



The Scruffy Post

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smartsvillehistoricchurch.org

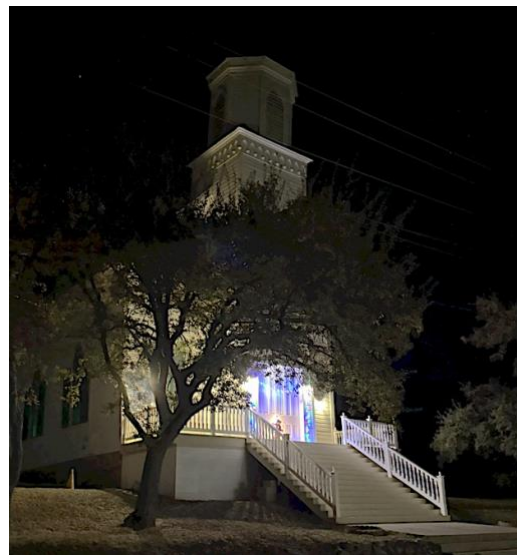
Dec. 30, 2023

Restoration Progress

Since the last newsletter the exterior painting has been completed, as has most of the finish electrical work by James Stephens Electrical Systems, Inc. Glazing of the next set of three windows has been done and is ready for pick-up, with the rest of the needed work to be done by John Wright of Wright Restorations. Three new shutters are already assembled and ready for painting. We have three possibilities for our two front doors restoration and look forward to evaluating and choosing one so we can get started. Oak floor installation by Alan Cartwright of Sierra Hardwoods in the main room will be started at the end of January. 2024 will be a year to keep moving forward. We truly appreciate your support!



James, Kit, and the electric crew



Lights for the Christmas season



Alan checking moisture content

Veterans Day Parade & Wreaths Across America

Mary and Tim Clark of Mooney Flat organize and participate in three of our major Smartsville events. They've been to every Pioneer Day since it began in 2008. If you're like them and attended the event that long ago, you'll remember Tim's antique firetruck and their delightful Dalmatian, Bonnie. More recently they've come in a World War II jeep, sometimes with a mascot dog named Daisy and set up a table and display in front of the church.

An annual event Mary and Tim have led is a local Veterans Day Parade on November 11, coming through town at 11:11 to honor Armistice Day and our servicemen and women. They're the only ones who come down Smartsville Road with their patriotic display of flags on one of Tim's antique vehicles, but the welcome committee by the historic church has grown. Seeing more of the community coming out to wave flags and then to share a snack time is gratifying, and lets the Clarks know their efforts are truly appreciated.



Waiting for the Clarks to drive by



Tim and Mary with Quinn Swift and Daisy



Enjoying snacks and fellowship after the parade, as well as the hospitality of the future Smartsville Salvage & Sundry

A third event begun in 2019 is Wreaths Across America, honoring our soldiers buried in the local cemeteries. Mary has organized it successfully to where volunteers place over 60 wreaths a couple of weeks before Christmas each year. It makes a beautiful site and shows respect for all who have served in one of the armed forces and are buried at one of the local cemeteries.

Eight ceremonial wreaths with designated flags for each branch of the services – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and National Guard -- are hung each year at the Smartsville Cemetery entrance. Another ceremonial wreath is placed on the redwood tree on our church grounds to honor all the veterans of the Smartsville area, as well as a local soldier, Edward “Ned” McGanney, who died in France in the Battle of the Argonne Forest in October 5, 1918. A plaque for him rests at the base of the tree and a monument was erected in the Catholic Cemetery.



At our events we've offered snacks and hot apple cider and hope to see more of you there!

Boo, Smartsville's Favorite Dog, Rescued!

By Kit Burton

Letty Litchfield's pet dog named Boo was missing, and the community was genuinely worried. The large white Great Pyrenees canine, a familiar sight in the tiny town of Smartsville in Northern California, was last seen on December 19th.

According to Letty, a prominent attorney from Smartsville, the stormy weather and numerous lightning flashes, accompanied by loud thunder, frightened him. By mid-morning the search was on and by mid-afternoon Hilda Biffle, a neighbor, found Boo in a creek at the bottom of a steep embankment. She and neighbor Jeannie Pittman had searched together with no luck, but Hilda was inspired to look again in one of the same places.

Ace Flewelling, another neighbor, attempted to rescue Boo but became stuck himself as recent storms had softened the soil. Assistance from the Smartsville Fire Protection District and CalFire was requested. A ladder was lowered amidst the thick blackberry vines. Jeannie, familiar with animal rescues, made a rope harness to carry the heavy dog up and Boo was handed up the ladder from one fire crew member to another.

Boo was rescued and is now safely at home again in Smartsville. Still weak to move very much, Smartsville's pet dog is recovering after his latest adventure.



Photos courtesy of the Smartsville Fire Protection District