



This month I will be making my annual trek to Phoenix to catch some Spring Training baseball games with my son, Mark. It has become an annual ritual for the past few years, and one we look forward to. We try and see as many games as possible. Last year, in five days, we saw eight baseball games and a basketball game. We needed a vacation from our vacation after that!

I love visiting the minor league ballparks. I love watching the players, the coaches, the fans. The days are warm, the skies are clear. We get to watch all-stars like Buster Posey or Madison Bumgarner, but also rookies or minor league players try to get the attention of the fans and most of all, the coaches.

Both Lent and baseball involve basic disciplines. For the baseball player, it involves running, hitting, catching and throwing. For the Christian, it involves Bible reading, prayer, worship and service to others.

A few years ago, Cardinal Timothy Dolan from New York made just this connection.

“Lent is spiritual spring training,” Dolan said. Stressing the themes of prayer, penance and charity, Dolan said Lent gives Catholics 40 days to get back to the essence of Christian living.

“Our enemy is not the Boston Red Sox. Our enemy is not even the St. Louis Cardinals. Our enemy is Satan and sin and selfishness,” said Dolan adding that the victory on Easter was not a pennant or a World Series Championship, “our victory is eternal life.” (<http://www.wnyc.org/story/188415-blog-ash-wednesday-busy-day-cardinal-dolan/>)

I think he is exactly right. Though the observance of Lent has historically been a Roman Catholic tradition, many in the Protestant tradition have also begun to observe Lent. Lent’s meaning and disciplines can apply to all those who love and follow Jesus Christ.

“Our enemy is Satan and sin and selfishness.” Who among us does not wrestle with Satan who accuses us and discourages us? Who among us does not wrestle with sin, those habits of the heart that seek to kill our joy, and destroy the good things God is doing in and through us? And who among us does not wrestle with selfishness, where our number one goal is to have things go my way?

It is common practice during Lent to give something up. Usually people give up chocolate, or ice cream, or Facebook, or TV. But equally important is to take up a spiritual discipline: feed a homeless person each week, spend an extra 30 minutes a day reading a spiritual book, do a random act of kindness to someone each day or week, attend the Monday evening prayer meeting for the

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six weeks of Lent, etc.

This Lent, we are using the Seek God for the City Prayer Guide for 2015. It is published by a group that is committed to helping churches pray more effectively. Each day has several short Bible readings, along with a sample prayer. Also each day has a topic for prayer, like “youth” or “employment”, and also an area of the world that needs prayer. The guides are on the table in the entryway to the Worship Center, and we are suggesting a \$2.00 donation to help defray the costs. You can also download the App for your cell phone, if you are into that sort of thing.

I look forward to baseball’s spring training, but also to the spring training of the soul during Lent. Let’s continue to seek God together, and see when He can do in and through us. SDG

Pastor Jim



### **What’s Happening at Harvest?**

- 1) At our March 1<sup>st</sup> Worship Service, we will baptize three children: Jadon, Cruz, and Malialani. Their mom is Noelani Kailiponi, and their grandfather is Wilson Kailiponi. How exciting to see new life at Harvest!
- 2) The Presbytery of Stockton has voted to send \$10,000 to each congregation in the presbytery, of which \$2,000 must be used for local mission, however that is defined by the congregation. The remaining \$8,000 has no restrictions. Let’s dream!
- 3) We have hired Debby Haynam as the new church secretary, her hours are M, W, F 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call her or visit, she’d love to meet you.
- 4) We are in the process of hiring a custodian, either an individual or a cleaning service. In February, we paid a woman who lives nearby, who cleans houses. She’s done a fantastic job.
- 5) A Spanish-speaking church that has been at the Southern Baptist Church on Don Pedro has approached us about using our Chapel on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. We have checked references, and will be meeting with their leadership. We realize there was a bad experience in the past with another congregation. We cannot let the past color our decision making, but it can make us wiser. Please pray for God’s leading.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 a.m.— Worship / Communion	2 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	3	4	5 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	6 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study @ Kuglins	7
8  <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:30 a.m.—	9 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	10	11	12 5:30 p.m.— Praise Team 6:30 p.m.— Choir Practice	13 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's 12:00 p.m.— Deacons Meeting	14
15 10:30 a.m.— Worship/ Communion	16 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	17	18	19 5:30 p.m.— Praise Team 6:30 p.m.— Choir Practice	20 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's 6:00 p.m.— Mariner's	21
<b>Pastor Jim in Phoenix for Spring Training</b>						
22 10:30 a.m.— Worship	23 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	24	25 6:00 p.m.— Session @ Kuglins	26 5:30 p.m.— Praise Team 6:30 p.m.— Choir Practice	27 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study @ Kuglins	28
<b>Pastor Jim in Phoenix</b>						
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:30 a.m.— Worship 6:00 p.m.—Prince Caspian Discus- sion, Youth Room	30	31				



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:*

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 March 2015**

March 1—The Federated Church; Patterson  
Pastor: Kevin Campbell

Christine Powell-Millar HR

March 8—Calvary Pres. Church; Stockton

Pastor: Hiromi Yoneda

Robert Ryland HR

March 15—Calvin Crest Conference Center

Paul MacMurray HR;

John Snyder

March 22—First Pres. Church; Stockton

Pastor: Gus Wright

Tino Ballesteros

March 29 —Synod of the Pacific

Support Staff

Robert Sherwood HR

William Nishimura HR

### **Ceres School's Prayer List for March 2015**

March 1—Blaker-Kinser Jr. High  
Principal: Jan Gordon

March 8—Carroll Fowler Elementary  
Principal: Bruce Clifton

March 15—Caswell Elementary  
Principal: Brian Murphy

March 22—Central Valley High  
Principal: Amy Peterman

March 29—Ceres High  
Principal: Linda Stubbs



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- 6) We have been approached by the local Youth for Christ director about using our facility to reach out to local youth. We are discussing this. Please pray.
- 7) We are still looking for a bookkeeper. Kathy Ramos, Office Manager at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Modesto, has been helping us. She is writing checks, and helping to simplify our accounting. Do you know anyone who would be interested in doing this about four hours a week? It is a paid position, and training will be provided.

### **Prayer Guides for Lent**

Terrific prayer guides for Lent are available in the entryway. Please consider leaving \$2 to help defray the costs of the guides. Each day there is a scripture, a reflection, a prayer, a part of the world to pray for, a circumstance to pray for. Let's pray!



### **One Great Hour of Sharing (February 22-April 5)**

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people who are in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. One Great Hour of Sharing, received in the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self- Development of People.

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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**HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1813 Moffett Road**  
**Ceres, CA 95307**

**POSTAGE**

**Upcoming Dates**

- March 1- Communion Sunday, and Baptism Sunday
- March 8- Daylight Savings Time, Clocks Forward One Hour
- March 15- Communion Sunday
- March 16-23- Pastor Jim in Phoenix
- March 22- Rev. Steve Hanna preaches
- March 29- Palm Sunday
- March 29- Discussion of Prince Caspian from the Chronicles of Narnia, 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room
- April 2- Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- April 5- Easter Sunday