



FROM
THE
PASTOR



Dear Harvesters-

Within the last four weeks, we have had to say “goodbye” to both of our dogs. They were brother and sister. When we first got them in 2003, we were only looking to get one of them. We first picked the female, who would be named Bonnie June. But I insisted that we also pick her brother, who would be named Golden Sunshine. They

were inseparable, and great fun. The picture at the right is when they were about six months old, still small enough to be able to sleep in the same puppy bed.

And now, our house will feel a little emptier, our lives will feel a little more impoverished. No more doggie kisses to wake us up. No more dogs waking up at 5:00 a.m. to be fed. No more worrying about cleaning up dog messes outside. At least until the next dogs come live with us, whenever that will be.



Many of you have gone through this very same experience. You adopt a pet, you nurture them, feed them, walk them, care for them, love them. And slowly but surely, they take up greater and greater residence in your heart. Until the day they must take their leave of this life. And then, our hearts are broken and the tears flow for a while. No one and nothing can take their place, until the next pet comes along. And then the dance begins all over again.

Our lives are a mix of joy and sorrow, and every emotion in between. Both joy and sorrow are amplified by love. If we didn't love our pets, we wouldn't have so much joy in them. If we didn't love our pets, we wouldn't grieve so much at their deaths.

What is true of pets is even more true of people. We grow to love people, beginning with our families, and then branching out to relatives and friends and students and co-workers. And perhaps we find someone and marry, and perhaps we are blessed with children. These relationships make life more enjoyable, but they also make the parting more sorrowful.

One of my favorite authors is George MacDonald, a Scottish preacher and author in the 19th century. C. S. Lewis credited the children's stories of MacDonald for “baptizing” his imagination. I have included the poem, “The Girl Who Lost Things” on pages 4-5 of the Harvester. I really like this poem, it speaks to me. It comforts me. It draws me closer to God in times of loss. God is paying attention to our losses, because of the parental love of God.

Which is what we celebrate at Easter. We celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death. Each of us has sins, attitudes, behaviors that seek to control us, and Jesus promises freedom. But we all face death, first with those we love, and then our own. The heart cries out for deliverance. The

good things in life are not supposed to come to an end. And because of Jesus' resurrection, and his redeeming not just of us but of the entire created order, we can have hope in the midst of loss.

There is a great line at the end of the movie *Gladiator*, where the African slave buries some figurines that belonged to the hero, Maximus. He says, "I will see you again." Then he smiles, pats the earth, and then adds, "But not yet. Not yet."

The gospel reassures us that we will be reunited with our loved one in Christ. But not yet.

In the meantime, let us cling to hope. Let us enjoy the life we have been given. And let us share our hope and joy with others.

SDG



What's Happening at Harvest?

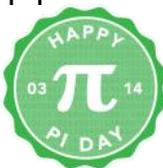
- 1) Devon will be with us on Easter Sunday! His next surgeries will be March 8 and April 12. This is an answer to prayer, as music is pretty important for Easter. We will keep praying for Devon's recovery.
- 2) We will be receiving new members on March 13th!
- 3) Our end of month Potluck will be March 20th (Palm Sunday), as the last Sunday of March is Easter.
- 4) We will be collecting money for Easter Harvest Baskets on March 6 and March 13.
- 5) We will be collecting money for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday.
- 6) Pastor Jim will be in San Antonio February 29-March 2 at a Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference. After five straight years, he will not be attending Spring Training in Arizona.
- 7) We are planning to show the movie "War Room" in April. It is a wonderful movie about the power of prayer. Watch for the announcement.
- 8) Harvest has been asked to host the Stockton Presbytery meeting on May 7th.
- 9) The weeds have been sprayed in the "back 40". We will try to have a Work Day on March 12th.

Upcoming Dates

- March 4-5—Dorothy Nelson Estate Sale at Harvest
- March 6— Habitat for Humanity Concert in Modesto
- March 20— Palm Sunday (also End of Month Potluck)
- March 24—Maundy Thursday
- March 27— Easter (He is Risen!)

MARCH 2016



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 NO Griefshare Tonight	2	3 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice	4 9:00 a.m.— Estate Sale 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	5 9:00 a.m.— Estate Sale
6 10:30 a.m.— Worship	7 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	8  International Women's Day 6:30 p.m.— Griefshare	9 6:00 p.m.— Persephone Club Meeting	10 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice	11 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's 12:00 p.m.— Deacon's Meeting	12 9:00 a.m.— Work Day  National Girl Scout Day
13 10:30 a.m.— Worship 	14  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	15 6:30 p.m.— Griefshare	16 1:30 p.m.— Session, Youth Room	17  5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice 6:30 p.m.— Choir	18 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's 6:00 p.m.— Mariners 	19
20 10:30 a.m.— Worship 11:45 a.m.— Potluck 	21 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	22 6:30 p.m.— Griefshare	23  National Puppy Day March 23	24  7:00 p.m.— Mundy Thursday Service	25 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's  GOOD FRIDAY	26
27 10:30 a.m.— Worship He Is RISEN INDEED! 	28 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	29 6:30 p.m.— Griefshare	30	31 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice 6:30 p.m.— Choir		

The Girl Who Lost Things

By George MacDonald

There was a girl that lost things-
Nor only from her hand;
She lost, indeed-why, most things,
As if they had been sand!

She said, 'But I must use them,
And can't look after all!
Indeed I did not lose them,
I only let them fall!'

That's how she lost her thimble,
It fell upon the floor:
Her eyes were very nimble
But she never saw it more.

And then she lost her dolly,
Her very doll of all!
That loss was far from jolly,
But worse things did befall.

She lost a ring of pearls
With a ruby in them set;
But the dearest girl of girls
Cried only, did not fret.

And then she lost her robin;
Ah, that was sorrow dire!
He hopped along, and-bob in-
Hopped bob into the fire!

And once she lost a kiss
As she came down the stair;
But that she did not miss,
For sure it was somewhere!

Just then she lost her heart too,
But did so well without it
She took that in good part too,
And said-not much about it.

But when she lost her health
She did feel rather poor,
Till in came loads of wealth
By quite another door!

And soon she lost a dimple
That was upon her cheek,
But that was very simple-
She was so thin and weak!

And then she lost her mother,
And thought that she was dead;
Sure there was not another
On whom to lay her head!

And then she lost her self-
But that she threw away;
And God upon his shelf
It carefully did lay.

And then she lost her sight,
And lost all hope to find it;
But a fountain-well of light
Came flashing up behind it.

At last she lost the world:
In a black and stormy wind
Away from her it whirled-
But the loss how could she mind?

For with it she lost her losses,
Her aching and her weeping,
Her pains and griefs and crosses,
And all things not worth keeping;

It left her with the lost things
Her heart had still been craving;
'Mong them she found-why, most things,
And all things worth the saving.

(continued on next page)

She found her precious mother,
Who not the least had died;
And then she found that other
Whose heart had hers inside.

And next she found the kiss
She lost upon the stair;
'Twas sweeter far, I guess,
For ripening in that air.

She found her self, all mended,
New-drest, and strong, and white;
She found her health, new-blended
With a radiant delight.

She found her little robin:
He made his wings go flap,
Came fluttering, and went bob in,
Went bob into her lap.

So, girls that cannot keep things,
Be patient till to-morrow;
And mind you don't beweeep things
That are not worth such sorrow;

For the Father great of fathers,
Of mothers, girls, and boys,
In his arms his children gathers,
And sees to all their toys.

Harvest Mariner's Meet March 18th

In February, we had Lee Heim, HPC founding kid, speak to us on sage financial advice for the New Year: cast your bread upon the waters/diversify your investments; buy low/sell high; don't get off the roller coaster while it is moving; and be a good steward of what God has given you. Lee used both Old and New Testament sources to explain and support his advise. Thank you Lee!

At our meeting on March 18th, at 6:00 p.m., we will host a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner. All Harvest members and friends are invited. The meal will be \$6 per person and you can sign up on Sunday mornings in the narthex. Our speakers will be Steve and Dianne Warn, of Agape Children's Ministry, based in Modesto and working in Kenya, and they will be speaking of their work with Agape.



Estate Sale of Dorothy Nelson's Treasures

Friday, March 4, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**ESTATE
SALE**



At Harvest Presbyterian Church

Dorothy has collected many beautiful items of china, glassware, and collectibles throughout her 96 years. Due to her recent move, she no longer has room to display them. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the church. Some of the items include several sets of dishes with service for 12, Community Plate, English Bone China cups and saucers, Occupied Japan, German hand-painted plates, Depression glass stemware and dishes, music boxes and figurines, plus a Victorian photo album.

Contact Linda Sherman for more information.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 20—Bettye Welsh
- 25—Martha McNamara
- 29—Brady Arias

If your birthday or anniversary has not been listed, please call the office and let us know.

Regular Prayer List

Assisted Living:

- Mabel Cronan— *The Stratford Place*
- Donna McRae— *Golden Age Home Care, (memory care)*
- Dorothy Nelson— *Turlock Residential*
- Mildred Vine— *Paramount Court*

Health Issues:

- Patti Arbizu (knee)
- Florence Bloemendaal
- Cyndy Cawley (ankle)
- Virginia Irons
- Margaret Kuglin (eye)
- Roger Morrow
- Bill Sperry
- Alice Visser (English Oaks)



Stockton Presbytery Prayer List for March 2016

March 6—The Federated Church, Patterson
Pastor: Eun-Joo Myung
AND: Christine Powell-Millar HR

March 13—Personnel Committee, Stockton Presbytery
AND: Robert Ryland, HR

March 20—Calvin Crest Conference Center
AND: Paul MacMurray, HR
AND: John Snyder, HR
AND: Saburo Masada, HR



March 27—First Presbyterian Church, Stockton
Pastor: Gus Wright
AND: Tino Ballesteros

Ceres School's Prayer List for March 2016

March 6—Mike Welsh, Board Member

March 13—Betty Davis, Board Member

March 20—Adkinson Elementary
Principal: Nicole Chapman

March 27—Carroll Fowler Elementary
Principal: Bruce Clifton



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.

Church Information

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