



## From the Pastor

I've been reading and pondering a book entitled "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger. Tod is the Vice-President and Chief of Leadership Formation Platform, and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. For seventeen years, he was the Senior Pastor of San Clemente Presbyterian Church after serving for ten years on the pastoral staff at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Tod will be leading a clergy retreat February 11-13 at Calvin Crest. And yes, I plan to attend!

The book focuses on the journey of the American explorers Lewis and Clark. They are the Corps of Discovery were commissioned by President Jefferson to go to the headwaters of the Missouri River, and from there find what everyone believed was a water passage to the Pacific Ocean. Since their journey would primarily be via waterways, the Corps of Discovery was made up of men who were experts in water travel.

Everything went very well, until they reached the headwaters of the Missouri River. As they joyfully straddled the mighty river, with one foot on each bank, they gazed west. And what did they see? The mighty and majestic Rocky Mountains. Instead of canoeing to the Pacific, they now needed to exchange their expertise on waterways and develop expertise in navigating mountains.

If they had needed to exchange their canoes for, say, rafts, this is called "technical change", exchanging one technology for another. But they needed to develop new skills, which is called "adaptive change." And adapt they did, and Lewis and Clark and their company arrived at the Pacific Ocean almost exactly 18 months after they had departed Camp DuBois in Missouri.

Bolsinger draws many lessons for church leaders from this story of Lewis and Clark. The journey of the Corps of Discovery is the prime metaphor in the book. "Indeed, it is the perfect metaphor for where American churches find themselves today. We cannot simply preach more, sing louder or try harder. The landscape has changed. We can either mourn the changing times or we can choose to learn a new way of being Christ's church."

Among the lessons Bolsinger draws from the Lewis and Clark story are the following:

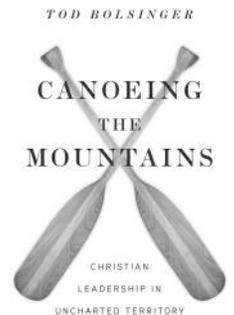
- 1) The world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you.
- 2) No one is going to follow you off the map unless they trust you on the map.
- 3) In uncharted territory adaption is everything.
- 4) You can't go alone but you haven't succeeded until you've survived the sabotage.
- 5) Everyone will be changed especially the leader.

As we ponder our future together, we must recognize that the world has changed in many ways, but that the world's need of Jesus has not changed. Reaching people with the gospel is harder than it once was. But God is at work in us and through us. I'll report back after the clergy retreat.

"We go nowhere by accident..."

SDG

Pastor Jim



## Notes:

- 1) I will be at the Clergy Retreat sponsored by the Presbytery of San Joaquin from the afternoon of Sunday, February 11 to the afternoon of Tuesday the 13th. Pray for safe travels and a willingness to learn and to act.
- 2) Our Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th. We are asking people to contribute one dollar (\$1) and to bring a box or can of food, which will be delivered to the food bank in Ceres.
- 3) The season of Lent begins on February 14th (Ash Wednesday), with Easter landing on April 1st this year. Please consider your own spiritual discipline during Lent. I began taking my walking seriously several years ago during Lent, and it has continued. So it can be done!
- 4) LOVE Ceres will take place on April 21, 2018. Several church pastors and leaders have formed a leadership team, and are hoping the churches in Ceres will show the community how much God loves them through our actions.
- 5) Our Prayer Meeting is Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. for about 30 minutes. We'd love for you to come pray about the concerns of the church and the world.
- 6) Thank you to the women of the Alpha Circle for providing such a great lunch after our congregational meeting at the end of January! It was delicious!
- 7) We have received the \$20,000 grant from the Stockton Presbytery, of which \$4,000 must be spent on local mission, however we define that. We are grateful for the Presbytery's generosity and support.



"These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?"

## Harvest Mariners

The Harvest Mariners will gather on Friday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Our guest speaker will be our own Brandy Meyer, who will speak to us about the Ceres Water Tower, and the civic efforts to safe and renovate it.



The Harvest Mariners are part of the National Presbyterian Mariners is an adult service and fellowship organization founded in 1927. The goals of Mariners are:

- 1) To encourage Christian faith and practice in every home, helping individual and families progress in Christian living.
- 2) To interest those outside the church in uniting with the church.
- 3) To provide the opportunity for Christian fellowship.
- 4) To develop leadership for the church.
- 5) To serve and support the church in its total ministry and mission.

## Things Jesus Never Said

Jesus said a lot of things throughout the Bible, but there are also a lot of things he didn't. Here are eight things Jesus never said.



### 1. "No shirt, no shoes, no service."

Jesus never gave prerequisites for encountering his love. Regardless of your past, the love of Christ is available for anyone who is willing to accept it. Nobody is too flawed for forgiveness and eternal salvation.

### 2. "Follow me, and I will bring you fame and fortune."

Jesus never promises fame or fortune, yet these are also not things he opposes if used for his glory. If your reasoning for seeking a relationship with God is materially focused, you may want to evaluate what god you're really yearning for.

### 3. "Everything will go according to your plans."

Many of us pray to Jesus thinking that everything we ask of Him is going to be answered in our timing. The reality is that not all prayers will be answered, but that Jesus does have the power to fulfill any prayer that is asked of him. He's that BIG! Just because a prayer isn't answered in your timing does not mean your prayer has been ignored. God hears all, knows all and knows what's best for each of us as individuals. Take a step back and trust in God, his timing and his will.

### 4. "I will bless you if you pray hard enough."

The blessing of prayer is in prayer itself. Communication and dialogue between our heavenly father and us is more fulfilling than anything else we can ask for. Jesus isn't a magic genie, and if your prayers seem more like wishes than heart-felt conversations, you may want to re-think how your foundation of faith is being built.

### 5. "Life is going to be without rough patches."

So many people think that just because they believe in Jesus means everything is going to be flawless and perfect. This really isn't the case at all. You may have a relationship with Jesus, but this doesn't mean life is going to stop moving forward, tough circumstances are going to cease to exist, and rough times will never be a possibility. Even though Jesus never said life would be easy, he did say he would be there for you in your times of need. The message of The Gospel isn't that life will be perfect, but that in its imperfection we have a perfect and flawless Savior.

### 6. "I will answer prayers on your time."

Although God is faithful in his answering of prayer, we cannot expect him to answer every prayer to our exact measurements. Faith is trusting God even when things don't make sense, and that includes a prayer that we feel may be unanswered or at the wrong time. Faith is trusting in God's timing, not ours.

What we need to understand is that Jesus did say we need to love our neighbors, help those who are in need, and that the widow and homeless deserve to be loved as Christ loved the church. You don't deserve to have nice things, but you do get to experience the love of Christ, and that is worth more than anything this world can offer.

<https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/246459-8-things-jesus-never-said.html>

Harvest Presbyterian Church  
1813 Moffet Road  
Ceres, CA 95307

POSTAGE



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 2018

### Deacons

Virginia Bathe (Moderator)  
Kate Hendrix  
Nora McKinsey  
Nawatha Reed  
Judy Salyer  
Linda Sherman

### Elders

Michael Cousins (Treasurer/Buildings)  
Karen Edwards (Clerk/Mission)  
Staci Edwards (Worship)  
Wilson Kailiponi (Worship)  
Brandy Meyer (Christian Education)  
LaVeta Rhoey (Finance)

### Church Information

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

### Office Hours

Mondays: 12:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays: 12:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>28</b> Worship — 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting <b>Soup Lunch by Alpha Circle After Service</b>	<b>29</b>  Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>Alpha Circle 9:30 am</b>  Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm	<b>2</b> Starbucks Men— 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am 	<b>3</b> <b>Stockton Presbytery Meeting— Grace Church in Lodi</b>
<b>4</b> Communion— 10:30 am 	<b>5</b> Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> HYP —7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Starbucks Men – 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am	<b>10</b> 
<b>11</b> Worship— 10:30 am 	<b>12</b> Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>    ASH WEDNESDAY	<b>15</b> HYP —7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> Starbucks Men— 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study-10:00 am  <b>Mariners: 6:00 pm</b>	<b>17</b> 
<b>18</b> Worship — 10:30 am	<b>19</b> Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	<b>20</b> <b>Session— 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> HYP —7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm	<b>23</b> Starbucks Men – 7:00 am  Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Worship — 10:30 am  <b>End of the Month Potluck After Service</b>	<b>26</b> Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> 	<b>1</b>  HYP —7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm	<b>2</b> Starbucks Men – 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am	<b>3</b> 

## Sunday School Schedule\*

- 2/4 Nursery:** Lynsie Salyer, Nawatha Reed  
**K-3rd:** Cyndy Cawley, Anette Arias, Staci Edwards (alternate)
- 2/11 Nursery:** Lynsie Salyer, Brandy Meyer  
**K-3rd:** Beth Stochl, Patti Arbizu, Martha McNamara (alternate)
- 2/18 Nursery:** Lynsie Salyer, Anette Arias  
**K-3rd:** Staci Edwards, Cyndy Cawley, Patti Arbizu (alternate)
- 2/25 Nursery:** Lynsie Salyer, Martha McNamara  
**K-3rd:** Brandy Meyer, Judy Salyer, Cyndy Cawley (alternate)

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

## Regular Prayer List

### *Health Issues:*

John Baughman  
Warren Cawley  
Virginia Irons (hospice care)  
Dorothy Nelson  
Margaret Kuglin (eye)  
Casey VanRys



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 12—Rosemarie Bulkley  
12—Randi Rodgers  
19—Staci Edwards  
28—Darien Edwards



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."