



## From the Pastor

I had a great time in St. Louis last week. The Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference was informative and well-done. And I got to see some people I had met in previous years, and some old friends from Manteca, Pastors Karl and Jennifer Hauser.

Every fall, churches around the country struggle with this thing called Stewardship. What does “stewardship” mean?

Lutheran Pastor Chick Lane said, “For most people, ‘stewardship’ is a code word.”

“For most congregation members, it is code for ‘What the congregation does to get some of my money out of my pocket and into the offering plate.’ (and my job is to give just enough to not feel guilty)”

“For most congregation leaders, it is code for ‘Those things we have to do to get enough money to pay the bills.’ (and we know how well we have done at year end when we know if we have enough money to pay all the bills)”

Does that fit your understanding of stewardship? I hope not! Stewardship is about much more than just collecting money and paying bills.

In the Bible, a steward was a person who was placed in charge of the property and possessions of another person. The steward was responsible to steward those resources for the owner. The key point is that the resources did not belong to the steward.

God has given each of us gifts. Gifts of time. Gifts of talent. And gifts of treasure. Some of us have many of those gifts. Others of us, not so many. But we all have been gifted by God. And stewardship is how we use those gifts for the owner to whom we are responsible.

Lane defined stewardship this way:

“Stewardship is a wonderful word that describes how a follower of Jesus Christ faithfully travels through this life.”

In other words, stewardship is about discipleship. Stewardship is *not* about a congregation’s bills and budgets.

Leaving money in an offering plate is an act of generosity, but our stewardship does not end there. How we use our talents is our stewardship: singing in the choir, greeting people, teaching Sunday School, serving cookies, sending cards, feeding the homeless, praying at the prayer meeting, and more.



Pastor Jim with Pastors Karl and Jennifer Hauser in St. Louis.

And how we spend our time is also a matter of stewardship. God has given us 24 hours a day, 168 hours a week. How will we use those hours to honor God and bless others?

Harvest is a very financially generous congregation. We are ranked first in our presbytery in giving per member. One pastor told me, "If we gave at the level of Harvest, we'd easily have a half million dollar budget!"

There have been some people in Harvest's past that have been generous beyond their lifetime. The Wolfes left quite an endowment to the work of Christ through Harvest. Marie Neal was also generous in leaving resources for our work with children and youth. A fund was set up in memory of Linda Strange to provide campership money for those wishing to attend a Christian camp. Recently, we received the last part of a trust distribution from Doyce and Arlene Smee. Dorothy Nelson has also generously pre-funded a fund for children and youth. You'll be hearing more about this in the weeks ahead.

Harvest is also incredibly generous with time. Many of you volunteer in various ways around the church, serving on leadership, committees, teaching Sunday School, serving in other ways like Work Days.

But you also use your time to feed those less fortunate through the food bank, you collect items for the homeless and the Modesto Gospel Mission and Interfaith. You volunteer with the Lions or Rotary or Soroptomist or Persephone Guild raising money for scholarships, but also serving the community. Some of you volunteered to help with the Love Ceres event or volunteer to sing in the Habitat for Humanity choir. And the list goes on.

One of the ways that we use our gifts and talents and time is to serve the church as an elder or a deacon. The Nominating Committee is currently praying about who God is calling to serve in those roles. I would ask that you pray about whether God is calling you, so when you are asked, you can say, "I say 'yes' to God's call."

Your stewardship is not just financial, but also your time and talent. It is our response to the God who gave us all of our gifts to begin with, and our act of devotion to Him.

*"We go nowhere by accident..."*

SDG

Pastor Jim



**Notes:**

- 1) I will be spending some time at the Arizona Fall League from October 16-22 to watch baseball and hang out with my son, Mark, who will join me from Long Beach for a few days, and Pastor Paul Fandl from the Delhi Presbyterian Church.

Stewardship is a wonderful word that describes how a follower of Jesus Christ faithfully travels through this life.  
– Pastor Chick Lane

## Mariners' Meeting, October 19



Following the potluck at 6:00 p.m., the October Mariner's meeting will feature Betty Baughman sharing with us about the History of Church Music, tracing the development of church music from priestly singing to choirs and congregational singing. Thank you Betty in anticipation.

**Mariners** And thank you Pastor Jim for installing Mariner's Crew for 2018-2019, all being present: Skipper Michael Cousins; 1st Mate Betty Baughman; 2nd Mate Patricia Cousins; Chaplain Margaret Kuglin; Log Keeper/Purser LaVeta Rhoy; Steward/ Lookout Virginia Bathe; Medic Bettye Welsh; and Decorations Martha McNamara.

## Alpha Circle Continues

Alpha Circle will have its first meeting of the new church year on Thursday, September 6th. All women are invited to attend.

## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study continues on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. at Margaret Kuglin's home. The study will continue through Genesis this fall.

## Youth For Christ Begins Ministry at Mae Hensley Junior High



This fall, Youth for Christ Central Valley will begin a campus ministry at Mae Hensley. They are holding two Stand Together events on 9/26 and 10/10. They will follow that up with small group meetings, then four weeks of intramural sports, and then beginning a Campus Life meeting once a week. They are looking

for a venue, and we have been in conversation with them about holding some of the Campus Life meetings here at Harvest. Please be praying about this opportunity to reach and influence youth in our neighborhood for Christ.

## Trunk or Treat with the City of Ceres



From 6-8pm on Wednesday, October 31, the City of Ceres will be hosting an all city Trunk or Treat Event. The Session has voted, based on your input, to join the city this year. We will set up a 10x10 tent, and hand out candy and flyers. We will need candy donated, but not as much as in the past. We'll need some people to volunteer

for an hour or two to hand out candy, and to interact with people. We'd like to do some interactive games and perhaps do photos again. Please see Pastor Jim if you'd like to volunteer. It will be a great way to meet other people serving the city, and interact with the people who come, without having to spend lots of energy on our own logistics here. Above all, please pray that we would not just hand out candy, but that spiritual conversations might occur.

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)  
Brandy Meyer (Christian Education)  
LaVeta Rhoy (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**

Tuesdays: 3:15 p.m.—7:15 p.m.  
Thursdays: 3:15 p.m.—7:15 p.m.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm AA—7:00 pm	2  Name Your Car Day 	3  Praise Team 4:15 pm HYPE—7:00 pm	4  <b>Alpha Circle— 9:30 a.m.</b>  Choir—5:30 pm	5  Starbucks Men- 7:00 am Women's Bible Study— 10:00 am @ Kuglin's	6  
7 World Communion Sunday Worship— 10:30 am <b>Nominating Committee</b>	8  Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm AA—7:00 pm	9  	10  Praise Team 4:15 pm HYPE—7:00 pm <b>Persephone Guild— 7:00 pm</b>	11  Choir—5:30 pm	12  Starbucks Men- 7:00 am Women's Bible Study— 10:00 am @ Kuglin's	13
14 Worship— 10:30 am	15  Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm AA—7:00 pm	16	17  Praise Team 4:15 pm HYPE—7:00 pm	18  Choir—5:30 pm	19 Starbucks Men— 7:00 am Women's Bible Study— 10:00 am @ Kuglin's <b>Mariners— 6:00 p.m.</b>	20  
21 Worship — 10:30 am  <b>Pastor Jim - Arizona Fall League</b>	22 Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm  AA—7:00 pm	23  <b>Session — 10:00am- 12:00 pm</b>	24  Praise Team 4:15 pm HYPE—7:00 pm	25   Choir—5:30 pm	26  Starbucks Men- 7:00 am	27  
28 Worship — 10:30 am <b>Nominating Committee</b>  <b>End of the Month Potluck</b>	29  Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm AA—7:00 pm	30  	31   Trunk or Treat— 6-8pm	1  Choir—5:30 pm	2  Starbucks Men- 7:00 am	3  

## Sunday School Schedule\*

- 10/7** Anette Arias (Nawatha Reed)  
**10/14** Staci Edwards (Judy Salyer)  
**10/21** Brandy Meyer (Martha McNamara)  
**10/28** Beth Stochl (Patti Arbizu)



\* 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 (chemo)  
Susan Bennett  
Warren Cawley  
Ruth Strange  
Casey van Rys

### Other Concerns:

Choir Director search



- 5—Brandy Meyer  
5—Pastor Jim Stochl  
9—Bethany Edwards  
26—Angelise Arias



- 10—Tom & Susan Bennett

