



Vacations are wonderful things. Traveling to places you love to see, seeing people you love to be with, traveling with people you love to be with. Beth and I are looking forward to two weeks in Colorado where we will be spending time in Red Feather Lakes, and then in Denver with our son, Mark. Thank you for your prayers for our safe travels.

God built vacations into the fabric of creation. The Bible says that God created the world in six days, and then rested on the seventh day. This became the basis for the commandment to “observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.” The Jewish people were the only culture in the ancient Near East that had such a concept. Every other culture worked seven days a week. Can you imagine?

Even Jesus took vacations. Did you know that? The demands of his ministry wore on him. In Mark 7, Jesus went to the region of Tyre and Sidon on the coast, and he didn’t want anyone to know about it!

There was, however, a Syro-Phoenician woman who had a sick child, and she found out that Jesus was there, so she went and begged him to heal her child. And Jesus said, “No”. He was on vacation.

He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.” (Mark 7:27)

This seems rude, doesn’t it? Many believe that since Jesus was in Gentile, or non-Jewish territory, that he was calling this Gentile woman a dog, as that’s what many Jewish people called Gentiles in Jesus’ day. However, it seems as if Jesus is simply telling a story about a family dinner. You don’t interrupt a family meal to feed the pets. (The Greek word for “dog” here refers to household pets.)

But this woman was very insightful, and would not be deterred.

But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.” (Mark 7:28)

Instead of being offended, and crying out, “Are you calling me a dog?!?” she picked up on Jesus dinnertime story and did Jesus one better, noticing that food often fell off the table and was eagerly eaten by the household pets.

I believe that Jesus was delighted with her answer. She was not asking to interrupt his vacation, for he needed rest. She was asking for crumbs, believing that crumbs from Jesus were more

powerful than anything else.

Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. (Mark 7:29-30)

Thank you for allowing us to urge us, to take vacation and get some rest.

SDG

Pastor Jim



Notes:

- 1) Sunday Worship resumes at our regular time of 10:30 a.m. beginning September 6, 2015.
- 2) Communion Sunday has been moved in September to September 13, 2015.
- 3) Brandy Meyer has agreed to begin some sort of youth group here at Harvest. What shape it takes is yet to be known. If you know of a teenager (middle school and high school) who might be interested, let Brandy know. We have been praying about this for some time. Brandy and Keith were Boy Scout leaders and have served as youth leaders in various contexts. We are glad for this development, and commit ourselves to pray and to serve as best we can so that the next generation can hear, receive, and grow in the gospel.
- 4) Beth and I will be in Red Feather Lakes, CO from 8/25 to 9/2, and in Denver, CO from 9/2 to 9/8. We will be home on 9/8.
- 5) Please welcome Rev. Lee Heim to the pulpit on 8/30. Lee is a child of Harvest, and an ordained Teaching Elder. He currently works for Wells Fargo Advisors, but has served many of the churches in the presbytery.
- 6) Please welcome Rev. Nancy Clegg to the pulpit on 9/6. Nancy has served churches in Turlock and Tracy, and is currently the Stated Clerk of the Stockton and Sacramento Presbyteries.



September 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice 6:30 p.m.— Choir	4 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	5
6 10:30 a.m.— Worship	7  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	8  September 8 2015	9	10 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice 6:30 p.m.— Choir	11 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's 	12
13 10:30 a.m.— Communion Choir's 1st Sunday	14 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	15	16 6:00 p.m.— Session- Kuglin Home	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	21  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	22	23 	24 5:30 p.m.— Praise Practice 6:30 p.m.— Choir	25 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	26
27 10:30 a.m.— Worship	28  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	29	30			

Why Do Students Leave Their Faith After Graduation? According to Research, This Is the Biggest Factor

Kara Powell, our recent guest on the Church Leaders Podcast, is the Executive Director of the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) and a faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary. As a youth ministry veteran of over 20 years, she serves as an Advisor to Youth Specialties. Named by Christianity Today as one of “50 Women You Should Know,” Kara is the author or co-author of a number of books including Sticky Faith and more.

Kara, what has changed the most in youth ministry over the last decade?

The professionalization of youth ministry. There is much good as a result of this like better trained leaders, more called people, better pay, more resources, and specialized education programs. The downside is many churches feel like they can outsource spiritual formation of young people to their designated staff member. The result is churches have moved away from investing in the lives of students themselves.

So what’s the #1 Reason this generation walks away from their faith?

Of all the youth group participation variables we’ve seen, being involved in intergenerational worship and relationship was one of the variables most highly correlated to young people’s faith. So in other words, while it’s great that there are better trained, more called, more specialized paid and volunteer youth leaders—the downside is that the gap between the overall congregation and the youth ministry is growing, which ends up being toxic to young people’s faith.

As a result, students graduate and all they know is the youth ministry and the youth leader. They don’t know their church; they don’t know adults in their church. No wonder they drift away from the church because they feel like they’ve graduated out of it. Really good research indicates that almost half of young people drift from God and the church after they graduate.

This is why the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) does what they do. They are figuring out how to get students to have “sticky faith.”

What is needed to bridge that gap between the youth and the church?

We need a 5 to 1 ratio. Many children’s and youth ministries will have one teacher for every five kids. But to bridge the gap, there should be five adults for each student. This is a research-based reversed ratio. Ideally, there should be five people praying for one student by name and showing up at their sporting events throughout the year. It’s a paradigm shift. It’s not about finding five small group leaders per student, it’s about finding five adults who show an interest in your student or child.

The church can creatively empower parents to surround kids with their team of adults. Ask

your son, daughter, niece or student, “Who’s on your team?”

(Research shows five people is best, but Kara clarifies it doesn’t have to be five people. Even just one person or two people is better than none.)

The key is to motivate and equip parents to create that team. Then the youth pastor can focus on the kids who don’t have parents at home who are able to do this.

Here are a few practical steps for youth leaders to get started:

Talk to senior pastor and/or supervisor. Explain the vision and get their support. It’s helpful to know your supervisor’s love language (adapted from Gary Chapman’s work). Know what is most meaningful to them whether its scripture, research, or examples. Then frame the change you think God intends for your ministry along those lines in ways most meaningful in the context of your church like evangelism, discipleship, and growth.

Next, get parents on board and train them. Explain why you’re doing this and how you plan to accomplish the vision, then offer resources and training.

Identify the students who don’t have involved or available parents. Talk to them and get an idea of who they look up to and who they might like to have on their team. You can be the catalyst to create that team with them.

How should the church approach doubt in ministering to students?

One of the greatest surprises out of the Sticky Faith research was data related to doubt. In their 3 year study of over 500 students in first three years of college, they found doubt is fairly pervasive in young people, but it’s not necessarily a bad thing. What is toxic is unexpressed or unexplored doubt. When young people have the opportunity to express or explore their doubt, it is correlated with stronger and more mature faith.

Kara shares it’s often those tough questions that help God become even more real to us. However, toxic messages of doubt start young. When something bad or scary happens, it’s typical for a third or fourth grader to say, “I don’t understand why God would allow this earthquake to happen.” So often, well-intentioned Sunday school teachers quiet the young student instead of offering an answer. This tells kids the church can’t handle their questions and neither can God.

Kara shared the number one reason why young people are walking away from their faith—it’s a lack of intergenerational worship and relationship.

Leaders should raise tough questions on purpose. The church and youth ministry should be the first place young people feel they can go to with their questions. This starts with adults. We must raise our own tough questions and talk about tough sections in scripture. This shows students God is bigger than your toughest question.

The four most powerful words can be “I don’t know, but.” Maybe you don’t have a ready answer, that’s okay! Discover the answer together or get back to them.

The worst response is to do nothing. The best response is to partner with parents. Students do best when they feel like they’ve come to their own conclusions. We can look at scripture together and talk through “what do you think this means?” It’s messier and harder, but so worth it because young people will own the insights from those conversations.

Now what?

Kara shared the number one reason why young people are walking away from their faith—it’s a lack of intergenerational worship and relationship. But we can be part of the solution. Focus on connecting and cultivating relationships between youth and adults within the church. Make that a primary focus for your ministry and we’ll see those statistics start to shift.



3—Marilyn Sena

4—Patti Arbizu; Art
McRae; LaVeta Rhoy

17—Michele James

25—Ana Lopez

26—Margaret Kuglin

29—Karen Edwards



1—Denny & Gayle
Goss

4—Neal & Myrna
Wilhite

8—Michael &
Patricia Cousins

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 September 2015

September 6—The Federated Church
Pastor Eun-Joo Myung
Christina Powell-Millar HR

September 13—Personnel Committee
Stockton Presbytery
Robert Ryland, HR

September 20—Calvin Crest Conf. Center
Paul MacMurray, HR
John Snyder, HR
Saburo Masada, HR

September 27—First Presbyterian Church
Pastor Gus Wright
Tino Ballesteros



Ceres School's Prayer List

for September 2015

September 6—Adult Education School

September 13—Ceres High School
Principal: Linda Stubbs

September 20—Cesar Chavez Junior High
Principal: Rosemarie Kloepfer

September 27—Cesar Chavez Junior High
Assistant Principal: Janette Springer



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

SEPTEMBER

HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1813 Moffet Road

Ceres, CA 95307

POSTAGE