

New Parsonage History

The church needed a new parsonage, as it discovered early in 2003, when the county denied a permit to add a garage to the then-current parsonage. The Board started looking and considered buying the Garr property on First Street. It contained a mobile home that could work as a new parsonage. This deal fell through in 2004. In 2003, Marie Moody had offered to sell the church 2-1/2 acres that fronted on Geary Street, a short walk from the church. In February 2005, the church purchased the Moody property.

Frank Pendell said that after the land purchase, he used Legos blocks to make a three-dimensional model of what the Board thought the new parsonage should look like. He then brought this model to the church and asked members to look it over and offer comments. This hands-on approach created much positive activity and a desire for a new parsonage.

Now, with the property in hand, a known need, and a possible dwelling design, building plans were needed. In May 2008, architect Greg Pietz was hired to create the plans.

The next need was for a contractor. Church member Paul Crabtree, a licensed contractor, stepped into the breach. He offered to manage the acquisition of the materials and to work five eight-hour days each week for pay, and to work overtime and weekends for free, when volunteers were available.

In earlier years, people had donated to the church's building fund. This fund provided the seed money for the new building project. Certificates of Deposit in the building fund matured to provide ready cash. Fund raising intensified, and people in the church opened their hearts and their checkbooks to keep the money coming.

Frank Pendell said that volunteer effort was timely and plentiful. Members and other town folks offered their time and equipment as needed on weekdays and weekends. On most days, one or more persons were at the worksite to assist Paul in laying the foundation, erecting the frame, and doing the electrical and plumbing. It was big job. Paul Crabtree says that the job took three full years to complete. He went on to say that we framed and roofed it for cash and then waited until the balance of cash was raised to finish it. The Board strongly felt that God was directing the effort and that He wanted the Pastor's home to be built debt free.

The size of the building tells the story: The dwelling is 4500 square feet and has four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Additionally, it has a two-car garage with storage rooms, and the pastor's office and front living room for meetings.

In January 2011, Pastor Greg Petrie was reassigned within Village Missions and left our church. Upon his departure, the present parsonage became vacant and was sold. This sale provided the funds needed to complete the work on the new parsonage. It was finished the next year. Interim Pastor John Smith became its first occupant in January 2013. He was a

Community Church History

part-time resident; his permanent home was in nearby Marysville. The first fulltime residents were Pastor Kevin Weston and his family in 2013.

Pastor Kevin was reassigned to another Village Missions church in November 2018. The parsonage was again vacant. Daniel Reagan became pastor in August 2019. He moved his wife and six children into the parsonage, and the house was again filled with talk and laughter.

New Parsonage Construction, 2008 thru 2011

The construction of the new parsonage began in the summer of 2008, with grading for the home, and was finished in October 2011, with an open house for the new parsonage. The photographs below and on the following pages tell the story of the outer-house construction.



Grading for the parsonage, July 31, 2008



Pastor Greg dedicates the project while Paul Crabtree and Frank Pendell break ground.



Stonyford folks attend the dedication ceremony, August 3, 2008



L-R: Greg Petrie, Lois Knight, Paul Crabtree, Frank and Sheri Pendell

Community Church History



The foundation is coming together.



Almost ready to start raising the walls.



Preparing to raise the first wall, September 6, 2008.



The first wall is up



The parsonage wall, with the garage next to it.



Side view of parsonage trusses, September 26, 2008.

Community Church History



Paul Crabtree stabilizes the garage trusses.



Installing the sheathing. Finished October 11, 2008



Volunteer workers lay the shingles, fall 2008.



The siding is completed, July 10, 2009.



View of the mountains from the yet-to-be-finished dining room window.
L-R: Susan Petrie, Rosanne and Walt Jacoby (District Representatives)
and Greg Petrie

Community Church History

The timeline below shows two-year process for building the parsonage's interior. The project slowly moved forward as funds were donated, or otherwise became available.

Date	Project
Fall 2009	The roof was completed and the house was made ready for the coming winter
12/03/2009	Open house to show progress.
Spring 2010	Insulation was installed. The material was donated by the Johns Mansville Corp. in Willows.
05/10/2010	Sheet Rock was hung. This project was subcontracted out.
07/16/2010	The inside doors were hung.
08/28/2010	The interior walls were painted.
01/28/2011	The garage door was installed
08/22/2011	The flooring was installed.
09/19/2011	The kitchen tile and the Pergo floor were finished.
09/22/2011	The County made its final inspection.
10/30/2011	An Open House was held to show off the new parsonage to the community. The total costs were \$193,376.27, as of 12/20/2012.

Church Office Remodeling, Summer 2016

The vestibule, or foyer, that was added circa 1981 was originally partitioned into a small office area and a larger welcoming area. In late 2015, the office area was converted into an audio/visual (A/V) center. The work was done by Dan Gillmore, Roy Stewart, and a visiting couple, Ray and Ami.

The genesis for this A/V center stemmed from the Church Board asking Roy Stewart to shoot videos of Pastor John Smith's interesting sermons. John Smith became our interim pastor in January 2013.

Remodeling this seldom used office area provided a perfect A/V work center. Work started in January and was completed in June 2016.

Central Air Conditioning and Heating System, November 2016

In 2016 air conditioning was installed in the church sanctuary to replace the downdraft (swamp) cooling. The job was finished November 27, 2016, by a local contractor.

Church Front Overhang, Spring 2019

In circa 2017, Dan Gillmore was asked by the Church Board to design a roof section that could be added to the vestibule (foyer) to protect the entry door from elemental degradation. Dan took on the project and built the overhang in his shop. To allow for installation without having to use external supports, he added a large ridge beam that ran the distance from the front of the overhang, through the vestibule, to the front wall of the original church building. In April 2019, a group that included Dan; Frank Pendell, and his cousin Brent; Frank and Judy Elliott and Roy Stewart, met at Dan's shop to move the completed overhang to the church. This movement is documented in a video that is available in the church library. This was a big job for our small group and went off without a hitch. Sheri Pendell took the photos shown below.



Frank Pendell, on forklift, prepares to insert the ridge pole on the overhang into the prepared cutout on the church vestibule.



Judy and Frank Elliott hold up the telephone wire while Frank moves closer to the vestibule entry point.

Chairs and Carpet, Summer 2020

In 2020 the original pew seating for 96 persons that was fixed to the floor, and the old, worn out carpeting was removed and replaced by individual, removable chairs that can be hooked together to form rows. New carpeting was also installed. The photos below show the pew removal and new carpet prep work.



On June 14, 2020, volunteers gather at the church to begin moving the pews and preparing the floor for new carpet.

Community Church History



Bringing out the old pews.



The old pews are lined up and awaiting pickup.



Preparing the floor by removing the old carpet and scraping away the glue.



Wendell Prine carries out a piece of the old carpet.



Pastor Reagan's children help, while Frank Pendell looks on.



Laying the new carpet.

Community Church History

Purchase of Wayne Langford Home, October 2, 2020

In a grant deed recorded on October 2, 2020, the church purchased the home and property next door on the church's north side. The house was dilapidated; however, some of it can and will be salvaged. The three lots purchased will be the future home of a fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms.

Construction of Pavilion, Fall 2020

In late-year 2019 the novel Coronavirus came out of China and infected the world. The next year, 2020, our church—along with others—was prohibited from having indoor meetings; consequently, we moved outside. We setup chairs and a podium under a temporary covering and held our service. We also started planning a permanent solution. This solution was the present pavilion at the rear of the church. This project included the construction of two sidewalks and a lawn. The pavilion and both sidewalks were built by contractors. Laying the lawn is described later in the book..



Temporary Sunday worship area.



Laying out the foundation.



Unloading the pavilion parts.



Getting the end pieces in place.

Community Church History



Erecting the steel structure.



Sunday worship in new pavilion, with the 93 year-old Jessie Westcamp at her keyboard.

Painting the Church, Inside and Out, 2020

In March 2020 several ladies were hired to paint the inside of the church. Then, in July 2020 a contractor painted the outside—including the steeple. The photographs below show details of these two painting efforts.



Getting ready to paint the inside.



Painting the walls and ceiling.

Community Church History



Job is done. L-R: Judy Parker, Terri Moore, Karen Moore.



Painting the steeple.



Contractor Mike Whitney sprays the cross.



The steeple framed by the rising sun.
Photo by Edwin Pendell.

Laying Sod for Church Lawn, July 2021

Early Saturday morning, July 3, 2021, twenty people met at the church to lay out sod and create an instant green lawn. The sod was donated and was delivered in 2x4 foot rolls, on pallets, to the front of the church. Frank Pendell, with his forklift, distributed the pallets around the 4,000 square foot area where the new lawn would take shape. The workers began moving the sod rolls onto the lawn area and rolling them out. Quickly, without any direction, the people organized themselves into an efficient sod-laying team—one person began rolling the sod as another began watering it, most carried rolls and set them in place while others rolled them out. Within an hour the bare ground had turned green with a soft, well padded, three-inch high lawn. The task began about 6:15 a.m., and by 8 a.m. the previously installed twelve sprinklers were turned on and the job was complete. Here are some pictures.



Rolls of sod waiting to be rolled out.



Laying out the sod.



Setting off a tree.



Getting the edges right.

Memorabelia

Views from the. - 1986

Clergy Corner

By Larry Shisler, Pastor
Stonyford Community
Church, Stonyford.

Stonyford Community Church Activities...

There were 82 people in attendance for the annual Christmas program of the Stonyford Community church on the night of December 14. Directed by Kim Richardson of Stonyford, the children portrayed the nativity scene while a ladies group sang Christmas songs. Following the program most everyone remained for a "Birthday Party for Jesus" complete with birthday cake and presents for the church that the small children opened.

Stonyford Community Church is a non-denominational church located on the corner of Sutter and Third Streets in Stonyford. Pastor Larry Shisler, who has been there for 2½ years is affiliated with Village Missions, a mission organization reaching rural communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday there is Sunday School at 9 a.m. for all ages. At 10:15 a.m. there is Morning Worship with nursery provided for those under 5 years old, and at 7 p.m. is the evening service which includes a song and fellowship time and a study in God's Word. I extend an invitation to you to join us now Sunday evenings for an exciting

continuing study in the Book of Genesis.

On New Year's Eve we will be having our annual activity night at the Stonyford Town Hall. He will be showing a video movie and a cartoon for the children. Everyone is welcome. Please bring table games and refreshments to share. The evening activities will begin at 8 p.m.

In speaking of the holiday celebrations and the fast approaching new year, I would imagine many are getting out the silver. As my wife was polishing the silver, the other day, I was struck by how really lovely silver is when it is polished. it gets dingy and drab so gradually that it is unnoticeable until placed next to some pieces that have been shined.

I wonder if our Christianity gets a little dull and dingy around the edges sometimes? When we don't spend time with the "Polisher" we may not notice that the shine is gone until we are with a glowing vibrant believer, who is a silent rebuke.

When we are presented to the Father, we will be "without spot or wrinkle". I hope that I am "untarnished" as well, don't you?

Chapter Five—Children

Sunday School

Sunday school wasn't always for children, as it is today. In its early history—the 1930s and '40s—in the absence of a pastor, the Sunday service was then known as a Sunday School. Church records mentioned in Chapter 1 provide a detailed history that includes the names of participants. Sunday school class for adults was held before the regular worship service for many years. A class for the children was held during the regular worship service, A Wednesday night kids program was tried for a while when Kevin Weston was pastor.


Pastor Daniel Reagan came to Stonyford in August 2019. He writes that when they arrived, there was adult Sunday School. Our children were the only children in the church and there wasn't much in terms of a kid's program. We started a Wednesday evening Kid's Club (PreK to 5th grade) and Youth Group (6th-12th grade) during the pandemic to meet the need in our community for kid's activities in Stonyford. This has grown tremendously and now there are dozens of kids in the church. SCC [Stonyford Community Church] Kid's Club exists to reach children with the gospel of Jesus Christ while providing sports, arts, and life skill training right here in our community. Projects have included wood working, sports camp, drama, and kid's choir.



Kids at play on the church's playground slide.

Vacation Bible School

For a week in mid-summer the church sponsors a Vacation Bible School for the children of Stonyford, and in some years, Elk Creek. This has been an ongoing activity for many years. See the notice below from 1994. In 1995, the church was blessed by a group from Spokane, Washington, led by Karen Holder and Jim Catlin. They wanted to share their talents and their youth group by coming to Stonyford and putting on a VBS for our church. They did this for ten years (1995 to 2004). Some years there were more than a dozen teen helpers. This group did it all; they even brought crafts and snacks. See the poster on the next page.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for Bible Stories, Crafts, Games, Snacks, Songs and fun times with friends as we learn about the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23) at VBS!

☉ Place:

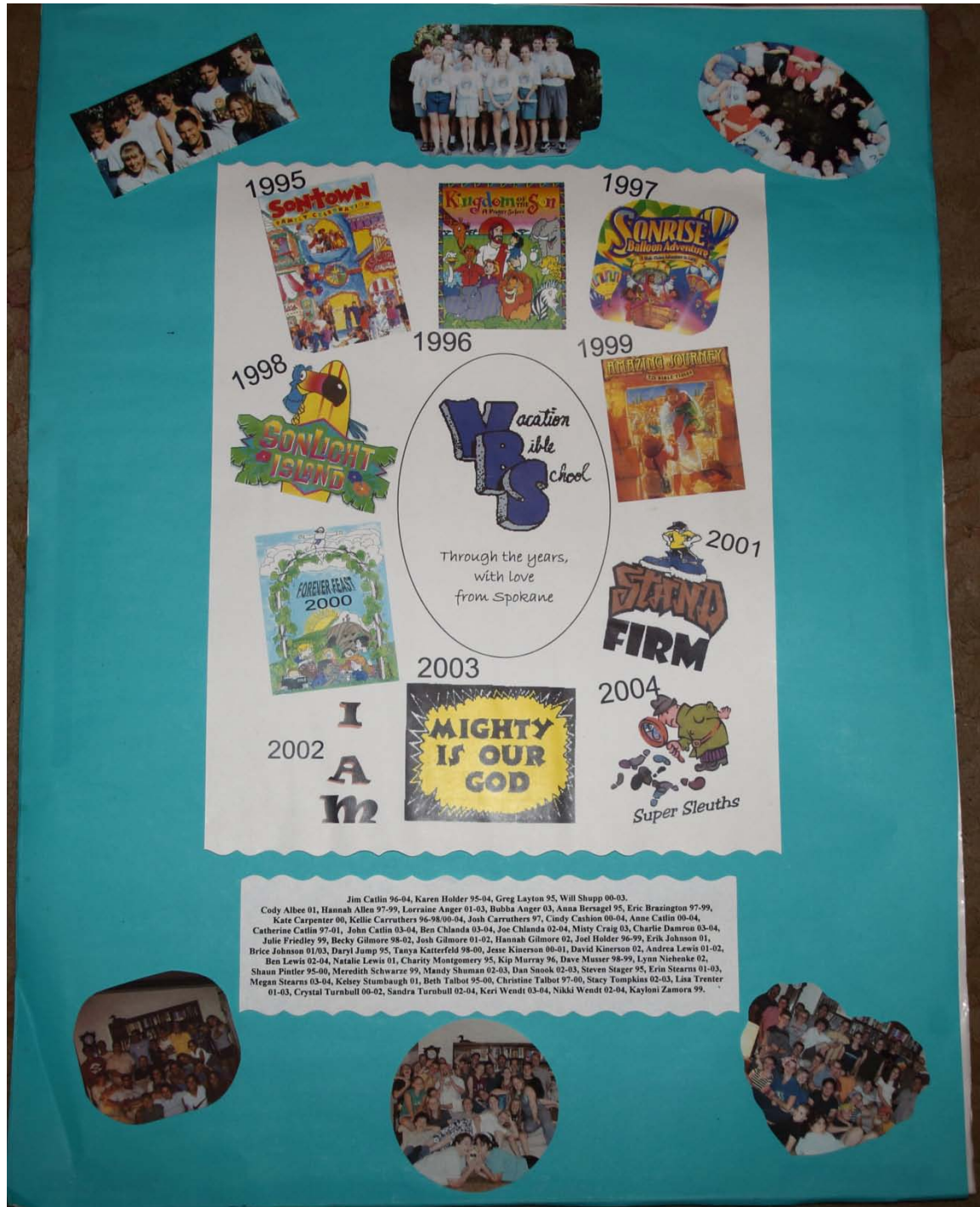
STONYFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

☉ Date: JULY 11-15, 1994, M-F
Friday night BBQ & VBS program,
Parents and friends invited.

☉ Time:
9:00-11:30am

For more information, call:
PASTOR JASON, #963-3072

Community Church History



Poster of the VBS put on by the group from Spokane, Washington.

Community Church History

VBS at Elk Creek Community Church, 2016 to 2018

Our church and the church in neighboring Elk Creek sponsored a VBS for the children. Here are some photographs from the 2018 VBS.



Pastors Kevin (left), of Stonyford, and Joe Levesque (right) of Elk Creek talk with Zoe, of Stonyford.



Children of the two churches.



Kids and adults in the Elk Creek church.



Kids play together.

Sports Camps, 2020 thru 2023

In 2020, the church began having a summer sports camp for the children, instead of a Vacation Bible School. It was first at the Stonyford Elementary School, in 2020. Here, the church had access to a soccer field and a basketball court. It also had a large area in which to setup an archery range and had a large field for running games and dancing to the songs. Here are some pictures:

Community Church History



Pastor Dan greets kids and tells about sports camp.



Pastor Dan teaches basketball.



Kids learn about archery.



Kids dance and exercise.



Daily schedule of activities.



Coach John teaches the kids soccer.

In 2021, the sports camp moved to the church, where it had freshly laid sod for volleyball; lights were strung across the lawn to provide evening lighting. That year, the church had enlarged its property through the purchase of an adjoining home and lot, and it had constructed a pavilion that included a basketball court. The church used the indoor sanctuary

Community Church History

for dancing, meetings, and jujitsu lessons; the pavilion for basketball and eating; the new lawn for volleyball; and the newly acquired property for a shooting range. Here are some pictures:



Pastor Dan introduces the High Power sports camp.



Coach Frank teaches marksmanship.



Dance coaches start the fun.



Coaches Cindy and Karen teach volleyball.



2023 Sports Camp Dancers.



2023 Sports Camp Basketball.

Chapter Six—People

This chapter is about people who have made a difference in the church.



L-R, top *Row 5*:: Frank Elliott, Levi Magneson, Pastor Daniel Reagan, Edwin Pendell, Vince Fletcher, Sheri Pendell, Frank Pendell, Kaleb Reagan, Levi Fookes, BJ Evans, Don Jones, Allen “Red” Mims, Jim Neubert, Josh Fookes, John Hardy, Lee Davis, *Row 4*: Judy Elliott, Penne Arbanasin, Heidi & Elise Magneson, Emily Pendell, Lanna von Dolen, Rachel Fookes, Summer Neubert, Lydia Fookes, Abigail Fookes, Lovejoy Teira, Melissa Davis, Karen Moore *Row 3*: Cody Craven, Krystal Craven, Kristina Evans, Kaydence Reagan, Hannah Craven, Annabelle Davis, Phyllis Mims, Deb Fookes, *Row 2*: Jessie Westcamp, Lucas Evans, Kohen Reagan, Jessica Evans, Ember Pendell, Ayatha Craven, Karis Reagan, Kitson Reagan, Ellie Pendell, Korynn Reagan, Clara Nell Salisbury, Cynthia Reagan, Roy Stewart, *Row 1*: Ethan Pendell, Esther Pendell, Nate Neubert, Lane Neubert, Barrett Magneson. Photo was taken July 23, 2023.



Allen “Red” and Phyllis Mims.



Annabelle, Lee and Melissa Davis.

Community Church History



David and Rhonda Isle.



Folks on 2023 Rodeo Parade Float.



Lois Knight and Dorothy Lingerfelt, at a Valentine's Day dinner.



Mary Quiberg and mom Marie Moody.



The Neubert family: Jim, Summer, Nate and Lane.



Pat and Harliss Henrikson

Community Church History



Emily Pendell being baptized. Pastor Daniel and husband Edwin on either side.



Ralph and Sherry Minto



Phil and Jacque Ray.



L-R: Frank Elliott, Dan Gillmore, Ross Coughlin.



Bob Keegan.



Edwin and Emily Pendell.

Community Church History



Youth Leaders, L-R: Cynthia Reagan, Hannah Craven, Korynn Reagan, Serenity Mahone, Kaydence Reagan, Kaleb Reagan,



The Craven Family. L-R: Hannah, Cody, Krystal, Ayatha.

Community Church History



Reagan family leading the singing, L-R: Cynthia, Daniel, Kohen, Kaleb.



Richard and Lois Knight.



Lannie and Kathy Leach.

Community Church History



Penne Arbanasin.



Beulah Vanlandingham.



Debbie Alloway.



Angels at 2022 Christmas Play. L-R: Nate Neubert, Ellie Pendell (standing) , Jessica Evans, Lane Neubert, Ethan Pendell, Karis Reagan, Kaleb Reagan (standing), Hannah Craven (standing), Ember Pendell (with halo), Korynn Reagan (standing), Lucas Evans (in white), Ayatha Craven (holding book), Esther Pendell (sitting), Kohen Reagan, Kaydence Reagan, Kitson Reagan.

Community Church History

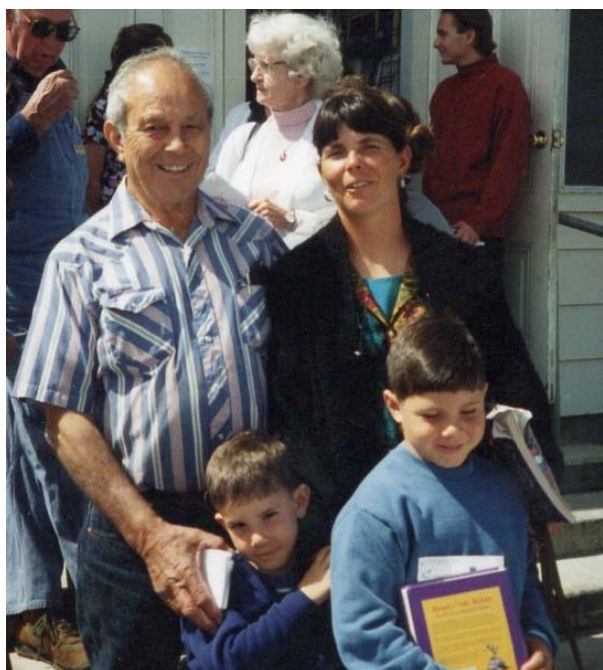


L-R: Jesse Westcamp, Denise Keeler, Kathy Leach, Jo Westoff, Don Jones, Zoe Brandenberger.



Pinewood Derby. L-R: Josh Fookes, Cynthia Reagan, Rachel Fookes, Daniel Reagan.

Community Church History



From Top: Gwen Morris, Dick and Karen Moore and Karen's boys: Zane and Zach McFarlane. c.1994



Frank and Judy Elliott.



Retreat in the Mendocino Forest in 2013. L-R: Frank Pendell, Ross Coughlin, Richard Knight. Roy Stewart, Pastor Kevin Weston, Paul Crabtree, Frank Elliott.

Community Church History



L-R: *top Row 3:* Richard Knight, Ralph Minto, Sherry Minto, Jim Moon, Joan Moon, Robin Crabtree, Paul Crabtree, Rhonda Isle, David Isle, Frank Pendell, Gail Richardson, Edwin Pendell, Susan Petrie, Adam Holck, David Petrie, Wiley Gill, Jeremy Pendell, *Row 2:* Pat Goglio, Katie Gill, Mary Quiberg, Amy Petrie, Larry Freitas, Delores Freitas, Aletta Evans, Judy Adams, Zoe Brandenberger, Greg Petrie, Joy Pendell, *Row 1:* Roxanna Brown, Daizy Harber, Christy Rudolph, Mildred Magruder, Cherie McMartin, Marie Moody, Dorothy Lingerfelt, Kirsta and Kayleen Sweringer. Photo was taken 2002.



Baptism at the Craven home, July 23, 2023. Edwin and Emily Pendell are being baptized in Stony Creek.



Zoe and David Brandenberger

Community Church History



Jessie Westcamp and John Hardy.



Pendell Family: Edwin, Emily, Sheri, Frank, Ellie, Ethan, Ember, Esther.



Magneson Family: Levi, Heidi, Barret, Elise.



Fookes Family: Levi, Nate, Rachel, Lydia, Josh, Deb, Abigail, Noah Barnett.



Evans Family. Kristina, BJ, Lucas, Jessica.



Mary Quiberg.

Community Church History



L-R *top Row 4*: Don Jones, Paul Crabtree, Richard Knight, Lois Knight, Pat Henrikson, Harliss Henrikson, Rhonda Isle, David Isle, Susan Englebrick, Sheri Pendell, *Row 3*: Frank Elliott, Unknown, Judy Elliott, Robin Crabtree, Mary Quiberg, Joan Moon, Anita Worthen, Frank Worthen, Zoe Brandenberger, *Row 2*: Roy Stewart, Wendell Prine, Jessie Westcamp, Debbie Turk, Deborah Thompson, Clara Nell Salisbury, Gail Richardson, Judy Adams, Gwen Morris, *Row 1*: Addie Weston, Laura Trombley, William Weston, Darlene Weston, Phillip Weston, Pastor Kevin Weston. Photo was taken December 2013.



Wendell Prine.



Dan and Maureen Gillmore.

Community Church History



Baptism of BJ Evans in Stony Creek



Baptism of Kristina Evans in Stony Creek



Cynthia Reagan at 2023 Sports Camp



Korynn and Kadence Reagan at 2023 Sports Camp



Three Pastors Baptism in East Park Reservoir



Judy Elliott and Penne Arbanasin at 2023 Sports Camp

Chapter Seven—Memories

Church history from memories of church pastors and members.

David Tosi

I was the first full time Pastor that Village Missions assigned to Stonyford Community Church. Previous to me coming to Stonyford, Village Missionaries David & Sue Houchin served Stonyford, Elk Creek and Paskenta and they lived in Elk Creek. I pastored Stonyford Community Church from March 1977 to August 1980. They are wonderful memories. Rev. Walter Duff, the founding director, was leading VM then and we as missionaries were moved around a lot but that has now changed I understand.

I came to Stonyford having been raised in Vermont. I remember when I arrived in Stonyford I had no idea how to contact Mr. Moore. I drove into town and saw the Post Office. Back then it was like a lot of small towns and the Post Office was in the Post Master's House. Zita Bezzio was the Post Master and was so kind. She called Sharkey Moore, and I got to where I was supposed to go. Zita started attending Stonyford Community Church even though previously she had been a Catholic all of her life. Zita became very dear to Marilyn & me.

I think the funniest incident was I stayed in a travel trailer in a cow pasture across from Ed & Marge Pendell's. I lived in that travel trailer while they were remodeling and adding on to the parsonage. It is not the present parsonage that you have now. I am grateful that was the only temporary parsonage that I lived in amongst the cows. When the parsonage was done it was very nice!

I went to Stonyford as a single man but in 1978 I married my wife, Marilyn Roberts Tosi. We were married in Marilyn's home church in Maine. Then we drove across country back to Stonyford. The church gave us a wonderful wedding reception when we arrived back home to Stonyford.

I look back and see God's faithfulness. He added to the church as He said He would build His church. When I came to Stonyford Community Church we only had about 30 in attendance. People were saved and new people added and we soon had in the 80s and 90s attending the church.



Community Church History



David at the gate to the pasture where the temporary parsonage was located.

When I arrived in Stonyford, Justin Isle was the only child in the church so I called him my “little buddy.” I started a Youth Group and it was a wonderful ministry for our youth. Some of the youth back then were Ann Pendell, Hillary & Erin Morris, Ramona Henrikson, Judy Adams, Becky Murray, the Moore family, and the Ellerman family.

The Forest Service Work Center was open then so we reached out to them and that was a blessing.

Once a week I went up to Fouts Springs to lead a Bible Study. At that time there was a Juvenile Delinquent Boy's Facility there. I had the joy of seeing some of those young men accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

What a JOY to serve our Lord as a Senior Pastor for over 46 years. Now I serve as Associate Pastor part time in the church we are members of in Riverview, Florida. I served with Village Missions for 10 years of our ministry. Stonyford was a wonderful part of our lives as the Lord was growing us. He still continues to work in our lives. To God Be The Glory!!!!

I have prayed for Stonyford all these years at least once a week and continue to do so to this day.

Community Church History

Larry and Mary Shisler

We arrived in late summer 1984 with two little boys—Jonathan (almost 3 yrs) and Jared (9 months). We had come from the desert of Pahrump, Nevada, and remember the very long drive up into the foothills, passing fields of grain, cattle, trees, many winding turns and then the community of Stonyford. As we remember so long ago, we drove to the store and met the storekeeper [Harliss Henrikson] (and were amazed by his height—Larry asked if he was standing on a platform behind the counter and found out he was 6'10"). He directed us to a board member's home and we began our lives in Stonyford.

We were welcomed by the church family and community. After a couple of Sundays, we put our boys down to nap and decided to take a nap ourselves. Unbeknownst to us, our boys got up, and dressed only in diapers, went out the back door and began walking down the street toward the store. Fortunately, when they passed the post office, a nice lady decided to corral them and brought them back to the parsonage and rang our doorbell. It was quite a shock to go to the door and find our boys in her care. It was a great relief to know we had arrived in a great town with such nice people.

We were involved in many things in the church. Mary joined other ladies in playing the piano for church. We held Bible studies in homes, had weddings and funerals and so many new experiences. Larry rode horses in the roundup out on the Garland Ranch [now Stonyford Ranch]. He was asked to give the invocation at the elementary school, the rodeo grounds and even when there was a meeting at the bar. We remember helping a lady chase an escaped pig through a field. We visited in homes and helped people wherever we could. We did some remodeling in the original parsonage kitchen and upstairs, and began some work projects around the church—including planting trees and yard, with a sidewalk to the fellowship hall.

We began praying earnestly for unity in the entire community and asking the Lord what we could do. Then in January of 1985, our lives changed dramatically as Mary was hospitalized with pregnancy complications and Larry was left to care for two toddlers while carrying out the ministry. Amazingly, an answer to prayer was how the community became united and they helped our family overwhelmingly. Many of the church ladies would take our boys for the day so Larry could study and visit. So many helped take care of the house and brought meals. Even after Mary returned home after a month to be on bed-rest, the church and community helped out with childcare and food. Then, after our daughter Janelle was born two months prematurely and had to spend three months at UCDCM in Sacramento, the church family supported us as we spent half of each week in Sacramento and then came back to Stonyford for the other half. We remember sometimes waking up to find money put under our door to help with gas expenses. It was a very tough year for us and we have always appreciated the way the church family allowed us to grow and adjust to our new way of life with a child having multiple disabilities. God knew ahead of time, and two of the church

Community Church History

ladies were nurses [Gwen Morris and Lois Campbell Knight] and were able to help us many times with nursing needs.

We had many new experiences as we visited families and learned the ways of country living. One of our new experiences was learning how to butcher a cow. Our boys enjoyed learning to milk a cow at another home. Mary honed her shooting skills and canning skills and also learned how to make many recipes from the great cooks in town (things that she still uses today). Larry learned more about roundups and brandings. He was put to work by the Forest Service to drive a truck at night to haul firefighters for the big fire at Fouts Springs—when every person in town was needed.

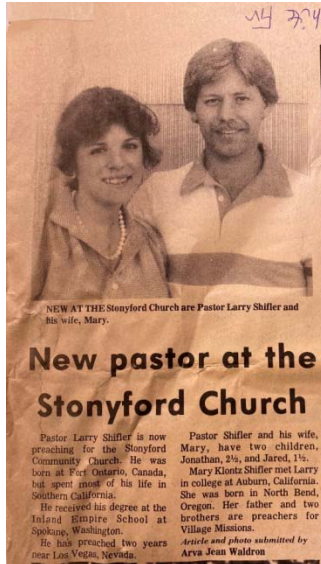
We also learned how the food co-op worked, and that the Schwan's truck would visit monthly. We enjoyed our days off out at the lake or monthly shopping in town. We saw the church grow and we held picnics and baptisms at the lake. We remember the Vacation Bible School times and church potlucks and building floats for the parade each year, making many memories. Our years in Stonyford are stamped indelibly on our hearts and we wish we could join you for the anniversary celebration, but we now live in Texas and are caring for Mary's parents (retired Village Missionaries Francis and RoseMary Klontz) in our home, while Larry works for Union Pacific Railroad in Fort Worth, Texas.

Our love and prayers are with you, and we send hugs to all those wonderful Stonyford people- knowing that many have already gone home to be with our Savior. We pray the ministry there will continue and flourish as the Lord leads.

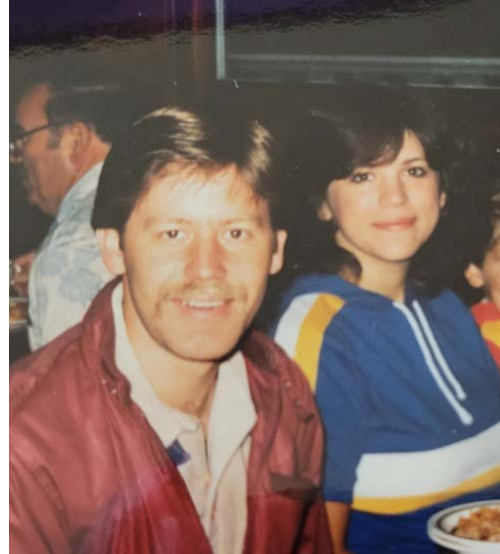
[Editor's Note: The Shislars provided their current contact information. For those who may wish to contact them, please see Roy Stewart.]

Here are some photos:

Community Church History



Local paper reports our new pastor.



Larry and Mary at a conference.



The Shisler family at a conference in 1986.



This was the parsonage in 1986. It's still there.



Larry and Mary Shisler with their extended family. Photo was taken in 2021.

Community Church History

Frank Pendell

Frank's family of five people started attending the church in 1972. Howard Langston was the pastor. Frank was only sixteen then. Howard was a pastor who came from Yuba City on Sundays to preach. After Howard, came David Houchin—who was VM pastor to Elk Creek, Stonyford, and Paskenta; he did three sermons every Sunday morning.

In 1977 David Tosi took over as the first fulltime VM pastor for Stonyford. David's first parsonage was a small trailer in a pasture across from the Pendell's ranch house.

A requirement for having a VM pastor was that the church had to provide a parsonage. The church had acquired a small dwelling on the corner of 2nd and Market from the Odd Fellows Lodge in the 1930s that they rented out to provide income. The church decided to enlarge that property by half and convert into a three bedroom home, with a loft. Church members Brooks McDonald and Carl Swisher made it happen. Pastor Tosi became its first occupant. The church soon filled with people under his leadership.

Paul Crabtree had moved into Stonyford about the same time as Frank and Sheri had moved back in 1992. Paul was a contractor and when trying to get a permit to add a garage was told by the county the lot was too small. This led to the need to build a new parsonage. Marie Moody offered to sell suitable lots close to the church.

The construction of the parsonage frame and roof went rather quickly. The church was able to raise the money and people volunteered their labor and earth-moving equipment. (Phase 1 was completed in the fall of 2008, with lots of help on the bigger projects. A dozen men and women were sometimes there to move, lift, and nail. The house was framed, roof on, and wrapping around the house to winterize it.)

Greg Petrie left Stonyford in January 2011, and the old parsonage was sold to Joan Moon within a short time. The proceeds from that sale provided the funds needed to complete the project, along with the designated donations that continued to pour in.

Frank said the inside work took a long time. They had to construct interior walls, insulation, wiring and plumbing, sheet rock, painting—a lot of work.

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Community Church History

Hillary Barrere

Erin [sister] and I both remember in Sunday school when we were little that they had a lighthouse bank that lit up when we put our pennies in for our birthdays.

I also remember in youth group, when David Tosi was pastor, we did all night bowl-a-thons in Sacramento with other big church youth groups, and dinner cruises on the San Francisco Bay. We would also get together with the Elk Creek Church youth group for fun times and also snow skiing at Mt. Rose near Reno and Mt. Shasta.

I also played the piano there when I was young and in high school and also as an adult. I was the pianist for a number of years.

Laura MacDonald was the pianist when we were in grade school.

Kay Fisher led the Sunday school program.

When we were quite young, we did many Christmas and Easter plays and had small parts to memorize.



Hillary and her mom, Gwen Morris, in 1988.

Memorabilia



The Stonyford Community Church had this entry in the Stonyford Rodeo Parade. The theme of the float was "Cowpokes for Christ" and it featured a number of youngsters in cowboy hats and western garb with the inscription on "ranch gate" of Cowpokes for Christ. They were singing as the float cruised the parade route.

Appendix—List of Village Missions Pastors

Howard Langston, December 6, 1973 to December 31, 1974

David and Sue Houchin, July 28, 1975 to July 28, 1977



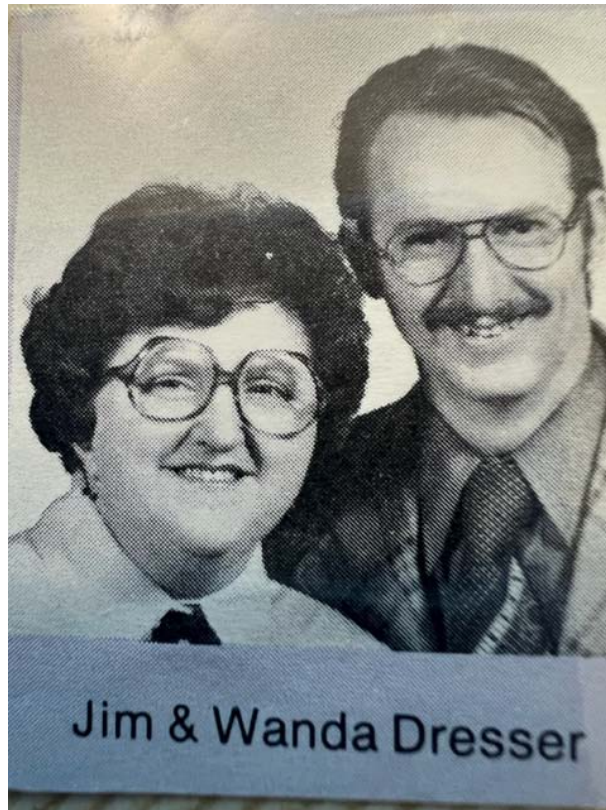
David and Marilyn Tosi, March 19, 1977 to August 19, 1980



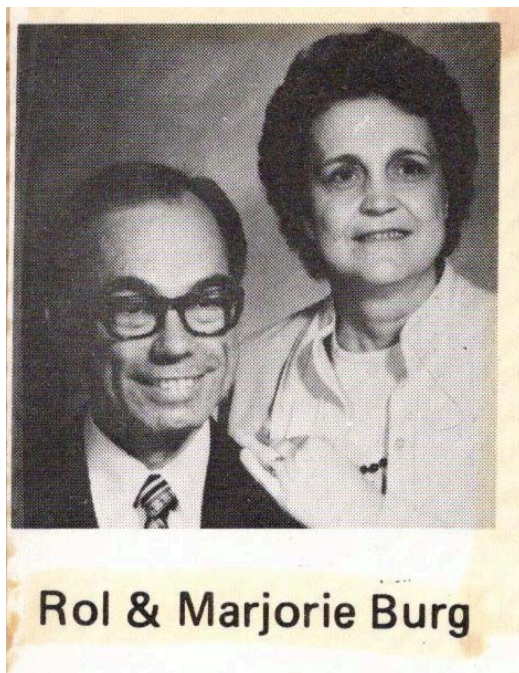
David Tosi when he visited and preached in 2014.

Community Church History

Jim and Wanda Dresser, September 2, 1980 to December 19, 1983



Rol and Marjorie Burg, December 19, 1983 to June 19, 1984



Community Church History

Larry and Mary Shisler, August 19, 1984 to June 19, 1988



Shisler family in 1986.

Michael and Faye Finley, August 19, 1988 to August 19, 1991



Michael & Faye Finley

Community Church History

Jason and Martha Ham, November 19, 1991 to May 19, 1996



Greg and Susan Petrie, February 19, 1997 to January 31, 2011



Community Church History

John and Elaine Smith, (Interim), January 1, 2013 to April 1, 2013



L-R: Deborah, Elaine, and John Smith.

Kevin and Darleen Weston, April 27, 2013 to November 1, 2018



Community Church History

Hubert and Bonnie Garland, (Interim), November 18, 2018 to August 4, 2019



Daniel and Cynthia Reagan, August 25, 2019 to Present



Community Church History



Paul and Robin Crabtree. Paul was not a pastor of this church; however, he was a devoted member for many years who, after Greg Petrie left in 2011, filled in as pastor on most Sundays, until John Smith arrived in January 2013. He was a carpenter who longed to be a minister with Village Missions. His longing ultimately became reality. He is now the VM pastor of the church in Manton, California.

Memorabilia

STONYFORD

SMITHVILLE

INVITES YOU TO

INDIAN VALLEY SCHOOL HOMECOMING DAY

JUNE 1, 1952



PICNIC IN YOUR OLD SCHOOLYARD

➡ EVERYBODY WELCOME ➡