



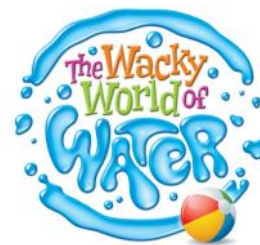
FROM
THE
PASTOR



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.

More importantly, our Vacation Bible School is coming up July 6-10. Aply directed by Cyndy Cawley and Beth Stochl, we are praying for 50 children. We will be joined by the wonderful volunteers from Iglesia Emmanuel.



I mentioned this article last summer, and it is a good reminder 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.

According to Kathy George...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 2015 that changed their lives forever? What a wonderful thing that would be! Beyond praying for numbers, join with me in praying for spiritual impact.

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, Rachel will send you one in the mail.

SDG

Pastor Jim



Notes:

- 1) Our daughter, Rachel, will be working in the church office this summer. Tuesdays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Call her or visit her.
- 2) There has been some concern expressed for our new partners in ministry, Iglesia Cristiana Emmanuel. They are wonderful Christian people, and genuinely excited about being here. They want to partner with us in ministry, as evidenced by their volunteers for VBS. They are using the Chapel on Tuesday evenings for prayer, Thursday evenings for worship practice, and Sunday afternoons for worship. Their use of the Chapel is not exclusive, as we will continue to meet in the Chapel for Mariners and for our Last Sunday of the Month Potluck. I realize their presence is a change for us. I welcome the changes, though not everyone does. I would simply ask you to pray for their ministry and ours. And if you have any questions or concerns, please talk to me, or a session member first.
- 3) On July 26th, we will be dedicating backpacks and school supplies for the Modesto Gospel Mission. Please watch for sales, and donate a backpack and/or school supplies for children who need them. This is a tangible way to share the love of Christ with them.

JULY



2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 	2 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice	3 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	4 
5 9:30 a.m.— Communion	6  8:30 a.m.—VBS 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	7 9:00 a.m.—VBS	8 9:00 a.m.—VBS	9 9:00 a.m.—VBS 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice	10 9:00 a.m.—VBS 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's 1:00 p.m.— Deacons	11
12 9:30 a.m.— Worship	13 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	14	15	16 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice 6:00 p.m.—The Parks HOA Board Meeting	17 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	18
19 9:30 a.m.— Worship 11:00 a.m.— Session (Youth Room)	20 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	21	22  JULY 22	23 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice	24 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	25
26 9:30 a.m.— Worship 	27 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	28	29	30 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice	31 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	

Ten Things You Should Never Say to a Guest in a Worship Service

By Thom Rainer

If you want to make certain guests never return to your church, say one of these sentences to them when they visit.

Indeed, these unfortunate and ill-timed comments almost always guarantee that you will offend guests and make them very uncomfortable. Most of the time guests are already ill at ease since they are in a new place and a new environment. By the way, each of these quotes was actually communicated to a guest in a worship service. My guess is that all ten of them have been said many times . . . too many times.

- 1) “You are sitting in my pew/seat.” This sentence was actually said to me when I was a visiting preacher in a church. The entitled church member did not realize I was preaching that day. I had the carnal joy of watching her turn red when I was introduced. And, yes, I did move. She scared me.
- 2) “Is your husband/wife with you?” This question is rightly perceived as, “We really don’t want single adults in our church.” Members see their church as family friendly as long as “family” meets their definition.
- 3) “Are those your children?” This question is becoming more common with the growth in the adoption of children who are not the same race or ethnicity as their parents. One parent with an adopted child was asked if he got to choose how dark his child would be. I’m serious.
- 4) “The service has already begun.” This sentence is rightly understood to mean, “You are late, and you will be disrupting the service.” I saw that happen recently. The family left. I was late too, but I stayed since I was preaching.
- 5) “There is not enough room for your family to sit together.” I was visiting a church a few weeks ago that did just the opposite. When larger families came in the service, members actually gave up their seats to accommodate them. Now that’s true servanthood! I bragged on the members when I spoke that morning.
- 6) “You will need to step over these people to get to your seat.” No! Please request those seated to move to the center. It’s a church worship service, not a movie theater.
- 7) “That’s not the way we do it here.” Of course, you can’t have a worship service where any behavior is acceptable. Most of the time, however, the varieties of

worship expressions are absolutely fine. I heard from a lay leader recently who witnessed that sentence spoken to a guest who raised her hand during the worship music. She never returned. What a surprise.

- 8) “You don’t look like you are a member here.” Perhaps when this sentence was spoken, the church member meant to convey, “Are you visiting us?” But to the guest it sounded like, “You don’t belong at this place.”
- 9) “Have you considered attending the church down the street?” I’m not kidding. Someone shared that comment with me on social media. She was new in town and was visiting churches. She had no idea why the man in the church said that to her, but she never returned to the church.
- 10) “The nursery is real full.” To the young parent, this sentence is interpreted one of two ways: “There is not enough room for your child” or “Your child probably won’t get good care.”

Seven Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service

By Thom Rainer

One of the more common questions I’m asked relates to growth barriers. For example, church leaders may want to know how to move past the 150-attendance level of the past five years. Or other leaders desire to know how to break through financial giving barriers.

Those questions are tough because they often presume a brief response to be adequate. In reality, there are many theological and methodological issues at work in growth barriers. Today, I am looking at a very basic barrier: lack of friendliness to church guests.

In a previous blog post, I noted things we should not say to a guest in our worship services. In today’s post I look at the positive perspective: seven things we should say to guests.

- 1) “Thank you for being here.” It’s just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told “thank you.”
- 2) “Let me help you with that.” If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses, and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to

member as well.

- 3) “Please take my seat.” I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking in the Nashville area. The first comment came from a member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.
- 4) “Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way.” Of course, this comment must be used with discretion, but it can be a hugely positive message to a guest.
- 5) “Can I show you where you need to go?” Even in smaller churches, guests will not know where to find the nursery, restrooms, and small group meeting areas. You can usually tell when a guest does not know where he or she is to go.
- 6) “Let me introduce you to _____.” The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff, and other members of the church.
- 7) “Would you join us for lunch?” I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.



Let's look at one example of breaking attendance barriers by saying the right things to guests. Presume your church has two first-time guests a week. Over the course of a year, the church would have 100 first-time guests. With most of the members being genuinely guest friendly, you could see half of those guests become active members. Attendance could thus increase by as much as 50 persons every year.



- 1—Myrna Wilhite
- 7—Clark Pearson
- 9—Donna McRae; 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— *Golden Age Home Care, (memory care)*
- Mabel Cronan— *The Stratford Place*

Health Issues:

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



Stockton Presbytery Prayer List for July 2015

- July 5—Community Presbyterian; Gustine
Pastor Mark Hollingsworth
Mike McLellan, HR
- July 12—Grace Presbyterian; Lodi
Pastor David Hill
Jeff Hawley; Nancy Clegg, S. Clerk
- July 19—Manteca Presbyterian
Pastor Karl Hauser
John Russell-Curry
- July 26—Mission Committee
Stockton Presbytery
Lee Heim



Ceres School's Prayer List for July 2015

- July 5—Adkison Elementary
Principal: Brian Murphy
- July 12—Argus/Endeavor High
Principal: Jan Gordon
- July 19—Blaker Kinser Junior High
Assist. Principal: Jared Hungerford
- July 26 —Blaker Kinser Junior High
Principal: Kristi Britton



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



HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1813 Moffet Road
Ceres, CA 95307

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