



Pastor's Page

There are several things happening in July at Harvest.

First, our worship time will change for July and August. We will begin worship at 9:30 a.m. We will do this to worship in the cool of the morning. There were actually some votes for a Sunday evening service. I don't know whether that meant "in addition to" or "in place of". I like the thinking, and the

Worship Committee will be discussing it.

Most importantly, our Vacation Bible School is coming up July 14-18. Ably directed by Cyndy Cawley, we are praying for 50 children. We have placed an ad on Facebook for people living in Ceres, especially parents with 3-12 year olds at home. So far, we have had over 2,000 people look at the ad, though about 45 have actually clicked on our web page for the registration form.

I ran into this article some time ago that reminds us of why we do VBS. I never went to VBS as a child, and I regret not ever hearing of Jesus Christ (except swearing) until I was in college at Davis.

(VBS) signs are popping up all over. These are a definite indication that we're in the midst of summer, which means kids are looking for something fun to do and parents are probably ready for a break. But before you mark off Vacation Bible School as just a mid-summer nanny, consider the importance of sending youngsters to a week of Bible day-camp.

VBS crosses just about every denomination, and most carry a theme that will be the focus of the Bible study, activities and crafts. Kids are often joined by a few puppet or theme characters who pitch in to help get the word across to participants: God loves them, and they are part of his universal family.

According to Kathy George, this year's VBS director for Calvary Chapel Oroville, it was just such a week that kindled her lifelong relationship with Christ.

George was just four years old when she attended a Vacation Bible School, and although she didn't accept the Lord as her savior until many years later, that one experience was enough to show George that she was never alone. "My life became very difficult shortly after that experience," said George. "I can honestly say that had I not been to Vacation Bible School and learned about a God who loved me, I wouldn't be alive."

Her experience is reminiscent of the story in Luke, when Jesus cautioned his disciples to not hinder a group of children who had been brought to

him for a blessing. He told them, "Let the children come to me! Don't try to stop them. People who are like these children belong to God's kingdom." Luke 18:15 (CEV).

George said from that one week experience, all those years ago, she realized that once she was in God's family, she was always in God's family. "I just knew that no matter what, God loved me and would make sure everything turned out all right."

Whether children attend church regularly or have never been to a Sunday service, VBS is the perfect opportunity to introduce them to Christ through a meaningful personal experience.

Can you imagine what someone may write 30 years from now, looking back on a VBS at Harvest Presbyterian Church in 2014 that changed their lives forever? What a wonderful thing that would be! Beyond praying for numbers, I am praying for spiritual impact. Please join me in doing so.

Lastly, we will be reading through the Psalms this summer. I am excited about this, having never preached through the Psalms. And I love the Psalms for their authenticity and their hope. Reading Schedules are in the Narthex, and on our web page. If you contact the church office, Brenda will send you one in the mail.

SDG
Pastor Jim



Notes:

1. For three weeks in July, our youngest, Rachel Stochl, will travel to Costa Rica on a short-term mission with a team of people from the Central Valley. Please pray for God to do some amazing things.
2. If you are interested in discussing some of the actions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that recently met in Detroit, let me know. If there is enough interest, we can have an evening gathering.

**Summer Worship
Starts July 6th**



JULY 2014



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice	4 Office Closed 	5
6  Collection for Inter-Faith 9:30—Worship / Communion	7 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	8	9	10 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice	11 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's 1:00 p.m.— Deacons Meeting	12
13 9:30—Worship	14  VBS— 8:30 to Noon 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	15  VBS— 8:30 to Noon	16  VBS— 8:30 to Noon	17  VBS— 8:30 to Noon 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice	18  VBS— 8:30 to Noon 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study @ Kuglins	19
20 9:30—Worship Final day to donate school items	21 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	22	23 HARVESTER DEADLINE 6:00 p.m.— Session @ The Stochl Home	24 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice	25 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's	26
27 9:30—Worship	28 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	29	30	31 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice		

SAVING FAITH—Margaret Kuglin

One of the greatest gifts that God has given us cannot be bought with money. Jesus said a great deal about faith and the more we exercise it the better we do with it. Faith is the powerful and precious fruit of the Spirit. We do not come into the world knowing how to rely on God. We have to learn how to depend on Him and His power and strength.

Three Types of Faith

- *Intellectual faith* is also called “natural faith”. Both the believer and unbeliever have this faith, but the devil and his demons have it, too. This is defined as believing something is true without proof or commitment. A person believes that Jesus was a historical person who lived on earth, was a good person, and a prophet, but does not accept the fact that He was God in the flesh and came to die on the cross for our sins.
- *Godly faith* is the confident conviction that whatever God has promised he will fulfill.
- *Saving faith* is trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life. This kind of faith is renouncing sin, having a personal relationship with God and giving our lives to Him.

Four Grades of Faith

Because of the opposition and persecution the disciple would be facing, it was very important for Jesus to teach his disciples about faith. They needed to understand what it meant to believe and trust Him and to establish their faith.

- *No faith*. In Mark 4:35-41, the disciples were in a boat with Jesus sleeping on the pillow in the stern of the ship when a storm came up. It was so bad that they awakened Jesus and said, “Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?” The question showed the lack of faith on their part. Jesus said, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” We lack faith when we question God about how He is dealing with us.
- *Little Faith*. In Matthew 16, the Pharisees and Sadducees demonstrated this faith by asking Jesus for signs and miracles. The disciples showed it, too. They had forgotten to bring bread as they crossed the sea. Jesus taught them, “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” The disciples reasoned among themselves, “It’s because we have not brought bread.” Jesus responded, “O you of little faith,” and went on to remind them of the abundance of loaves and fishes left over from feeding large crowds. Like the disciples, we’re worried about bread. When we focus on earthly worries instead of learning the spiritual truth that God is teaching us that we have little faith.
- *Great faith*. In Matthew 8:5-8, Jesus met with the centurion who asked Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant. He told Jesus to just say the word and his servant would be healed. Jesus said, “I have not found such great faith in all Israel (v.10). Why did Jesus say this? Because when we take Him at his word and trust Him completely, when we don’t require proof that He will fulfill His promise to us, then we have great faith.
- *Failing faith* is something each of us experiences. In Luke 22:31, the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Satan has asked for you, that he might sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” True to Jesus’ word, Peter later denied knowing Jesus three times. But also true to Jesus’ word, Peter did strengthen the disciples later on.

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Satan is always challenging our faith. 1 Peter 5:8 states, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." We need to know we are in a war zone. There are many casualties when we think things are going so good and we are at peace.

We can trust God to take us through all our problems if we ask Him. He promises to give us strength and wisdom if we ask Him and trust Him. He challenges believers to trust Him. Do you trust Him? What grade of faith does your faith fall in?



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Are you ready to go?
AROUND THE WORLD IN 5 DAYS!

Vacation Bible School is coming....
July 14—18, 2014; 8:30 a.m.—12 p.m.
For pre-registration please contact the office 209-537-3519
email harvestpres@att.net or visit www.harvestpres.org

MISSIONS—Lynn Laranjo

School may be out but it is never too soon to start preparing for it to start. We are going to support the Modesto Gospel Mission again with their backpack and school supply collection that benefits children in need in our own community. June 29th will be the kick off. Barrels will be in the narthex so you can bring items any time but our final collection will be July 20th.

School supplies: backpack (no red or blue), binders, pens, pencils, highlighters, colored markers, colored pencils, ruler, calculator, folders, paper, eraser, crayons.

PERSONNEL—Lynn Laranjo

Thank you all for your input into Pastor Jim's job description through the pastoral characteristic questionnaire. We ultimately received 34 responses! The findings will have been shared at the town hall meeting June 29th but for those unable to attend I'll include the top 10 responses:

1. Pastoral Care, 2. Administrative Leadership, 3. Preaching, 4. Counseling, 5. Corporate Worship/Sacraments, 6. Hospital/Emergency, 7. Teaching, 8. Children's Ministry, 9. Spiritual Development, 10. Organizational Leadership/Development.





1— Myrna Wilhite
7—Clark Pearson
9—Donna McRae
9—Mark Stochl
22—Leon Edwards
30—Dorothy Watson

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



Regular Prayer List

Assisted Living:

Mildred Vine—
Paramount Court
Donna McRae—
Paramount Court (memory care)
Mabel Cronan—
The Stratford Place

Health Issues:

Lucy Gilliam
Virginia Irons
Roger Morrow
Dorothy Nelson
Bill Sperry



Stockton Presbytery Prayer List for July

July 6—Geneva Presbyterian; Modesto
Pastor Joshua Trautmann
Cynthia Hamilton

July 13—Patterson Federated
Pastor Eun-Joo Myung
Steve Hanna

July 20—Calvary Presbyterian; Stockton
Pastor Hiromi Yoneda
Jeffrey Hawley

July 27—First Presbyterian; Stockton
Pastor Augustus Wright
Lee Heim

Ceres School's Prayer List for July

July 6—Argus/Endeavor High
Principal: Jan Gordon

July 13—Blaker-Kinser Junior High
Principal: Kristi Britton

July 20—Carroll Fowler Elementary
Principal: Bruce Clifton

July 27—Caswell Elementary
Principal: Kirsten Chaplin



FORMER HARVEST FAMILY CELEBRATES UPCOMING NUPTIALS

Deanna Tillion, daughter of long-time Harvest Church members Alan and Ingrid Tillion, is engaged and planning a September wedding to Colorado native Jeffrey Kremer.

Deanna grew up attending and participating in Harvest youth programs as well as spending many summers at Calvin Crest as a camper, helper and summer worker. She attended Azusa Pacific University in Southern California and then moved to Denver, Colorado where she teaches at an elementary school.



Friends and family honored the bride-to-be at a recent shower at Harvest.



THANK YOU EVERYONE

Thanks a million Pastor Jim, my Harvest Church Family and the Primary Department for making my Birthday Day one of the best I have ever had. I enjoyed the cards, notes, calls, personal visits and special individual gifts of yellow roses, cake and cookies. To all of you I have this wish for you—"May your Heavenly Father the giver of all good and perfect gifts give unto you that which is good, that which is true, the will to live, the courage to do, and a heart that can sing all your years through."



Thanks again and God Bless You always. I also want you to know that my step-son Ed and his wife Jane were here from Montana to help me celebrate. They wanted me to tell you that I have the best Church Family ever and they also thank you for your prayers and being my support group, giving me friendship, love and understanding.

God Bless You,
Dorothy H. Nelson

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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POSTAGE

**Harvester Deadline for August 2014 is
July 23, 2014**