



At the end of February, you were kind enough to complete a Congregational Life Survey in the worship service. We finally got the results back, and at the last Session meeting, we briefly discussed some of the results with Presbytery Coordinator, Bill McGuinness. I say “briefly” because there was a lot to cover. Before sharing some of the findings with you, I would like to offer to print out a copy of the results for you to peruse. Just call the office and we will get one to you. There were two measurements: strengths and connections. Here are the strengths results.

Strength 1: Growing Spiritually. The survey states that we are slightly above average for Presbyterian Churches in growing in our faith, devotional life, and Bible study. We were significantly above average in the importance of prayer ministry, where we were in the top 15% of Presbyterian Churches.

Strength 2: Meaningful Worship. The survey states that we are average here. We were significantly above average in rating sermons as one of the three most valued aspects of worship. We were also significantly above average in experiencing awe during worship.

Strength 3: Participating in the Congregation. The survey states that we are average. We were significantly above average in attending worship services every week or more with 87% (national average is 78%). We were slightly below average in participating in one or more small groups.

Strength 4: Having a Sense of Belonging. The survey states that we are average. We are significantly above average in saying most of our closest friends are part of this congregation.

Strength 5: Caring for Young People. The survey states that we are slightly below average here. We were significantly below average on being satisfied with what is offered by our congregation for children and youth (under 19 years of age).

Strength 6: Focusing on the Community. The survey states that we are slightly below average here. We were above average on openness to social diversity as one of the three most valued aspects of our congregation. We also reported that 91% of us voted in the recent national election. We were significantly below average on emphasizing wider community care of social justice as one of the three most valued aspects of our congregation.

Strength 7: Sharing Faith. The survey states that we are average here. We scored in the 10th percentile (meaning 90% of churches scored higher) on having invited to a worship service in the past year a friend or relative who does not currently attend elsewhere. We scored higher than average on valuing reaching those who do not attend. I am not sure how to reconcile those, we want to invite people, we just don't.



Strength 8: Welcoming New Worshipers. The survey states that we are significantly above average here. The only question here was “Did you begin attending services or activities of your congregation in the last five years?” The answer was 35% “yes”, and the national average is 26%.

Strength 9: Empowering Leadership. The survey states that we are below average here. We were below average on congregational leaders encouraging people to find and use their gifts, the pastor taking into account the ideas of worshipers to a great extent, the pastor inspires people to take action, and that there is a good match between the congregation and the pastor. (Although another measure indicated an 86% positive score there.) None of these were off the charts below average, but indicates some attention and growth is needed.

Strength 10: Looking to the Future. The survey states that we are below here. We scored in the 22nd percentile (meaning 78% of churches ranked higher). While we scored average on “the congregation is currently moving in new directions”, we scored significantly below average in feeling “the congregation has a clear vision, goals of direction for its ministry and mission and are strongly committed to them.” (20% vs 36% national average). We were slightly below average on “a sense of excitement about the congregation’s future (13% vs 19% national average). And we scored very low in feeling “the congregation is always ready to try something new.” (30% vs 50% national average).

One of the strong connections was in **financial support**. Nationally, 93% of worshipers make financial contributions, and 18% give 10% or more of their net income. For Harvest, 81% of worshipers make financial contributions, and 36% give 10% or more of their net income. You are a generous bunch!

These reports are available upon request. The session will be reviewing and discussing them in the weeks and months ahead, and working to build on our strengths, and to shore up our weaknesses. If you’d like to talk about these and give your feedback on your feedback, give me a call.

SDG

Pastor Jim



Notes:

- 1) I will be in Red Feather Lakes from June 6-15, preaching at Chapel in the Pines, and working on Summer preaching in the Psalms. Rev. David Hill, recently retired from Grace Presbyterian Church in Lodi will preach on June 11th. You will like him, he is all about relationships.
- 2) I will be participating in another ordination service in Lodi on June 25th at 2:00 p.m., so will need to leave soon after the potluck that day.
- 3) We continue to pursue a Choir Director. We are grateful for Lisa Highest's directing the choir on Sundays, and for Michele’s wonderful guidance as the choir chooses songs to sing. If you know anyone who might be remotely interested, please let the office know the contact information. Please continue to pray.



Harvest Youth Program (H.Y.P.)

by Kohl James

Over the last several Wednesdays, the Harvest Youth Program has been meeting at 7:00 p.m. Brandy Meyer has led us in interesting discussions on judgment and discrimination. Through these discussions, it has made apparent to me how easy it is to be judgmental, and how easily it can affect those around me, and for that I am asking the Lord's help. I have thoroughly enjoyed the open and honest discussions that we have, no matter how difficult of a topic it may be. It feels as though everyone is equally included, and has equal opportunity to discuss any problems or troubles they may be going through. By the end of the meeting, not only have we had time to discuss these difficult situations and how God can help us through them, but we have had time to socialize, laugh, and share a meal with each other.

Harvest Members Cast in Oliver!

Several Harvest members are participating in Gallo's presentation of Oliver. Come hear Mike Cousins and Lisa Highiet sing, and Betty Baughman play for this wonderful musical. As an added bonus, there is reportedly dancing for those in the chorus, so something to see and hear!

Tickets are available for Saturday, June 17th at 7:30 p.m., Sunday June 18th at 2:00 p.m., Friday June 23rd and Saturday June 24th each at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.galloarts.org/Events/AllEvents.aspx> or at the Gallo Box Office.

The award-winning musical adaptation of the classic Dickens' novel springs to life with some of the most memorable characters and songs to ever hit the stage. Consider yourself at home with Lionel Bart's classic musical based on Charles Dickens' novel, Oliver Twist. The Tony and Olivier Award-winning show is one of the few musicals to win an Academy Award for Best Picture and is widely hailed as a true theatrical masterpiece by actors and audience members alike.

The streets of Victorian England come to life as Oliver, a malnourished orphan in a workhouse, becomes the neglected apprentice of an undertaker. Oliver escapes to London and finds acceptance amongst a group of petty thieves and pickpockets led by the elderly Fagin. When Oliver is captured for a theft he did not commit, the benevolent victim, Mr. Brownlow takes him in. Fearing the safety of his hideout, Fagin employs Bill Sikes and Nancy to kidnap him back, threatening Oliver's chances of discovering the true love of a family.

Vacation Bible School Begins June 26th!



Our annual Vacation Bible School will run from June 26th to the 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please consider helping out all week, or one morning. Contact Brandy Meyer or Beth Stochl for more information.



Harvest Presbyterian Church
1813 Moffet Road
Ceres, CA 95307



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Mission Statement ~ With God in control, the mission of the Harvest Presbyterian Church is to proclaim and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurture the faith of our church family.

Harvest Leadership 2017

Deacons

Virginia Bathe (Moderator)
Pat Cousins
Martha McNamara
Nawatha Reed
Linda Sherman
Myrna Wilhite (Treasurer)

Elders

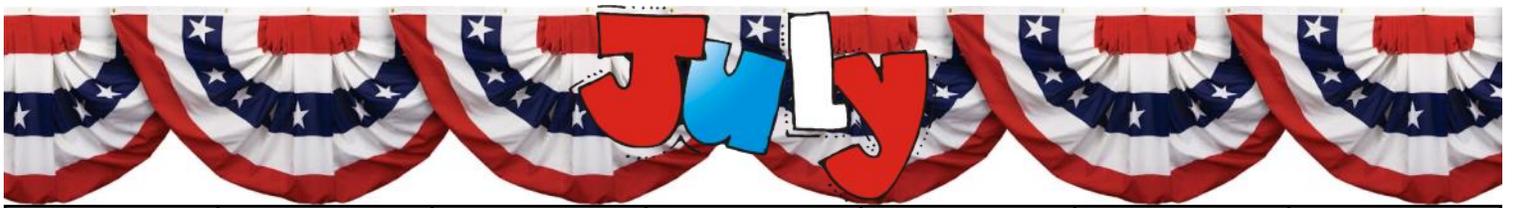
Patti Arbizu (Personnel)
Susan Bennett (Communications)
Michael Cousins (Treasurer)
Karen Edwards (Clerk/Mission)
Staci Edwards (CE)
Brandy Meyer (CE/Youth)
Wilson Kailiponi (Worship)

Church Information

Church Office Phone: (209) 537-3519
Church Fax (209) 537-1869
Website: www.harvestpres.org
Pastor Jim Stochl— harvest.pastor.jim@gmail.com
Prayer Requests—prayer@harvestpres.org
Kohl James —secretary@harvestpres.org

Office Hours

Tuesdays: 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| <p>2</p> <p>Communion— 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>End of Month Potluck</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>4</p>  | <p>5</p> <p>Harvest Youth —7:00p.m.</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Alpha Circle— 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Team— 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Women’s Bible Study—10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>1</p> <hr/> <p>8</p> |
| <p>9</p> <p>Worship— 9:30 a.m.</p>  | <p>10</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Harvest Youth —7:00p.m.</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Praise Team— 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Women’s Bible Study—10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Deacons— 12:00 p.m.</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p>Worship — 9:30 a.m.</p> | <p>17</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Harvest Youth —7:00p.m.</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Praise Team— 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Women’s Bible Study—10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23</p> <p>Worship — 9:30 a.m.</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Session Mtg— 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Harvest Youth —7:00p.m.</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Praise Team— 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Women’s Bible Study—10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30</p> <p>Worship — 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>End of the Month Potluck</p> | <p>31</p> <p>VBS 9am- 12noon</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>1</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>Harvest Youth —7:00p.m.</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Praise Team— 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Women’s Bible Study—10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>5</p> |

March Sunday School Schedule*

- 6/4 Nursery:** Kendall Meyer, Nawatha Reed
K-3rd: Staci Edwards, Cyndy Cawley, Judy Salyer (Alternate)
- 6/11 Nursery:** Kendall Meyer, Staci Edwards
K-3rd: Brandy Meyer, Anette Arias, Nawatha Reed (Alternate)
- 6/18 Nursery:** Kendall Meyer, Judy Salyer
K-3rd: Beth Stochl, Patti Arbizu, Brandy Meyer (Alternate)
- 6/25 Nursery:** Kendall Meyer, Nawatha Reed
K-3rd: Anette Arias, Cyndy Cawley, Beth Stochl (Alternate)

* This schedule may change! Check with Brandy Meyer if you have any conflicts or questions.

Regular Prayer List

Health Issues:

John Baughman
Virginia Irons (hospice care)
Dorothy Nelson
Margaret Kuglin (eye)
Alice Visser (English Oaks)



4—Dorothy Nelson (98!)
15—Warren Cawley



8—Leon & Karen Edwards
15—Ralph & Patti Arbizu
17—Devon & Michele James